

September - Summer

Morning

Time Plans

Cultivating Character



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Welcome,



Pour yourself a cup of coffee, put your feet up, and take a little coffee break with me. Let's talk about Family Style Learning using simple Morning Time plans. Our family found the simplest way to homeschool was to learn as much as we could together as a family. We found the easiest way to do this was by setting time aside each morning to do our Bible, memory work, and humanities together. In our home, we called it family time; you may call it Morning Time, Circle Time, Table Time, Basket Time, or something similar.

Each morning, our family would gather at the table for breakfast and devotions. Then we would congregate on the couch and floor in our family room for our family-style lessons. I would read aloud to the kids while they drew something, built something, or created something with their hands. After discussing the book or chapter we read, we would work on memory work, read some poetry, learn a folk song or hymn, write in our journals, play a game (usually math-related), learn about an artist or composer, draw in our nature journals, discuss current or historical events, do some map work, maybe do a science experiment, and from time to time, read a little Shakespeare.

Did we cover all of these things each day? No way! After family devotions and read-aloud, we would do 2 or 3 of the things mentioned as a family before taking a break and moving on to independent work. In this resource, I have compiled for you our Morning Time Plans we did over the years. Each monthly plan suggests topics to read, discuss, memorize, learn, teach, observe, and do.

Use what you like and what appeals to your family. Skip the rest. Each month is "grab and go." Scripture, memory work, poetry, and art prints are printer ready.

Links are provided for art, science, and music studies. All you need to do is collect picture books and chapter books to read (I share some of my favorites), print what you need, and start. For more ideas on how to use Morning Time Plans, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #130, "Simple Homeschool Solutions: Let's Get Loopy!"](#)

May the Lord bless your homeschooling adventures for His glory,

— Carrie —
DE FRANCISCO



Family Devotions & Character Study

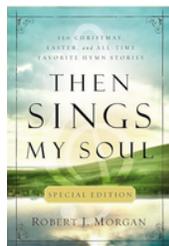
Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will focus on building godly character, developing good habits, and learning social manners. For each character trait, a Bible story and a Bible verse is given that demonstrates the monthly theme. In addition, an example in nature or in the animal kingdom is given that further demonstrates the monthly character theme. You may want to purchase the [Character Cards from September & Co.](#) During your family devotion time, do one of these four activities:

Week One: Read the suggested Bible story and discuss how the person demonstrated the monthly character trait. Then read the character trait definition given each month or use the Character Cards from September & Co. Brainstorm ways you can demonstrate a particular character trait or fruit of spirit each day or that month. It is helpful to role-play and practice being grateful, respectful, cheerful, etc. Use the theme verse, which correlates to a godly character trait and a fruit of the spirit, as your memory work and/or copy work.

Week Two: Read the suggested nature story and discuss how the animal demonstrates the monthly character trait. Review the character trait definition and discuss ways you can demonstrate that particular character trait or fruit of spirit.

Week Three: Discuss the monthly list of manners given. Practice using them each day. For fun, role play scenarios when bad manners are used instead of proper etiquette. For example, act out eating and talking with your mouth full instead of chewing quietly.

Week Four: Do the monthly hymn study. You will need the book by [Robert Morgan, Then Sings My Soul.](#)



Hymn Study

In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will do a hymn study each month instead of a composer study. Traditional church hymns are full of biblical truths, doctrine, and bible verses. While listening to, singing, and discussing lyrics of traditional hymns, your family will be learning about God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and godly character traits. For the hymn study, print the hymn lyrics, one for each child and place it in his/her Memory Work Binder. Each morning, start with family devotions and worship by singing the hymn together. At the beginning of Week Four, read the story of the hymnist from the corresponding chapter in the devotional, [Then Sings My Soul, by Robert Morgan.](#)

Read Aloud

This is the heart and soul of your family-style learning and morning time. It doesn't really matter which classic or which picture books you read; the idea is to spend at least 20 minutes a day reading aloud to your family. Each month, I suggest a few picture books and one chapter book novel to read that correlate to the monthly character theme. However, don't stress over finding the exact picture books. I often found I could go to the library at the beginning of the month with only a list of topics I wanted to cover, and I could find an abundance of picture books to check out. I personally made more work for myself trying to find the exact books recommended in teacher guides and packaged curriculum. Start with the suggested books in each month's Morning Time Plans and then check out or purchase any other treasures you find along the way.

Memory Work

Create a Memory Work Binder for each child. Each month, print the scripture memory verse, poem, hymn, and/or passage to be read and memorized. Print one of each for each child. Place the memory work pages inside a sheet protector. Then place each sheet into the Memory Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase [Transparent Menu Covers](#). When you read, recite, or memorize verses, poems, or passages, they are easy to find and use. You can also use dry-erase markers to highlight or underline keywords. For more ideas on how to incorporate memory work into your days, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #116, Memory Work: A Podcast To Remember](#).

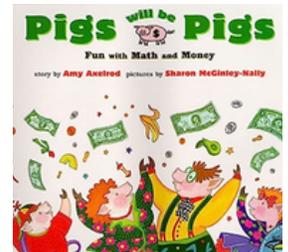
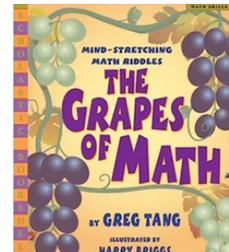
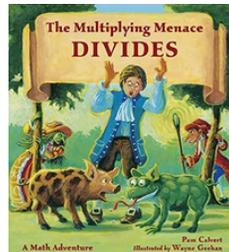
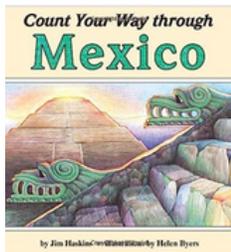
Poetry

My kids did not enjoy poetry so this was an area I had to be intentional about. I did this by including at least one poem and one poet in our Morning Time Plans each month. Because this was not an area of interest for my children, I made sure I kept poetry time light and enjoyable. Keep it simple. Read the poem with your family and simply enjoy it. It's really that easy! If you want, ask your children to close their eyes while you are reading the poem. Then after, they can narrate what they pictured in their minds, or they can draw an illustration that goes with the poem. Ask what they liked about the poem and what they didn't like. Focus on a new vocabulary word heard in the poem. If you have time, print the poem and place it in your child's Memory Work Binder. Each day or each week, recite the poem and memorize it line by line. For fun, read the poem with different accents. With older kids, you can analyze the rhyming pattern (if there is one). Teens can look for literary devices in the poem such as personification, alliteration, similes, and onomatopoeia. If your child loves to write, then try creating a few original poems about the same topic or using the same rhyming scheme. I honestly think poetry should be read and appreciated; it doesn't need to be over-analyzed. For more ideas on how to have fun with poetry, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #93, "Poetry Tea Time."](#)



Journal Writing & Writing Activities

Every year, our family did four things during our morning time: Bible, Read Aloud, Journal Writing, and Math. In this year's morning time plans, I have included daily writing prompts for each week as well as a monthly writing activity to introduce concepts such as grammar rules, parts of speech, literary devices, and vocabulary. At the beginning of the year, let each child pick out a new writing journal or notebook. This will be his/her writing journal for the year. Make sure you have one too! During morning time, read one of the suggested writing prompts. Everyone writes for five minutes about the topic given, including mom. If you have a younger student, he or she can draw their story, orally tell their ideas, or dictate their responses to you. After five minutes, everyone stops writing and shares what they wrote. Since this is a journaling and "brain dump" activity, there is no need to correct punctuation, spelling or grammar. If your child would like to continue working on his/her response, he/she can do so during their independent work or free time. Sometime during the month, do the extra writing activity together as a family. I suggest you do it the first week. If your family enjoys the activity or game, then you can repeat it each week for fun.



Math Read Alouds & Games

While math was usually what my children did during their independent work or one-on-one with me later in the day, I did incorporate math during our morning time through picture books and/or through games. Over the years, I collected quality math picture books to include in our home library. There are an abundance of picture books that teach simple and complex math concepts such as counting, shapes, computation, fractions, multiplication, division, probability, decimals, measurement, ratio and proportions, geometry, and even algebraic concepts. Each month, a list of math picture books is given to read aloud during your morning time. A quick and easy math game is also included. All of the recommended math picture books can found at your local library and on Amazon. The only supplies needed for the math games are a pair of dice, a deck of cards, a stack of paper, and/or a few pencils. For more ideas on how to include math picture books in your morning time, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #19 "Math Morning Time: Tame Those Math Tears and Fears."](#)



Art Study

Print in color the masterpiece for the month. In our morning time plans, we scheduled two weeks for our art and artist study. If you would like to learn about the artist and his/her work once a week during the entire month, then search the internet for 2-3 other masterpieces by the month's artist. The first week, start with the masterpiece given in the Morning Time Plans. Then each of the following weeks, focus on a different masterpiece by the same artist. Use the same procedure described in the Morning Time Plans on the Art Study pages. Since we purposefully chose famous artists, it will be easy to research the artist on the internet and to find quality picture books at your local library about each artist to dig deeper into his/her life and works. I highly recommend building your own home library of artist picture books. Check out some of our favorite artist picture book series: The Katie Books by James Mayhew, Anholt's Artists Books For Children by Laurence Anholt, Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists by Mike Venezia, and Smart About Art books. We also invested in as many art card and board games as we could find. It was a great way to review artists we have learned about and to introduce new artists not yet covered. For more information on how to do simple art studies, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #15: "Let's Talk Art Studies: What Are They and How To Start."

Nature Study

At the beginning of the year, let each child pick out a new drawing journal. This will be his/her nature journal for the year. This year, Nature Studies will focus on the Five Kingdoms: Protista, Monera, Fungi, Plants and Animals. Each week, nature study suggestions and science activities are given in the Monthly Morning Time Plans. Feel free to do some, all, or none of them. You can use the activities to supplement whatever you are already doing in science, or they can be your sole science "curriculum" for the year. In the Nature Study section of the Morning Time Plans, drawing, painting, and watercolor instructions, videos, and links are given. The primary objective of doing nature studies is to appreciate God's handiwork in creation, to improve observation skills, to inspire curiosity, and to get outside. Creating Instagram-worthy journal pages is not the goal. After spending time in nature and drawing something that piqued your child's interest, you can stop there. However, if you want to include more, give your child a verse, poem, or inspirational quote to copy next to his/her drawing. If your child is older, he/she can research the item drawn and write facts about it next to his/her drawing or they can spend time labeling the parts of their drawing. For writing, teens can write a few paragraphs about the item drawn. The goal is to observe and enjoy nature. For simple ways to incorporate Nature Studies in your week, listen to past Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast episode.



April Morning Time Plans



Character Trait
Helpfulness

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Bible Study

Throughout the month, read and discuss the story of the Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Focus on the memory verse: 1 Peter 4:9. Discuss how Martha was helpful and how Jesus helped changed her attitude. Using suggested verses, older students can do a word study on "helpfulness" & "hospitality." Younger students can use suggested verses for copywork.

Character Study

Discuss the definition of helpfulness and its corresponding Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness. Practice being helpful and hospitable. Role play different situations.

Hymn Study

Listen and memorize the hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul." Learn more about the writer, Spafford and Bliss.

Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "Smart" by Shel Silverstein.

Writing

Respond to the journal writing prompts and share. For this month's writing activity, review different punctuation marks and do the "Punctuation Dance" while reading a few stories.

Art Study

Study "The Nighthawks" by Edward Hopper. Learn about the artist, Edward Hopper.

Math Work

Learn and review money and decimal concepts by playing money games. Read math picture books about money and decimals.

Nature Study

Review the Animal Kingdom. Focus on Vertebrates: Fish and Amphibians.

Read Aloud

Read aloud a chapter book about being helpful such as Heidi by Johanna Spyri. Read picture books about helpfulness such as The Enormous Turnip by Katie Daynes, The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins, A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip C. Stead, The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein, Stone Soup by Marcia Brown, and Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney



SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

April
Helpfulness

Daily

Read portions of Luke 10:38-42. Memorize 1 Peter 4:9.
Memorize a portion of the poem, "Smart" by Shel Silverstein.
Listen to "It Is Well With My Soul" and learn it.
Read aloud from the chapter book, Heidi.
Read aloud one of the math or character trait picture books.
Respond to a journal writing prompt.

Week One

Discuss the definition of helpfulness and how the Bible character demonstrates this trait.
Do Week One of Art Study: "The Nighthawks."
Do Week One of Nature Study: Vertebrate Classification.
Go on money and decimal notation scavenger hunt.
Do the writing activity: Punctuation Dance.

Week Two

Review the definition of obedience and self control and learn how different animals demonstrate this trait.
Do Week Two of Art Study: "The Automat."
Do Week Two of Nature Study: Bony Fish (Vertebrates)
Do Decimal Activities.
Do the writing activity: You Are the Editor.

Week Three

Learn and practice etiquette skills that show helpfulness.
Do Week Three of Art Study: Learn about Edward Hopper.
Do Week Three of Nature Study: Cartilaginous Fish (Vertebrates)
Do Money Activities.
Do the writing activity: Play Punctuation Bingo.

Week Four

Do Hymn Study. Discuss the lyrics. Read about the lyricists and the story behind the hymn. Finish memorizing it.
Do Week Four of Art Study: Create Your Own
Do Week Four of Nature Study: Amphibians (Vertebrates)
Practice money and decimal computation by playing money board games such as Monopoly and Allowance.



Memorize

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."-
1 Peter 4: 9

Read Luke 10

(v: 25-37) One day an expert in the law stood up to test Him. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus said. "Do this and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus took up this question and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down the same road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So too, when a Levite came to that spot and saw him, he passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan on a journey came upon him, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he said, 'and on my return I will repay you for any additional expense.'

Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

"The one who showed him mercy," replied the expert in the law.

Then Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

(v: 38-41) As they traveled along, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to His message. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations to be made. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord replied, "you are worried and upset about many things. But only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, and it will not be taken away from her."



Trait

Helpfulness is the quality or state of being willing to provide assistance, support, or aid to others, often characterized by kindness and generosity.

Practicing Helpfulness & Hospitality

Helpfulness which is often characterized by acts of kindness or hospitality usually result in making situations easier for others or better for those in need. It reflects an attitude of practical service towards others or making useful contributions without expectation of reward in return.

Practice these daily or weekly helpfulness habits:

- Performing random acts like paying for the next person's coffee or leaving positive notes.
- Holding the door open for someone carrying heavy bags or pushing a stroller.
- Volunteering at a community cleanup or food bank to aid those in need.
- Offering a seat on public transport or in a waiting area to an elderly person or someone who appears tired.
- Sharing resources, like donating clothes, food, or time to support strangers during tough times.
- Assisting a neighbor with tasks like shoveling snow, mowing the lawn, or carrying groceries.

Examples in Nature

Nature and the animal kingdom are full of fascinating examples where different species demonstrate helpfulness through mutualism or symbiosis (which means both benefit), commensalism (which means one benefits without harming the other), or altruism or self sacrifice (which means one aids another at potential cost to itself). Oxpecker birds perch on large mammals and remove ticks and parasites, providing relief and health benefits to the host while gaining food. Clownfish live safely among the anemone's stinging tentacles and, in return, clean the anemone, provide nutrients, and ward off predators. In meerkat groups, one individual stands guard while others forage, alerting the group to predators at personal risk. A rather gross example is the "money cup" plant. It attracts mountain tree shrews or rats. The animals lick nectar from the pitcher lid and defecate into the pitcher, essentially using it as a toilet, while the plant gets needed nutrients.



The Brave Little Clownfish and the Gentle Anemone

In the vibrant coral reef, where colorful fish darted among swaying corals, lived a bright orange clownfish named Finley. One day, while exploring beyond his usual spot, Finley spotted a magnificent sea anemone named Aria, her long tentacles waving gently in the current like welcoming arms. Finley swam closer, curious. "Hello! Your tentacles look so soft and safe. May I come in?"

Aria's tentacles swayed as she replied softly, "Little fish, my stings would harm most creatures. But you... you seem different. Try touching me gently."

Finley brushed against a tentacle—and nothing happened! He was immune to her poison. Joyfully, he darted in and out. "You're amazing! I feel safe here." From that day, Finley made Aria his home. He lived safely among her stinging tentacles, protected from hungry predators.

In return, Finley helped Aria. He cleaned her tentacles by nibbling away parasites and dead bits, keeping her healthy. He fanned fresh water over her with his fins, bringing oxygen and tiny nutrients from his waste. Most importantly, he chased away butterflyfish that tried to nibble her edges.

One stormy afternoon, Finley ventured a bit too far chasing a shiny plankton. Suddenly, a large, sneaky grouper lunged from behind a rock, jaws wide open!

"Help!" Finley cried, racing back toward Aria. The grouper followed closely. As Finley dove into Aria's tentacles, the predator snapped—but touched a tentacle and recoiled in pain from the powerful sting. Safe inside, Finley trembled. "Thank you, Aria. You saved my life!"

Aria's voice bubbled gently, "And you make my life brighter, little friend. Stay with me always."

Finley nodded gratefully. "I will! You've given me a home and protection. Now I'll clean you even better and guard you fiercely." From then on, their friendship grew stronger. Finley cleaned diligently and boldly warded off threats, while Aria shielded him from danger.

Moral: True friendship is mutual—when we help each other, both become stronger and safer.



Etiquette is a set of polite behaviors that show respect and kindness to others in social situations. Practice using the following manners this month.

MANNERS THAT SHOW HELPFULNESS & HOSPITALITY

Share a meal. Invite someone to eat with you, whether it's a simple lunch, homemade dinner, or takeout shared together.

When they enter your home, welcome your guests warmly. Greet visitors with a genuine smile, a handshake or hug, and kind words like "I'm so glad you're here!"

Offer your guests refreshments. Provide drinks (water, tea, coffee) and snacks shortly after someone arrives, making them feel welcome.

Offer help with belongings. Take coats, bags, or shoes at the door, and provide a place to store them neatly.

Give your guests your undivided attention. Engage in conversation and put devices away.

When food is served, allow your guests to select food or portions first. Always go last. Save last pieces of food servings for your guests.

Wait to eat before everyone is seated at the table and everyone has a plate of food in front of them.

Send guests off graciously. Walk them to the door, thank them for coming, and express hope to see them again soon. Offer them a "doggie bag" of left overs.

If you are invited to someone's home for a meal, never arrive empty handed. Bring a small host gift or something to share with the host and other guests.



Goodness

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

Galatians 5:22

Word Study for Teens

As a fruit of the Spirit, goodness grows in believers through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers' selfish tendencies turn into selfless, beneficial deeds that glorify God. It involves active service that is different from mere politeness or avoidance of harm.

Psalm 23:6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

Psalm 100:5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Hebrews 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

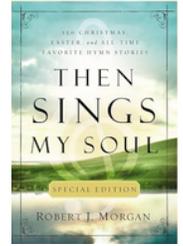
Lamentations 3:25 The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him.

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.



When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul!"

It is well with my soul!
It is well, it is well with my soul!

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

It is well with my soul!
It is well, it is well with my soul!

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His Cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well with my soul!
It is well, it is well with my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;
If dark hours about me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

It is well with my soul!
It is well, it is well with my soul!

Composed by Winfield Scott Weedon

WATCH

LISTEN

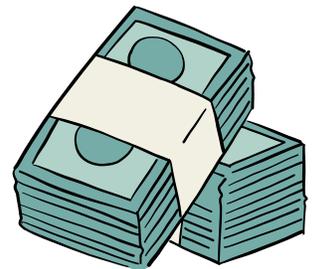




Smart

By Shel Silverstein

My dad gave me one dollar bill
'Cause I'm his smartest son,
And I swapped it for two shiny quarters
'Cause two is more than one!
And then I took the quarters
And traded them to Lou
For three dimes-- I guess he didn't know
That three is more than two!
Just then, along came old blind Bates
And just 'cause he can't see
He gave me four nickels for my three dimes,
And four is more than three!
And I took the nickels to Hiram Coombs
Down at the seed-feed store,
And the fool gave me five pennies for them,
And five is more than four!
And I went and showed my dad,
And he got red in the cheeks
And closed his eyes and shook his head--
Too proud of me to speak!



Punctuation Dance

An important piece of writing (and reading aloud) is learning how to react to punctuation. It is important to know when to pause, when to make your voice rise, and when to change your tone. This will also help you punctuate your own stories correctly. The Punctuation Dance is very simple. While you can use any text, the Punctuation Dance works best for a text with lots of different punctuation. (See below for starters.)

DIRECTIONS:

Read a short story or paragraph. Start with the ones provided.

1. When you get to a period, stomp.
2. When you get to a comma, step (or slide) to the side.
3. When you get to a question, wave your hands side to side and wiggle down to the ground.
4. When you get to an exclamation point, jump in the air with arms up!
5. When you get to quotation marks, clap twice.

If the story has an apostrophe or a semi colon, add your own motions.

A Dream Vacation

Once upon a time, there lived a crazy old lady. One day, she yelled, "I want to go on a trip!" The next day, she asked her neighbor, "Where do you think I should go?"

Her neighbor replied, "You should go to Hawaii. I hear it is beautiful this time of the year."

The old lady screamed, "Wow! That is a good idea." The next day she packed her suitcase and waited for her uber. HONK! HONK! HONK! She ran outside, got into the car, and drove to the airport.

Jesse, the Good Little Doggie

Once upon a time there was a cute little dog named Jesse. He was white, small, and fluffy. Constantly, he got into some kind of trouble. One day his owner, whose name was Brenda, said "What should I do to keep you out of trouble?"

Jesse barked, "Feed me more and play with me everyday. Then, I will be a good boy."

"DUH! Why didn't I think of that?" replied Brenda. From that day on, Jesse was a good little doggy



Punctuation Bingo

DIRECTIONS:

Play like traditional Bingo.

1. Print enough cards for each player. Place in protective sheets or use beans, buttons, etc for markers so you can reuse each board.
2. Call out each punctuation definition at a time. If a student has the punctuation mark or punctuation word on his board, he chooses which one to put this marker on.
3. The winner is the first player to get four in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal).

BINGO CALLER CARD

1. Sentence: The sky is blue___ (Answer: period)
2. Definition: Separates hours and minutes in time. (Answer: colon)
3. Definition: Indicates ownership, like 'dog's bone'. (Answer: apostrophe)
4. Definition: Shows uncertainty or asks for information. (Answer: question mark)
5. Definition: This mark separates items in a list. (Answer: comma)
6. Sentence: The cat___ tail is fluffy. (Answer: apostrophe)
7. Sentence: I go to school every day___ (Answer: period)
8. Definition: This mark ends an interrogative sentence. (Answer: question mark)
9. Sentence: She reads books___ (Answer: period)
10. Definition: Shows yelling or surprise. (Answer: exclamation point)
11. Sentence: After dinner___ we watched a movie. (Answer: comma)
12. Definition: This mark introduces a list or explanation. (Answer: colon)
13. Definition: Ends a question. (Answer: question mark)
14. Definition: Ends most sentences. (Answer: period)
15. Sentence: Where is the library___ (Answer: question mark)
16. Sentence: Can you help me___ (Answer: question mark)
17. Definition: Used to indicate a direct question. (Answer: question mark)
18. Definition: Introduces a series. (Answer: colon)
19. Sentence: What time is it___ (Answer: question mark)
20. Definition: This mark ends a declarative sentence. (Answer: period)
21. Sentence: That's amazing___ (Answer: exclamation point)
22. Definition: Used in contractions to show omitted letters. (Answer: apostrophe)
23. Sentence: My favorite colors are red___ blue___ and green. (Answer: comma)
24. Sentence: We___ going to the park. (we are) (Answer: apostrophe)
25. Sentence: I won the lottery___ (Answer: exclamation point)
26. Sentence: I like apples___ bananas___ and oranges. (Answer: comma)



Punctuation Bingo

BINGO CALLER CARD

27. Sentence: Birds can fly___ (Answer: period)
28. Definition: Used in 'don't' for do not. (Answer: apostrophe)
29. Definition: Used before a quotation or example. (Answer: colon)
30. Sentence: Happy birthday___ (Answer: exclamation point)
31. Sentence: It___ raining outside. (Answer: apostrophe)
32. Sentence: Are you coming to the party___ (Answer: question mark)
33. Sentence: She ran quickly___ yet gracefully. (Answer: comma)
34. Sentence: Stop___ (Answer: exclamation point)
35. Definition: This mark shows strong emotion or emphasis. (Answer: exclamation point)
36. Sentence: The children___ toys are scattered. (Answer: apostrophe)
37. Sentence: That is John___ book. (Answer: apostrophe)
38. Definition: Indicates a full stop in writing. (Answer: period)
39. Sentence: Please close the door___ (Answer: period)
40. Sentence: Who won the game___ (Answer: question mark)
41. Definition: Used to separate clauses in a compound sentence. (Answer: comma)
42. Sentence: No___ I don't want any. (Answer: comma)
43. Definition: Indicates a pause or separation in a sentence. (Answer: comma)
44. Definition: Separates city and state in addresses. (Answer: comma)
45. Definition: Used at the end of an exclamatory sentence. (Answer: exclamation point)
46. Definition: Indicates excitement, surprise, or shouting. (Answer: exclamation point)
47. Definition: This mark shows possession in nouns. (Answer: apostrophe)
48. Definition: Used at the end of a statement or command. (Answer: period)
49. Definition: Placed after introductory phrases. (Answer: comma)
50. Sentence: Watch out___ (Answer: exclamation point)



PUNCTUATION

BINGO

period

.

question
mark

?

exclamation
mark

!

comma

,

quotation
marks

“ ”

apostrophe

'

semi
colon

;

Colon

:

PUNCTUATION

BINGO

period

apostrophe

question
mark

quotation
marks

.

!

;

:

,

?

“ “

‘

exclamation
mark

semi
colon

comma

Colon

PUNCTUATION

BINGO

exclamation mark	apostrophe	question mark	quotation marks
,	semi colon	comma	:
“ ”	?	.	‘
period	!	;	Colon

PUNCTUATION

BINGO

period

apostrophe

question
mark

quotation
marks

.

!

;

:

,

?

“ “

‘

exclamation
mark

semi
colon

comma

Colon

Journal Prompts

Read aloud a journal prompt. Set a timer. Free write (or brain dump) for 5 minutes. End with each person sharing what they wrote.

- Describe the sounds of your neighborhood during the day and at night.
- Recall a moment when you felt completely overjoyed. What caused that happiness, and how did you express it?
- "Deep in the forest, a glowing tree whispered secrets to anyone brave enough to touch its bark..." (finish the story)
- Create a list of everything you can think of that is soft or fluffy.
- What is your favorite song? Why? Which lyrics in the song do you like best?
- Design an advertisement for your dream vacation destination.
- What is your favorite breakfast food? Describe its taste, texture, and smell.
- Choose one talent you have, such as drawing a perfect circle or whistling a tune. Give step-by-step instructions on how to do it.
- If you could have an entire weekend with no responsibilities, how would you spend it and why?
- "I touched the map and was instantly transported there...." (finish the story)
- Describe the view from your favorite seat in your home. Include colors, shapes, and any movement you notice.
- Come up with at least 20 unusual uses for an empty glass jar. Get as imaginative as possible.
- Make a detailed list of everything you plan to do tomorrow, from waking up to going to bed.
- Write a story. The title is "The Wind Whispered to Me."
- Share your favorite season of the year. What traditions or feelings make it stand out?
- Write a story about the day your shadow decided to go on an adventure without you.
- Make a list of 10 things that instantly calm you down.
- Retell the fairy tale "Cinderella" from the point of view of one of the glass slippers.
- Modernize the fable, "The Lion and the Mouse."
- List as many words as you can think of that rhyme with man.
- Create your own pourquoi (or Origin Story) to explain why zebras have stripes.



Artist: Edward Hopper
Nighthawks
1942, American
Oil Painting



Week One

- 1). Print in color the painting: "Nighthawks."
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the art work from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the print. What is it? Where is it? What do they like about it?

Week Two

- 1). Print in color the painting: "The Automat."
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the art work from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the print. What is it? Where is it? What do they like about it?



Nighthawks



Artist: Edward Hopper
1882-1967, American
American Realism



Week Three

- 1). Learn about the artist, Edward Hopper.
- 2). Edward Hopper was an influential American realist painter and printmaker, born on July 22, 1882, in Nyack, New York.
- 3). He is known for his realistic depictions of modern American life, often exploring themes of solitude and isolation. He was a master of using dramatic lighting in his everyday scenes.
- 4). He continued painting until his death on May 15, 1967, in New York City.

Week Three

Create a modern, personalized painting inspired by Edward Hopper's works.

Brainstorm everyday activities that you like to do by yourself and/or activities people do alone such as shopping at the grocery, sitting at a coffee shop, etc. Pick one topic to draw. Using a black pen or dark colored pencil, draw the scene on a white drawing paper. Using a paintbrush or Q-Tips, add warm colors (yellows, oranges) for any light sources like lamps or windows glowing from inside that are in your drawing. Using only splashes of warm colors on your black and white drawing will emphasize Hopper's use of light in his paintings of everyday activities.



Money & Decimal Scavenger Hunt

Spend the day searching for and noticing money symbols (such as \$1.50) and decimal notations (such as .342). Look in the pantry on food packages. Search labels. Watch commercials. Look at sales and advertisements. As you are driving, look at signs or gas pumps when filling your car with gasoline. Look on cards such as baseball cards or watch sporting events. Search for all of the ways decimals are used. Keep a list of where you found money and/or decimal notations. Record examples of decimals you found.

Decimal Problem Solving

Read each problem and try to answer them.

Problem One: According to a grocery's digital scale, a bag of potatoes weighs more than 2.56 pounds but less than 2.57 pounds. How much do you think the potatoes weighs? (HINT: There are numbers between 2.56 and 2.57!)

Problem Two: Which would you rather have? .5 of \$100 or .5 of \$1.00. Why? (HINT: .5 is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$.)

Problem Three: Which is larger? .2, .02 and .002. Why? (HINT: Just because .002 has more digits, it doesn't mean it is the larger number.)

Problem Four: Calvin and Hobbes were walking home from school. Hobbes asked, "How was math class today?" Calvin said, "I think I learned $\frac{1}{10}$ of what I was suppose to." Did Calvin learn a lot in class? Based on his answer, do you think Calvin understands decimals?

Problem Five: Try to solve a "reverse addition" problem. Instead of adding numbers to find a sum, you will be given the total sum first. You need to find possible decimal numbers that add up to it. "Four decimal amounts add up to 12.5. What could they be?" (HINT: Convert 12.5 to money notation to help you solve the problem.)

Problem Six: Read "Smart" by Shel Silverstein. Why is it so funny?
Why did his dad get red in the face?



Greater Decimal Number Game

Materials Needed:

Pair of Dice

Copy of game board for each student

Directions:

The goal is to create the largest possible decimal number to the thousandths place (e.g., 0.987) using digits from four rolls of the die.

Players take turns rolling the single die. The player who rolls decides which of their three decimal places (tenths, hundredths, or thousandths) to place the digit or chooses to reject the roll.

Rules for placement and rejection:

- Digits must be placed immediately in one of the three decimal places once chosen (no changing later).
- Each player may reject only one roll during the entire four rolls. Mark the rejected digit in the "Reject" box and roll again on a future turn.
- After four total rolls (including any re-roll from a reject), all three places must be filled. If a player has not used their reject and still has an empty place after the fourth roll, they must place the final digit.

Once both players have filled all three decimal places (e.g., Player A: 0.962, Player B: 0.874), they compare numbers.

The player with the greater decimal wins the round and scores 1 point.

Play 10 rounds. The player with the most points at the end wins. ALTERNATE: Add up all ten decimal numbers created. The player with the largest sum wins.

Variations:

Make the game harder by adding more decimal places.

Make the game easier by adding less decimal places.



Greatest Number

REJECT

●	—	—	—		—
●	—	—	—		—
●	—	—	—		—
●	—	—	—		—
●	—	—	—		—
●	—	—	—		—
●	—	—	—		—

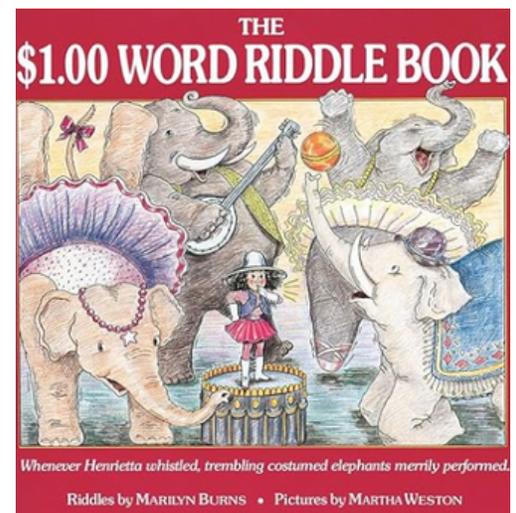
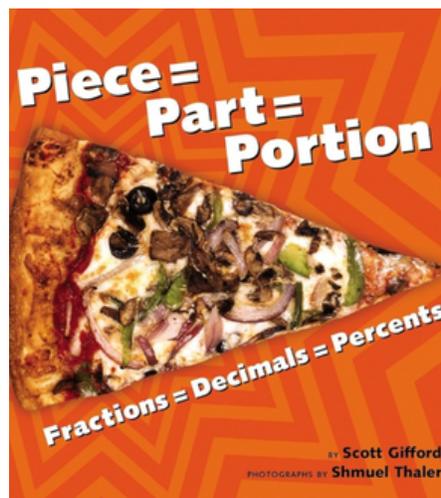
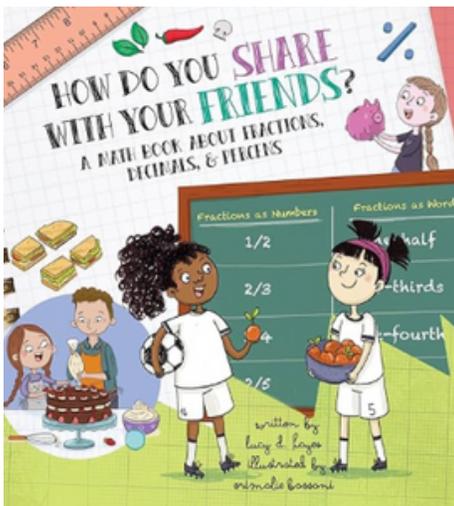
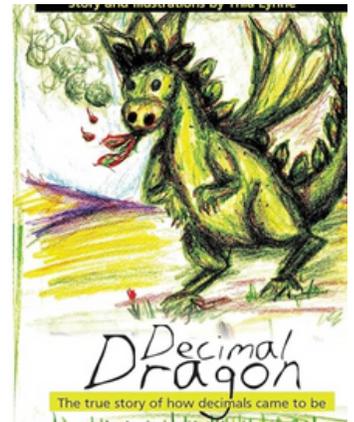
Math Picture Books

Gather these math picture books about decimals, fractions, percents, and money.

Click on the book to order from Amazon.

Here are a few great books to get you started:

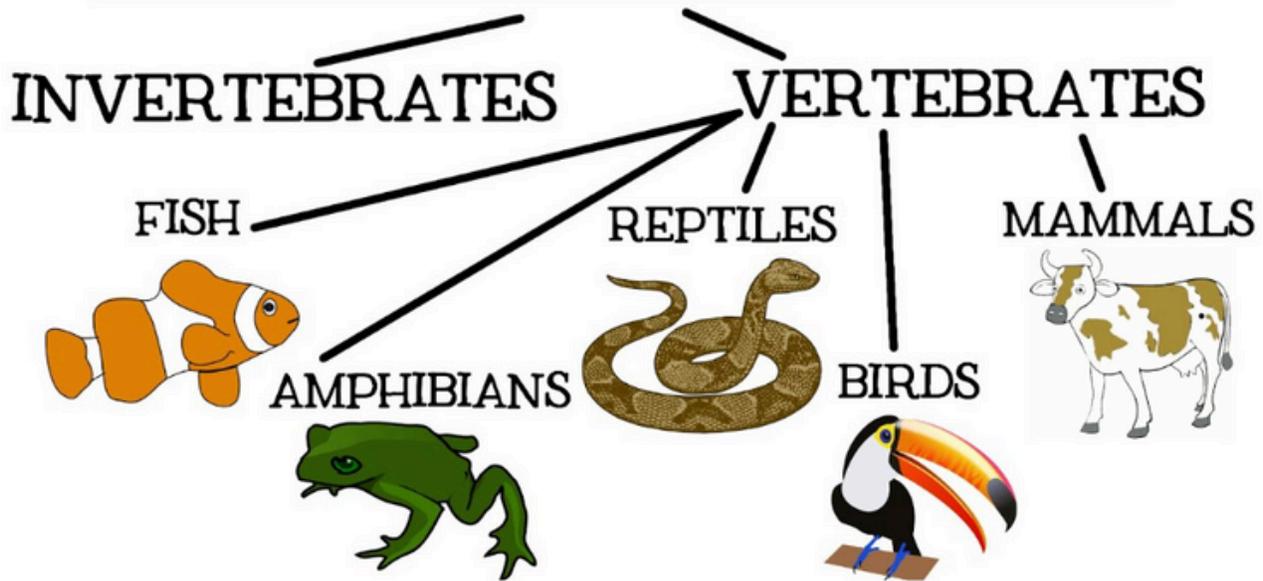
- Decimal Dragon
- How Do You Share With Your Friends?
- Piece = Part = Portion
- \$1.00 Word Riddle Book
- Do You Know Dewey?: Exploring the Dewey Decimal System



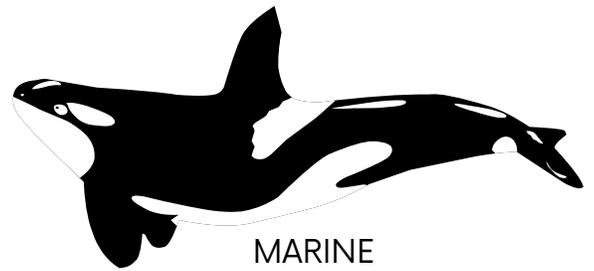
Week One

Vertebrate Classification

ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION



The phylum chordata (animals with backbones or vertebrates) is divided into five common classes: fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds.



MARINE
CARNAVOIRE



RODENT



LAGOMORPH



EVEN-TOED
UGULATE

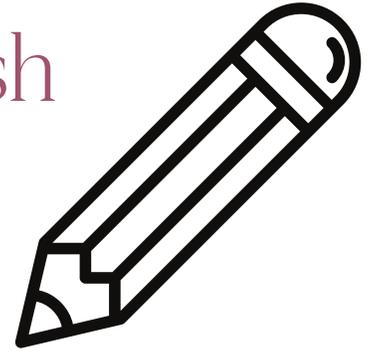
ODD-TOED
UGULATE



LAND
CARNAVOIRE



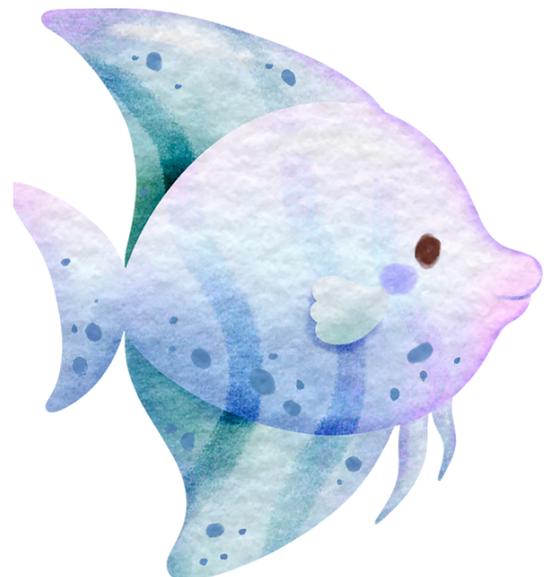
Week Two
Draw Any Bony Fish



Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a bony fish. Take your time and add details that are unique to that vertebrate. How do these adaptations help the animal survive in the wild.

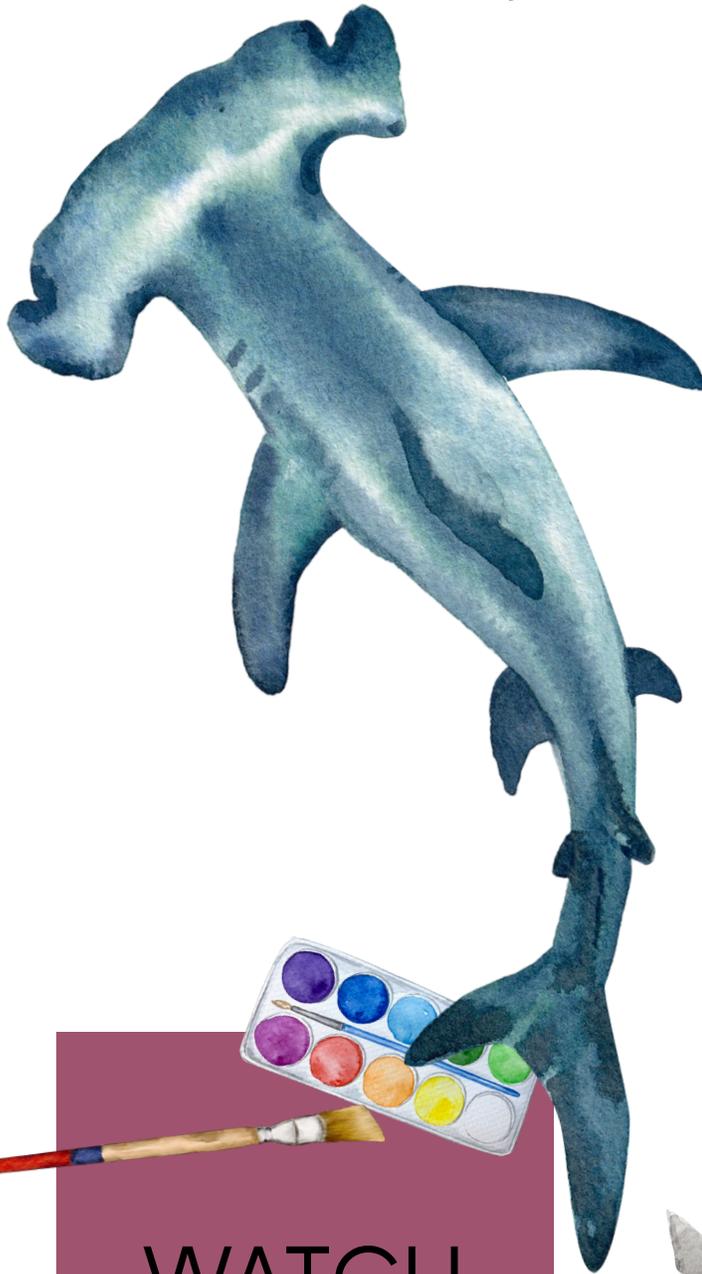
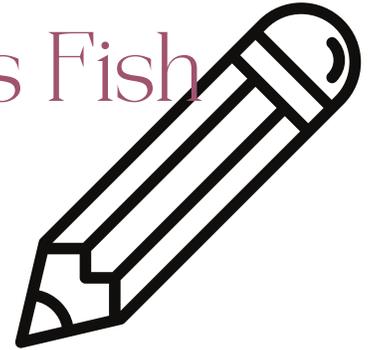
Step 2: Copy the common name and Latin name neatly onto the top of the page.

Step 3: Label the parts of the bony fish.



Week Three

Draw Any Cartilaginous Fish



Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a cartilaginous fish (shark, ray, skate, etc) . Take your time and add details that are unique to that vertebrate. How do these adaptations help the animal survive in the wild.

Step 2: Copy the common name and Latin name neatly onto the top of the page.

Step 3: Label the parts of the fish.

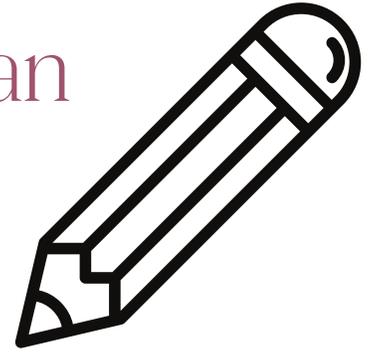


WATCH



Week Four

Draw Any Amphibian



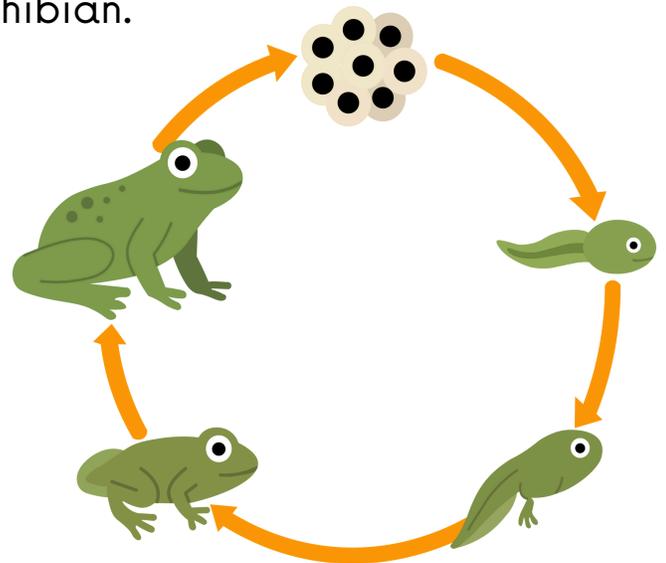
Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw any amphibian. Take your time and add details that are unique to that vertebrate. How do these adaptations help the animal survive in the wild.



Step 2: Copy the common name and Latin name neatly onto the top of the page.



Step 3: Label the parts of the amphibian.





Don't forget to check out other *Coffee With Carrie* RESOURCES



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Need help
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