

SHORT LESSONS TO TRY AT HOME PART 2



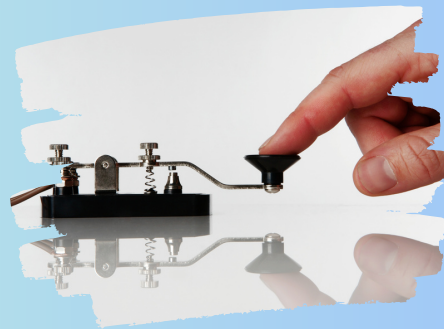
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This bundle includes lessons 11-20

11. Morse Code
12. Garfield Day
13. World Emoji Day
14. World Mosquito Day
15. Positive Thinking Day
16. Peanut Butter Lovers Month
17. Crossword Puzzles
18. Winnie The Pooh
19. Leap Year
20. Manatee Appreciation Day



Each lesson takes ~ 15 min to teach
Good for all ages!



These lessons are designed to be used in RPM (Rapid Prompting Method) lessons. RPM is a teaching method developed by Soma Mukhopadhyay. For more information on RPM go to <https://www.halo-soma.org/>

Legend For The Lesson

Each lesson contains teaching points followed by a related sensory activity and/or question.

As you read the teaching point the **BOLD** words are the key words for the teaching point and should be written down on your paper as you teach.

Following the teaching point you will find:

S=Sensory activity (could include drawing, spelling, reading, looking at pictures, etc)

Q=Questions to go with teaching point (choices will be given in brackets after the question for students who need them, but not every student needs to use them)

Lessons should feel conversational so comment on each answer chosen and each response given.

We recommend reading over the lesson before teaching it and modifying questions as needed depending on what goals you are working on with your child.

For more information on teaching lessons using RPM we recommend the following books written by Soma Mukhopadhyay:

- Understanding Autism through Rapid Prompting Method (Red)
- Curriculum Guide for Autism Using RPM (Orange)
- Developing Communication for Autism Using RPM (Green)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LESSON 11 - MORSE CODE	04
LESSON 12 - GARFIELD DAY	07
LESSON 13 - WORLD EMOJI DAY	10
LESSON 14 - WORLD MOSQUITO DAY	13
LESSON 15 - POSITIVE THINKING DAY	16
LESSON 16 - PEANUT BUTTER LOVERS MONTH	19
LESSON 17 - CROSSWORD PUZZLES	22
LESSON 18 - WINNIE THE POOH	27
LESSON 19 - LEAP DAY	30
LESSON 20 - MANATEE APPRECIATION DAY	34

Lesson 11: Morse Code Day

One of the most **celebrated** and important **inventions** in the world is the **Morse Code**.

Today we thought we would do a small lesson to talk about what morse code is, and why it was so important!

S - Let's warm up and spell CELEBRATE

Q- And what amazing invention are we learning about today? Did we say it was POSTAL or MORSE code?

A man named **Samuel Morse** is the creator of this celebrated invention. He created morse code in the 1830's, to go with another invention of his - the **telegraph**. The telegraph is a **machine** that can send and receive **messages** through electrical currents.

Q- So we could say that Samuel Morse was the inventor of the Morse code as well as the _____ (TELEGRAPH/PRINTER)

Q - The telegraph is a machine that can send and receive messages using what kind of currents? (Did we say they were JELLY or ELECTRIC?)

S - Here is what that machine looks like (*show first picture on pg 6*): To send the messages you would tap this lever - Let's practice our pointing by pointing to the lever.

By using a series of electrical pulses or short bursts of **energy** - the telegraph could then make **marks** on a piece of **paper**. But the marks didn't mean anything without a code - hence Morse Code was born!

S - So the electrical currents are short bursts of energy - let's spell ENERGY. Now energy in this case just means the power provided to get the machine to work. Energy is what gives every moving machine its power - including us!

Q - Which word would go best with the word energy: SLEEP/LIFE

Morse Code is a **communication system**. This system represents the alphabet and numbers with a series of dots, dashes or a combination of both.

Q - Morse Code uses a combination of dots and _____ (SPOTS/DASHES)

Q- And we learned these dots and dashes are representing both the alphabet and _____ (SHAPES/NUMBERS)?

Q- Let me ask you this - have you ever heard of morse code before? YES/NO/NOT SURE

Because you can also tap out the **dots and dashes** - Morse Code can be both **seen and heard**.

S- Since Morse code uses dots and dashes - I thought we could take a minute to practice drawing some dots and dashes (*Prompt the student as necessary*).

Q- If we say that the dots and dashes can be both seen and heard - we know that we will be using our EYES and _____(FEET/EARS)

By 1866 a telegraph line was placed from Europe to the United States in order to be able to send Morse Code messages across the **Atlantic Ocean**. Morse code became a key form of communication in the **military** - soldiers could use spotlights to flash the code in the sky to send messages.

S - Morse code became important to the military - let's spell MILITARY

Q- Can you think of a word that would go with military? (Do you think ARMY or SOCCER would be a good word?)

Q - What do you think - from what we have learned so far - does the invention of the Morse Code sound like an important one? YES/NO/MAYBE

Morse Code **isn't used** very often today - it was eventually replaced with the invention of the **telephone**. However, it is still used today by radio operators, the military and even the Boy Scouts.

Q - So if I said that Morse Code isn't used very often today - would you: AGREE or DISAGREE?

Q- We learned that eventually Morse Code and the telegraph were replaced by the _____ (RADIO/TELEPHONE)

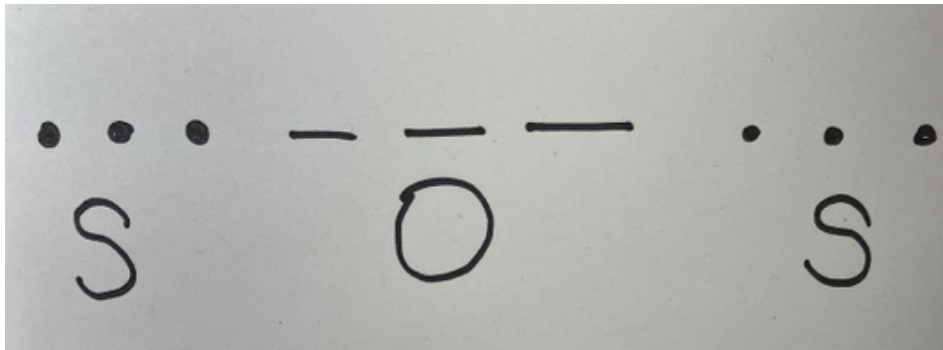
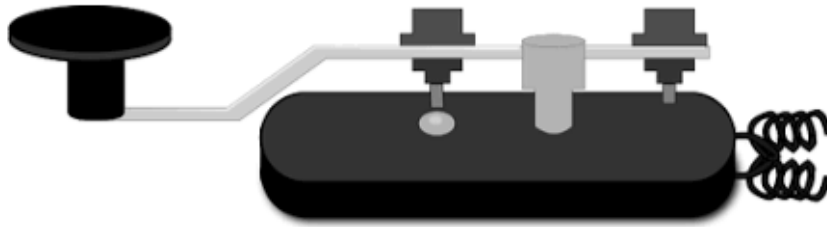
One of the most well known codes is **SOS** - the international code for distress. This code means **HELP!** These letters were chosen because the code is easy to remember: Three dots, followed by three dashes, followed by three dots.

Q - We learned that the SOS code is 3 dots, 3 dashes, 3 dots - but what does this code mean? Does it mean PILLOW or HELP?

S - Let's take a look at what this code would look like with the dots and dashes (*show second picture on pg 6*). Let's try drawing the code for help together - start with the three dots - next we need three dashes - followed by three more dots. (*prompt the student as much as needed*)

Creative Writing - today let's practice spelling some words from our lesson:

CODE, INVENTION, DOTS, DISTRESS, COMMUNICATION



Sources:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Morse-Code>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse_code

Lesson 12: Happy Garfield Day!

Today is a national day to celebrate everyone's favorite comic strip cat - **Garfield!** To celebrate, let's learn a few **fun facts** about this cool cat!

S - Let's spell the name GARFIELD

Q - And we said that Garfield is what kind of animal? (Did we say that Garfield is a GIRAFFE/CAT?)

Q- Does it surprise you to learn that a comic strip cat would have its own special day to be celebrated? YES/NO/MAYBE

The very first Garfield comic strip came out in **1978**. The **orange cat** was created from the imagination of the **cartoonist**, Jim Davis.

S- Let's take a look at what Garfield looks like - just in case you have never seen him before! (*show picture on pg 9*)

Q- What color did we say Garfield is? Would you say he looks RED or ORANGE in this picture?

S- Since the very first comic strip came out in 1978 - let's try making that number together on our number board (Let's try practicing our printing by writing the number 1978 - *prompt as needed*)

Now you might be wondering - what kind of cat is Garfield? He is known as a **tabby** cat. But he isn't your **ordinary** cat - he loves to eat **lasagna!** He lives with his owner Jon Arbuckle and Jon's other pet - Odie the dog.

S- Let's spell the word ORDINARY - if something is called ordinary it just means we can see it all the time - it isn't something special.

Q- What did we learn makes Garfield special? We learned he likes to eat _____ (PIZZA/LASAGNA)

Q- Do you think most cats love to eat lasagna? FOR SURE/NO WAY

No, my guess is most cats just love to eat their regular old cat food - I haven't seen many that enjoy eating lasagna!

So what exactly is a tabby cat? When we call a cat a tabby we are referring to the **pattern** on the cat's **fur**. Any color cat can be referred to as a tabby cat.

Q- So what about the cat's fur is referred to as tabby? Is it the COLOR or PATTERN?

S - Yes, most tabby cats have a pattern on their fur. Let's look at our picture of Garfield again (*on pg 9*). Can you point to the black pattern on his orange fur?

The comic strip has been extremely **popular!** It has been printed in over **80 countries** around the world. It is estimated that over **200 million people** have read at least one Garfield comic strip.

Q - Let's write a sentence together about what we just learned: Garfield comic strips have been printed in over 80 _____ (COUNTRIES/PLANETS)

Q- Let's play a quick game together - let's see if we can each name a country. I'll go first - my country is FRANCE. Can you name a country? (What do you think is PLUTO or JAPAN a country?)

There are 3 countries in the world that had to rename the comic strip. In the countries of **Sweden, Finland and Norway** the cute orange cat goes by the name of **Gustaf**.

Q- Okay, now we just learned the names of 3 more countries! We learned about Sweden, Finland and _____ (NORWAY/LETTUCE)

S- Yes, in these three countries Garfield goes by the name Gustaf - let's spell GUSTAF

Q- Now we didn't talk about this - but do you have any guess why they might have renamed him Gustaf? (Do you think they may have renamed him because of the countries speaking a different LANGUAGE or because they thought Garfield was a SILLY name?)

Creative Writing

Today let's finish up our lesson by playing a game of Would You Rather? I am going to give you two choices and you have to tell me which you would prefer - let's give it a try!

Would you rather?

Eat PIZZA or LASAGNA?

Drink WATER or JUICE?

Read a BOOK or Listen to MUSIC?

Ride a BIKE or SCOOTER?

Swim in a POOL or LAKE?



Image Source: <https://pixy.org/1189381/>

Sources:

<https://wagwalking.com/daily/10-fun-facts-about-garfield>

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/59797/20-things-you-might-not-know-about-garfield>

Lesson 13: World Emoji Day

July 17th is world **emoji** day!

S - Let's start by spelling EMOJI

Emoji is a **Japanese** expression that translates roughly to “**picture word**” and that's exactly what an emoji is!

Q - Where in the world did emojis originate? (JAPAN / CANADA)

Q - Let me show you some emojis (*show emoji list on page 12*) - do you think picture word is an ACCURATE or INACCURATE way to describe them?

They were **created** by a Japanese artist named Shigetaka Kurita back in **1990**. It's brilliant because it can be hard to tell what the **emotion** behind typed words is but now there was a way to show it!

Q - What's an example of an emotion? (BACK / HAPPY)

In fact before there were emoji there were **emoticons** which is a combination of **emotion + icon**. They were made with the punctuation you can find on your keyboard like :) for **happy** face and ;) for **winky** face and :(for **sad** face.

Q - Not as pretty but they get the job done! I'm going to tell you a statement and you tell me which emoticon to use at the end to give it that added emotion behind it (*write on paper choice* :) / ;) / :()

“I tripped and fell down today” (:) / ;) / :()

“What kind of cheese doesn't belong to you? Nacho cheese!” (:) / ;) / :()

Today there are **thousands** of different emojis and every cell phone and iPad comes with an emoji keyboard.

Q - Does it surprise you there are so many different emojis? YES/NO

They are so popular that someone even wrote a **poem** about them. It's a longer poem but let's read some of it. It was written by Brent Kincaid in 2017. It's called “**Icon Not Take It Anymore**”

Q - Do you think icon is a play on words for (I CAN or IC ON)?

You emoji'd me a **happy face**
I emoji'd you back a **heart**.
You sent me an **okay thing**.

When did all this **start**?

S - Let's look at our emoji's again (show emoji list on page 12), let's find the emoji's he mentioned, first point to the happy face, then the heart, and finally the okay thing.

Q - This poem even rhymes, it rhymes heart with (START / THING)

Q - Can you think of another word that rhymes with heart and start? (bart, dart, fart, mart.....)

You shot me back an **icon**
That looked rather like a **hand**
But my phone's screen is **small**
So I couldn't quite **understand**.

S - Let's look at the emojis again, can you find one that looks rather like a hand?

Q - What do you think it means? (BYE / HI)

Q - Do you find looking at small things difficult too? (DIFFICULT / EASY)

Creative Writing

Write a sentence to go along with these emojis: My (CAT / DOG) (HATES / LOVES) to (PLAY WITH / EAT) (FISH / CARROTS)

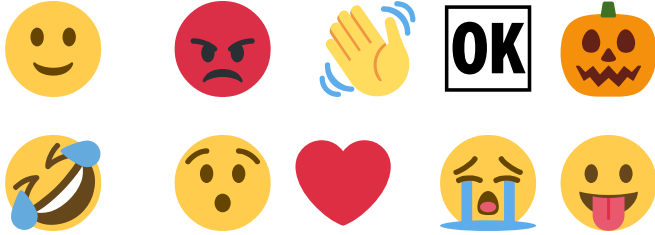


How about these ones: What holiday do you think it's talking about? (CHRISTMAS / HALLOWEEN)

What costume did they see? (GHOST/CAT) and (DOG / CLOWN)



Emoji List:



Sources:

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/world-emoji-day-july-17/>

<https://hellopoetry.com/poem/2120274/icon-not-take-it-anymore/>

Lesson 14: World Mosquito Day

August 20th all around the world is known as **World Mosquito Day!**

S - So the bug that is celebrated on August 20th is the mosquito - let's warm up and spell MOSQUITO

Now we have probably all seen a mosquito before - they are a small **species of fly** that love to **bite** us!

S- Let's take a look at a mosquito - just to remind ourselves what they actually look like (*show picture on page 15*).

Q- Tell me something that you know about mosquitos - would you say that mosquitos love to TICKLE or BITE us?

S - The part of the mosquito that is used to bite us is their long mouth - let's practice pointing to it in the picture. (*Prompt as needed*)

When a mosquito bites it will transfer some of its **saliva** into its victim. This is what causes the **itchy bump** to appear on our skin after they bite us.

Q - So what did we learn makes us itchy when the mosquito bites us? (Did we say it was the mosquito's FEET or SALIVA?)

S - Let's practice spelling the word ITCHY

Q - What would you say? Would you describe a mosquito bite as itchy and annoying?
YES/NO/MAYBE

Because mosquitoes can bite a number of **different** victims in its lifetime - they are known to be **disease spreaders**. It is possible for a mosquito to **infect** their bite victim with a number of different illnesses.

Q- So does it sound like mosquitos can just bite ONE person or can they bite MANY people?

Q - They can infect their bite victim with a number of illnesses - what would be another word for illness? Do you think DANCE or SICK would be a good word?

One of the worst mosquito-passed illnesses is **malaria**. Malaria can make humans and other animals extremely **sick**. Symptoms will usually start to show around **15 days** after being bitten by the infected mosquito.

S - Let's practice spelling MALARIA

Q - Who will malaria make sick? Did we say it affects people and TRUCKS or ANIMALS?

S - Yes - and it usually takes about 15 days so let's practice making the number 15 on our number board.

World Mosquito Day is held each year to **celebrate** a British doctor - Ronald Ross.

Q- So does it sound like World Mosquito Day is held to celebrate the MOSQUITO or a DOCTOR?

S - Now you might be wondering why we are celebrating a doctor on World Mosquito Day? Let's practice asking WHY?

Many years ago, Malaria was a disease that was **hard to control** because no one knew what was causing it to spread. But in 1897 Dr. Ronald Ross discovered that it was in fact mosquitos that **transmit** malaria to humans and other animals.

S - Lets practice spelling TRANSMIT - if we say something has been transmitted we just mean that it has been passed from one organism to another.

Q- So who did Dr Ross find was transmitting malaria to humans and other animals? Was it the MOSQUITO or the TURTLE?

This **discovery** led to the ability to try and control the spread of malaria.

Q- If I said that this discovery from Dr. Ronald Ross was important in stopping the spread of Malaria - would you AGREE or DISAGREE?

Yes, it seems pretty important to me!

Through the use of mosquito controls, insect repellants and mosquito netting - Malaria is now **controlled** in most parts of the world - saving many lives!

Q - Why do you think it is important to control the spread of a disease like Malaria? (Do you think it's important so people can EAT or stay HEALTHY?)

Q- Now that we know a little bit more about why we celebrate World Mosquito Day - do you think it is an important day to celebrate? YES/NO/MAYBE

Creative Writing:

Let's play a word game today and see how many new words we can make out of the word MOSQUITO

Possible answers: MOST, TO, MUST, QUIT, SO, OUT, SIT, OMIT, SUIT, MOIST



Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mosquito_2007-2.jpg

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosquito>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaria>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Mosquito_Day

Lesson 15: Positive Thinking Day

People in general have a knack for focusing on the **negative**. Our daily **struggles** and **stresses** can fill our heads with negative thoughts.

Q - In general people tend to think NEGATIVELY or POSITIVELY?

This is **pessimism**, tending to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen.

S - Practice spelling PESSIMISM

Q - What's a word that goes with pessimism (GOOD or BAD)

There is a day that can help us turn this around, **Sept 13th** is **International Positive Thinking Day!**

Q - What's the opposite of negative? (POSITIVE / LAST)

We can train our brain to deal with hard things with **positivity**. We can be **optimistic** - hopeful and confident about the future!

S - Let's draw a plus sign + to represent positive thinking or optimism and a minus sign - to represent negative thinking or pessimism.

Q - Do you find in general you are more PESSIMISTIC or OPTIMISTIC

S - Circle + if you chose optimistic, circle - if you chose pessimistic.

There are many **health benefits** to positive thinking! Just a few of them are: living longer, lower rates of depression, better resistance to illnesses, being able to handle times of stress better!

Q - Does it surprise you that there can be so many health benefits to just thinking a certain way? YES / NO / MAYBE SO

Ok, so the question is **how do we do it?** How do we start thinking more positively?

S - Practice asking HOW?

It's a good question, and maybe it's **different** for everybody, but let's talk about some ways that might help.

Q - Do you think the same strategies will be equally effective for everybody? Everyone needs the SAME or DIFFERENT strategies?

Practice **gratitude**. Everyday think about something you are **thankful** for, that you appreciate in your life.

Q - What's a word that goes with gratitude? (THANKS / SAD)

Q - Let's try it right now, complete this sentence: I am thankful for _____ (COMFORTABLE HOME / FOOD TO EAT)

Be **patient** with yourself. Don't say anything to yourself you wouldn't say to another person. Be **encouraging**, talk to yourself in a positive way. We are always our own worst critics!

S - What's a word that goes with patience? (NOW or LATER)

Q - Imagine your friend drops a bowl and breaks it, he/she feels terrible. What do you say to cheer him/her up? (HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING / NO BIG DEAL WE CAN EASILY CLEAN THAT UP)

Next time something happens, tell yourself what you would say to a friend!

Some people have **daily affirmations** they repeat to themselves everyday. Affirmations are about giving yourself **emotional support** and **encouragement**.

S - Take a look at the affirmations image (*see image on page 18*)

1. I am fierce / 2. I am enough / 3. I am creative

Which one do you most relate to? (*can answer by pointing to image*)

Creative Writing:

Time to create your own image for a daily affirmation. What shape will you put the affirmation in? (CIRCLE / STAR / TRIANGLE)

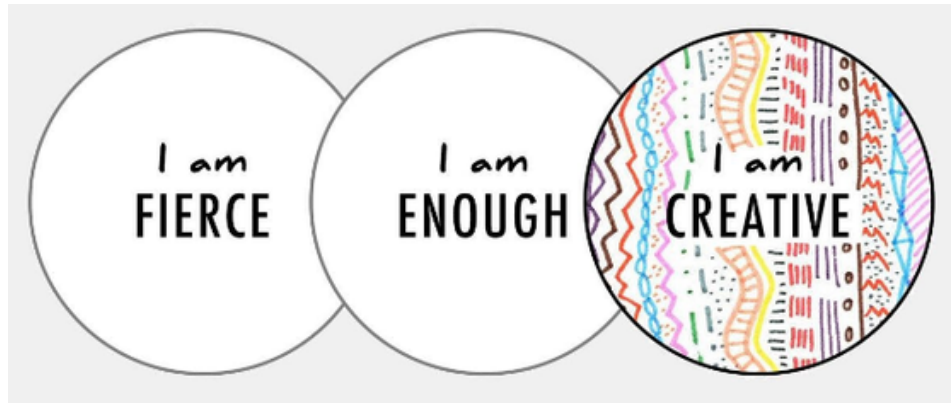
Here are some choices, which do you want to include?

1. Asking for help is a sign of self-respect and self-awareness.
2. I am allowed to ask for what I want and what I need.
3. I am growing and I am going at my own pace.
4. I am still learning so it's okay to make mistakes.

Q - Do you want to include any image to help make it look more positive? (SUN / TREE / WISHING STAR)

Q - What color should the background be? (WHITE / YELLOW / BLUE)

Q - Where will you hang your affirmation to remind you to repeat it to yourself? (BATHROOM MIRROR / DOOR / CAR / WALL)?



Sources:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/fun/positive-thinking-day>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/stress-management/in-depth/positive-thinking/art-20043950>

Lesson 16: Peanut Butter Lovers Day

If you are a big fan of **peanut butter** - November is a great month to **celebrate** as it is peanut butter lovers month!

Q - So the month of November is to celebrate Peanut _____ (BUTTER/APPLES).

Q- Is this a month for you? Are you a big fan of peanut butter? YES/NO/SOMETIMES

The earliest known use of peanut butter goes back to the Aztecs and Incas who were known to **grind** their peanuts into a **paste**.

S - Let's spell the word GRIND

Q- What do you think that might mean? If we are grinding the peanuts into a paste are we WATERING or CRUSHING them?

S- Yes, grinding means you are crushing the peanuts up into small pieces. Let's practice writing a sentence together using the word grind. (The machine will grind the rocks into _____ (PEBBLES/STONES)).

To make peanut butter - you would of course need to have peanuts. Peanuts grow on **plants** that are planted in the spring. The peanut grows from a **flower** that bends down and grows into the **soil**.

Q- Let's practice some drawing! Do you want to practice drawing a FLOWER or a PEANUT?

S - Using the line drawing provided on page 21 to help the student draw their selected choice - prompt at the level needed by your student. (For an extra activity you could have the student color the picture or ask them to tell you a word to describe their drawing.)

The peanut is ready to be picked in **August or October** - when the weather is still **warm and dry**.

Q- So in August or October what do we do with peanuts? Do we PICK or TICKLE them?

Q- And we learned that this is the best time to pick them because the weather is still dry and _____ (COOL/WARM)

The peanut butter we **consume** today is made through a process of shelling, blanching and grinding up the nut.

S- Let's practice spelling CONSUME

Q- What would be another word for consume? (If we consume something are we EATING it or DRAWING it?)

It is then mixed with sugar, salt and oil is then added for a nice **smooth** consistency.

Q- Sometimes you can buy peanut butter that is smooth or crunchy - which do you prefer?
Do you prefer to eat SMOOTH or CRUNCHY peanut butter?

In 1916 a man named George Washington Carver wrote a famous article on the best ways to grow peanuts for **human consumption**. Many believe him to be the **inventor** of the modern day peanut butter.

Q- If I said that people believe that George Washington Carver is the inventor of peanut butter - would that statement be TRUE or FALSE?

Q - Carver was famous for growing peanuts, writing about them and inventing peanut butter - what a busy man! Do you think you would rather be known as a FARMER/WRITER/INVENTOR

When first sold, peanut butter was considered to be a **health product** or meal substitute. The price of peanut butter was initially quite **high** - making it a product that only the **wealthy** could afford.

Q - Does it sound like you would need a lot of CARS or MONEY to buy peanut butter when it was first sold?

S - It was considered a health product - let's spell HEALTH

Q- What is a word that goes with health? (Do you think of a MECHANIC or DOCTOR?)

Mass production has helped to **lower** the cost - making peanut butter a **staple** in most homes. It is commonly used for making sandwiches, cookies, candy and chocolate treats.

Q- Does it sound like it would be EASY or DIFFICULT to find peanut butter in people's homes now?

Q- Yes, it is much easier to find as the price was lowered due to mass _____ (PRODUCTION/SINGING).

Creative Writing

Being a farmer is an important job - let's place a word game and see how many different fruits and vegetables we can think of to grow on a farm!

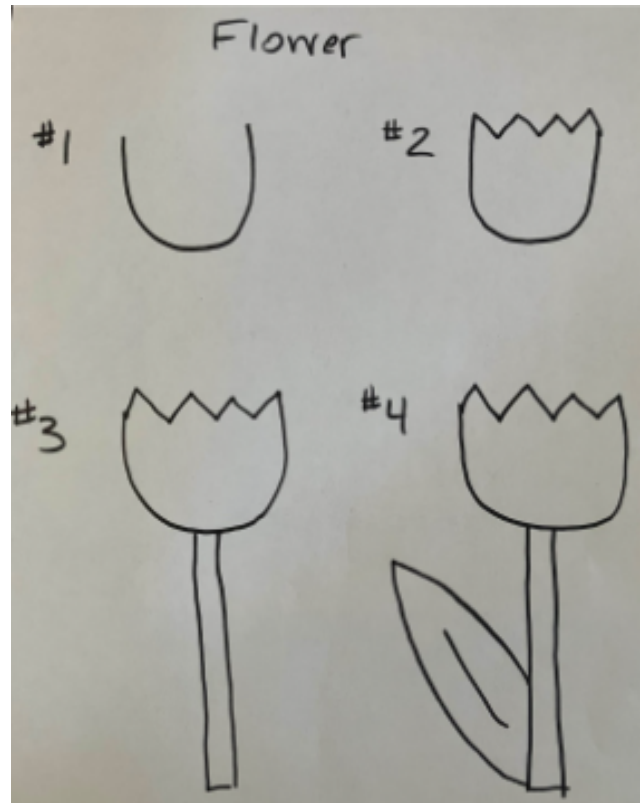
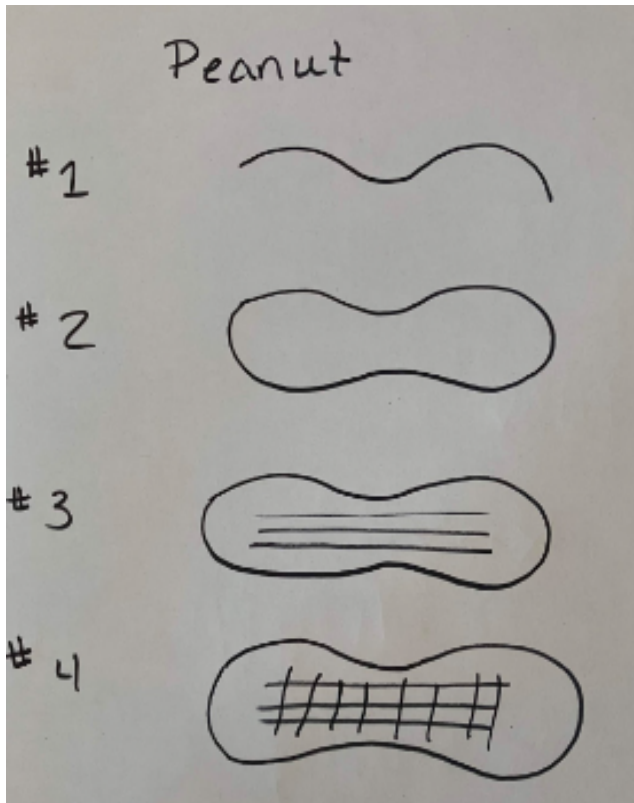
I am going give you a letter and let's see what we can come up with:

L - (LETTUCE/LEAKS/LIMES/LEMONS)

T - (TOMATO/TURNIP)

S - (SPINACH/STRAWBERRY)

C - (CORN/CARROTS)



Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peanut_butter

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington_Carver

Lesson 17: Crossword Puzzles

Did you know that December 21st is the day to celebrate one of the world's most famous **word games**? That's right - December 21st is **National Crossword Puzzle Day!**

S - So today we are celebrating the crossword puzzle - let's practice spelling PUZZLE

Q - And which day in December are we celebrating this famous word game? Did we say it was December 13 or 21?

The very first crossword puzzle was printed in a **newspaper** in New York on December 21 **1913**.

Q- So where did we learn the first crossword puzzle was printed? (Did we say it was printed in a BOOK or NEWSPAPER?)

Q- A newspaper is put out everyday to let everyone know all the news and current events that are happening - do you like to stay up to date on current events?

YES/NO/SOMETIMES

The crossword puzzle was invented by a British journalist who **emigrated** to America in his teen years. He originally named the word game "**word cross**".

S - Let's practice spelling EMIGRATED. Now if he emigrated to America it simply means that he moved.

S- Let's try using the word emigrated in a sentence. (The black birds slowly emigrated to the _____ (SOUTH/TREE/OCEAN)).

Now maybe you have never done a crossword puzzle before - here is how it works - the board is laid out in a **grid** formation. The **squares** in the grid will **interact** with each other.

Q- So when we talk about crossword puzzles we are talking about which shape? Are we using a TRIANGLE or SQUARE?

S - Let's practice drawing a square together (Prompt as needed).

Q- If I said that the squares in the grid will interact with each other - would you say that sounds SILLY or ACCURATE?

To figure out the words that fit into the squares on the grid you will read a list of **numbered clues**.

Q - So all the clues used in a crossword puzzle will be _____ (NUMBERED/COLOURED)

Q - Do you think the numbered clues are to HELP or TRICK you when solving the puzzle?

The answers will be filled into the grid either vertically or horizontally. Let's talk about these lines so we know which directions the answers will go on the grid - a **vertical** line is a line that goes **up and down**. So in this case all the letters for the answers would be written from top to bottom.

Q - So we said a vertical line will be go up and _____ (SLIDE/DOWN)

S - Let's practice drawing a vertical line. (Prompt as needed).

Now **horizontal** lines are lines that go **back and forth**. So in this case all the letters for the answers would be written left to right.

Q - So the answers for the horizontal numbered clues would be written from left to _____ (RIGHT/BE)D)

S - Okay, now let's practice drawing some lines that go back and forth horizontally. (Prompt as needed).

Although very popular now - when the crossword was first released it was viewed by many as a **waste of time**.

Q- Does it sound like the crossword puzzle was well received when it first came out?

YES/NO/NOT SURE

Q - It was not very well received - in fact many viewed it as a waste of _____ (TIME/SPACE).

Crossword puzzles are great for **stimulating** your brain. They can help to increase your **vocabulary** and can be a fun **hobby**!

S - Let's practice spelling HOBBY

Q- Now that we have learned a little bit more about it - do you think it would be EXCITING or BORING to try a crossword puzzle?

Activity:

If you are interested - please give the crossword puzzle on the next page a try.

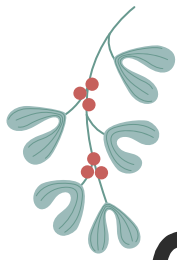
This activity could be used as reading practice - you could have the student help you read the clues.

The activity should be fun - the student can spell the answers on the board or choices can be used - whatever they need to make it successful.

Printing practice could also be done if you want to have the student print the answers in the squares (prompting as needed of course).

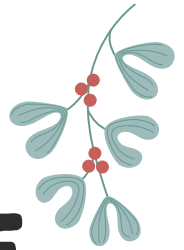
Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crossword>



WINTER

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



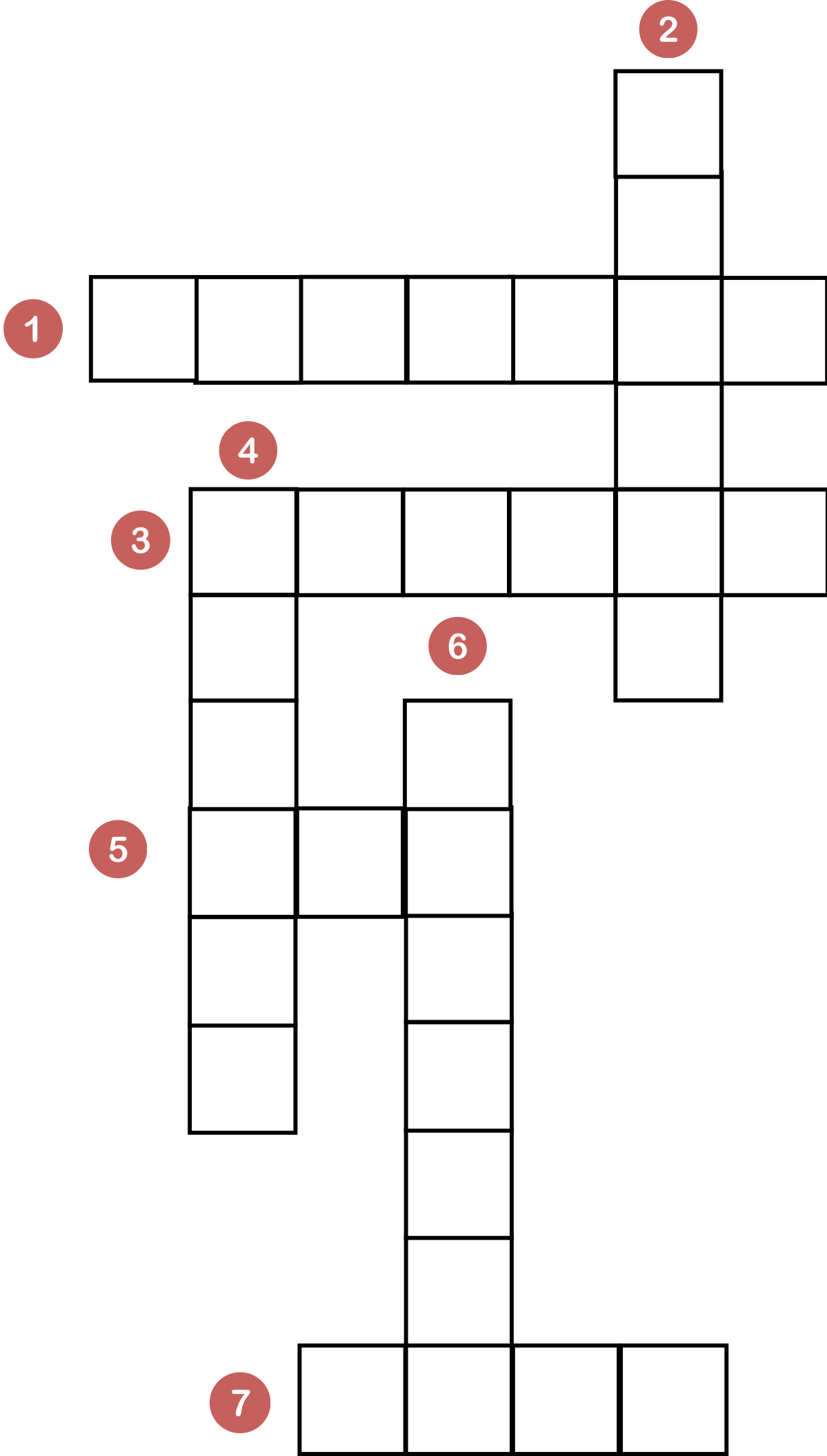
Look at the clues and write the Winter words

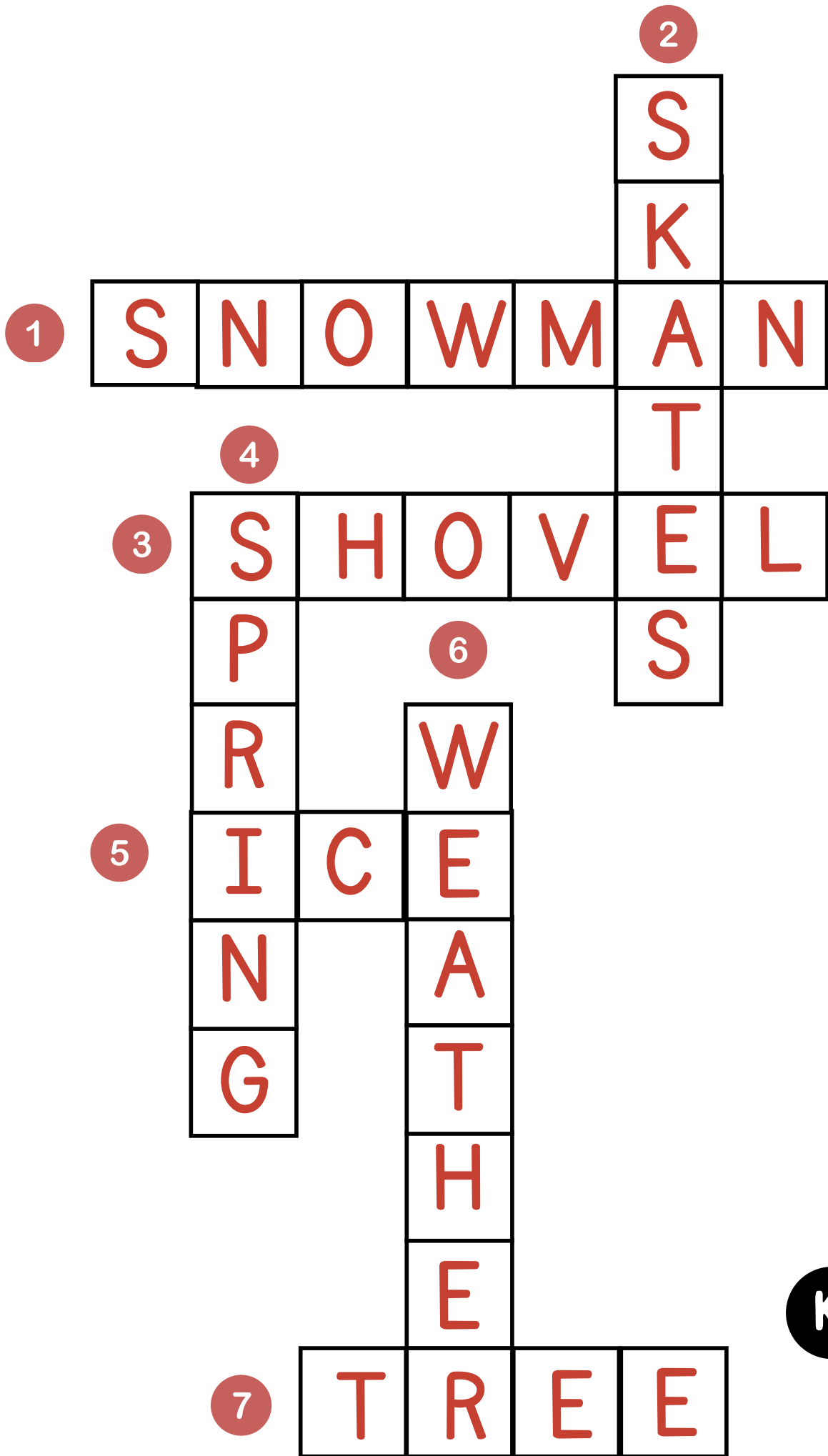
Across.

- 1 Frosty the _____
- 3 Tool used to clear the snow
- 5 Frozen Water
- 7 An Evergreen is a type of _____

Down

- 2 Footwear to play hockey
- 4 The season that comes after winter
- 6 Blizzard, Rain, Tornado are all types of _____





KEYS

Lesson 18: Winnie The Pooh

Perhaps you've heard of a **bear** with very little brain? That has a **Piglet** for a best friend? And lives in a place called the **Hundred Acre Wood**?

Q - Does this sound FAMILIAR or UNFAMILIAR?

S - Watch this short scene from a Disney movie featuring this bear:

[Winnie The Pooh The Little Black Rain Cloud](#)

As you probably know, the bear is **Winnie the Pooh** and is quite a famous little bear from A. A. Milne's 1926 classic story Winnie-the-Pooh. It's been over 85 years since that book was written and it's still so **popular**!

Q - Winnie the pooh is a story about a ____ (BEAR / DAY)

S - Yes and this story about a bear has been popular for so many years. Let's spell POPULAR

Q - Would you consider yourself one of the many fans of winnie the pooh?

Q - If yes, who is your favorite character? (can offer choices if necessary POOH or TIGGER?)

Winnie the Pooh didn't come out of nowhere! Milne based Winnie-the-Pooh on a **teddy bear** that his **son Christopher Robin** owned. It was originally named **Edward Bear**.

Q - Which name do you like better? WINNIE THE POOH or EDWARD BEAR?

Q - Maybe you recognize the name Christopher Robin from the Winnie The Pooh stories or movies! So the Christopher Robin character is named after the author's ____ (SON / UMBRELLA)

Many of the other characters, such as **Eeyore, Piglet, Tigger, Kanga, and Roo**, were also based on other stuffed animals owned by his son.

Q - What animal would you add if you could create a new character? (Can give choices based on some toys in your house if necessary)

Q - And what would you name it? Something that just states the name of what it is, or would you get more creative and pick a new name? (WHAT IT IS / NEW NAME)

So it begs the question, **how** did the **unique name** of Winnie-the-Pooh come about?

S - Practice asking me HOW

At the London Zoo there was a real Canadian **black bear** living there named “**Winnipeg**” after the city in Manitoba. Christopher Robin Milne shortened it to “Winnie”. The “Pooh” part of the name is believed to have been based on a **swan** of that name that he met while on vacation.

Q - What 2 animals did the name “Winnie the Pooh” come from? A black bear and a _____
(YAK / SWAN)

Q - Yes and he just happened to see them at the zoo. Do you like going to the zoo?

Q - What’s another animal we might see at the Zoo? (TIGER / WHALE)

The Hundred Acre Wood is also based on a real place: **Ashdown Forest** in Sussex, England.

S - Let’s take a look at what the real Hundred Acre Wood looks like (see page 29).

S - Practice pointing to the biggest tree.

S - Now point to the trail, it’s hiding in the back.

Q - Does it look like a place you would enjoy visiting?

Creative Writing

Let’s look at the picture again. How would you describe this forest? Your student can come up with their own words, or you can give options like: (DARK / BRIGHT), (COZY / UNCOMFORTABLE), (WINTER / FALL)



Image source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/woodycheese/10891976935/>

Text source: <https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/where-is-the-hundred-acre-wood/>

Lesson 19: Leap Year

Let me tell you an **exciting fact** - I don't know if you know this already but the year 2024 is a **leap year!**

S - We are learning some exciting facts today - let's warm up and spell EXCITING

Q- And what was this exciting fact? That 2024 is a _____ year (LEAP/BAGGAGE).

Now you might be wondering what exactly is a leap year? A leap year is any year with **366 days** instead of the usual 365 days. The extra day is always added as **February 29th** on our calendar.

Q- We learned that a leap year has how many days? Did we say it had 366 or 377 days?

Q- And the extra day always shows up as the 29th day of _____
(JUNE/FEBRUARY)

Why does this extra day get added to the calendar?

S - Let's practice asking why? Spell WHY

To understand why this happens we have to first talk about what a year is - it's actually a measurement of **time**.

Q- So if someone asked us, we could tell them that a year is a measurement of TIME or FOOD?

Q- Can you think of another device that would be used to measure time? (Do you think you would consider a BOOK or CLOCK a tool for measuring time?)

A year is the amount of time it takes the **Earth** to **orbit** the sun. It takes 365 days for the Earth to make this trip - it's called a **solar** year.

S- The special name for the Earth making its full orbit around the sun is called the solar year - let's practice spelling SOLAR - solar just means that the process involves the sun.

S- Let's do some drawing now and draw a sun and the earth (*Prompting can be done as needed to draw the sun and earth - if you want to work on printing skills you could have the student label the pictures as well. Further questions could be asked about which circle should be bigger - the Earth's or the Sun's. Coloring skills could also be practiced during this activity.*)

Q- If the earth is orbiting around the sun - what do you think that means? (Does it mean that the Earth is DRIVING or MOVING around the sun?)

S - Let's add some arrows around the drawing to show that the Earth is moving around the sun. (*See the drawing on pg 32 as an example*)

The extra day in the leap year is added every **4 years**. This is because it actually takes the Earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds to make the trip around the sun. This **extra time** needs to be accounted for to keep the seasons **in line** with the calendar.

Q- So the extra day is added to the calendar every 2 or 4 years?

Q- And does it sound like it needs to be added because the Earth actually takes a bit EXTRA or LESS time than 365 days to orbit the sun?

It was the **Romans** that decided that February 29th should be added to the calendar to keep everything on track - but a more scientific **formula** has been used in more modern times - the formula has leap years occurring in years **divisible by 4**. An example would be the years **2020, 2024, 2028, 2032**.

Q- Let's think about it - if we know this year is a leap year and this year is 2024 then when was the last leap year? (What math equation would we need to figure this out? Would it be $2024+4$ or $2024-4$?)

Q - Which means the last leap year was when? (2016/2020)

If you happen to be born on February 29th - you are given the nickname of **leapling**.

S - Let's spell the word LEAPLING

Q- Do you think you would enjoy only being able to celebrate your birthday every 4 years?
YES/NO/MAYBE

There is good news - if you happen to be born on that day - most people choose either **February 28th or March 1st** as their day to celebrate. They don't have to wait for 4 years to celebrate!

Q- Do you think you would pick February 28th or March 1st to celebrate if you were a leapling?

Let's finish off our lesson today by reading a **poem**.

Q- So what kind of writing are we going to read to finish our lesson? (Did I say we would read a STORY or POEM?)

The first stanza goes like this:

**Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November;**

Q- We can tell that this poem was written a long time ago - it uses some words that we don't really use anymore - like the word hath - what do you think the word hath might mean? (Do you think it's an older way to say HAVE/BOUND?)

Q- And our poem tells us that September, April, June and November have how many days? (30/42)

Let's keep reading:

**All the rest have thirty-one
Save February at twenty-eight,**

Q- What do you think it means when the poem says - all the rest have thirty-one save February? Do you think that might mean INCLUDING or EXCEPT February?)

The last verse goes like this:

**But leap year, coming once in four,
February then has one day more.**

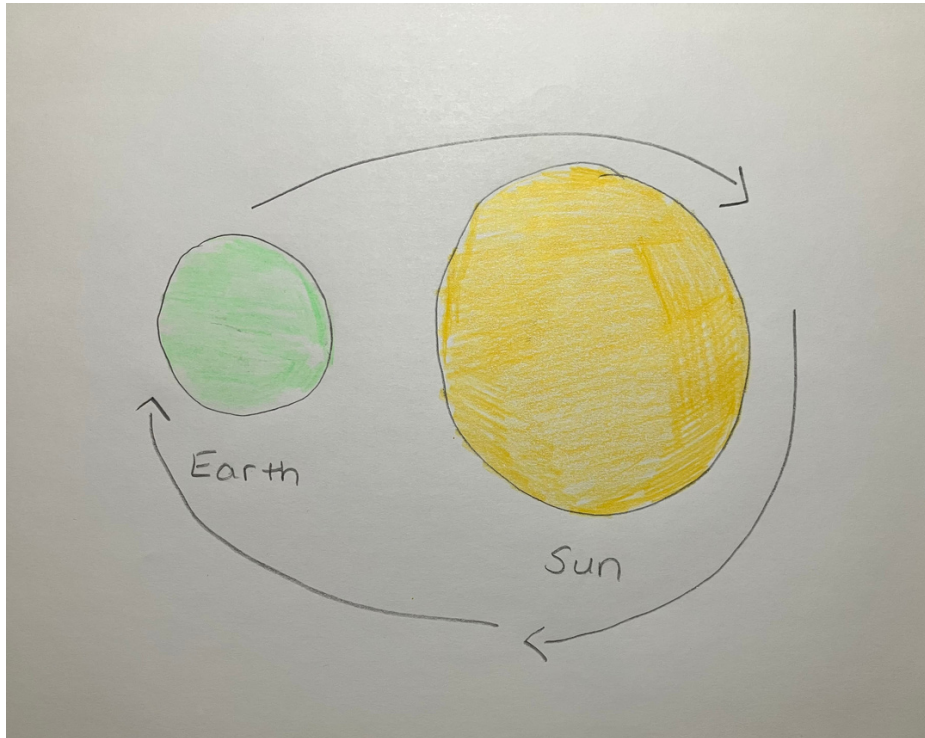
Q- What do you think of this poem? Did you LIKE it or find it BORING?

Q - Some people memorize this poem to help them remember what months have how many days - do you think that would be helpful for you? YES/NO/MAYBE

Creative Writing:

Let's play a word game today and see how many new words we can make out of the words LEAP YEAR

Possible words: REAL, EAR, PEA, PEER, PEAR, REAP, EEL, RAY



Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leap_year

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Days_Hath_September

Lesson 20: Manatee Appreciation Day

The **manatee** is such an amazing creature - but sadly they are considered a **threatened** animal because the amount of manatees living in the **wild** is growing smaller and **smaller**.

S- So today we are going to learn a bit about the amazing manatee - let's practice spelling MANATEE

Q- So if an animal is considered a threatened animal - does the number living in the wild grow BIGGER or SMALLER?

March 27th is known as Manatee Awareness Day. It is a day to celebrate this amazing animal and to raise **awareness** about their decreasing population in the wild.

Q- So which month are we celebrating the amazing manatee? Did we say it was in APRIL or MARCH?

Q- Do you think it is important to raise awareness and talk about ways to help animals that are becoming threatened? YES/NO/MAYBE

Manatees are **marine animals**. They are known to live in shallow, **warm** water in coastal rivers and bays. Even though they are a rather large animal - their body has no **blubber** or **fat** to keep them warm so to survive they must live in warmer water.

Q - If we say that a manatee is a marine animal - then we know they must live on the LAND or in the WATER?

S- Let's take a look at a manatee - just to make sure we both remember what these creatures look like. (*image on page 37*)

Q- Would you AGREE or DISAGREE that the manatee looks like a larger animal?

Q- We learned that they are larger - but their body contains no _____ (SWEATERS/BLUBBER).

Manatees are also called **sea cows**. They were given this name due to their larger **size**, **gentle** demeanor and **plant based diet**. Manatees can always be found swimming around grazing on aquatic water plants.

Q - So if someone asked us another name we could call the manatee, we could tell them they are often called sea _____ (DOGS/COWS)

Q- Does it sound like the manatee eats a lot of PLANTS or BUGS?

Q- Do you think you would find a diet of just eating plants ENJOYABLE or BORING?

Now you may find this **interesting** - they are often called sea cows but their closest living relative is actually the **elephant!**

Q- If someone asked us who the closest living relative of the manatee is - we could tell them it is the _____ (COW/ELEPHANT)

S - Let's take a look at the manatee and elephant (*image on page 37*) and see if we can see anything that is similar about them - they both have larger noses - let's point to the nose of the elephant and now let's find the nose of the manatee

Q- Do you think they look similar? YES/NO/NOT SURE

Now don't be fooled by their size - the manatee is a **gentle giant**. They are not aggressive creatures and actually are quite **slow moving**. The only time you will ever see them moving quickly is when they feel threatened.

S- Let's practice spelling the word GENTLE

Q- What would be another word for gentle? (If you describe something as being gentle does it sound like they might be FRIENDLY or RUDE?)

S- Let's use the word gentle in a sentence (My favorite animal is the gentle _____.)

So **why** are these friendly manatees a threatened species?

S- Let's practice asking the question - WHY?

The biggest threat to the manatee is **humans**. Due to the fact that they live in very shallow water - the manatee can easily be **hit by boats** cruising the rivers. It is also quite common for manatees to get tangled up in **fishing lines or nets**.

Q- So what did we learn? The biggest threat to the manatee is _____
(BUGS/HUMANS)

Q- What makes it more likely for a boat to hit a manatee in the river? (Is it that the water is very BROWN or SHALLOW?)

Q - What do you think humans would need to do to ensure they aren't hitting manatees with their boats? (Do you think they could drive their boats SLOWER or make their boats LOUDER?)

Creative Writing

Let's create a save the manatee poster to help raise awareness on Manatee Appreciation Day!

Cut out the picture of the manatee included on page 37 of this lesson and glue it onto a piece of blank paper. (*Skills can be practiced in cutting and gluing the picture down*).

Based on what we learned today let's put 5 important facts about the manatee on our poster! (Below are some suggestions if needed)

1. The Manatee is an animal that can be found living in the _____
(WATER/RIVER/BAY)
2. In order to survive the manatee must live in water that is _____ (WARM/MILD)
3. They can be found floating around eating up aquatic _____ (PLANTS/LEAVES)
4. The manatee is known to move very _____ (GENTLY/SLOWLY)
5. The biggest threat to the life of a manatee is _____ (HUMANS/BOATS/FISHING)

Don't forget to put a headline on your poster! (Some suggestions if needed)

_____ the Manatee (SAVE/HELP/RESCUE/PRESERVE)



Image Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usoceangov/5514927604>



Image Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Elephant_%28Loxodonta_Africana%29_01.jpg

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manatee>