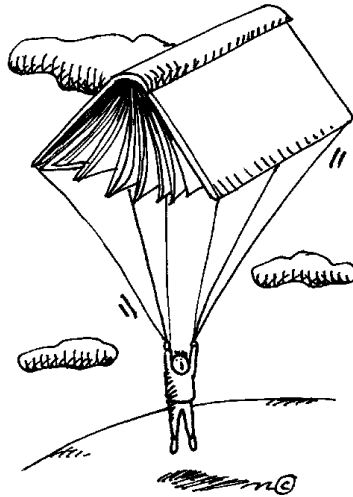


MARCH EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS



March is a time of change and renewal. Winter gradually gives way to spring as flowers begin to bloom. New life emerges and the earth takes on a freshness that exudes life. As the March winds blow, adults may feel the nip in the air, but children imagine kites soaring through the skies. Since March is National Kite Month, perhaps you would enjoy making a kite with your child. Below are detailed instructions on how to make a kite from a brown paper grocery bag.

BROWN BAG KITES

Grade: K-6 (Age: 4-12)

Objectives:

Identification: Students will be directed to observe and discuss kites and how they fly (see further resources at the end of the art lesson).

Creation: Students will create a paper bag kite using mostly recycled materials.

Appreciation: Students will learn to appreciate the art created not only by them, but also by others as well.

What You Need:

Large brown paper grocery bag (one per child)

Strong string

Scissors

Hole punch

A number of paper ring reinforcement (the kind you use on paper in binders -- from any office supply. You could also substitute masking tape).

School glue or paste

Paint (tempera, acrylic -- whatever you have that is non-toxic and age appropriate)

Crayons, markers, pencil crayons

Paper streamers or crepe paper that you can cut into strips

A few found objects (bits of paper, glitter, buttons -- nothing too heavy)

What You Do:

Begin by taking the hole punch and making four (4) holes in the top of the paper bag - one in each of the corners. Add paper ring reinforcements to the holes, or put a small piece of masking tape over the hole and poke through with a pencil. This will ensure that your holes don't tear through.

Next, cut two (2) lengths of string about 30" each.

Tie each end of the strings through a hole in the bag. The goal is to create two loops.

Next, cut another piece of string -- again around 30". Loop this new piece of string through the two loops you created and tie in a knot. This piece of string will become the handle of your kite.

You are now ready to decorate the paper bag kite using paint, markers or whatever else you desire. You can paint designs on the kite or turn the kite into a fish by adding eyes, gills and fins. You can glue different items to the kite but be sure not to load the kite down with heavy items -- or it will have a hard time staying up in the air.

Use paper streamers as kite tails and glue them to the bottom of the paper bag. You can make your own streamers by cutting crepe paper into strips. Another nifty streamer idea is to take plastic bags and cut them into strips.

Once the glue and paint is dry, the kite can fly. Hold on tightly to the string handle and run so that the wind catches the kite. When the bag fills with air it will float and flutter behind you.

As a variation, you can add a longer handle string to the kite so it will fly higher in the air.

Recommended Books About Making Kites:

25 Kites That Fly by Leslie L. Hunt

Twenty-five basic kites are covered in great detail: standard two-stick kites; six-point stars; figural kites such as imps, fishermen, elephants, owls, shields, balloon kites; tetrahedral kites; various kinds of box kites with and without wings; really strong military kites, and many other varieties.

The Great Kite Book by Norman Schmidt

Here are the instructions needed to build 19 different animal kites--from hawks to butterflies to peacocks to zebras

Funstation; Kites by Susan Wardle

This new Funstation introduces kids to beautiful kites from around the world and through the ages, with tips on kite flying, kite making, and recommendations on general safety. The kit features one traditional crossbow kite, one kite handle, flying line and attachments, templates for tails and kite shapes, and stickers.

Read Across America

March 2nd is the birthday of the late Dr. Seuss (otherwise known as Theodor Geisel). In honor of Dr. Seuss' contribution to childhood education, the National Education Association sponsors "Read Across America Day" and urges as many adults as possible to read to a child today, whether it's your child or not. Reading out loud - it makes for very scrumptious moments in time with your own children or for any child that is lucky enough to reap the benefits of your time. Sponsored by the National Educational Association

National Women's History Month

From Local to National and from Week to Month

As recently as the 1970's, women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness.

To address this situation, the Education Task force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978. March 8th, International Women's Day, was selected as the focal point to ensure that the events and celebration would include a multicultural perspective, recognize the connection between and among all women, and celebrate the important role of women in the paid labor force.

The activities and events that were held met with an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response, and within a few years, scores of area schools held programs for Women's History Week. Hundreds of women from the community participated by going into the schools as Community Resource Women, and an annual Real Woman Essay Contest drew hundred of entries, as did an annual women's history parades through the heart of downtown Santa Rosa, California.

In 1979, Molly Murphy MacGregor, then the Director of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, was invited to a Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College to discuss the importance of using Women's History Week as a focal celebration to recognize and celebrate women's historic accomplishments.

The conference was for leaders of women's and girl's organizations throughout the country. The participants decided unanimously to promote the idea of a Women's History Week within their own organizations, school districts, and states. They also agreed to work toward securing an official Congressional Resolution that would declare the week of March 8th as "National Women's History Week."

MONTHLY CELEBRATIONS

- American Red Cross Month
- Help Someone See Month
- International Listening Awareness Month
- Irish-American Heritage Month
- Mental Retardation Awareness Month
- Music in Our Schools Month
- National Athletic Training Month

- National Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Month
- National Collision Awareness Month
- National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
- National Eye Donor Month
- National Frozen Food Month
- National High Tech Public Safety Month
- National Kidney Month
- National Nutrition Month
- National Talk with Your Teen about Sex Month
- National Women's History Month
- National Write a Letter of Appreciation Month
- Optimism Month
- Poison Prevention Awareness Month
- Returned the Borrowed Books Month
- Rosacea Awareness Month
- Save Your Vision Month
- Workplace Eye Health and Safety Month
- Youth Art Month
- Deaf History Month (3/13 to 4/15)

WEEKLY CELEBRATIONS

- 1-7 Universal Human Beings Weeks
- 2-8 National Pancake Week
- 2-8 Save Your Vision Week
- 2-8 Telecommuter Appreciation Week
- 3-9 Help Someone See Week Observance
- 3-7 National Cheerleading Week
- 3-9 National Professional Pet Sitters Week
- 3-7 National School Breakfast Week
- 3-7 Newspaper in Education Week
- 8-14 Universal Women's Week
- 9-15 Girl Scout Week
- 1-17 International Brain Awareness Week
- 16-22 National Agriculture Week
- 16-22 National Poison Prevention Week
- 16-22 National Safe Place Week
- 17-21 Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week
- 17-23 Severe Weather Awareness Week
- 23-29 National Cleaning Week
- 24-30 Anonymous Giving Week
- 31- 4/6 National Sleep Awareness Week

SPECIAL DAYS

- 1 – Babysitter Safety Day
- 4 – Islamic New Year
- 4 – Mardi Gras
- 4 – Peace Corps Day
- 7 – National Salesperson’s Day
- 8 – International (Working) Women’s Day
- 11 – Organize Your Home Office Day
- 17 – Freedom of Information Day
- 17 – New Mom’s Awareness Day
- 17 – Saint Patrick’s Day
- 20 – National Agriculture Day
- 20 – Beginning of Spring, 8 p.m. EST
- 21 – Single Parents Day
- 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 22 – World Day for Water
- 24 – World Tuberculosis Day
- 25 – American Diabetes Association Alert Day
- 27 – Education and Sharing Day
- 30 – Doctors’ Day
- 31 – Cesar Estrada Chavez: Birth Anniversary (1927)

Source: Chase’s Calendar of Events 2003

SITES TO SEE

Helping Your Child Learn to Read

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Reading/>

Linking Literature with Learning

<http://scils.rutgers.edu/~kvander/books/linkages.html>

Information, resources, and links concerning children's literature.

CIERA

<http://www.ciera.org/>

The Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement houses lots of free material on appropriate practices for promoting literacy in the primary grades. The Ideas@Work forum and the links to other literacy resources provide depth to this first rate effort.

Book Adventure

www.bookadventure.org

An excellent site for motivating kids to read. This free site allows children to create book lists from over 4000 books, read the books off line and return to take comprehension quizzes. For each quiz they earn points redeemable for prizes offered through the site.

Frosty Readers

<http://www.comsewogue.k12.ny.us/~ssilverman/frosty2002/>

Each year Frosty Readers presents a treasure chest of literature based activities for lower primary students.

Reading is Fundamental

<http://www.rif.org/index.html>

Founded in 1966, RIF develops and delivers children's and family literacy programs that help prepare young children for reading and motivate school-age children to read regularly. Through a national, grassroots network of more than 310,000 community volunteers, last year RIF programs provided 14 million new, free books and other essential literacy resources to more than 4 million children. From this site check out the family fun activities and other literacy resources.

Nursery Rhymes/Songs/Poetry

<http://www.zelo.com/family/nursery/index.html>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Dell/3942/>

<http://www.mamalisa.com/world/index.html>

<http://www.iyedo.com/>

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~pfa/dreamhouse/nursery/rhymes.html>

KidPub WWW Publishing

www.kidpub.org

More than 4,000 children's stories to read, plus advice on how to submit stories and feedback from readers.

Children's Literature

<http://www.childrenslit.com/>

Mega resource site for children's literature: Events, commentary, monthly newsletter, Children's Literature Choices, Meet the Author/Illustrators, Teaching Materials, Themed Reviews, etc.

Storytelling Links

http://ccwf.cc.utexas.edu/~shannon1/links_storytell.html

Stories to Grow By

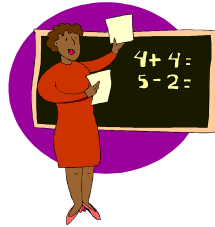
<http://hazel.forest.net/whootie/default.html>

Folk and fairy tales from around the world.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH



Women In History



Girls Who Rocked the World 2: Heroines from Harriet Tubman to Mia Hamm

by Michelle Roe McCann Age Level: 08-14

Synopsis:

Roehm profiles 30 young women from around the world who accomplished great things while still teenagers--including Harriet Tubman, Florence Nightingale, and Mia Hamm--and presents writings from modern American girls describing how they plan to "rock the world". 30 photos & illustrations.

Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women

by Catherine Thimmesh Age Level: 09-12

Synopsis:

In kitchens and living rooms, in garages and labs and basements, even in converted chicken coops, women and girls have invented ingenious innovations that have made our lives simpler and better. Their creations are some of the most enduring (the windshield wiper) and best loved (the chocolate chip cookie). What inspired these women, and just how did they turn their ideas into realities?

A Dinosaur Named Sue: Hunt for the Past: My Life as an Explorer

by Sue Hendrickson Age Level: 06-09

Synopsis:

Self-taught field paleontologist Hendrickson offers an exciting account of her life, from the exhilaration of her first "find" at the age of four to her most remarkable achievement: unearthing the largest, most complete Tyrannosaurus rex fossil ever found. Full-color photos.

Meet My Grandmother: She's a Supreme Court Justice

by Lisa Tucker McElroy Age Level: 09-12

Synopsis:

The time has come to look at what grandmothers are doing in the workplace: and they are doing some very interesting things.

Girls: A History of Growing Up Female in America

by Penny Coleman Age Level: 08-UP

Synopsis:

Rich in historical detail, "Girls" draws on eyewitness accounts, diaries, letters, memoirs, slave narratives, household manuals, and photos to chronicle the stories of females growing up in America from pre-colonial days to the present. Young girls from all regions of the country, from all walks of life, of different races, ethnicities, religions, and classes are given a collective voice in this true story of everyday triumphs and trials

FEATURED PROGRAM

GEORGE SHRINKS



Created by award-winning and best-selling author/illustrator William Joyce, *George Shrinks* celebrates the power of being small. George may only be three inches tall, but that's not a problem: he never sweats the small tasks or shies away from challenges. Although getting Mom's ring from the disposal is like a trip to the center of the Earth and watering the garden is like a trip down the Amazon, George takes it all in stride. This creative character helps youngsters understand the importance of self-acceptance while encouraging individuals to use the means available to them to solve problems and overcome obstacles. The topics covered by this program include biology, botany, entomology and ecology, which will help foster an interest in science by highlighting the fun side of learning.

The overarching goal of the Lesson Plans are to extend the naturally ingrained educational themes of *George Shrinks* into fun, practical, and empowering classroom learning experiences for young children, aged 2 to 7.

Learning Areas: Brainstorming, Creativity, and Imagination

Grades: K-2

McRel Standards: Visual Arts - Standard 1.4, Uses art materials in a safe and responsible manner.

Language Arts - Listening and Speaking-Standard 2.1, Uses descriptive words to convey basic ideas.

Core Curriculum Areas: Art, Language Arts, and Social Studies

Topics: Friendship, helping others, value of not judging others importance of preserving one's links to the past, not jumping to conclusions, ect.

IN THE NEWS

TeacherSource From The Start: Spring Themes

The spring 2003 themes for the early childhood area of TeacherSource have been selected*. The themes are as follows:

March: Language Arts (Spelling, Directional Words, Vowels, Opposites)

April: Houses/Homes (Architecture/Building Design, Types of Houses, Family Traditions, Homes now. vs. then)

May: Math (subsets yet to be determined)

What Parents Should Know

Reading is still the most basic survival skill in today's information society but it is no longer enough. Children must also be technologically literate. More and more of today's public and school libraries provide computers, CD-ROMs, Internet access and training in how to use them. These electronic resources make doing a term paper or research assignment a far different experience than most parents remember. Special computer programs can help children learn to read and may entice them to want to read with colorful graphics, interactive games and virtually unlimited on-line resources. Many libraries offer software on loan for use on home computers. For more information visit: <http://www.ala.org/parentspage/lol.html>

The number of children diagnosed with and treated for disruptive disorders including attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has markedly increased over the last decade. Concurrent with this trend is a growing debate about the best way to treat such problems in children.

According to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in February 2000, the number of preschool children receiving stimulants, antidepressants and other psychiatric medications "rose drastically from 1991 to 1995." The study raised concerns about the increasing use of medications to manage ADHD disorders in young children because little is known about their safety and effectiveness for children of preschool ages. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the study points out, approve few of these drugs, for prescription to young children. For more information visit: <http://www.apa.org/pubinfo/kidsmed.html>

Comments From the Community

I work for the Head Start in Fayetteville, NC. You provided us with an excellent workshop in our pre-service training. In our packets you provided us with some [Jay Jay] videos. The one I used in my lesson plan for January 20 - 24 was "Missing You."

I introduced the video and told the children what the video was about. We have several children in our class whose parent or parents have gone overseas for the upcoming war. Others have to deal with loss in other ways. We watched the video and I stopped it at different points and asked them questions, what did Jay Jay say? Etc.

They thoroughly enjoyed the video and wanted to see it again. They really liked the song "I Want a Bubble Gum Friend—One that will Stick to Me Through the End." We went over the different ways we can keep in touch with people that are away. They all want to see the video again and I will use it again later. Again thank you for providing such an excellent teaching video!!!

Thank you

Pamela McIntosh

Fayetteville, North Carolina