

September - Summer

Morning

Time Plans

Cultivating Character



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Summer Morning Time Plans



Character Trait
Attentiveness

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Bible Study

Throughout the month, revisit and discuss the story of the Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Focus on the memory verse: Proverbs 4:20-22. Discuss how Mary gave all of her attention to Jesus. Using suggested verses, older students can do a word study on "attentiveness." Younger students can use suggested verses for copywork.

Character Study

Discuss the definition of attentiveness. Review the fruits of the spirit. Practice being attentive. Role play different situations.

Hymn Study

Listen and memorize the hymn, "A Closer Walk With Thee."

Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize the haiku "Making Coolness My Lodging" by Matsuo Bashō. Read other haikus.

Writing

Respond to the journal writing prompts and share. For this month's writing activity, play a lot of word and vocabulary games.

Art Study

Study "The Oarsman at Chatou" by Pierre- Auguste Renoir. Learn about the artist, Renoir.

Math Work

Learn about different mathematicians. Play your favorite math games explained in previous months.

Nature Study

Review the Animal Kingdom. Focus on Vertebrates: Mammals.

Read Aloud

Read aloud a chapter book about paying attention such as The Westing Game by Restin. Read picture books about paying attention such as What John Marco Saw by Barrows, This Morning Sam Went to Mars by Nancy Carlson, Listen, Listen by Phillis Gershator, All the World by Scanlon, Listen, Buddy by Helen Lester, Strega Nona by Tomie dePaola and Quiet Please, Owen McPhee! by Trudy Ludwig.



SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

Summer Attentiveness

Daily

Read portions of Luke 10:38-42. Memorize Proverbs 4:20-22.
Listen to "A Closer Walk with Thee" and learn it.
Read aloud from the chapter book, The Westing Game.
Read aloud one of the math or character trait picture books.
Respond to a journal writing prompt.

Week One

Discuss the definition of attentiveness and how the Bible character demonstrates this trait.
Do Week One of Art Study: "The Oarsman at Chatou"
Do Week One of Nature Study: Mammals (Egg-laying & Pouched).
Play word and vocabulary games such as Hangman and Words Within a Word.

Week Two

Review the definition of attentiveness and learn how different animals demonstrate this trait.
Do Week Two of Art Study: "The Skiff"
Do Week Two of Nature Study: Mammals (Marine)
Play word and vocabulary games such as Mad Libs, Word Searches, and Word Scramble.

Week Three

Learn and practice etiquette skills that show attentiveness.
Do Week Three of Art Study: Learn about Pierre- Auguste Renoir
Do Week Three of Nature Study: Mammals (Hoofed Animals)
Play word and vocabulary games such as Scrabble, Boggle, Wordle app, & Bannagrams.

Week Four

Do Hymn Study. Discuss the lyrics. Finish memorizing it.
Do Week Four of Art Study: Create Your Own
Do Week Four of Nature Study: Mammals (Rodents & Hares)
Play word and vocabulary games such as Scattergorries, Blurt, 5 Second Rule, and Taboo.

Week Five

Do Week Five of Art Study: Nature Study at the Beach
Do Week Five of Nature Study: Mammals (Canine, Feline, & Primates)
Play word, spelling and vocabulary games.



Memorize

My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words.
Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart for they are life to
those who find them and health to one's whole body.
Proverbs 4:20-22

Read Luke 10

(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

Attentiveness is giving your full attention to the person, task, or moment in front of you so you understand and respond well.

Practicing Attentiveness

Attentiveness is the character trait of paying close attention to what is happening around you, to other people, or to the task you are doing. It is paying attention to what is being said and done and taking time to notice details. The opposite of attentiveness is being distracted, absent-minded, or not listening.

Practice these daily or weekly attentive habits:

- Listening to a friend without fidgeting, checking your phone or interrupting.
- Following directions the first time because you were really paying attention.
- Noticing when someone looks sad even if they didn't say anything.
- Spotting a small mistake in your school work before giving it to your parent.
- Watching the road carefully while riding a bike so you stay safe.

Examples in Nature

In nature, animals are attentive. In the animal kingdom, this trait is also called vigilance, alertness, or focused monitoring. These behaviors help animals survive by spotting dangers early, finding food better, or avoiding threats—proving how paying attention is a key survival skill in the wild! Prairie dogs or ground squirrels scan while eating. These small rodents pause frequently to pop up and look around, checking for hawks, snakes, or coyotes. They often stand on hind legs for a better view. While grazing, deer and elk keep their ears swiveling and heads up often, listening for snaps or rustles and watching for movement. They freeze or flee at sudden threats. Owls hunting at night perch silently, turning their head almost 360 degrees to pinpoint rustling mice or voles by sound alone. Their attention to detail allows them to dive precisely at their target. Even horses and dogs pay close attention to a human's gaze, voice inflection, and pointing gestures to obey commands, showing they notice and trust reliable cues.



The Fox Who Paid Attention

In the heart of the Whispering Woods lived a young fox named Finn. Unlike his brothers and sisters, who chased butterflies and tumbled through meadows without a care, Finn was always watching. He noticed the way sunlight dappled leaves differently each morning, how the wind changed direction before a storm, and the tiny clues animals left behind—like a bent twig or a fresh paw print.

One crisp autumn day, the forest animals gathered anxiously. The Great Oak, the tallest tree in the woods, had begun to lean dangerously. Its roots were loosening from heavy rains, and soon it would fall, crushing the clearing where everyone gathered berries, nuts, and water. The squirrels chattered in panic, the rabbits huddled, and the deer stamped nervously. No one knew how to save the tree or where to find help.

Finn listened quietly as the elders debated. While others argued, Finn paid attention. He noticed something no one else had: a faint trail of damp earth leading from the oak's base toward the riverbank. He followed it silently. The trail ended at a hidden spring bubbling beneath a cluster of rocks. Water seeped steadily from the ground, weakening the soil around the oak's roots. Finn realized the spring had shifted after the rains, flooding the roots instead of nourishing the forest. If the spring could be redirected, the ground might firm up and hold the tree.

Finn trotted back to the clearing and spoke calmly. "Look at the ground near the oak," he said. "There's extra water coming from the north side. If we guide it away with a small channel, the roots will dry and strengthen."

Together they worked: beavers gnawed branches to form a gentle dam, rabbits dug a shallow trench, and deer carried stones to direct the flow. Finn watched every detail—ensuring the channel sloped just right, checking that no animal was in danger, noticing when the earth began to firm. By sunset, the spring's water ran clear into the river instead of pooling under the oak. The tree straightened slowly as the soil settled. The forest sighed in relief.

From that day on, the animals remembered Finn not as the loudest or strongest, but as the one who paid attention. Because he noticed the small signs others missed, he found the hidden spring that saved the Great Oak and helped everyone keep their home safe.

Moral: Paying attention to the little details can uncover what is needed most and allow you to help others in ways no one else sees.



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 ATTENTIVENESS

Look someone in the eye (gently, not staring) when they are speaking to you. Keep your body facing the speaker (don't turn away or fidget).

Put down your book, phone, tablet, or game controller and stop what you are doing before turning toward the person talking.

Nod your head slightly while listening to show you're following along.

Repeat back or summarize what someone just said in your own words ("So you're saying..."). Ask a follow-up question about what the person just shared.

Don't interrupt or finish other people's sentences. Listen without planning your reply while the other person is still speaking.

Pay attention to instructions the first time they're given. Then do what is asked of you immediately. Do not procrastinate.

Write down important details (homework, directions, things to do) instead of relying on memory alone.

Watch where you're walking or riding so you notice people, cars, or obstacles. Look both ways carefully and keep scanning when crossing the street.

Notice when someone needs help (carrying something heavy, looking lost) and offer assistance.

Read all the signs, labels, or directions before starting an activity or game.

Stay focused on one task at a time instead of switching back and forth.



"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
Galatians 5:22

Word Study for Teens

Jesus, the prophets, and biblical leaders emphasize the importance of meditating on God's Word, staying focused on what is truly important, and not getting distracted by things of this world.

Joshua 1:8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Psalms 1:2-3 "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Colossians 3:2 "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth."

Isaiah 26:3 "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

Proverbs 4:25 "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you."

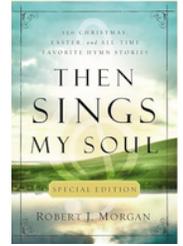
Luke 10:41-42 "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."



Closer Walk With Thee

Lord, I am pleading; hear Thou my prayer.
Let me Thy blessed fellowship share.
From day to day Thy servant I'd be.
Grant me a closer walk with Thee.



Refrain

Oh, for a closer walk with Thee!
Near to Thy side I ever would be. Shield me and hide me;
Constantly guide me
Into a closer walk with Thee.

Voices of earth unnumbered I hear;
Cares and perplexing problems are near.
Trusting in Thee, my soul shall be free.
Grant me a closer walk with Thee.

Refrain

Strong are the foes that conquer I must.
Long is the way, but in Thee I trust.
In my own strength but weakness I see.
Grant me a closer walk with Thee.

Refrain

Glorious Master, king of my soul,
On Thee my burdens gladly I roll.
Thou art my portion eternally.
Grant me a closer walk with Thee.

Refrain



WATCH



LISTEN



Haikus

Coolness by Basho

Making coolness my lodging
for a while,
I rest.



Original in Japanese

Suzushisa o
waga yado ni shite
nemaru nari

A classic haiku is a traditional Japanese poem that does not rhyme. The most famous examples come from the great masters—Matsuo Bashō, Yosa Buson, and Kobayashi Issa—and typically focus on nature with vivid, simple imagery.



They have three lines:

1st Line 5 syllables

2nd Line 7 syllables

3rd Line 5 syllables



During the summer, instead of memorizing famous haikus, read famous ones and create some of your own.



Haikus

Haikus are 3-Line non rhyming poems about nature. Compose and illustrate original haiku poems about summer, the ocean, the beach, and/or summer storms.

Haiku Outline

3 Line Poem

5 syllables

7 syllables

5 syllables

“The Old Pond”

by Basho

Furuike ya

kawazu tobikomu

mizu no oto

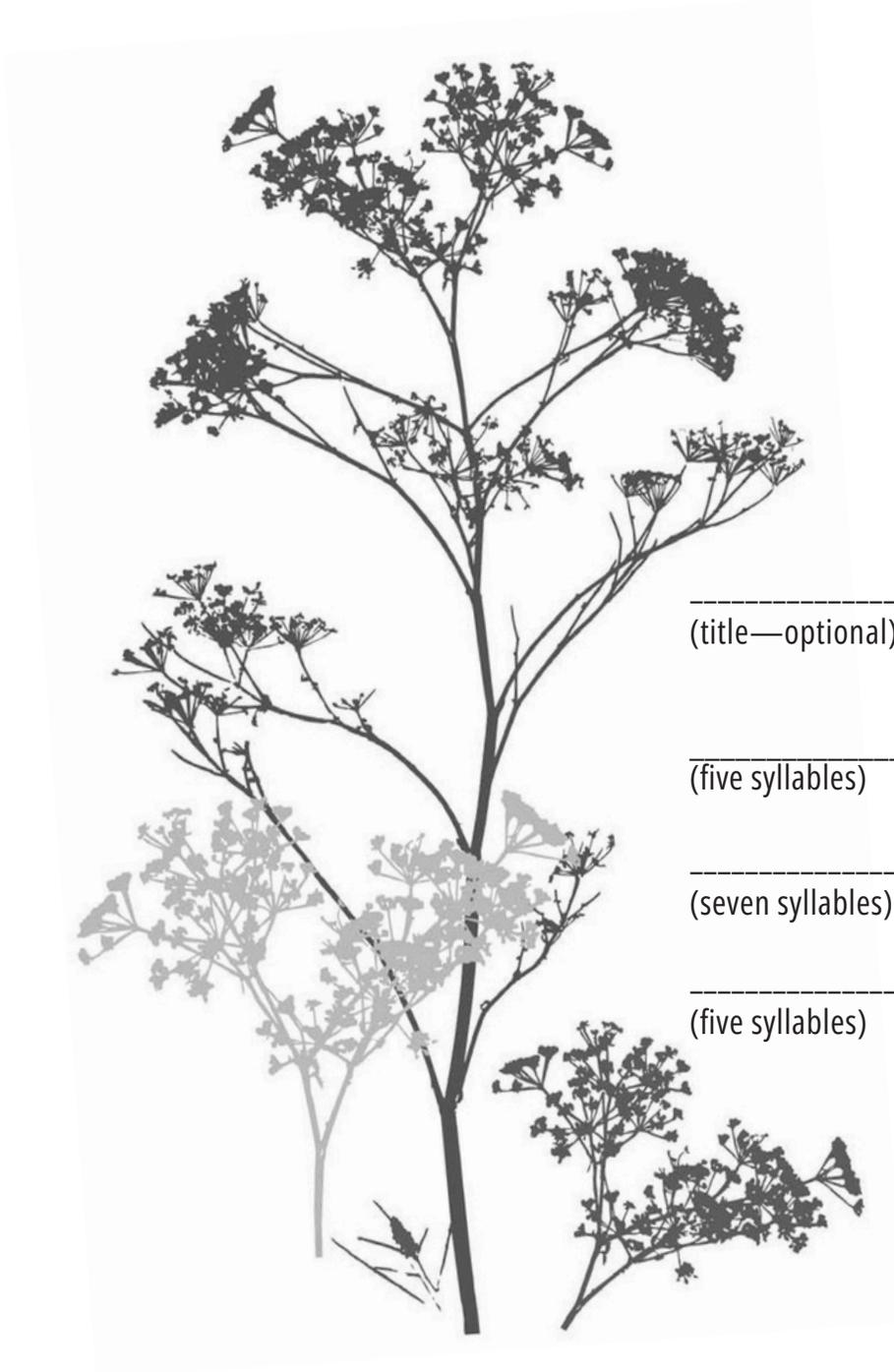
“The Old Pond”

Translation

An old silent pond...
A frog jumps into the pond,
A Splash! Silence again. Splash!
Silence again.



HAIKU



(title—optional)

(five syllables)

(seven syllables)

(five syllables)

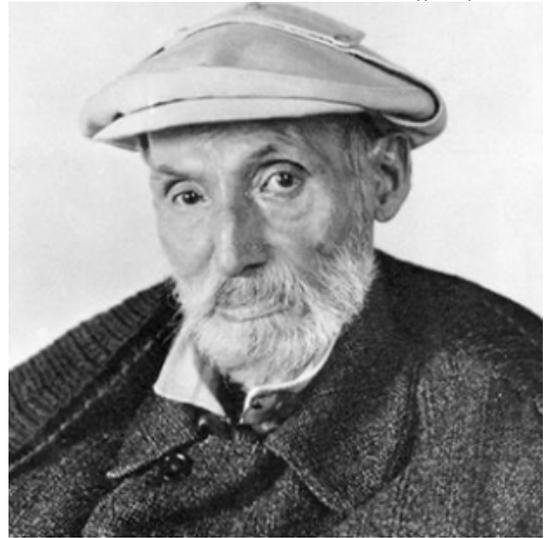
Journal Prompts

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

- List at least 10 words that rhyme with the word "sand."
- List onomatopoeia words that you might hear at the beach, such as "Swoosh!"
- Write about your perfect summer day from morning to night. What do you do, eat, and see?
- Describe a time you visited a beach, lake, pool, or river in the summer. What sounds and smells do you remember?
- Write a story that begins with: "The first day of summer didn't go the way I expected..."
- Imagine you find a mysterious object buried in the sand at the beach. What happens next?
- Write about your favorite summer treat (ice cream, popsicles, lemonade). Make the reader crave it!
- Describe a summer storm as if it were a character with feelings.
- Write a story that starts with: "As the sun set on the longest day of the year, I realized something was missing."
- Imagine spending a summer day at your favorite place to visit. What makes it special to you?
- Give clear directions explaining how to set up a summer picnic or build a sand castle.
- Write a story that begins with: "The heat was unbearable, but we had no idea what was about to happen."
- Describe what summer looks like through the eyes of an animal (a dog, bird, or insect).
- Write about a family tradition that only happens in the summer.
- Write a letter to a friend describing a place you visited during the summer.
- Imagine you are in charge of planning the ultimate summer trip. What would it include?
- Write about something you love to see in the summer sky (fireworks, stars, clouds, sunsets).



Artist: Pierre-Auguste Renoir
Oarsmen at Chatou
1979, French
Oil Painting



Week One

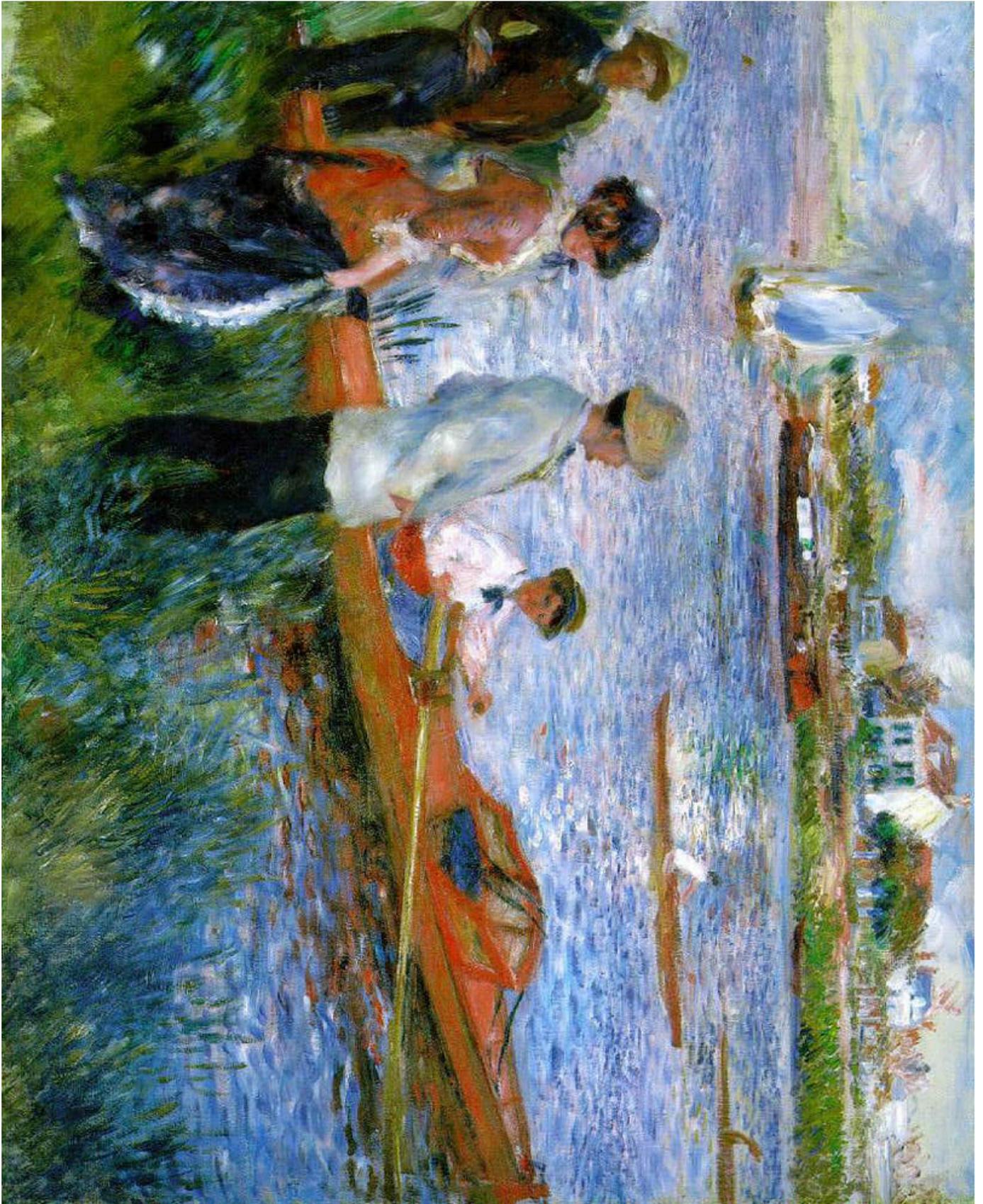
- 1). Print in color the painting: "Oarsmen at Chatou"
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the art work from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and 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 Skiff"
- 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?



The Oarsmen at Chaïou



Artist: Pierre-Auguste Renoir
1841- 1919
Impressionism



Week Three

- 1). Learn about the artist, Pierre-Auguste Renoir. Read the picture book, Meet Pierre-Auguste Renoir (Meet the Artist Series).
- 2). Pierre-Auguste Renoir was a leading French Impressionist painter known for his vibrant, light-filled depictions of social life, beautiful figures (especially women), and lush landscapes.
- 3). Born into a working-class family, his early talent decorating porcelain led to art studies in Paris, where he met fellow Impressionists, Claude Monet.

Week Four

Create a impressionist beach scene painting inspired by Renoir.

Watercolor a sunset beach scene. Draw a light horizontal line across the middle of the paper. This is the horizon line where the sky meets the ocean.

Just above the horizon line, draw or paint a half circle for the sun, as if it is sinking into the water. Using watercolors, paint a few gentle, wavy horizontal lines below the horizon to show the ocean. Below the ocean, draw a slightly curved horizontal line to separate the water from the sand. Dab sponges into brown paint and use it to paint the sand. This will show texture.

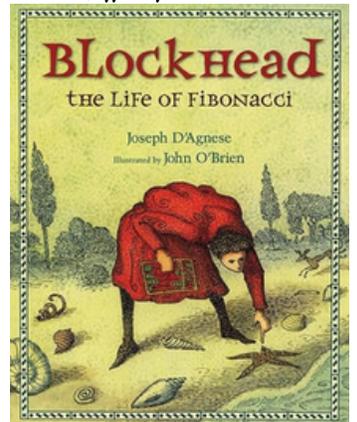
On a separate sheet of paper, draw a simple white sail boat. Cut it out and paste in the ocean of your watercolor painting so it looks like the boat is floating on the water.



Math Picture Books

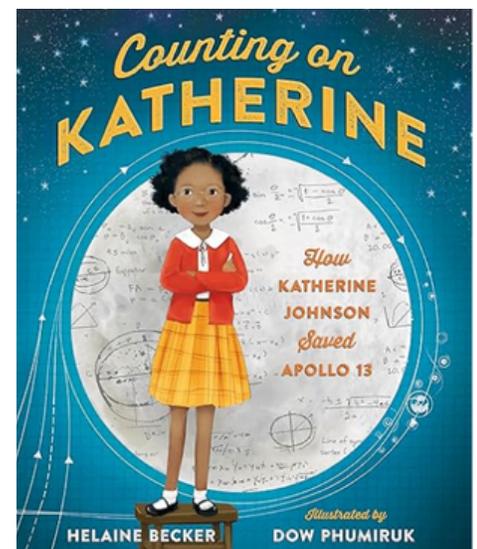
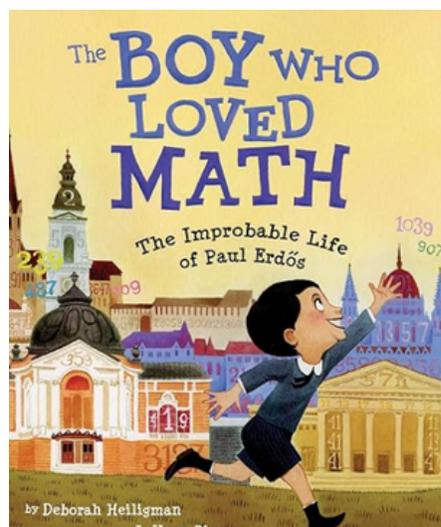
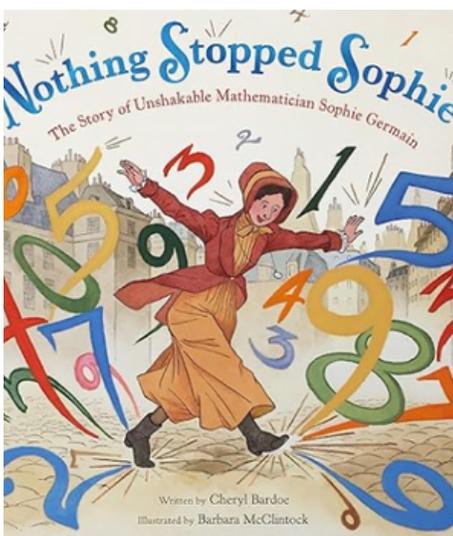
Gather these math biography picture books about mathematicians.

Click on the book to order from Amazon.



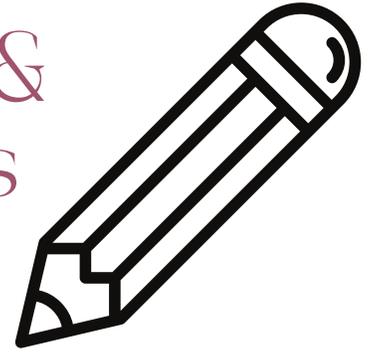
Here are a few great books to get you started:

- Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain by Bardoe.
- The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos by Heilingman
- Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13 by Becker
- Blockhead: The Life of Fibonacci by D'Agnesi
- The Librarian Who Measured the Earth by Lasky
- What's Your Angle, Pythagoras? (Charlesbridge Math Adventures) by Ellis
- Mathematicians Are People, Too: Stories from the Lives of Great Mathematicians by Reimer



Week One

Draw Monotremes &
Pouched Mammals



Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a platypus and/or a marsupial. 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 mammal.

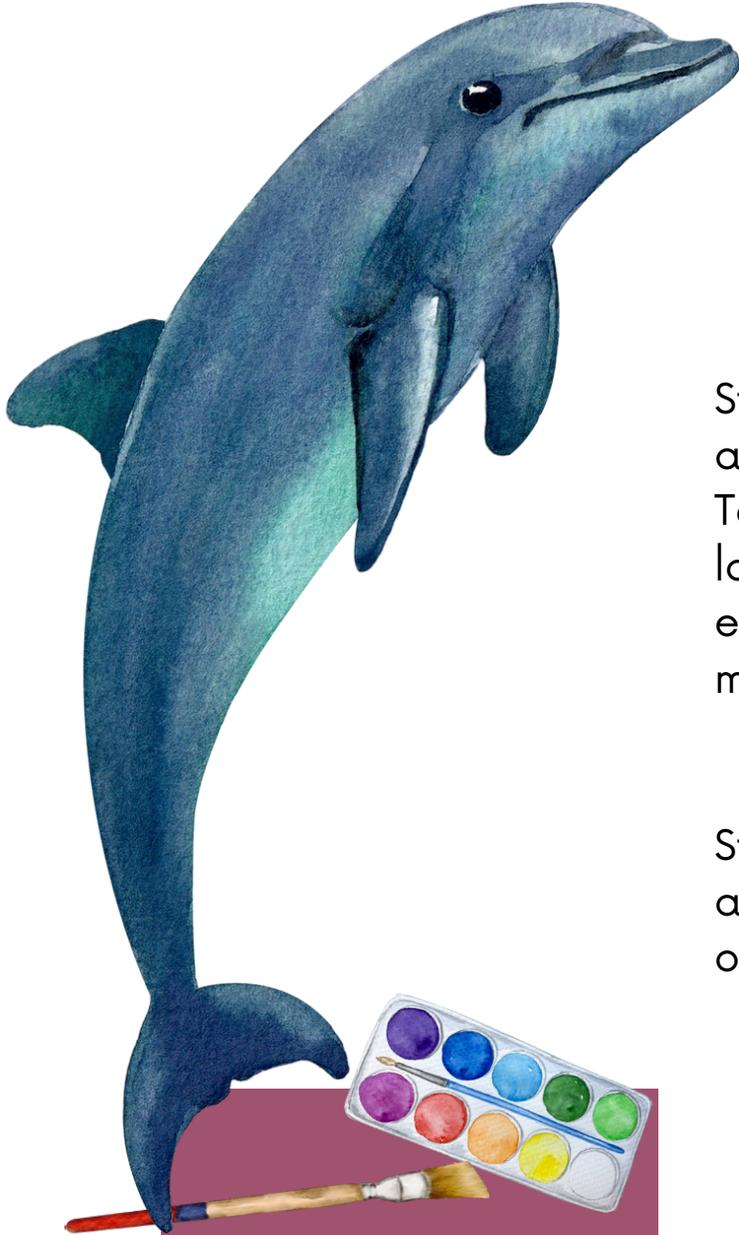


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Week Two

Draw A Marine Mammal



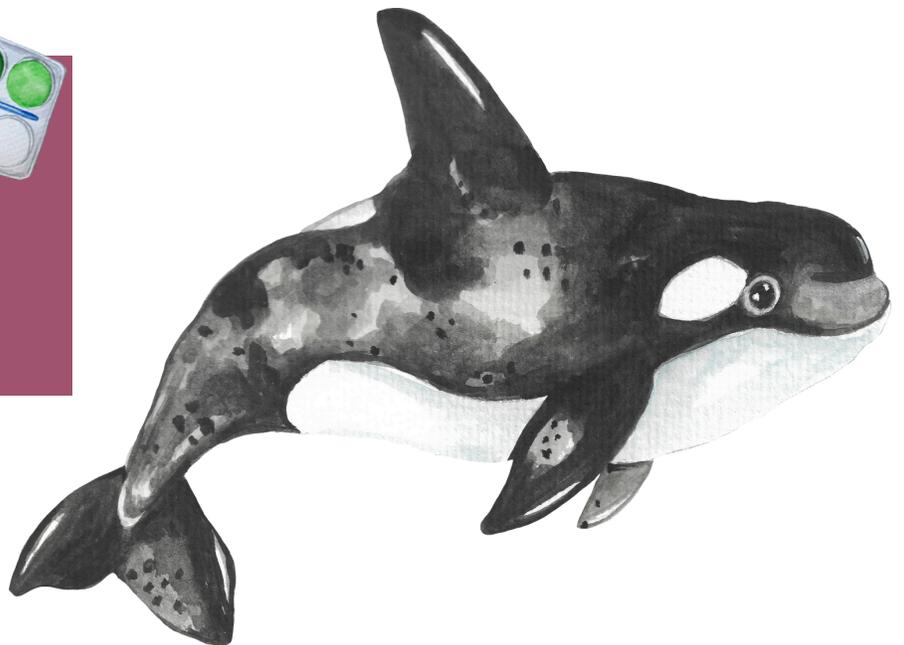
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Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a picture of any marine mammal. Take your time and see that you look carefully at where the fins and eyes are placed? How does the marine mammal use these?

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

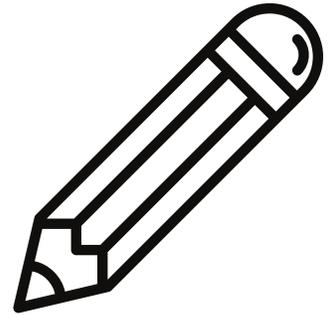


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Week Three

Draw Any Hoofed Animal

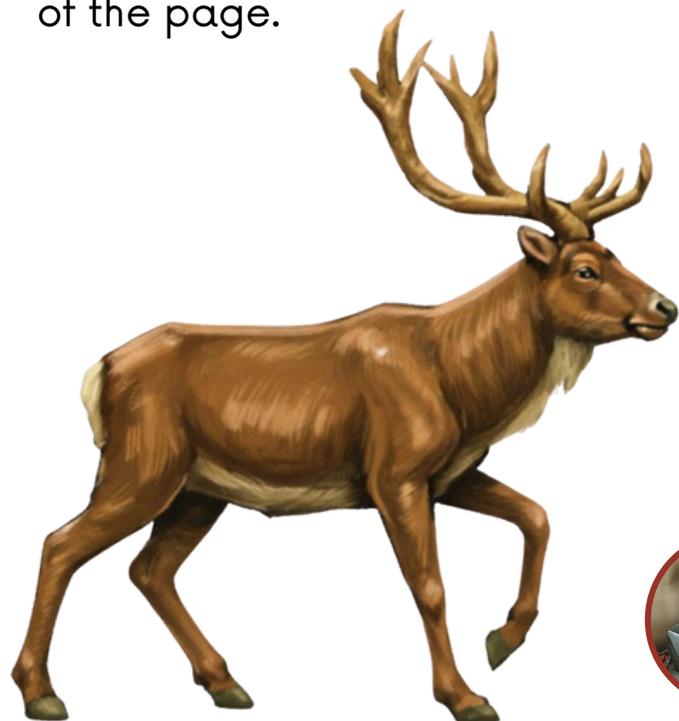


Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a picture of any hoofed animal (horse, zebra, cow, sheep, elk, hippo, etc). Take your time and see that you look carefully at where the ears, eyes and legs are positioned. How do these adaptations help them survive in the wild.

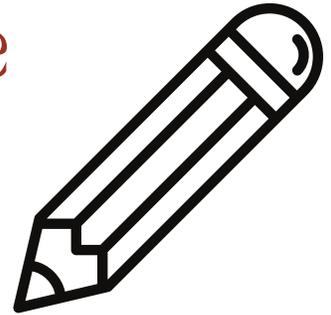
Step 2: Copy the common name and Latin name neatly onto the top of the page.



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Week Four
Draw Any Rodent or Hare



Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a picture of any rodent (mouse, chipmunk, squirrel, beaver, capybara, etc) and/or a rabbit. Take your time and see that you look carefully at where the ears, eyes and legs are positioned. How do these adaptations help them survive in the wild?

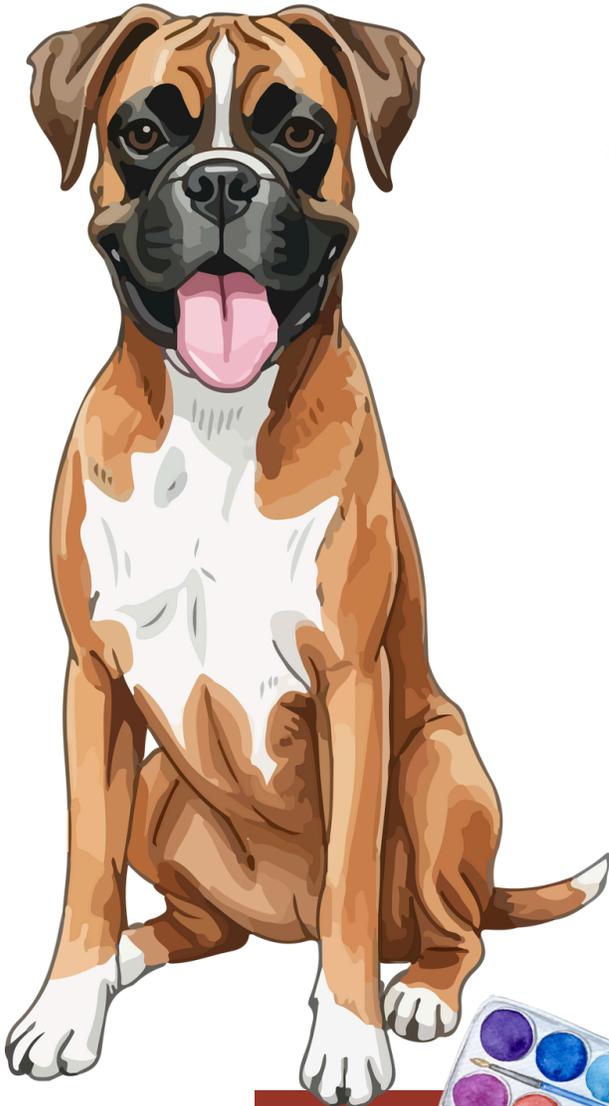
Step 2: Copy the common name and Latin name neatly onto the top of the page.



WATCH

Week Five

Draw A Canine, Feline & Primate



Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a picture of any canine (dog or wolf), feline (large or small cats), and/or primates (apes, monkeys, or humans) . Take your time and see that you look carefully at where the ears, eyes and legs are positioned. How do these adaptations help them survive in the wild?

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





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