

Month Resource Files

EDU 3022

12/5/2013
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August/September Teaching Strategies
Theme: Back to School/All about Me

1. Writing Prompt – Personal Narrative/Story: Instead of having students write about what they did over the summer, have them write about what they've always wanted to do over summer vacation.

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/august/school.html>

2. Grades 1-4: Language Arts – Getting to Know You Acrostic
Students will get to know their classmates and then use what they've learned to write acrostic poems.

What to do:

- Explain to students that each of them will get to know a classmate and then write a poem about this classmate.
- Group students in pairs. Then tell them that each student should ask his or her partner questions to get to know the other better. Students can ask questions about sports, hobbies, favorite music groups, siblings, pets, or places where the other students have lived or visited.
- Tell students that the letters in each partner's name will begin each line of the poem. Then write on the board the acrostic shown below to model the kind of acrostics they will be creating.

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- When the students are finished, have them share their work with the class. Students should feel free to elaborate on the poems. For example, Arthur might share that he went to an amusement park while he was in Houston.
- Students may decorate their poems and draw pictures of their new friends.

<http://www.eduplace.com/activity/acrostic.html>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/august/school.html>

3. Grades 4-8: Social Studies – Kids Today Have It Easy
Did children really have to walk two miles (in a blizzard and uphill) to school years ago? Have your students interview a relative or a friend to answer questions about the similarities and differences of school days then and now.

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/august/school.html>

4. Grades K-2: Language Arts – A “Me” Day
Have each student put together a “me” bag including favorite toys and other personal objects (sports item, trophy, doll, book, and so forth) that have special importance. Then have a “me” presentation day in which students show and discuss the importance of the items with classmates.

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/allaboutme.html>

5. Grades K-2: Science – Fingerprints

Have a class discussion on individual physical differences, such as hair and eye color, height, and right- and left- handedness. Explain that while some people may have certain characteristics in common, everyone has a unique set of fingerprints. Make fingerprints of some or all of your students, using a stamp pad (the washable type) and paper. Have the students examine the fingerprints closely to see how they are different. Provide magnifying glasses if possible.

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/allaboutme.html>

6. Grade 2: Language Arts – Words Within a Word

Have students see how many words they can find in the word “myself” (“my,” “self,” “me,” “fly,” “yes,” “elf,” “elm,” “elms”).

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/allaboutme.html>

7. Writing Prompt – Personal Narrative: Have students write a paragraph that tells about a time they helped a friend or family member.

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/allaboutme.html>

August/September Bulletin Board Ideas
Theme: Back to School/All about Me





I love this bulletin board!

These images are from Google Images.

August/September Integrated Arts Activities Theme: Back to School/All about Me

1. Grades 4-8: Art – 3-D Collage
Have students make a 3-D collage with items (movie stubs, extra post cards, seashells, etc.) that they have collected over the summer. Using bits and pieces from everyday life as conventional art materials is not new, but it took artists such as Pablo Picasso to make collage recognizable as fine art.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/august/school.html>
2. Grades K-2: Art/Social Studies – Classroom “Squares”
Each student will choose a special personal event to share with their classmates in making a classroom quilt.
What you need:
 - 5-inch squares of white paper
 - 6-inch squares of colored paper
 - Scissors
 - Paste
 - Tape
 - Roll of white paper

What to do:

- Brainstorm with students a list of special events. You might want to start students off with some of these ideas:
 - A birthday party
 - A holiday
 - A sports competition
 - A recital
 - A visit to a special place
- Have each child draw and/or write about a special event on one of the white squares.
- Then have each child center and paste the completed square on a colored square.
- When everyone has completed a square, have the children tape the squares into rows to form a quilt pattern.
- To finish the squares, have a few of the students cut out and tape a white border around the quilt. Students can decorate the border any way they wish.
- Display the quilt and have each student talk about his/her own special event.

<http://www.eduplace.com/activity/quilt.html>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/allaboutme.html>

3. Grade K-2: Art/Language Arts – Personal Outline

Help trace the students' bodies on long lengths of paper. Have the students decorate the shapes by adding facial details and clothing. Students can use colored markers or, if available, real pieces of fabric. Have the students dictate or write stories about themselves to accompany their silhouettes. Students can also label body parts of the body.

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/allaboutme.html>

4. Here We Sit Together

(sung to the tune of "the more we get together")

Sit in a circle and then sing:

Here we sit together, together, together

Here we sit together, all here on the floor.

There's _____ and _____ and _____

(etc, until every child has said their name - it's best to go clockwise around the circle starting with the teacher)

Here we sit together, all here on the floor.

http://www.dltk-kids.com/school/here_we_sit_together.htm

5. Back to School Fingerplay

Two little houses all closed up tight

(make fists)

Open up the window and let in the light

(open fist)

Ten little finger people tall and straight

(ten fingers)

Ready for school at half past eight
(walk with fingers)

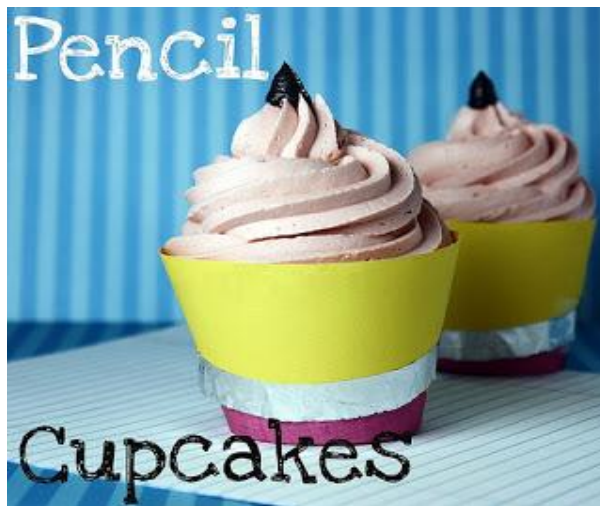
http://www.dltk-kids.com/school/mschool_song.htm

August/September Kitchen Fun
Theme: Back to School/All about Me

1. Bring in cookies for the students. Print out sayings to put on them.
Example: You're one Smart Cookie (Hope your day is going great!)



2. Make Pencil Cupcakes for your class. Go to website for directions.



<http://kitchenfunwithmy3sons.blogspot.com/2012/08/30-back-to-school-fun-food-gift-ideas.html>

August/September Children's Books
Theme: Back to School/All about Me

1. A Bad Case of Stripes
David Shannon (Author)
"What we have here is a bad case of stripes. One of the worst I've ever seen!" Camilla Cream loves lima beans, but she never eats them. Why? Because the other kids in her school don't like them. And Camilla Cream is very, very worried about what other people think of her. In fact, she's so worried that she's about to break out in...a bad case of stripes! "Shannon's story is a good poke in the eye of conformity...and his empathetic, vivid artwork keeps perfect pace with the tale."
<http://www.amazon.com/Bad-Case-Stripes-Scholastic-Bookshelf/dp/0439598389>
2. The Kissing Hand
Audrey Penn (Author)
The Kissing Hand, used by millions of parents and children starting school or facing separation, is now brought to life in audio form. Package includes a paperback book and a reading of the story on CD, with and without page-turn signals. Also included on the CD, on a separate track, is the new, original "Chester's Song" with lyrics by Audrey Penn and set to beautiful music. A perfect addition to the home, classroom or library audio collection!
<http://www.amazon.com/The-Kissing-Hand-Audrey-Penn/dp/1933718102>
3. First Day Jitters
Julie Danneberg (Author)
Judith Dufour Love (Illustrator)
Everyone knows that sinking feeling in the pit of the stomach just before diving into a new situation. Sarah Jane Hartwell is scared and doesn't want to start over at a new school. She doesn't know anybody, and nobody knows her. It will be awful. She just knows it. With much prodding from Mr. Hartwell, Sarah Jane reluctantly pulls herself together and goes to school. She is quickly befriended by Mrs. Burton, who helps smooth her jittery transition. This charming and familiar story will delight readers with its surprise ending. Fun, energetic illustrations brighten page after page with the busy antics surrounding Sarah Jane. *First Day Jitters* is an enchanting story that is sure to be treasured by anyone who has every anticipated a first day of school.
<http://www.amazon.com/First-Day-Jitters-Julie-Danneberg/dp/158089061X>
4. The Giving Tree
Shel Silverstein (Author)
"Once there was a tree ... and she loved a little boy." So begins a story of unforgettable perception, beautifully written and illustrated by the gifted and versatile Shel Silverstein. Every day the boy would come to the tree to eat her apples, swing from her branches, or slide down her trunk ... and the tree was happy. But as the boy grew older he began to want more from the tree, and the tree gave and gave and gave. This is a tender story, touched with sadness, aglow with consolation. Shel Silverstein has created a moving

parable for readers of all ages that offers an affecting interpretation of the gift of giving and a serene acceptance of another's capacity to love in return.

<http://www.amazon.com/Giving-Tree-Slipcased-Mini-Edition/dp/006028451X>

5. It's Okay To Be Different

Todd Parr (Author)

It's Okay to Be Different cleverly delivers the important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence in an accessible, child-friendly format featuring Todd Parr's trademark bold, bright colors and silly scenes. Targeted to young children first beginning to read, this book will inspire kids to celebrate their individuality through acceptance of others and self-confidence. Along with the four other bestselling Todd Parr picture books debuting in paperback this season, *It's Okay to be Different* is designed to encourage early literacy, enhance emotional development, celebrate multiculturalism, and promote character growth.

<http://www.amazon.com/Its-Okay-To-Be-Different/dp/0316043478>

6. The Feelings Book

Todd Parr (Author)

Todd Parr's bold, kid-friendly illustrations portray children expressing all different moods, from "I feel very mad" and "I feel like reading books all day" to "I feel like wearing funny underwear."

<http://www.amazon.com/Feelings-Book-Todd-Parr/dp/0316012491>

7. What I Like About Me!

Allia Zobel Nolan (Author)

Miki Sakamoto (Illustrator)

This fun-loving book proves to kids that, in a world where fitting in is the norm, being different is what makes us special. The kids in *What I Like About Me!* are as different as night and day. And, guess what? They love it. Some adore the fact that their braces dazzle and gleam, others feel distinguished when they wear their glasses. Still others wouldn't trade their big feet for a lifetime of free video games. A mylar mirror embedded in the last page let kids take a look at themselves and decide what they like best about themselves.

<http://www.amazon.com/What-I-Like-About-Me/dp/0794419453>

8. Oh, the Places You'll Go!

Dr. Seuss (Author)

A perennial favorite, Dr. Seuss's wonderfully wise graduation speech is the perfect send-off for children starting out in the world, be they nursery school, high school, or college grads! From soaring to high heights and seeing great sights to being left in a Lurch on a prickly perch, Dr. Seuss addresses life's ups and downs with his trademark humorous verse and illustrations, while encouraging readers to find the success that lies within. In a starred review, *Booklist* notes: "Seuss's message is simple but never sappy: life may be a 'Great Balancing Act,' but through it all 'There's fun to be done.'"

<http://www.amazon.com/Oh-Places-Youll-Dr-Seuss/dp/0679805273>

9. Join In and Play

Cheri J. Meiners (Author)

It's fun to make friends and play with others, but it's not always easy to do. You have to make an effort, and you have to know the rules—like ask before joining in, take turns, play fair, and be a good sport. This book teaches the basics of cooperation, getting along, making friends, and being a friend. Includes ideas for games adults can use with kids to reinforce the skills being taught.

<http://www.amazon.com/Join-Play-Learning-Get-Along/dp/1575421526>

10. The Rainbow Fish

Marcus Pfister (Author)

The award-winning book about a beautiful fish who finds friendship and happiness when he learns to share is now available in a board book edition for the youngest child.

<http://www.amazon.com/Rainbow-Fish-Board-Book/dp/1558585362>

August/September Community Service Connection

Theme: Back to School/All about Me

1. Have students donate extra materials to the school for other students.
2. Have students bring in their parents for their “All about Me” day. This is great way to keep the parents involved.

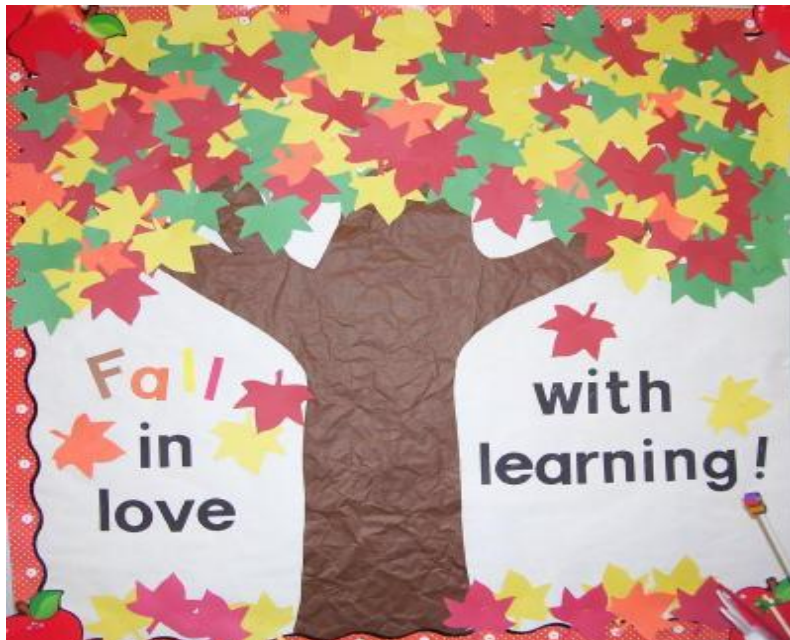
October Teaching Strategies

Theme: Fall

1. Writing Prompt – Compare and Contrast: The fall season looks different in other places around the world. Have students write a compare and contrast paragraph that tells what fall looks like where they live and what it looks like in another region or country.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/fall.html>
2. Grades K-3: Science/Mathematics – Vegetable Sorting
With so many vegetable in abundance during the fall season, have each of the students bring in one or two favorites. Then have students sort them by color, size, and texture.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/fall.html>
3. Take students on a field trip to a real pumpkin patch.
4. Make a scavenger hunt about fall. Can be made for inside the classroom or outside. See how many things students can find.
5. Use a real pumpkin to teach students about estimating and measurements. Measure the size of the pumpkin, estimate how much the pumpkin weighs, or estimate how many seeds are in the pumpkin. Actually carve the pumpkin and count the seeds.

October Bulletin Board Ideas

Theme: Fall



I love all the colors of the leaves!



I love owls!

These images are from Google Images.

October Integrated Arts Activities **Theme: Fall**

1. Grades K-2: Art – Leaf Rubbings

Have the students bring in leaves from home, recess, or a walk and create works of art by making rubbings. This is an easy way to make an image of a leaf, using a real leaf, a piece of paper and a crayon (or crayons).

Directions:

- Find a nice leaf.
- Put it on a flat surface, like a desk or counter-top.
- Cover the leaf with a piece of paper.
- Crayon on the paper over the leaf.
- Magically, a leaf will appear.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/Leafcraft.shtml>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/fall.html>

2. Have students make this fall tree craft. Go to this website for directions.

<http://www.readingconfetti.com/2013/09/3-d-fall-tree-craft.html>

3. Sing this Rhyme!

Five little Scarecrows
Five little scarecrows
by the old barn door;
one went home
and then there were four.
Four little scarecrows
by the old oak tree;
one went home
and then there were three.
Three little scarecrows
with nothing to do;
one went home
and then there were two.
Two little scarecrows
out in the sun;
one went home
and then there was one.
One little scarecrow
out in the field;
one wasn't fun
so then there were NONE!

<http://www.loving2learn.com/Books/RhymesandSongs/Fall/FiveLittleScarecrows.aspx>

4. Sing this Rhyme!

I Love Fall
I love fall! Fall, fall, fall.
Its apples and cider.
It's an airborne spider.
It's pumpkins in bins.
It's burrs on dogs' chins.
It's wind blowing leaves.
It's chilly red checks.
It's nuts on the ground.
It's a crisp dry sound.
It's green leaves turning
and the smell of them burning.
It's clouds in the sky.
It's fall. That's why...
I love fall.

<http://www.loving2learn.com/Books/RhymesandSongs/Fall/ILoveFall.aspx>

5. Make fall collages. Students can bring in their own items and the teacher can bring in items also. You can use leaves, sticks, hay, or anything that has to do with fall.

October Kitchen Fun

Theme: Fall

1. Grades K-5: Science – A Taste of Fall

You and your students can make tasty treats from pumpkin and sunflower seeds.

- Both sunflower and pumpkin seeds can be roasted and make a fun snack. Separate the fiber from the pumpkin seed and place the seeds in a colander and rinse thoroughly with water.
- Place the seeds, either sunflower or pumpkin, in a saucepan and cover with salted water using $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt to 2 quarts water. Bring the seeds to a boil and simmer about 2 hours. Drain the seeds and dry them on absorbent paper.
- To roast, place seeds in a shallow pan in a 300 degree oven for 30 to 40 minutes or until golden brown. Stir occasionally.
- Remove the seeds from the oven and add one teaspoon of melted butter or margarine to each cup of seeds. Salt to taste. When cool, store in an airtight container. If they will be stored longer than 10 to 14 days, place in the freezer.
- Salt may be omitted in the cooking water and other seasonings can be used. Simply sprinkle the cooked, drained seeds with onion or garlic salt before roasting.
- Hulled seeds may be mixed with vegetable oil (two teaspoons oil to each cup of seeds) and seasonings and then roasted. Place in a 300 degree oven for five to ten minutes.
- Store popcorn in airtight containers in the refrigerator, or better yet, in the freezer. At 40 degrees Fahrenheit (refrigerator temperature), the popping volume begins to decrease after about 30 months of storage.

<http://ndsuent.nodak.edu/extnews/askext/foodstor/411.htm>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/fall.html>

2. Make apple chips and bring in for the class. Look at website for directions.

<http://sallysbakingaddiction.com/2013/07/22/baked-cinnamon-apple-chips/>

October Children's Books

Theme: Fall

1. Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden

George Levenson (Author)

We can be sure of this: It's a circle without end. Its pumpkin seeds to pumpkins to pumpkin seeds again! This treat of a picture book comes cloaked in the colors of fall.

Bouncy verse and glowing photographs show a backyard pumpkin patch move through its natural cycle -- a bug's eye and a bird's high view of seeds sprouting, flowers blooming, bees buzzing, pumpkins growing . . . and then going back to earth. An author's note explains how to grow your own pumpkin.

<http://www.amazon.com/Pumpkin-Circle-The-Story-Garden/dp/1582460787>

2. By the Light of the Harvest Moon

Harriet Ziefert (Author)

Mark Jones (Illustrator)

As the harvest moon shines down, the wind picks up, sending orange, yellow, and crimson leaves dancing, until they settle in a pumpkin patch. One-by-one, leaf people emerge to celebrate the autumnal equinox.

<http://www.amazon.com/Light-Harvest-Moon-Harriet-Ziefert/dp/1934706698>

3. Every Autumn Comes the Bear

Jim Arnosky (Author)

Each autumn, just before the onset of winter, a bear shows up in the rugged woodland behind a family farm. Via his simple text and large-format watercolor paintings, author/illustrator Jim Arnosky depicts the change of seasons and the ritual of hibernation in "a beautiful, imaginative, and informative approach to natural history for the nursery set" (Booklist).

<http://www.amazon.com/Every-Autumn-Comes-Bear-Arnosky/dp/0698114051>

4. The Little Scarecrow Boy

Margaret Wise Brown (Author)

David Diaz (Illustrator)

The Little Scarecrow Boy is the lightest and brightest picture book from one of the most renowned children's writers ever: Margaret Wise Brown, author of Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny. Caldecott winner David Diaz's illustrations burst with sunshine, and Brown's words reveal the quiet glory of a boy on the brink of growing up, full of curiosity and life.

<http://www.amazon.com/Little-Scarecrow-Margaret-Wise-Brown/dp/0060778911>

5. Fall

Nuria Roca (Author)

Large and beautiful color illustrations on every page of this book—one in a brand-new four-volume series—will appeal especially to early grades boys and girls. Kids will also love having the simply written descriptive text read to them as they gaze at the charming pictures—and as they get just a little older, they'll be able to read the text by themselves! Both words and pictures evoke the moods and activities of autumn, and the illustrations show children at seasonal play.

<http://www.amazon.com/Fall-Seasons-Barrons-Nuria-Roca/dp/0764127292>

6. Fall Leaves: Colorful and Crunchy

Martha E. H. Rustad (Author)

Amanda Enright (Illustrator)

Look at all the brightly colored trees! Fall weather causes leaves to change colors. Follow a leaf as it grows, changes color, and falls to the ground. Let's grab a rake! What happens in fall? Find out in the fall's here! Series, part of the Cloverleaf Books(tm) collection. These nonfiction picture books feature kid-friendly text and illustrations to make learning fun!

<http://www.amazon.com/Fall-Leaves-Colorful-Crunchy-Cloverleaf/dp/0761385053>

7. Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf

Lois Ehlert (Author)

Lois Ehlert uses watercolor collage and pieces of actual seeds, fabric, wire, and roots in this innovative and rich introduction to the life of a tree. A special glossary explains how roots absorb nutrients, what photosynthesis is, how sap circulates, and other facts about trees.

<http://www.amazon.com/Red-Leaf-Yellow-Lois-Ehlert/dp/0152661972>

8. The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z.

Kate Messner (Author)

Gianna Z. has less than one week to collect twenty-five leaves for a science project, or else she might lose her spot at cross-country sectionals. Finishing her project will be enough of a hurdle, but with a grandmother who keeps losing her teeth, a father who drives her to school in the family hearse, and an arch-nemesis intent on stealing her spot on the team, Gianna will need a stroke of brilliance to make everything fall into place.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Brilliant-Fall-Gianna-Z/dp/0802721737>

9. The Little Yellow Leaf

Carin Berger (Author)

As all the other leaves float off and fly past, Little Yellow Leaf thinks, *I'm not ready yet*. As the seasons change all around, Little Yellow Leaf holds on to the tree. *Still not ready*. Will Little Yellow Leaf *ever* be ready? This is a story for anyone who has ever been afraid of facing the unknown—and a celebration of the friends who help us take the leap.

<http://www.amazon.com/Little-Yellow-Leaf-Carin-Berger/dp/0061452238>

10. Mouse's First Fall

Lauren Thompson (Author)

Buket Erdogan (Illustrator)

Lauren Thompson and Bucket Erdogan show what makes fall so much fun in Classic Board Book edition of *Mouse's First Fall*!

<http://www.amazon.com/Mouses-First-Classic-Board-Books/dp/1416994777>

October Community Service Connection

Theme: Fall

1. Have a bake sale with and ask other classes to be involved.

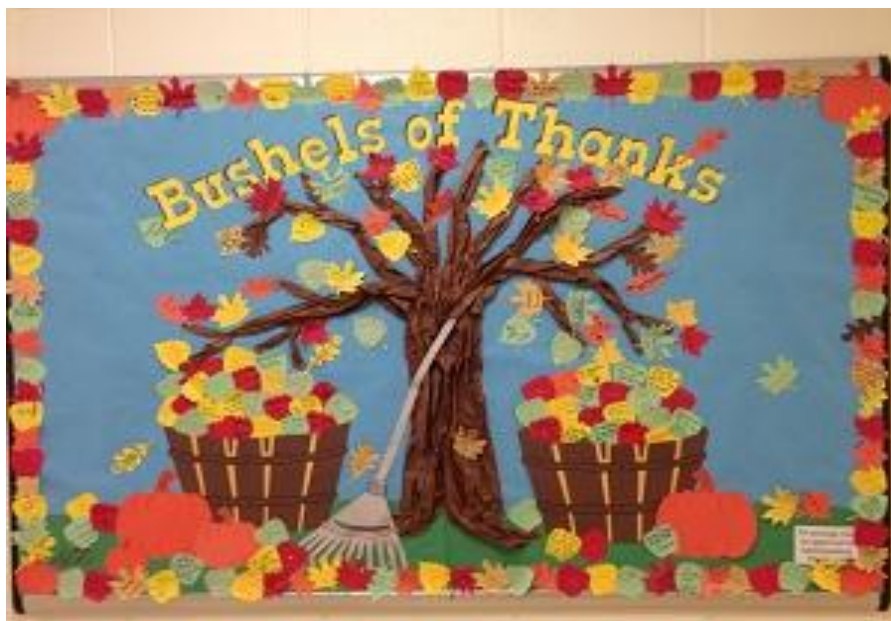
November Teaching Strategies

Theme: Thanksgiving

1. Writing Prompt – Compare and Contrast: Have students write a story about how they celebrate Thanksgiving. How is the day special? What's the best part of the day?
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/november/thanksgiving.html>
2. Grades 1-2: Social Studies – Thanksgiving Match Game
Have students create their own Thanksgiving match game. Give each student two index cards (or index cards in multiples of two). Then have them draw a picture of something that represents Thanksgiving, such as a turkey, a Pilgrim, fall leaves, pumpkins, etc., on index cards. Help students write the name of each picture on another index card. Then shuffle all the cards and lay them face down in rows. Challenge the students to take turns flipping the cards and looking for picture-word matches.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/november/thanksgiving.html>
3. Grades 1-4: Social Studies – Thanksgiving Tree
Celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving by making a class Thanksgiving tree. Draw a large tree trunk with many branches on a large piece of poster board. Have students trace their hands on construction paper and cut out the tracings to make leaves. Students should write one thing they are thankful for on each leaf. Attach the leaves to the tree branches. Encourage students to add new leaves to the tree during this season.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/november/thanksgiving.html>

November Bulletin Board Ideas

Theme: Thanksgiving



3. Grades 2-4: Art – Thanksgiving Pies
Have students make their own Thanksgiving “pies” from paper plates and art scraps. Students can pile their paper plates with shredded colored paper or cloth scraps to represent different pie fillings. Have them cover their pies by crisscrossing strips of “dough” made from brown construction paper. They can also add beads, buttons, glitter, and other objects on top of their pies as their special goodies. Display students’ Thanksgiving pies on a table in your classroom.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/november/thanksgiving.html>
4. Play Pilgrim Dress-Up. Look at the website for directions. There is nothing young children enjoy more than make-believe. Let your child get into character this Thanksgiving—as a Pilgrim! The story of the first Thanksgiving feast will come alive as your child creates a hat or bonnet and plays the part of one of the Pilgrim guests. Be sure to photograph your child wearing her Pilgrim attire. She'll learn some history and some social studies along the way with this fun arts and crafts project.
<http://www.education.com/activity/article/pilgrim-headpieces/>
5. Gourd Painting – look at website for directions. Gourd painting is a fun fall activity that makes for colorful Thanksgiving decorations! Perfect for kids that are feeling nostalgic about the loss of last month's Jack-o'-lanterns, gourd painting is a traditional pastime with origins in Asia, Africa, and America. Have your child make his very own gourd painting to celebrate the autumn harvest and Thanksgiving. Make one gourd painting or a cluster of painted gourds to use as Thanksgiving decorations or unique dinner table centerpieces.
<http://www.education.com/activity/article/gourd-painting/>

November Kitchen Fun
Theme: Thanksgiving

1. Turkey Time - Cooking with children is a wonderful way to expose them to important math concepts. The passage of time is an abstract concept that's sometimes very difficult for young minds to grasp. But waiting for the turkey to come out of the oven on Thanksgiving is a concretely yummy experience! Look on the website for more directions.
<http://www.education.com/activity/article/turkey-time/>
2. Bake Colonial Pumpkin Pie and take in for the class. Look at the website for directions.
<http://www.education.com/activity/article/colonial-pumpkin-pie/>

November Children's Books
Theme: Thanksgiving

1. Grades 6-8: Reading/Social Studies – A Thanksgiving Reading
Read with your students “An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving” by Louisa May Alcott.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/november/thanksgiving.html>
2. Turkey Trouble
Wendi Silvano (Author)
Lee Harper (Illustrator)
Turkey is in trouble. Bad trouble. The kind of trouble where it's almost Thanksgiving . . . and you're the main course. But Turkey has an idea--what if he doesn't look like a turkey? What if he looks like another animal instead? After many hilarious attempts, Turkey comes up with the perfect disguise to make this Thanksgiving the best ever!
<http://www.amazon.com/Turkey-Trouble-Wendi-Silvano/dp/0761455299>
3. The Thankful Book
Todd Parr (Author)
Todd Parr's bestselling books have taught kids about unconditional love, respecting the earth, facing fears, and more, all with his signature blend of playfulness and sensitivity. Now, The Thankful Book celebrates all the little things children can give thanks for. From everyday activities like reading and bath time to big family meals together and special alone time between parent and child, Todd inspires readers to remember all of life's special moments. The perfect book to treasure and share, around the holidays and throughout the year.
<http://www.amazon.com/The-Thankful-Book-Todd-Parr/dp/0316181013>
4. Just So Thankful (Little Critter)
Mercer Mayer (Author)
There's a new kid in town that has everything Little Critter wants -- a Super Streak scooter, his own cell phone, and even a limousine! But Little Critter soon realizes that he has something money cannot buy -- a family who loves and adores him.
<http://www.amazon.com/Just-So-Thankful-Little-Critter/dp/006053950X>
5. I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie
Alison Jackson (Author)
Judy Schachner (Illustrator)
I know an old lady who swallowed a pie, a Thanksgiving pie, which was really too dry. And with that the feast begins! After the pie the old lady swallows a whole squash, all of the salad, and the entire turkey! As Mother and Father watch in shock, the two children are delighted to see the old lady growing fatter and fatter. And, in the end, the old lady makes a surprising and humorous contribution to the holiday festivities.
<http://www.amazon.com/Know-Swallowed-Picture-Puffin-Books/dp/0140565957>
6. Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade
Melissa Sweet (Author)

Everyone's a New Yorker on Thanksgiving Day, when young and old rise early to see what giant new balloons will fill the skies for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Who first invented these "upside-down puppets"? Meet Tony Sarg, puppeteer extraordinaire! In brilliant collage illustrations, Caldecott Honor artist Melissa Sweet tells the story of the puppeteer Tony Sarg, capturing his genius, his dedication, his zest for play, and his long-lasting gift to America—the inspired helium balloons that would become the trademark of Macy's Parade.

<http://www.amazon.com/Balloons-over-Broadway-Puppeteer-Education/dp/0547199457>

7. 'Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving

Dav Pilkey (Author)

The incomparable Dav Pilkey adapts Clement Moore's classic Christmas poem to tell his wacky Thanksgiving tale. The day before Thanksgiving, eight boys and girls take a field trip to a turkey farm. They have fun playing with eight exuberant turkeys but are shocked to learn that Farmer Mack Nuggett plans to kill all the turkeys for Thanksgiving dinners. So the children decide to smuggle all the turkeys home, and all their Thanksgiving dinners become vegetarian this year. The turkeys' lives are saved!

<http://www.amazon.com/Twas-Night-Before-Thanksgiving-Bookshelf/dp/0439669375>

8. Cranberry Thanksgiving

Wende Devlin (Author)

Harry Devlin (Illustrator)

Grandmother certainly didn't want to ask Mr. Whiskers for Thanksgiving dinner! She was very angry when Maggie asked him. She was even more angry when SOMEONE stole her favorite, secret recipe for cranberry bread! Was Mr. Whiskers the thief?

<http://www.amazon.com/Cranberry-Thanksgiving-Cranberryport-Wende-Devlin/dp/1930900635>

9. 10 Fat Turkeys

Tony Johnston (Author)

Rich Deas (Illustrator)

This silly rhyming story about ten turkeys teaches children how to count backwards.

Girls and boys will gobble up this hilarious story about ten goofy turkeys and their silly antics: swinging from a vine, strutting on a boar, doing a noodle dance, and more.

Veteran author Tony Johnston has written a joyful text, which first-time illustrator Richard Deas brings to life as wild and wacky fun!

<http://www.amazon.com/10-Fat-Turkeys-Tony-Johnston/dp/0439459486>

10. Run, Turkey, Run!

Diane Mayr (Author)

Laura Rader (Illustrator)

Thanksgiving is only a day away. Can Turkey find a place to hide from the farmer searching for a plump bird for his feast? If the farmer doesn't fall for his tricks, there's only one thing left to do . . . run, Turkey, run!

<http://www.amazon.com/Run-Turkey-Diane-Mayr/dp/080278481X>

November Community Service Connection
Theme: Thanksgiving

1. Grades 4-8: A Time to Share

Help students organize a non-perishable food drive in your school to benefit a local food pantry or shelter. Students can create posters announcing the dates and the purpose of the drive. Hang the posters around the school and put empty boxes nearby. Have students pack the food they collect into boxes or bags. Arrange for the food to be picked up or delivered to the pantry.

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/november/thanksgiving.html>

2. Have students write thank you letters to those who have made a difference in their life.

December Teaching Strategies

Theme: Winter

1. Writing Prompt – Poem: Winter can make people excited for snow, chilled from the cold, blue over gray skies, or cheery for a holiday. Have students write a poem about their feelings for winter.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/december/winter.html>
2. Grades 4-8: Science – Danger! Hypothermia!
 - Hypothermia can happen even during temperatures as warm as 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Have students create a safety poster depicting this deadly threat.
 - Students research the causes of hypothermia, identify its signs, and make poster that inform others of these symptoms and provide instruction on how to help a hypothermia victim.
 - Background: Hypothermia is a potential risk to anyone who hikes, skis, swims, cycles, runs, or is outdoors for prolonged periods in temperatures of 50 degree Fahrenheit or lower. Taken from the Greek word hypo, meaning “under” and therm, meaning “heat,” hypothermia occurs when the body becomes under heated and its temperature drops below 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - What you need:
 - A variety of research materials, such as books, periodicals, and science articles
 - Access to the internet (optional)
 - Poster board
 - Writing and drawing materials
 - What to do:
 - Ask students what safety threats they are likely to encounter if they hike or participate in other outdoor activities. These may include the following hazards:
 - Wild animals
 - Dangerous terrain
 - Accidents
 - Drowning
 - Getting lost
 - Hypothermia
 - Starvation
 - Guide students to understand that hypothermia is particularly threatening for the following reasons:
 - It can occur at temperatures as high as 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - Its symptoms can be as vague as drowsiness or slurred speech.
 - It can occur swiftly when someone stops exercising and feels, at first, overheated.
 - It can be deadly.
 - Tell students that knowing what hypothermia is and how to prevent it can help them survive potentially risky situations. Let them know that they will be designing posters to inform others of this danger. Suggest that

they brainstorm areas of information they will need to research. Their list should focus on the following questions:

- How does hypothermia occur, and under what conditions?
- What are its symptoms?
- How can you prevent hypothermia?
- How can you help someone who is suffering from hypothermia?
- Divide the class into groups to research information and to choose a focus for the group's poster. Each group then develops a poster and selects one member to present it to the class. Display the posters.
- Teaching options
 - Have students create informational posters about other science-related topics that are basic to outdoor survival, such as CPR, Sun and star navigation, dangerous animals or insects, and poisonous and edible plants.
 - Students can present or enact a survival skill for the class.
 - Invite a survivor of a serious outdoor mishap to come into the class to discuss the experience.

<http://www.eduplace.com/activity/northern.html>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/december/winter.html>

December Bulletin Board Ideas Theme: Winter





These images are from Google Images.

December Integrated Arts Activities Theme: Winter

1. Grades K-2: Art – Winterscapes
Let students create their own snow figures. Give students constructions paper, cotton balls, and glue. Help them arrange the cotton into shapes and glue the shapes to the paper. Then students can decorate their winter scenes with crayons, glitter, cloth, and other materials.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/december/winter.html>
2. Grades K-4: Art/Mathematics – Winter Shapes
Have students create a winter scene, using multicolored geometric shapes, such as circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, and hexagons, made of paper or other material.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/december/winter.html>
3. Project Snowman – Students will design their own snow guys.
The Setup: Begin this giggle-inducing contest by dividing kids into teams. Send them to different rooms, where they'll find toilet paper, piles of hats and scarves (the funkier the better!), buttons cut from construction paper, and tape. **To Play:** Each team must transform one of its members into a snowman, then help their creation get back to the central party room with as little "melting" as possible. Award prizes for wackiest outfit, best teamwork, and so on.

<http://spoonful.com/family-fun/project-snowman>

4. Snowflake Crafts – This website has 11 crafts that students can make. Go to the website for directions.

<http://spoonful.com/winter/snowflake-crafts>

December Kitchen Fun Theme: Winter

1. Make snowman sugar cookies and bring in for the class.
2. Make Frosty The Cupcake – go to the website for directions.

<http://spoonful.com/recipes/frosty-cupcake>

December Children's Books Theme: Winter

1. First Snow

Kim Lewis (Author)

This is a rural tale about a child and her mother in the snow, a lost teddy and a brave sheepdog. Sara goes with her Mummy, her teddy and the dogs to feed the sheep on the hill. As they walk, a snowstorm begins and, after feeding the sheep, they make their way quickly towards home. But then a mini crisis unfolds: where is Teddy? Lost in the snow somewhere, it seems. But then, out of the whiteness, one of the dogs appears carrying Teddy in her mouth. Back home, Sara tells Daddy about her adventure.

<http://www.amazon.com/First-Snow-Kim-Lewis/dp/1564029638>

2. Animals in Winter

Henrietta Bancroft (Author)

Helen K. Davie (Illustrator)

Have you ever seen a butterfly in the snow? Probably not. Butterflies can't survive cold weather, so when winter comes, many butterflies fly to warmer places. They migrate. Woodchucks don't like cold weather either but they don't migrate; they hibernate. Woodchucks sleep in their dens all winter long. Read and find out how other animals cope with winter's worst weather.

<http://www.amazon.com/Animals-Winter-Lets-Read-Find-Out-Science/dp/0064451658>

3. The First Day of Winter
Denise Fleming (Author)
Alive with swirling snow and lots of outdoor fun, the first ten days of winter bring special gifts for a special friend. This cumulative tale will have children chanting along as they discover all the trimmings needed for the most perfect snowman ever!
<http://www.amazon.com/The-First-Winter-Denise-Fleming/dp/0312371381>
4. Snow
Cynthia Rylant (Author)
Lauren Stringer (Illustrator)
Cynthia Rylant's lyrical descriptions of the sights and feelings evoked by falling snow blend gorgeously with the rich and beautiful world created by Lauren Stringer's illustrations, in which a young girl, her friend, and her grandmother enjoy the many things a snowy day has to offer.
<http://www.amazon.com/Snow-Cynthia-Rylant/dp/0152053034>
5. It's Winter!
Linda Glaser (Author)
Susan Swan (Illustrator)
A child observes the coming of winter and its effects on the weather, animals, and plants. Includes suggestions for wintertime activities.
<http://www.amazon.com/Winter-Celebrate-Seasons-Susan-Swan/dp/0761316809>
6. Snow
Roy McKie and P.D. Eastman (Authors)
This classic Beginner Book edited by Dr. Seuss is a delightful ode to winter. *Brrrrr!* It snowed! From snowball fights and skiing to fort building and snowman making, P. D. Eastman and Roy McKie's *Snow* will have young readers eager for the kind of fun only a wintry-white day can bring. Perfect for enjoying with a cup of hot cocoa! Originally created by Dr. Seuss, Beginner Books encourage children to read all by themselves, with simple words and illustrations that give clues to their meaning.
<http://www.amazon.com/Snow-Can-Read-All-Myself/dp/0394800273>
7. I Can Ski!
Melanie Davis Jones (Author)
Terry Boles (Illustrator)
All Rookie Readers actively engage young readers, encouraging language development, building fluency, and promoting independent reading. By targeting a skill, like learning about rhymes, young readers are building fundamental reading skills with the help of fun, lively, colorfully illustrated stories.
<http://www.amazon.com/Can-Ski-Rookie-Readers-Level/dp/B00C01J03K>
8. First Tracks
Johnny Boyd (Author)
Jeff Teaford (Illustrator)

Ski instructor and illustrator, Jeff Teaford, uses colorful illustrations to capture the innocence on the face of the central character as she contemplates her first time on skis and masterfully conveys her concentration as she snow plows (makes pizza) for the first time. Plus, her older brother learns to snowboard! Finally, the entire family shares the day together on the slopes. This is a family skiing story the way it should be when families actually go skiing. It truly is an adventure to be shared and shared again.

<http://www.amazon.com/First-Tracks-Johnny-Boyd/dp/0976018713>

9. Caillou: Makes a Snowman

CINAR Animation (Author)

This successful series teaches kids about themselves and encourages communication between children and adults. With the help and guidance of his friend Sarah, Caillou experiences the joy of playing in the snow and learning to make his first snowman.

<http://www.amazon.com/Caillou-Makes-Snowman-Backpack-Series/dp/2894506929>

10. Mouse's First Snow

Lauren Thompson (Author)

Buket Erdogan (Illustrator)

One cold day Mouse and Poppa venture into the clear white world. From sledding down hills, to skating across the ice, to meeting fluffy snow angels, Mouse finds that wintertime is full of surprises. And before it's time to go home, Mouse just might have time to "make" a special new friend!

<http://www.amazon.com/Mouses-First-Classic-Board-Books/dp/1442426519>

December Community Service Connection

Theme: Winter

1. Students can shovel snow for their neighbors.
2. Students can make cookies for the elderly.
3. Students can donate coats to the school for kids that need them.

January Teaching Strategies

Theme: Penguins

1. Science

You'll need: large pan of frozen water, small items from classroom such as blocks, crayon, and pencil. Talk about where penguins live and the type of climate they need to survive. Show children the pan filled with ice. Let them try to move the blocks and other small items around on the ice so they can feel the cold the penguins need to survive. Slide the items across the ice then across the desk, carpet and other surfaces. Compare the results.

<http://www.childfun.com/index.php/activity-themes/animals/106-penguin-activity-theme.html?start=2#sthash.X9EjLw7M.dpbs>

2. Number Recognition, Counting

You'll need: black ink pad, crayons, white paper. Fold the paper into six sections. Write a number from one to six in each section. Ask the children to put as many thumb prints in each section as the number asks for. Use crayons to turn the thumb print into a penguin. Now practice counting aloud. Hold a number card aloft and work cooperatively to form rookeries (penguin living group) containing that number. Be seated and create a rookery of a different number.

<http://www.childfun.com/index.php/activity-themes/animals/106-penguin-activity-theme.html?start=2#sthash.X9EjLw7M.dpbs>

3. Use the story Tacky the Penguin to help children recognize similarities and differences among people. Grades 1-3

Book Title: Tacky the Penguin

Author: Helen Lester

Summary: Tacky, the penguin, lived with five other penguins. The other penguins did all of the things proper penguins should. Tacky did everything different. One day, hunters came. All the penguins, but Tacky, hid. Tacky confused the hunters by his different behavior. Finally the hunters ran away. Even though Tacky was different, the others were glad to have him around.

Social Studies Relevance: This story helps children recognize similarities and differences among people. They begin to understand that it's okay to be different, and they appreciate diversity as a positive aspect of life.

<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/byrnes-literature/MINIUNIT/DIFFER~1.HTM>
<http://thematicunits.theteacherscorner.net/penguins.php>

4. Students will use research skills to increase their knowledge of their favorite penguin.

Allow students to use internet, books, and other resources to gain knowledge. Have students complete a project to show what they have they learned.

<http://thematicunits.theteacherscorner.net/penguins.php>

January Bulletin Board Ideas
Theme: Penguins



These images are from Google Images.

January Integrated Arts Activities
Theme: Penguins

1. Sing this riddle with the class.

I'm a Little Penguin
(tune of I'm a Little Teapot)
I'm a little penguin
Black and white.
Stout and fluffy
What a sight!

I can't fly
but I love to swim.
So I'll waddle to the water
and dive right in!

<http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/penguins/song1.htm>

2. Sing this song with the class.

Penguin
I know a bird
That cannot fly:
Penguin is its name.
It cannot fly,
But it can swim
With speed that wins it fame!
I know a bird
That lives on ice
And waddles by the sea.
It looks so cute
In its black and white suit,
As handsome as can be!

<http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/penguins/song4.htm>

3. Make penguin costumes and then have students produce a play.

Penguin Costume

Use a grocery bag and orange construction paper to turn into a penguin! Slit the front of the bag from top to bottom. Cut a neck hole in the bottom of the bag. Cut wing shaped flaps in the sides. Color the bag black and white to resemble a penguin. Form a cone from a triangular piece of orange construction paper. Staple it together and punch a hole in each side. Tie a 12 inch piece of string through each hole. Place the cone over your nose like a beak and tie the strings together at the back of your head. Now put on the bag and have a Penguin Parade!

<http://www.childfun.com/index.php/activity-themes/animals/106-penguin-activity-theme.html?start=1#sthash.Ve3DBkzF.dpbs>

4. Penguin Shape

Cut out penguin shapes from black paper. Paint with Epsom Salts diluted in water. It makes the penguin look frosty.

<http://www.childfun.com/index.php/activity-themes/animals/106-penguin-activity-theme.html?start=1#sthash.TT3bmzhY.dpbs>

5. Penguin Materials

6" X 9" white and black construction paper, one of each per child

Black and yellow markers

Scissors

Glue or stapler

What to do:

Trace the child's shoe on the white paper and have the child cut out, helping if necessary. This will be Penguin's body. Fold the black paper in half so it measures 6 X 4.5". Trace the child's hand with wrist on the fold. Cut out. These will be the wings. Glue or staple the black wings (folded lengthwise) around the penguin's body on each side (kind of over the top of the head and down the sides). Draw eyes and beak with black and yellow markers.

More to do: Glue the penguin on blue paper and use finger tips to print with white paint to create snow all around the penguin.

<http://www.childfun.com/index.php/activity-themes/animals/106-penguin-activity-theme.html?start=1#sthash.TT3bmzhY.dpbs>

January Kitchen Fun

Theme: Penguins

1. Make Penguin Cookies

Ingredients: 1 chocolate sandwich cookie per child and 1 chocolate kiss per child. Have students wash their hands. Give each child a napkin, cookie, and chocolate kiss. They twist the top off of their cookie and carefully break it in half. They place the two pieces on top of the bottom half with the icing side up and spread a little out for wings. Then they place the chocolate kiss at the top for the penguins head.

<http://www.childfun.com/index.php/activity-themes/animals/106-penguin-activity-theme.html?start=3#sthash.Db4W3kkD.dpbs>

2. Penguin Snack

You'll need: vanilla ice cream, chocolate sauce, small bowls or cups, spoons, and whipped cream. Scoop some ice cream into a bowl and let the children add their own black and white toppings. Stop eating- if you can- and feel the cold sensation in your mouth.

<http://www.childfun.com/index.php/activity-themes/animals/106-penguin-activity-theme.html?start=3#sthash.Db4W3kkD.dpbs>

January Children's Books
Theme: Penguins

1. Penguin Chick
Betty Tatham (Author)
Helen K. Davie (Illustrator)
An emperor penguin lays an egg on the Antarctic ice. In the bitter cold, miles away from the only source of food, how can the chick survive?
<http://www.amazon.com/Penguin-Chick-Lets-Read-Find-Out-Science/dp/0064452069>
2. Plenty of Penguins
Sonia W. Black (Author)
Turi Maccombie (Illustrator)
With an invitation like that, who could resist learning all about penguins? Loaded with basic, informative facts, and told in accessible, rhyming language, this easy-to-read title is the perfect introduction to these adorable creatures. Spectacular and realistic illustrations bring the fascinating world of penguins to life, depicting a variety of penguins, their living and eating habits, and even the excitement of newly-hatched baby penguins greeting the world!
<http://www.amazon.com/Scholastic-Reader-Level-Plenty-Penguins/dp/0439098327>
3. Antarctica
Helen Cowcher (Author)
Far, far south, in the strange and beautiful land of Antarctica, it is dark both day and night all winter long. When at last spring comes, the penguins and seals raise their young. But, one year, loud, unfamiliar sounds announce the arrival of a new presence—one the animals hope can share this fragile world with them in peace.
<http://www.amazon.com/Antarctica-Helen-Cowcher/dp/0312589794>
4. Penguin Puzzle (Magic School Bus Chapter Books #8)
Judith Bauer Stamper (Author)
Ted Enik (Illustrator)
Ms. Frizzle whisks her students away on a cool trip to Antarctica, where they learn all about the South Pole and come face to face with playful penguins and colossal icebergs. But when the kids are magically changed into real penguins, they need Ms. Frizzle's help to solve their penguin puzzle.
<http://www.amazon.com/Penguin-Puzzle-Magic-School-Chapter/dp/0439204224>
5. The Emperor's Egg
Martin Jenkins (Author)
Jane Chapman (Illustrator)
Can you imagine spending the winter outdoors in Antarctica without anything to eat? That's just what the male Emperor penguin does. While his mate is off swimming and catching loads of fish, he stands around in the freezing cold with an egg on his feet for two whole months, keeping it warm and waiting for it to hatch. Welcome to the story of the world's most devoted dad!

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Emperors-Egg-Read-Wonder/dp/0763618713>

6. Penguin Pete
Marcus Pfister (Author)
Pint-sized Pete longs for the day when he is finally big enough to swim with the other penguins.
<http://www.amazon.com/Penguin-Pete-Marcus-Pfister/dp/1558583564>
7. Busy Penguins
John Schindel (Author)
There's so much to do when you're a penguin. Join in the fun! The rhyming text and adorable photographs in this colorful board book offer a close-up view of penguins dashing, splashing, jumping, bumping, and going about their busy penguin lives.
<http://www.amazon.com/Busy-Penguins-A-Book/dp/1582460167>
8. Mr. Popper's Penguins
Richard and Florence Atwater (Authors)
A classic of American humor, the adventures of a house painter and his brood of high-stepping penguins have delighted children for generations. "Here is a book to read aloud in groups of all ages. There is not an extra or misplaced word in the whole story."--*The Horn Book*. Newbery Honor Book.
<http://www.amazon.com/Mr-Poppers-Penguins-Richard-Atwater/dp/0316058432>
9. Uncle Pirate
Douglas Rees (Author)
Tony Auth (Illustrator)
When Desperate Evil Wicked Bob, a pirate, and his talking penguin, Captain Jack, come to live with Wilson and his parents, life suddenly gets more exciting. But the fun really begins when Captain Jack starts attending Very Elementary, a school as far from shipshape and Bristol fashion as a school could be. With a little bit of imagination and a lot of humor, Desperate Evil Wicked Bob turns mollymockery into mathematics, and young Wilson gets what every kid wants—a pirate for an uncle.
<http://www.amazon.com/Uncle-Pirate-Douglas-Rees/dp/1416947639>
10. Tacky the Penguin
Helen Lester (Author)
Lynn Munsinger (Illustrator)
Tacky's perfect friends find him annoying until his odd behavior saves the day.
<http://www.amazon.com/Tacky-Penguin-Helen-Lester/dp/0395562333>

January Community Service Connection
Theme: Penguins

1. Students can make penguin cookies for other classes.

February Teaching Strategies

Theme: President's Day

1. Writing Prompt – Persuasion: Mt. Rushmore is a tribute to four great Presidents – George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. Ask students: Which four Presidents do you think deserve a monument like Mt. Rushmore? Then have them write a paragraph, persuading the President (now) to have it built.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/february/presidents.html>
2. Grades K-8: Social Studies/Language Arts – The Memory Game
A great way to show students a link to the past is to have them interview an adult – a teacher, a parent, or other relative – and compile a list of the Presidents who served during that adult's lifetime. Students can ask the adult to describe an important memory about each President.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/february/presidents.html>
3. Have students compare and contrast Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Students can choose one of them to write about in their journals.
4. Have students create a timeline about the presidents of the United States. Look at the website for directions.
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/01-1/lp223_01.shtml
5. Students can create a picture book of the U.S presidents. Look at the website for directions.
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/01-1/lp223_05.shtml

February Bulletin Board Ideas

Theme: President's Day





These images are from Google Images.

February Integrated Arts Activities Theme: President's Day

1. Have students get into character. When you think of Abraham Lincoln, you know you picture that stovepipe hat and black beard. You can make beards for Lincoln and hats for Washington using templates from Printables. Make tall black hats using a strip of black construction paper to go around their heads and attached it to another piece for the hat.
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/classroom-solutions/2012/02/presidents-day-votes-are-these-activities-win>
2. Have students make Abraham Lincoln's Log Cabin.
 - Supplies Needed:
 - Construction paper (white and at least one other color)
 - Glue
 - Scissors
 - Craft sticks (popsicle sticks)
 - Crayons
 - A shiny penny
 - Glue craft sticks to the paper to make the wall of the cabin.

- Cut a triangular roof for the cabin and glue it to the paper. Cut a rectangular door and square window; the window should be bigger than a penny. Glue the door and window to the cabin. Glue a penny, Lincoln side up, to the window.
- Draw a door knob and a background. You may want to add a chimney, trees, and other details that the children think of. Label the picture, Abraham Lincoln's Log Cabin.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/lincolnlogcabin/>

February Kitchen Fun **Theme: President's Day**

1. Celebrate President's Day this year by treating yourself to a delicious presidential snack: a banana log cabin! Inspired by Abraham Lincoln's humble birthplace, this healthy snack will keep little hands busy and little stomachs full on this important national holiday. All you need to begin are graham crackers, peanut butter, and a handful of bananas.
 - What You Need:
 - 3-4 bananas
 - Peanut butter
 - 2 or more graham crackers
 - Plate
 - Plastic knife
 - Chocolate syrup (optional)
 - What You Do:
 - Using the plastic knife, cut each banana widthwise, then cut each banana half in half-length wise. You should have 12 (or 16 if using 4 bananas) half circle-shaped pieces of banana.
 - Now that you have your banana building blocks, it's time to build. Have your child range 4 banana pieces in a square on the plate. This will be the base of your log cabin.
 - Spread peanut butter over the banana base, then stack four more bananas on top. Encourage your child to be creative with the placement of the bananas.
 - Help your child continue stacking the bananas on top of each other, spreading a layer of peanut butter between each row, until all the bananas have been used.
 - Spread a layer of peanut butter on the top of the banana log cabin, then place two graham crackers on top in the shape of a triangle to create the roof. Add a small amount of peanut butter between the graham crackers where they meet to help them stick together.
 - Have your child paint the finished cabin with chocolate syrup (optional).
 - Step back and admire your banana log cabin with your child, then grab a couple forks and dig in!

- Garnish with a scoop or two of vanilla ice cream, and you've got a delicious President's Day dessert.

<http://www.education.com/activity/article/abraham-lincoln-log-cabin-banana/>

2. After reading “Duck For President”, a fun book about a duck who gets fed up with his duck responsibilities and decides to oust the farmer, then the governor, and eventually ... the president. Not only does the Duck run a solid campaign, there are several recounts too. When finished with the book, the kids can go to the ‘polls. Recreate the vote in the book using duck eggs. They counted out the correct number of votes based on the story and put the eggs in the ballot box. Student will get to eat some chocolate eggs at the end.
<http://www.thebigbinder.com/2012/02/19/presidents-day-craft-and-snack-and-some-learning-too/>

February Children’s Books **Theme: President’s Day**

1. Presidents’ Day
Anne Rockwell (Author)
Lizzy Rockwell (Illustrator)
Today at school we celebrated Presidents’ Day by putting on a play. Mrs. Madoff said I could be George Washington because his birthday is the same as mine. Charlie was Abraham Lincoln because he’s the tallest kid in our class. Everyone else had very important parts to play, too. At the end of the day we voted class president, and you’ll never guess who won!
<http://www.amazon.com/Presidents-Day-Anne-Rockwell/dp/0060501960>
2. Grace for President
Kelly S. DiPucchio (Author)
LeUyen Pham (Illustrator)
When Grace's teacher reveals that the United States has never had a female president, Grace decides to be the first. And she immediately starts off her political career as a candidate the school's mock election! Author Kelly DiPucchio not only gives readers a fun introduction to the American electoral system, but also teaches them the value of hard work, courage, and independent thought--and offers an inspiring example of how to choose our leaders.
<http://www.amazon.com/Grace-President-Kelly-S-DiPucchio/dp/1423139992>
3. Looking at Lincoln
Maira Kalman (Author)
Abraham Lincoln is one of the first giants of history children are introduced to, and now Maira Kalman brings him to life with her trademark style and enthusiasm. Lincoln's legacy is everywhere - there he is on your penny and five-dollar bill. And we are still the United States because Lincoln helped hold them together. But who was he, really? The little girl in this book wants to find out. Among the many other things, she discovers our

sixteenth president was a man who believed in freedom for all, had a dog named Fido, loved Mozart, apples, and his wife's vanilla cake, and kept his notes in his hat. From his boyhood in a log cabin to his famous presidency and untimely death, Kalman shares Lincoln's remarkable life with young readers in a fresh and exciting way.

<http://www.amazon.com/Looking-at-Lincoln-Maira-Kalman/dp/039924039X>

4. If I Were President

Catherine Stier (Author)

Diane DiSalvo-Ryan (Illustrator)

A multicultural cast of children imagines what it would be like to be president.

<http://www.amazon.com/If-Were-President-Catherine-Stier/dp/0807535427>

5. If I Ran For President

Catherine Stier (Author)

Lynne Avril (Illustrator)

If you ran for president, you would have to do a lot of hard work. You would study the nation's problems, tell the American people about your platform, select a running mate, and debate your opponents on live television.

<http://www.amazon.com/If-I-Ran-For-President/dp/0807535443>

6. The Story of Abraham Lincoln

Patricia A. Pingry (Author)

Stephanie McFetridge Britt (Illustrator)

This story introduces the most memorable events of Lincoln's life: his childhood in Indiana, his leadership during the Civil War, and his writing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

<http://www.amazon.com/Story-Abraham-Lincoln-Patricia-Pingry/dp/0824941071>

7. Madam President

Lane Smith (Author)

A little girl imagines what her day would be like if she were *Madam President*. There would be executive orders to give, babies to kiss, tuna casseroles to veto (or *VETO!*) and so much more! Not to mention that recess would definitely require more security.

With deadpan wit and hilarious illustrations, best-selling picture book creator Lane Smith introduces readers to an unforgettable new character.

<http://www.amazon.com/Madam-President-Lane-Smith/dp/1423108469>

8. John, Paul, George & Ben

Lane Smith (Author)

Once there were four lads... John [Hancock], Paul [Revere], George [Washington], and Ben [Franklin]. Oh yes, there was also Tom [Jefferson], but he was annoyingly independent and hardly ever around. These lads were always getting into trouble for one reason or another. In other words, they took a few...liberties. And to be honest, they were not always appreciated. This is the story of five little lads before they became five really big Founding Fathers.

<http://www.amazon.com/John-Paul-George-Lane-Smith/dp/0786848936>

9. George Washington's Birthday: A Mostly True Tale

Margaret McNamara (Author)

Barry Blitt (Illustrator)

From award-winning author Margaret McNamara and *New Yorker* artist Barry Blitt comes this partly true and completely funny story of George Washington's 7th birthday. In this clever approach to history, readers will discover the truths and myths about George Washington. Did George Washington wear a wig? No. Did George Washington cut down a cherry tree? Probably not. Readers young and old who are used to seeing George Washington as an old man, will get a new look at the first president—as a kid.
<http://www.amazon.com/George-Washingtons-Birthday-Mostly-True/dp/0375844996>

10. Abe Lincoln's Hat

Martha Brenner (Author)

Donald Cook (Illustrator)

Abraham Lincoln, one of our greatest presidents, started out in life as an absent-minded frontier lawyer. How did he nudge his memory? He stuck letters, court notes, contracts, and even his checkbook in his trademark top hat. When he took off his hat, it was all there!
<http://www.amazon.com/Abe-Lincolns-Step-into-Reading/dp/0679849777>

February Community Service Connection
Theme: President's Day

1. Collect items about the presidents for a time capsule.
2. Write letters to the president and mail them to the White House.

March Teaching Strategies

Theme: Weather

1. Writing Prompt – Story: Many stories take place during storms. Have students write a story in which the weather plays a major role in the plot.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/march/weather.html>
2. Grades K-2: Science – Weather Safety Tips
Do your students know how to prepare for bad weather? Have them brainstorm some common-sense tips with this activity.
 - What you need
 - Poster board
 - Felt-tipped pens
 - What to do
 - Encourage students to name or describe as many different kinds of weather as they can. Record their ideas on the board or on a large piece of newsprint.
 - Pick one of the suggestions (for example: a rainy, puddly day). Write its description at the center of a circle. Then ask students to picture their selves coming to school on a day like that. What would they wear? Write student's responses outside the circle (or draw them), and then connect them to the circle with straight lines.
 - Point out that wearing special clothes on a rainy day to keep from getting wet is a common-sense rule for a rainy day.
 - Divide the class into four teams, each of which is responsible for thinking of common-sense rules for one type of weather (for example: foggy, hot and sunny, or freezing cold). Be sure students understand that their common-sense rules should include not only clothing and special gear, but also common-sense safety rules.
 - Have teams brainstorm for a set period of time. Then, on poster board, record (or have a student volunteer record) the common-sense rules for each type of weather.
 - Encourage team members to make drawings of special weather gear for their posters. Or they might draw themselves as “dressed for the weather.” Add the drawings to the poster.
<http://www.eduplace.com/activity/common.html>
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/march/weather.html>
3. Grades 4-6: Science/Social Studies – You Are Your Weather
How does weather affect the place you live and your daily life? In this activity, students will investigate the weather in your state from the point of view of a visitor and draw pictures illustrating its effects.
 - Students research the weather in their state, and use graphic organizers to present the information as part of a brochure for prospective visitors and newcomers.
 - What you need
 - State maps and atlases

- Almanacs and other references with weather statistics
- Tourist brochures, booklets, and so forth, about state recreational activities
- Construction paper
- Art supplies
- Stapler or other means of binding pages
- What to do
 - Explain to students that early settlers in their state probably didn't know what weather they could expect from day to day. Point out that today, anyone considering a visit or move to your state can research that information. Tell students they will prepare a brochure about the seasonal weather and seasonal recreational activities in your state.
 - If your state has distinctive regions, assign teams to be responsible for each region. Otherwise, divide responsibility for researching each season among teams of students. Each team will use various kinds of graphs to present data about specific aspects of weather in their state. These might include the following:
 - Precipitation in inches
 - Days of sun
 - Temperature range
 - Storm types and frequency
 - As the teams organize their brochure pages, each should plan to include a map of the state (or region) and use illustrated insets to show where various seasonal activities take place. These should represent a diversity of outdoor interests, such as skiing, fishing, hiking, cycling, foliage watching, and so forth.
 - Have students publish (that is, bind and share) their brochures after preparing durable, illustrated covers and adding other information, such as a bibliography of helpful sources of information for tourists.
- Teaching options
 - As a follow-up, ask the whole group to discuss what they learned about their state as they researched and organized their data. Stimulate discussion with questions such as: What did you learn that you didn't know before? What places would you like to visit or what activities would you like to do as a result of your research?
 - Have students consider what it might have been like for early settlers in your state during different types of weather. Then have them write a journal entry about the weather experienced by a settler of their age.

<http://www.eduplace.com/ss/act/weather.html>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/march/weather.html>

4. Grades 4-8: Science – Rain, Rain, Come My Way – Make it Rain!

The purpose of this experiment is to see condensation.

- What you need
 - Large, wide-mouth container, such as a mayonnaise jar
 - Hot water
 - Ice cubes

- Small plate to hold ice cubes
- Index card
- Make it happen
 - Pour two inches of very hot tap water into the glass container and cover with the plate. Allow water to sit for a few minutes.
 - Place ice cubes on the plate.
 - Watch what happens.
- What's happening? What does this have to do with the weather?
 - The cold plate causes the moisture in the warm air to condense and form water droplets. This is the same thing that happens in the atmosphere as warm, moist air rises and meets colder temperatures high in the atmosphere. Water vapor condenses and forms precipitation that falls to the Earth as rain, sleet, hail, or snow.

<http://eo.ucar.edu/webweather/tornact5.html>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/march/weather.html>

5. Make a fog jar

- Things that you need: Black paper, gallon jar, colored warm water, matches, gallon size bag of ice.
- Make it happen:
 - Tape the black paper on the back of the jar, so you can't see through the jar.
 - Fill one third of the jar with colored warm water.
 - Light the match and hold it over the jar opening.
 - After a few seconds, drop the match into the jar and cover the top of the jar with the bag of ice.
 - Record your observations.
- Can you see anything happening inside the jar?
 - You should see a little cloud form. Repeat the experiment until you do.
- Why does the cloud form?
 - The warm water heats the layer of air that it touches. Some of the water evaporates into the air forming water vapor. The warm air containing water vapor rises, and then cools, as it comes in contact with the air cooled by the ice. When the water molecules cool, they slow down and stick together more readily. The particles of smoke act as nuclei for "bunches" of water molecules to collect on. This process is called condensation.
 - As the atmosphere (air) cools, water vapor suspended in the atmosphere condenses into water droplets around condensation nuclei (tiny particles of dust, ash, pollutants, and even sea salt).

<http://eo.ucar.edu/webweather/cloudact1.html>

March Bulletin Board Ideas

Theme: Weather



These images are from Google Images.

March Integrated Arts Activities

Theme: Weather

1. Make a fog jar
 - Things that you need: Black paper, gallon jar, colored warm water, matches, gallon size bag of ice.
 - Make it happen:
 - Tape the black paper on the back of the jar, so you can't see through the jar.
 - Fill one third of the jar with colored warm water.
 - Light the match and hold it over the jar opening.
 - After a few seconds, drop the match into the jar and cover the top of the jar with the bag of ice.
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<http://eo.ucar.edu/webweather/cloudact1.html>

2. Have students paint a picture of their favorite weather. They will need paper, paints, and water.
3. Have students create clouds with paint. Give each student blue construction paper and a small sponge. They can dab the sponge in white paint and make clouds on their paper.
4. Jump in the PuddleSet a hula hoop on the floor. Play some music and have your child walk around the hula hoop. When the music stops, have them jump into the hoop (the puddle).

<http://www.123child.com/lessonplans/seasonal/weather.php>

5. Have students sing this song.

If All the Raindrops: If all the raindrops were lemon drops and gumdrops Oh, what a rain that would be! Standing outside, with my mouth open wide Singing La la la la, la la la, la la la, If all the raindrops were lemon drops and gum drops Oh, what a rain that would be!

If all the snowflakes were candy bars and milkshakes Oh, what a snow that would be!
Standing outside, with my mouth open wide Singing La la la la, la la la, la la la, If all the
snowflakes were candy bars and milkshakes Oh, what a snow that would be!

If all the sunbeams were bubble gum and ice cream Oh, what a sun that would be!
Standing outside, with my mouth open wide Singing La la la la, la la la, la la la, If all the
sunbeams were bubble gum and ice cream Oh, what a sun that would be!

<http://www.123child.com/lessonplans/seasonal/weather.php>

March Kitchen Fun

Theme: Weather

1. Slice oranges to use as the sun and place pretzels around as the sun's rays.
2. Slice different fruits and spread out on a tray to make a rainbow!

March Children's Books

Theme: Weather

1. The Cloud Book
Tomie dePaola (Author)
Introduces the ten most common types of clouds, the myths that have been inspired by their shapes, and what they can tell about coming weather changes.
<http://www.amazon.com/The-Cloud-Book-Tomie-dePaola/dp/0823405311>
2. Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs
Judi Barrett (Author)
Ronald Barrett (Illustrator)
If food dropped like rain from the sky, wouldn't it be marvelous! Or would it? It could, after all, be messy. And you'd have no choice. What if you didn't like what fell? Or what if too much came? Have you ever thought of what it might be like to be squashed flat by a pancake?
<http://www.amazon.com/Cloudy-With-Chance-Meatballs-Barrett/dp/0689707495>
3. Time of Wonder (Picture Puffins)
Robert McCloskey (Author)
The spell of rain, gulls, a foggy morning, the excitement of sailing, the quiet of the night, the sudden terror of a hurricane, and the peace of a Maine island as a family packs up to leave are shown in poetic language and vibrant, evocative pictures.
<http://www.amazon.com/Wonder-Picture-Puffins-Robert-McCloskey/dp/0140502017>

4. The Snowy Day
Ezra Jack Keats (Author)
Vivid full-color illustrations capture a young boy's delight in the first snowfall of the year, in a board book edition of the Caldecott Medal-winning classic.
<http://www.amazon.com/Snowy-Day-Board-Book/dp/0670867330>
5. Feel the Wind
Arthur Dorros (Author)
This book shows readers how to make their own weather vane, and in simple terms, with playful illustrations, explains just what makes the wind that blows all around us.
<http://www.amazon.com/Feel-Wind-Lets-Read-Find-Out-Science/dp/0064450953>
6. Down Comes the Rain
Franklyn M. Branley (Author)
James Graham Hale (Illustrator)
After rain comes down, the sun comes out and dries the puddles. But the water isn't gone. The heat from the sun has turned it onto water vapor – it has evaporated. Eventually, this moisture in the air condenses to form new clouds. Soon the rain will fall again. Read on to find out all the ups and downpours of the water cycle!
<http://www.amazon.com/Down-Comes-Lets-Read-Find-Out-Science/dp/0064451666>
7. What Will the Weather Be?
Lynda DeWitt (Author)
Carolyn Croll (Illustrator)
Will it be warm or cold? Should we wear shorts or pants? Shoes or boots? Read and find out why the weather is so difficult to predict.
<http://www.amazon.com/What-Weather-Lets-Read-Find-Out-Science/dp/0064451135>
8. Weather Words and What They Mean
Gail Gibbons (Author)
Introduces basic weather terms and concepts.
<http://www.amazon.com/Weather-Words-What-They-Mean/dp/082340952X>
9. The Everything KIDS' Weather Book: From Tornadoes to Snowstorms, Puzzles, Games, and Facts That Make Weather for Kids Fun!
Joe Snedeker (Author)
This book gives you an exciting look into all the action that happens in the sky! It is filled with hundreds of exciting facts and thirty fun weather puzzles and games.
http://www.amazon.com/dp/1440550360/?tag=googhydr-20&hvadid=30962673741&hvpos=1t2&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=3169666971641520758&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=b&hvdev=c&ref=pd_sl_9fmizumm5w_b
10. Oh Say Can You Say What's the Weather Today?: All About Weather
Tish Rabe (Author)
Aristides Ruiz (Illustrator)

The Cat and company travel by hot air balloon up and into various weather phenomena including rain, snow, thunder, tornadoes, and (yikes!) even hurricanes! Along the way they learn about thermometers, anemometers, wind vanes, cloud formations, humidity, fog, smog, weather folklore, and how to stay safe in lightning. Written and illustrated in Seussian style, this is a great addition to the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library!
<http://www.amazon.com/Say-Can-Whats-Weather-Today/dp/0375822763>

March Community Service Connection
Theme: Weather

1. Plant flowers around the school.
2. Plant seeds. Sell the flowers or plants and donate the proceeds to a local organization in need.

<http://www.kidactivities.net/post/community-service-ideas-for-kids.aspx>

April Teaching Strategies

Theme: Earth Day

1. Writing Prompt – Opinion Essay: Ask students: What can you do to help save Earth or make it a better place to live? Have students write a few paragraphs explaining what they would do.

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/april/earth.html>

2. Grades K-2: Science – Another Look at the Landscape – Nature Spies

- Students will go on a nature walk and record and discuss their observations.
- What you need
 - Magnifying glasses (optional)
 - Chart paper
 - Marker
- What to do
 - Tell students that you are going to teach them how to be nature spies. Explain to them that the first thing a good nature spy must learn to do is observe carefully. The next thing a nature spy must do is remember what he/she sees.
 - Take students on a nature walk. Have them work with a partner or in small groups.
 - Each time you take students on a nature walk, have them focus on one particular feature of nature, such as flowers, trees, or insects.
 - Have each group of students choose something to observe. They are to remember three things about each object they observe, such as its color, its size, whether or not it makes a noise, where they see it, and so on. You may want to allow students to use a magnifying glass to observe the object more closely.
 - When you return to the classroom, have students take turns discussing their observations while you record them on chart paper.

http://www.eduplace.com/activity/1_3_act1.html

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/april/earth.html>

3. Grades 1-2: Science/Mathematics/Language Arts – Classroom Seedlings – Garden in an Egg Carton

- Students will plant seedlings and watch them grow.
- What you need
 - Egg cartons
 - Planting soil
 - Plastic spoons
 - Bean seeds
 - Water
 - Poster board
 - Markers
 - Rulers
- What to do

- Remind students that Johnny Appleseed planted orchards of trees from a sack of seeds. Invite students to create their own garden of bean plants in an egg carton.
- Remove the tops from an appropriate number of egg cartons. Have students scoop out enough soil to fill each pocket in the egg cartons.
- Have each student take a seed and plant it in the soil. Keep track of where each seed is planted. Place the egg cartons in a location where there is plenty of light, and have students water the seeds regularly.
- Make a chart to track the growth of each plant. Students can write notes and take measurements as their seedlings grow.
- As a bonus, invite interested children to write a story or put on a play about a seed-planting character like Johnny Appleseed.

http://www.eduplace.com/activity/1_8_act3.html

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/april/earth.html>

4. Grades 5-8: Science/Language Arts/Social Studies – Mission: Save Our Planet

- Students will put together a booklet of ways to save the environment.
- What you need
 - Access to a library or other research sources
 - Poster board or construction paper for a cover
 - Markers or crayons to design a cover
- What to do
 - Tell students they are going to put together a booklet of things people can do to save the planet.
 - Write the title “_____ Ways to Save the Environment” on the board. Ask students to come up with a target number to complete the title.
 - Divide the class into groups.
 - Divide the number of tips by the number of groups. The result is the target number of tips each group should look for. You may want to give each group a specific area to investigate, such as water or waste management, oceans and streams, or wildlife.
 - Give the groups time to research their tips.
 - Have a member of each group present their tips to the class. Keep a running total on the board to see if the class meets its goal.
 - Then assemble the tips into a class booklet. If you would like, you can have someone design a cover.

<http://www.eduplace.com/activity/planet.html>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/april/earth.html>

April Bulletin Board Ideas
Theme: Earth Day





These images are from Google Images.

April Integrated Arts Activities Theme: Earth Day

1. Grades K-1: Science/Art – A Tree is a Community – What’s in a Tree?
 - Students will construct a tree with cutouts of details they might find in a real tree.
 - What you need
 - Large piece of poster board
 - Scissors
 - Crayons, markers, or paints
 - Construction paper
 - Glue
 - What to do
 - Tell students that a big tree is a community. It hums with life and activity. Ask them what kinds of things they might see in a tree, guiding them toward such details as acorns, fruit, seeds, birds, squirrels, insects, spider webs, a bee hive, a nest, and leaves. Write the details on the board.
 - Use a large piece of poster board to create a model tree without any leaves. Invite students to paint and color it, adding such details as a hollow in the trunk.
 - Help students create cutouts of the details they named, using construction paper. Then have them glue the cutouts to the poster-board tree.
- http://www.eduplace.com/activity/1_8_act2.html
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/april/earth.html>
2. After reading “Johnny Appleseed”, have students reenact part of the book.

3. Grades 1-5: Science/Art – Nature Mobile

- Students will collect nature objects and use them to make mobiles.
- What you need
 - String or yarn
 - Scissors
 - Glue
 - Craft wire
 - Objects collected from nature walks (small branches, pinecones, leaves, fossils, shells, bark, feathers, flower petals, seeds, stems)
- What to do
 - Divide the class into small groups. Explain that group members will work together to make nature mobiles. Ask students to bring in an assortment of objects they've collected on nature walks around their neighborhoods, in parks, or on other outdoor excursions. (Alternatively, take a field trip to a local park to enable students to collect nature objects.) Each group's collection should include two small tree branches, about two feet long and one-half inch to one-inch thick.
 - Have the groups use string or yarn to tie the two branches together to form the shape of an X. Also tell them to make a large loop of string or yarn at the point where the branches cross, to serve as a hanger for the mobile.
 - Then have each group choose nature objects to hang on their mobile. If they wish, students can use their nature objects to create more elaborate sculptures or collages of wild animals, plants, or other things found in natural settings. (For example, students might wire or glue objects together to make a field mouse, using a seed or a nut for the head, a pinecone for the body, twigs or leaves for the legs and feet, and a long stem for the tail.)
 - Help students as needed while they assemble their mobiles, using string or yarn to hang their nature objects from the mobile's crossed branches. Remind students to handle fragile nature objects gently.
 - Display the completed mobiles around the classroom.

http://www.eduplace.com/activity/2_2_act1.html

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/april/earth.html>

4. Grades 2-5: Science/Art – Recyclamobiles

Have students make a "recyclamobile." Ask them to bring from home some kind of box or container that could be recycled, such as a cereal box or a plastic margarine container. Then ask them to come up with as many other different uses for the container as they can. The uses can be serious or silly. Next, have the students write ideas on small squares of construction paper and attach the squares with yarn to the containers. Hang the recyclamobiles around the room for all to enjoy.

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/april/earth.html>

April Kitchen Fun
Theme: Earth Day

1. We will have a healthy snack in class. Bring in broccoli to represent trees.

April Children's Books
Theme: Earth Day

1. Michael Recycle
Ellie Bethel (Author)
Alexandra Colombo (Illustrator)
This book tells the adventures of a young superhero whose power allows him to teach people about recycling. After cleaning up a town, the people declare: "To Michael Recycle! The green-caped crusader, our super-green hero, the planet's new savior!"
<http://www.amazon.com/Michael-Recycle-Ellie-Bethel/dp/1600102247>
2. Earth Day Escapade (Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew)
Carolyn Keene (Author)
Macky Pamintuan (Illustrator)
River Heights Elementary School is putting on an Earth Day parade, and Nancy's class has a special honor: They get to build the float! Nancy, Bess, George, and all the kids in Mrs. Ramirez's class have worked hard to make the "greenest" float they can, collecting recycled materials to use for decoration. But someone's spoiled all the fun and sabotaged the float days before the parade. Who could've done something like this – and why? Sounds like another case for the Clue Crew!
<http://www.amazon.com/Earth-Escapade-Nancy-Drew-Clue/dp/1416972188>
3. The Curious Garden
Peter Brown (Author)
While out exploring one day, a little boy named Liam discovers a struggling garden and decides to take care of it. As time passes, the garden spreads throughout the dark, gray city, transforming it into a lush, green world. This is an enchanting tale with environmental themes and breathtaking illustrations that become more vibrant as the garden blooms. Red-headed Liam can also be spotted on every page, adding a clever seek-and-find element to this captivating picture book.
<http://www.amazon.com/The-Curious-Garden-Peter-Brown/dp/0316015474>
4. Earth Day Every Day (Cloverleaf Books – Planet Protectors)
Lisa Bullard (Author)
Xiao Xin (Illustrator)
On Earth Day, we find ways to help the Earth. Trina plants trees with her class. She forms an Earth Day club with her friends. What can you do to make every day Earth Day? Do your part to be a planet protector!

<http://www.amazon.com/Earth-Day-Every-Cloverleaf-Books/dp/0761385126>

5. Johnny Appleseed
Jodie Shepherd (Author)
Masumi Furukawa (Illustrator)
This beautifully illustrated retelling shows how Johnny Appleseed bloomed from a young boy who loved the outdoors into the legendary man who spread apple trees all across the United States. Showing small acts of generosity and the love of nature can make a big difference, this book is sure to inspire the budding little Johnny Appleseed in every reader.
http://www.amazon.com/Johnny-Appleseed-Jodie-Shepherd/dp/0545223067/ref=pd_bxgy_b_img_y
6. Earth Day (Robin Hill School)
Margaret McNamara (Author)
Mike Gordon (Illustrator)
The kids in Mrs. Connor's class are celebrating Earth Day, and everyone has lots of ideas on how to save the Earth...except Emma. Emma is worried that her ideas are not good enough. With the help of her dad and Mrs. Connor, Emma learns that her small ideas can have big results!
<http://www.amazon.com/Earth-Day-Robin-Hill-School/dp/1416955356>
7. Earth Day (Holiday Histories)
Mir Tamim Ansary (Author)
It is April 22 and your class is outside cleaning the park. But do you know why? It's Earth Day! Turn the pages of this book to find out what causes air pollution, how a river caught fire in 1969, and what you can do to help Earth every day.
<http://www.amazon.com/Earth-Holiday-Histories-Tamim-Ansary/dp/1403488975>
8. Recycle! – A Handbook for Kids
Gail Gibbons (Author)
This lively and informative handbook explains the process of recycling from start to finish. The book focuses on 5 different types of rubbish – paper, glass, aluminum cans, plastic, and polystyrene.
<http://www.amazon.com/Recycle-Handbook-Kids-Gail-Gibbons/dp/0316309435>
9. It's Earth Day! (Little Critter)
Mercer Mayer (Author)
Little Critter is on a mission! After watching a film about climate changes at school, Little Critter decides to do his part to slow down global warming. With the help of his family and friends, Little Critter begins to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Together they learn about the importance of not wasting water or energy. Join Little Critter as he plants a tree, makes a climate control machine, and helps the polar bears.
<http://www.amazon.com/Its-Earth-Day-Little-Critter/dp/0060539593>

10. Earth Day—Hooray!

Stuart J. Murphy (Author)

Renee Andriani (Illustrator)

Earth Day is on the way, and Ryan, Luke, and Carly have a plan. If they manage to collect and recycle 5,000 aluminum cans, they can make enough money to buy some beautiful flowers for nearby Gilroy Park. Can they do it? Counting the cans gives Ryan, Luke, and Carly – along with readers – a lesson in places value. And facts about recycling throughout the story will help readers understand how important it is to take care of the earth.

<http://www.amazon.com/Earth-Day-Hooray-MathStart-Stuart-Murphy/dp/0060001291>

April Community Service Connection

Theme: Earth Day

1. Pick up litter around the school.
2. Put on a play at your school, a fair or festival about local environmental or human needs issues.

<http://www.kidactivities.net/post/community-service-ideas-for-kids.aspx>

May Teaching Strategies

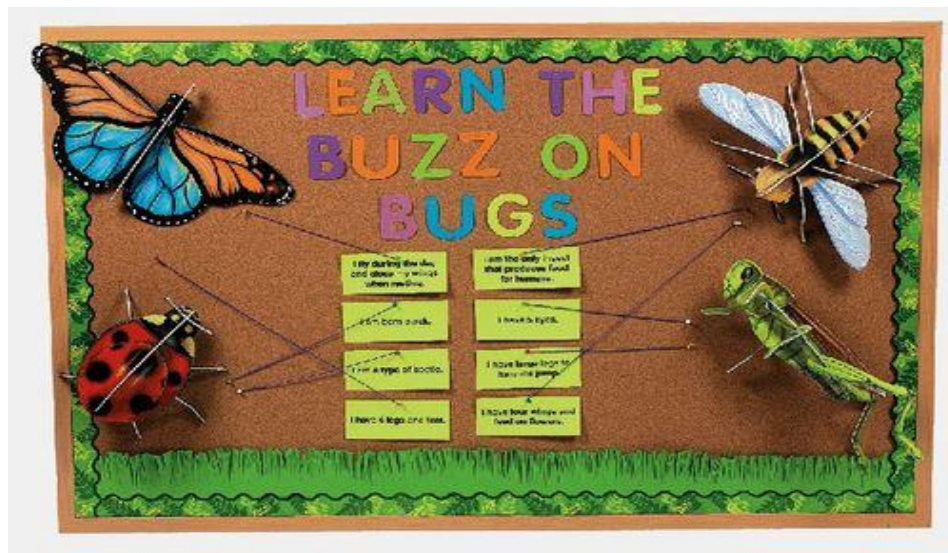
Theme: Bugs and Insects

1. Writing Prompt – Story: A bug's life can be really interesting if you take a closer look at one. Have students go outside and find a bug. Have them observe its features, surroundings, and fellow friends. Then have students write a story about where the bug is coming from and where it's going.

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/october/bugs.html>

May Bulletin Board Ideas

Theme: Bugs and Insects



These images are from Google Images.

May Integrated Arts Activities

Theme: Bugs and Insects

1. Grades K-1: Art – Stained Glass Butterflies

- Students will create butterflies that will look like stained glass when hung on windows.
- What you need
 - Tissue paper in many colors
 - One copy per student or group of students of an outline of a butterfly, about 6" x 8"
 - Wax paper, cut about 2" larger than the butterfly outline
 - Liquid starch
 - Paint brushes
 - Scissors
- What to do
 - Tear colored tissue paper into differently shaped three-inch pieces.
 - Place wax paper over the butterfly outline.
 - Use the liquid starch to adhere tissue pieces onto the wax paper, filling in the outline of the butterfly with a mosaic of different colors.
 - Add one or two more layers of tissue paper and allow them to dry overnight.
 - Cut out the butterfly, following the outline on the underlying paper, and then slowly peel off the wax paper.
 - Tape the butterflies to the window and let the sun shine through!

<http://www.eduplace.com/activity/butterfly.html>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/october/bugs.html>

2. Grades K-3: Art – Create and Insect

- Clothespin Butterflies
 - Things you will need:
 - Clothes pins
 - Colored tissue paper
 - Pipe cleaners
 - Markers
 - String or magnet
 - Glue
 - What to do
 - Cut tissue paper into six inch squares. Take two squares of tissue paper, (different colors), and gather them along the center to make the wings of the butterfly. Glue the gathered center into the clothespin.
 - Fan out the edges of the paper.
 - Cut the pipe cleaners into two equal pieces. Take one half of the pipe cleaner and fold it in half. Glue the middle of the pipe cleaner to the top of the clothespin to make the antennae. Make small hooks at the ends of the antennae.

- Use markers to draw eyes.
 - A string can be glued or tied to the butterfly to hang in the classroom or a magnet could be glued onto the underside of the clothespin to make refrigerator art.
- Ladybugs and Scarabs
 - Things you will need:
 - Egg-shaped Styrofoam balls
 - Pipe cleaners
 - Paint
 - Glue
 - What to do
 - Cut the Styrofoam eggs in half, lengthwise.
 - Paint the Styrofoam to look like a beetle.
 - Cut the pipe cleaner into one inch long pieces.
 - Glue the pipe cleaner pieces into the Styrofoam to make legs and antennae.

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Entomology/ythfacts/allyr/yf805.htm>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/october/bugs.html>

3. Grades 5-8: Science/Drama – The Cricket and the Butterfly
Have students make cricket and butterfly masks and use them in a short play about insects. Students could choose to do other bugs or insects.
<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/october/bugs.html>

May Kitchen Fun **Theme: Bugs and Insects**

1. Ants-On-A-Log
Slice stalks of celery, and spread peanut butter in the groove. Sprinkle with black raisins or sunflower seeds.
2. Fly-In-The-Batter Cookies
Make chocolate chip or oatmeal cookies, adding raisins (flies) or chocolate sprinkles (gnats).
3. Bug Blood or Bug Juice
Mix a yellow drink (citrus pop or lemonade) with a blue one (kool-aid). You'll end up with a radioactive shade of green.
4. Butterfly Snacks
Use pretzels as butterfly wing frames, and stick them together with softened caramel candy or peanut butter. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top.

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/entomology/dept/bugfood3.asp>

<http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/october/bugs.html>

May Children's Books
Theme: Bugs and Insects

1. World Discovery Science Reader
Ants, Bees, and Other Social Insects
Kris Hirschmann (Author)
<http://shop.scholastic.com/shop/en/teacherstore/product/ants--bees--and-other-social-insects-9780439566315>
2. One Hundred Hungry Ants
Elinor J. Pinczes (Author)
Bonnie MacKain (Illustrator)
This is a hilarious read-aloud picture book about 100 ants making their way to a picnic is a great way to introduce students to counting, multiplication, and other math concepts.
<http://shop.scholastic.com/shop/ProductDisplayView?storeId=10751&productId=119550&urlRequestType=Base&langId=-1&catalogId=10051>
3. Someday We'll Have Very Good Manners
Harriet Ziefert (Author)
Chris L. Demarest (Illustrator)
Effie is the loudest ant in the world! When she opens her mouth, all the other insects run for cover. Poor Effie! Is anyone brave enough to be her friend? "Outstanding... The three dimensional art – fresh, goofy, and truly hilarious – makes this a 'not-to-be-missed' title."
<http://shop.scholastic.com/shop/en/teacherstore/product/someday-we'll-have-very-good-manners-9780439305044>
4. Tumble Bumble
Felicia Bond (Author)
A little ant starts out on a walk and gathers animal friends along the way as they blithesomely bumble upon each other in a playful, rhyming tale.
<http://shop.scholastic.com/shop/ProductDisplayView?storeId=10751&productId=119567&urlRequestType=Base&langId=-1&catalogId=10051>
5. Leo the Lightning Bug
Eric Drachman (Author)
James Muscarello (Illustrator)
Leo wins our hearts and gains self-confidence in his struggle to make his very own light.
http://www.amazon.com/Leo-Lightning-Bug-Eric-Drachman/dp/0970380909/ref=cm_lm_img_19
6. Everything Bug: What Kids Really Want to Know about Bugs (Kids' FAQs)
Cherie Winner (Author)
Question-and-answer format brings (readers) right to the topics that interest the most. Clear, full-color photos provide close-up views of various species.
http://www.amazon.com/Everything-Bug-What-Really-about/dp/1559718919/ref=cm_lm_tit_12

7. Are You a Ladybug?
Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries (Authors)
Beginning with its title question, “Are you a ladybug?”, this accessible book is perfect for reading aloud and tells young readers how they would experience life if they were a ladybug.
http://www.amazon.com/Are-You-Ladybug-Backyard-Books/dp/0753456036/ref=cm_lmf_tit_9
8. The Beetle Alphabet Book
Jerry Pallotta (Author)
David Biedrzycki (Illustrator)
Beetles from A to Z are crawling all over this book. From the Dung Beetle to the Kalahari Beetle, these critters live all over the world.
http://www.amazon.com/Beetle-Alphabet-Book-Jerry-Pallotta/dp/1570915520/ref=cm_lmf_tit_8
9. The Best Book of Bugs
Claire Llewellyn (Author)
The Best Book of Bugs looks at the life cycles, habitats, and amazing diversity of insects and spiders in stunning close-up detail. This book has everything a young etymologist would ever want to know.
http://www.amazon.com/Best-Book-Bugs-Claire-Llewellyn/dp/0753459019/ref=cm_lmf_tit_6
10. Diary of a Spider
Doreen Cronin (Author)
Harry Bliss (Illustrator)
A hilarious cartoon diary of a spider. Kids need to know a little something about spiders to understand the jokes. Thus, this is an excellent book to read to kids who have just learned about spiders.
<http://delightfulchildrensbooks.com/2011/08/30/insects/>

May Community Service Connection
Theme: Bugs and Insects

1. Write letters to local exterminators thanking them for what they do.
2. Make a book about bugs and insects and give to a local preschool.