

September - Summer
Morning

Time Plans

Cultivating Character



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Simple Homeschooling 

A NOTE TO THE PARENT

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

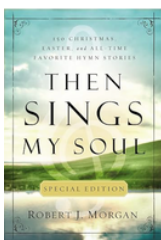
Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will focus on building godly character, developing good habits, and learning social manners. For each character trait, a Bible story and a Bible verse is given that demonstrates the monthly theme. In addition, 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](#).

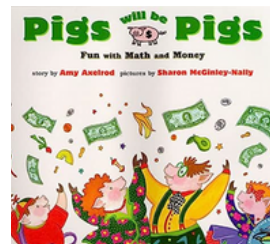
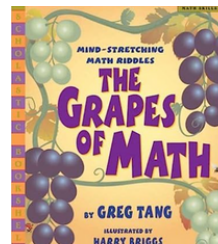
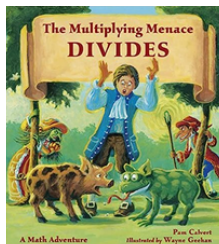
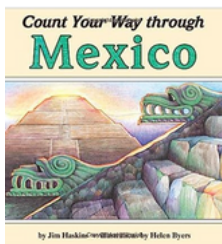
Poetry

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.



November Morning Time Plans



Character Trait
Gratitude

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Bible Study

Throughout the month, read and discuss the story of the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Focus on the memory verse: Proverbs 17:15-16. Discuss how the one leper demonstrated thankfulness and gratitude. Using suggested verses, older students can do a word study on "gratitude." Younger students can use suggested verses for copywork.

Character Study

Discuss the definition of Gratitude and its corresponding Fruit of the Spirit and attribute of God: Faithfulness. Practice being grateful. Role play different situations.

Hymn Study

Listen and memorize the hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness." Learn more about the composer, Chisholm and Runyan.

Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "A Thanksgiving Prayer" by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Writing

Respond to the journal writing prompts and share. For this month's writing activity, use the "You Say / I Say" chant to teach the four types of sentences.

Art Study

Study the series "Four Freedoms," with an emphasis on "Freedom from Want" by Norman Rockwell. Learn about the illustrator, Norman Rockwell.

Math Work

Learn and play Fraction Battle & Fraction Concentration. Read math picture about fractions. Have fun with cooking and fractions.

Nature Study

Review classification and the five main kingdoms. Focus on the Plant Kingdom.

Read Aloud

Read aloud a chapter book about being grateful and having a content heart such as The Prince & the Pauper by Mark Twain or The Little Princess by Burnett. Read picture books about gratitude such as The Blessings Jar by Colleen Coble, Thanksgiving in the Woods by Phyllis Alsdurf, Thankful by Eileen Spinelli and Otter B Thankful by Pamela Kennedy.



SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

November
Gratitude

Daily

Read portions of Luke 17: 11- 19 Memorize Luke 17: 15-16.
Memorize a portion of the poem, "A Thanksgiving Prayer" by Stevenson. (shorter version)
Listen to "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and learn it.
Read aloud from the chapter book, Prince & the Pauper (or Little Princess).
Read aloud one of the math or character trait picture books.
Respond to a journal writing prompt.

Week One

Discuss the definition of Gratitude and how the Bible character demonstrates this trait.
Do Week One of Art Study: "Freedom From Want" by Rockwell.
Do Week One of Nature Study: Plants & Coniferous Trees
Play Fraction Battle (Easy Version)
Introduce and do the writing activity: Sentence I Say/ You Say Chant

Week Two

Review the definition of gratitude & faithfulness and learn how different animals demonstrate this trait.
Do Week Two of Art Study: Learn about Norman Rockwell
Do Week Two of Nature Study: Plants & Deciduous Trees
Play Fraction Battle (Quick Version)

Week Three

Learn and practice etiquette skills that show gratitude.
Do Week Three of Nature Study: Plants, Vegetables & Fruits
Play Fraction Concentration (equal fractions)

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 Nature Study: Plants & Flowers
Play Fraction Concentration (Decimal & Percent Equivalents)



— Carrie —
DE FRANCISCO

Memorize

Then one of the lepers when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks"
- Luke 17: 15-16

Read Luke 17

Jesus said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks will come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him to have a millstone hung around his neck and to be thrown into the sea than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. Watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. Even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times returns to say, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord answered, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. Which of you whose servant comes in from plowing or shepherding in the field will say to him, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? Instead, won't he tell him, 'Prepare my meal and dress yourself to serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you may eat and drink'? Does he thank the servant because he did what he was told? So you also, when you have done everything commanded of you, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

While Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee. As He entered one of the villages, He was met by ten lepers. They stood at a distance and raised their voices, shouting, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

When Jesus saw them, He said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they were on their way, they were cleansed. When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice. He fell facedown at Jesus' feet in thanksgiving to Him—and he was a Samaritan.

"Were not all ten cleansed?" Jesus asked. "Where then are the other nine? Was no one found except this foreigner to return and give glory to God?"

Then Jesus said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well!"

Trait

Gratitude is recognizing and appreciating those people, things, moments, skills, or gifts that bring joy, peace, or comfort into our lives. Expressing gratitude is a form of worship and acknowledgment of God's provision in our lives.

Practicing Gratitude

Creating a habit of gratitude boosts mental well-being, strengthens relationships, and helps you notice the everyday moments in life. Acknowledge the positive role others play in your life and recognize and affirm the positive gifts you receive (both spiritually, physically and emotionally).

Practice these daily or weekly gratitude habits:

- Notice things people do for you or positive things they say about you.
- Pick one interaction each day to express genuine thanks.
- Keep a gratitude journal. Write down specific things you're thankful for, whether big or small.
- Spend time each day thanking God for His gifts, provisions and/or faithfulness.

Examples in Nature

Gratitude and faithfulness can be seen in the animal kingdom in a variety of ways. Dolphins demonstrate loyalty by staying with injured pod members, sometimes lifting them to the surface to breathe. Elephants, penguins and crows demonstrate similar qualities too. Read the following passage which is based off of a true story about crows. Brainstorm all of the ways the crow and the young girl showed gratitude.



The Crow's Gifts

In a cozy backyard, Lila, a curious girl, loved feeding the animals. Every morning, she scattered breadcrumbs for the birds, especially a clever crow named Caw. His shiny black feathers gleamed as he swooped down, gobbling the crumbs. "Thank you, Lila!" Caw seemed to say with a tilt of his head. Lila giggled, watching him hop happily.

One day, Caw landed with something sparkly in his beak—a tiny silver button. He dropped it near Lila's feet and cawed loudly. "For me?" Lila asked, eyes wide. She picked up the button, its edges glinting in the sun. "Oh, Caw, it's beautiful!"

The next morning, Lila left extra crumbs. Caw returned with a smooth pebble, round and cool. "Another gift!" Lila clapped. "You're so kind, Caw!" She tucked the pebble in her pocket, dreaming of their friendship.

Each day, Caw brought something new: a shiny bead, a twisty twig, even a crusty bread scrap. Lila made a special box for her treasures, calling it her "Crow Collection." She told her mom, "Caw gives me gifts because I feed him. It's like he's saying thank you!"

One chilly afternoon, Lila noticed Caw looking thin. She ran inside, grabbed a handful of nuts, and scattered them in the yard. "Eat up, Caw!" she called. The crow pecked gratefully, his eyes bright. The next day, Caw dropped a tiny blue feather at Lila's feet. She gasped, holding it up. "Caw, this is amazing! You're such a great friend!" Caw flapped his wings, cawing softly, happy to share with Lila.

Lila learned that a grateful heart grows like a garden. Her crumbs brought Caw joy, and his gifts filled her heart. Not only was she grateful for her feathered friend, but it was thankful for her too. Every morning, she'd wait by the window, ready for her friend's next treasure, knowing their bond was the shiniest gift of all.



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 GRATITUDE

Always say thank you even for small actions such as opening a door or letting you go first.

Write thank you notes for gifts you have received. Every birthday or holiday, write a thank you card to acknowledge a gift you have been given. If someone makes a special dinner or dessert for you when you are sick, make sure you extend a formal thank you as well.

Acknowledge someone's kindness with a thank you note. After a party, thank the hostess. If someone does a favor for you, tell him or her thank you. If your waiter was helpful, write a friendly review online or leave a generous tip.

Never arrive at someone's home empty handed. If you are invited to a dinner, party, BBQ or something similar, bring the hostess a thank you gift. It can be as simple as fresh flowers from the garden to a homemade dish to share with the company.

Volunteer. One of the best ways to show gratitude for the blessings in your life is to share those blessings with others. Volunteer at church, a food bank, or sporting event. Give of your time as a way to show your appreciation.

Keep your promises. Honor your commitments. When you promise to help, act, or be present for someone, follow through. Keeping your word shows your parent, sibling, friend, or teacher that you value them. Your actions and reliability demonstrate your gratitude in a meaningful way.



Faithfulness

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

Word Study for Teens

The Lord is always faithful. He faithfully provides all we need. Expressing gratitude is a form of worship and acknowledgment of God's provision in our lives.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Psalms 100:4 (ESV)

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"

Colossians 3:17 (NLT)

"And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father."

Psalms 107:1 (NKJV)

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endures for ever."

Philippians 4:6 (ESV)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

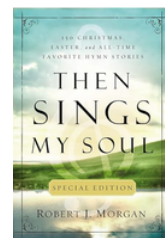
Ephesians 5:20 (NASB)

"Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father."

Psalms 95:2 (ESV) - "Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!"



Great is Thy Faithfulness



Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

REFRAIN

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!



WATCH

REFRAIN

Lyrics by Thomas Chisholm
Music by William Runyan



LISTEN



A Thanksgiving Prayer

Robert Louis Stevenson



Lord, behold our family here assembled.
We thank thee for this place in which we dwell,
for the love that unites us,
for the peace accorded us this day,
for the health, the work, the food,
for the bright skies that make our lives delight,
and for our friends in all parts of the earth.

Give us courage, gaiety, and the quiet mind.
Spare to us our friends,
soften to us our enemies.
Bless us, if it may be,
in all our innocent endeavours.
If it may not, give us the strength
to encounter that which is to come.

May we be brave in peril,
constant in tribulation,
temperate in wrath,
and in all changes of fortune,
loyal and loving to one another.



Four Types of Sentences

Use the Sentence "You Say / I Say Chant" to teach the four types of sentences. Stand at attention like soldiers. The teacher "barks" out the first order then the student(s) shout back the response. For more fun, watch the Four Types of Sentences YouTube video.



TEACHER When I say, "Declarative," You say, "Period."

TEACHER "Declarative"

STUDENT "Period"

TEACHER "Declarative"

STUDENT "Period"



TEACHER When I say, "Interrogative," You say, "What?"

TEACHER "Interrogative"

STUDENT "What?"

TEACHER "Interrogative"

STUDENT "What?"



TEACHER When I say, "Imperative," You say, "Yes Sir!"

TEACHER "Imperative"

STUDENT "Yes Sir!"

TEACHER "Imperative"

STUDENT "Yes Sir!"



TEACHER When I say, "Exclamatory," You say, "Yay!"

TEACHER "Exclamatory"

STUDENT "Yay!"

TEACHER "Exclamatory"

STUDENT "Yay!"



LISTEN



WATCH



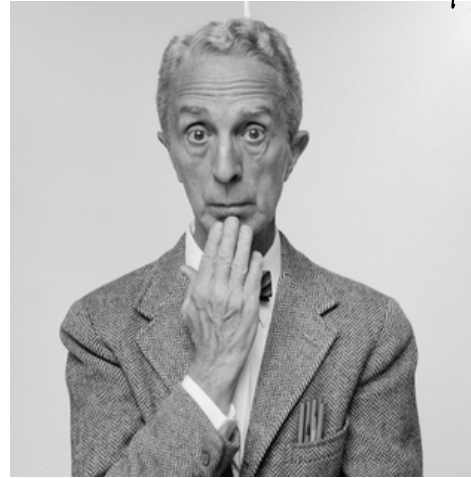
Journal Prompts

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

- Write all of the words that rhyme with "jar."
- List at least 20 things that make you happy.
- Write a thank you note.
- Write a story that begins with "Once upon a time..." with you as the main character.
- Tell about a time you got in trouble. What did you do? What lessons did you learn?
- Write a list of synonyms for "good."
- Describe your favorite Thanksgiving or holiday tradition.
- Explain step-by-step a chore you do at home.
- Write a prayer for someone you know who needs help, healing or encouragement.
- What is your favorite school subject? Why do you like it?
- What is your least favorite school subject? Try to persuade your parent that this subject is not needed.
- Write a movie review about a movie you have recently seen.
- Write at least 20 uses of a broken door handle. Be creative.
- Pretend you are a tree in the middle of a storm. What kind of tree are you? Describe what you are experiencing or feeling.
- Make a list of 10 things you don't like. Then thank God for each of them and why you are thankful for them.
- Make up a new word. Write its definition. Use it in a sentence.
- What does the idiom "I had butterflies in my stomach" mean? Describe a time you were nervous.
- Write a story about a day you literally had butterflies in your stomach.
- Plan Thanksgiving Dinner. What will be served? How will you decorate? Create a guest list.
- What is your favorite color. Think of at least 20 things that are your favorite color.
- Do you have a special hobby or interest? Describe it.
- Write a nonsense poem using your made up word. Make sure poem rhymes.



Artist: Norman Rockwell
"Freedom from Want"
1943, United States
Oil Painting, Magazine Art



Week One

- 1). Print in color the painting "Freedom From Want."
- 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). View the other three paintings in "The Four Freedoms" series.
- 2). What were the themes painted in the other three "freedoms"? Why do you think Rockwell chose to illustrate them this way? What other freedoms do you enjoy or think are important?
- 3) Learn about the artist and illustrator, Norman Rockwell, and his inspiration for the series.
- 4). Rockwell was born in New York City on February 3, 1894. Providing art for a number of magazines, as well as book covers, advertisements, movie posters, and calendars, Rockwell's style set the standard for commercial illustrators.



The Freedom from Want



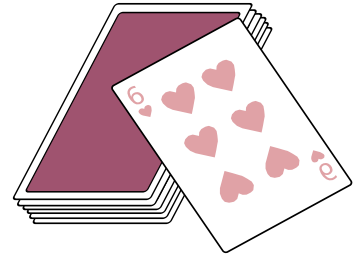
Norman
Rockwell

Fraction Battle

Use mental math to compare fractions.

MATERIALS:

- Deck of cards
- Fraction Battle Game Board



INSTRUCTIONS:

Set Up:

- Remove all of the face cards. The Ace is equal to one.
- Deal the entire deck evenly between two players, face-down.
- Players keep the cards in a stack and do not look at them.

Gameplay:

1. Both players flip the top two cards of their stack and create a fraction. The smaller number must be the numerator.
2. Players compare the two fractions. The player with the higher fraction wins all four cards and places them at the bottom of their stack.
3. The game ends when one player collects all the cards or time is up. The player with the most cards wins.

War:

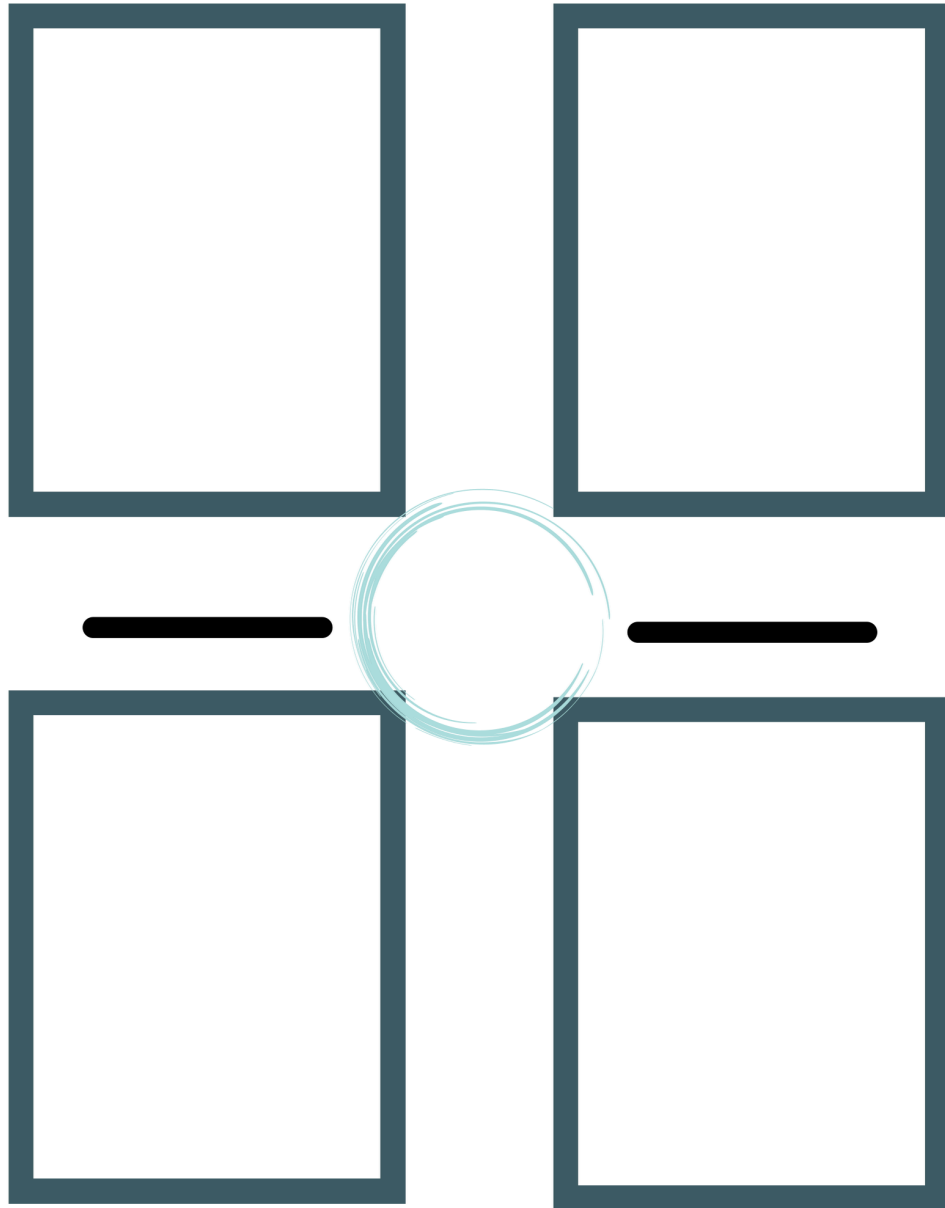
- If the two fractions are equal, a "war" begins.
- Each player places three cards face-down, then flips over two more cards and creates a new fraction.
- The player with the new greater fraction wins all the cards on the table (including the face-down ones).

MENTAL MATH TRICK: You can compare most fractions without finding a LCD or by creating equal fractions. Look at each fraction. Ask yourself the following question: Is the fraction closer to zero, closer to $\frac{1}{2}$ or closer to a whole? For example, Player A created $\frac{2}{3}$ and Player B created $\frac{1}{4}$. Two-thirds is closer to one whole. Two pieces out of three are present. One-fourth is closer to zero. Out of four pieces, only 1 piece is present.

BONUS TRICK: Is the fraction less than a half or more than a half? For example, Player A created $\frac{3}{4}$ and Player B created $\frac{2}{6}$. Three-fourths is greater than $\frac{1}{2}$. Two is half of four, therefore $\frac{3}{4}$ is greater than $\frac{1}{2}$. Two-sixths is less than $\frac{1}{2}$. Three is half of six therefore $\frac{2}{6}$ is less than $\frac{1}{2}$.



Fraction Battle

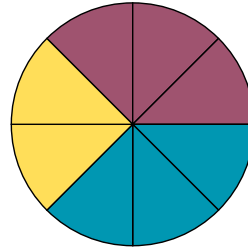


Fraction Concentration

Play this game to memorize common fraction and decimal equivalents.

MATERIALS:

- Equal Fraction Matching Cards
- Decimal Fraction Equivalent Cards



$$\frac{2}{4}$$

INSTRUCTIONS: EQUAL FRACTION CONCENTRATION

Set Up:

- Cut out the Fraction Equivalent matching cards.
- Deal the entire deck face down between the two players.

Gameplay:

1. Players take turns. Player A turns over two random cards. If the two fractions are equal, Player A keeps the cards and takes another turn. If the two fractions are not equal, Player A turns them face down and loses his turn.
2. Player B turns over two random cards. If the two fractions are equal, he/she keeps the cards and takes another turn. If the two fractions are not equal, Player B turns the two cards face down and loses his turn.
3. The game ends when all of the cards have been collected. The player with the most cards wins.

INSTRUCTIONS: FRACTION DECIMAL EQUIVALENT CONCENTRATION

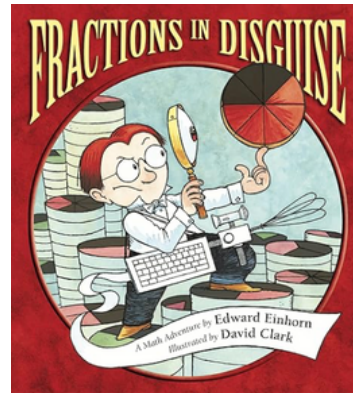
Set Up:

- Cut out the Fraction Decimal Equivalent matching cards.
- Deal the entire deck face down between the two players.

Gameplay is the same except a matching pair is comprised of a decimal and fraction equivalent. For example, $\frac{1}{2} = .50$, $\frac{3}{4} = .75$, $\frac{2}{5} = 0.40$, etc.



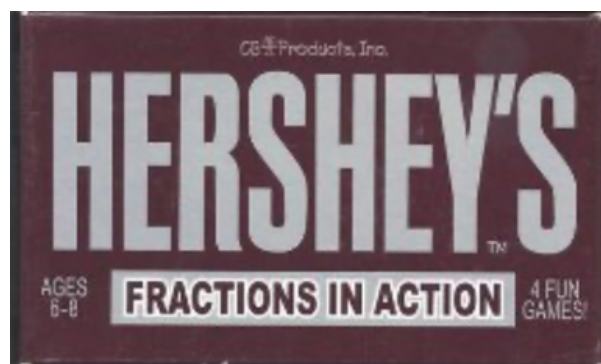
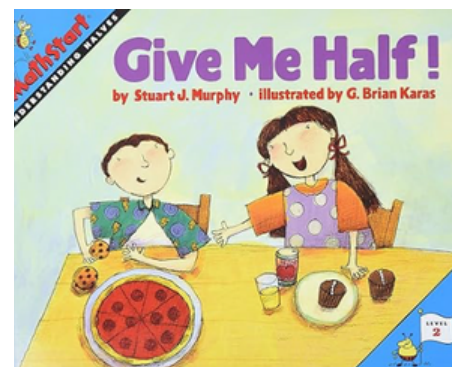
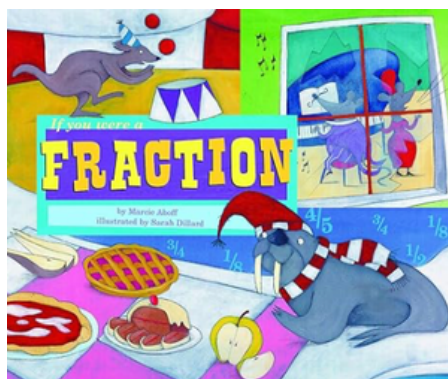
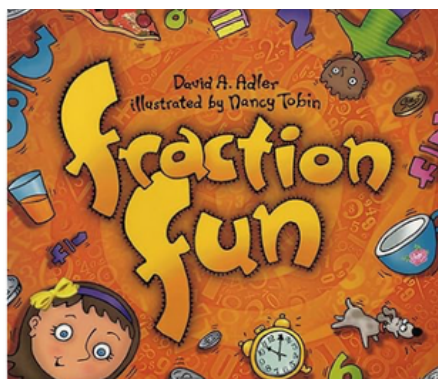
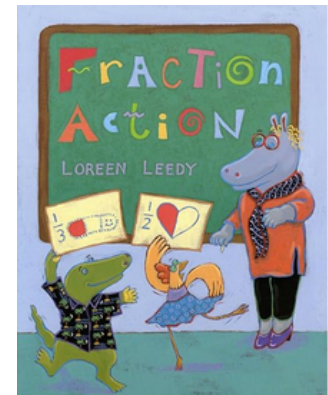
Math Picture Books



Gather these fraction picture books from your library or order them on Amazon. Your child will build their fractional number sense through these fun stories and exciting illustrations. **Click on the book to order from Amazon.**

Here are a few great books to get you started:

- Fractions in Disguise
- Fraction Action
- Fraction Fun
- If You were a Fraction
- Give Me Half!
- Hersheys: Fractions in Action



Nature Journaling

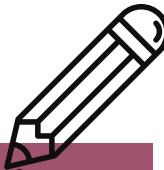
WEEK ONE: Observe and
Draw Coniferous Trees



Neatly on the top of the page,
copy the common name and Latin
name of each tree you drew.



Draw Pinecone
Tutorial

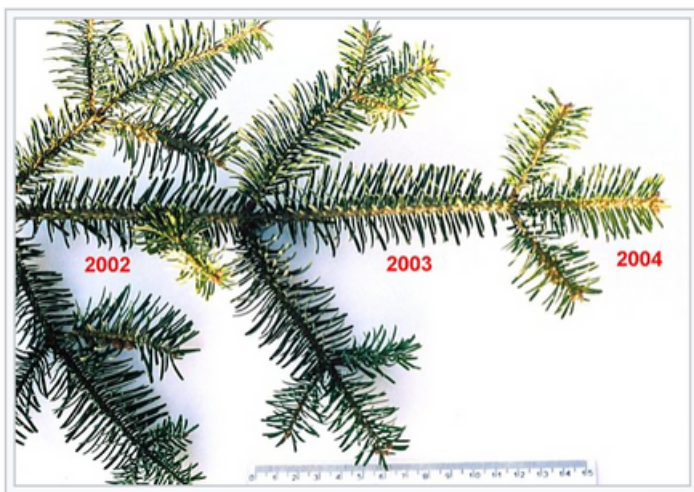


Watercolor Pine trees
Tutorial

Sempervirens: Evergreen Family)

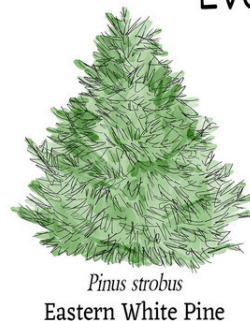


Observe different evergreen trees. Compare their tree shapes, cones, leaf shapes, leaf arrangements, bark, & the animals that live on them.



Evergreen trees stay green during the winter. Coniferous trees have narrow hard leaves called scales or needles. Deciduous trees shed their leaves each fall.

6 types of Evergreen Trees



Nature Journaling

WEEK TWO: Observe and
Draw Dediciduous Trees



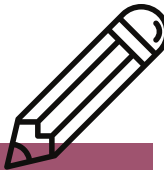
Neatly on the top of the page, copy the common name and Latin name of each tree you drew.



—Carrie—
DE FRANCISCO



Draw Fall Trees
Tutorial

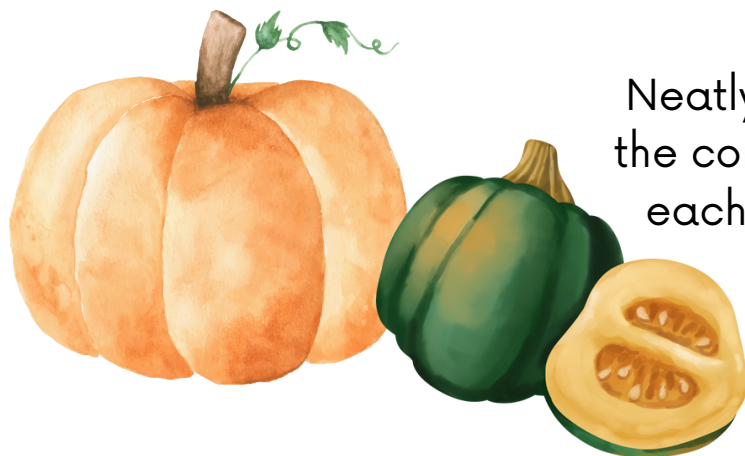
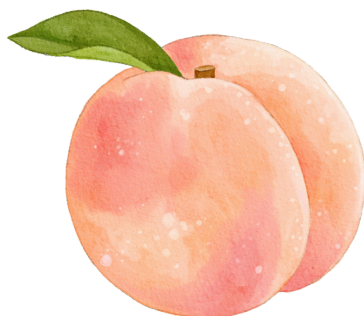


Watercolor Leaves
Tutorial

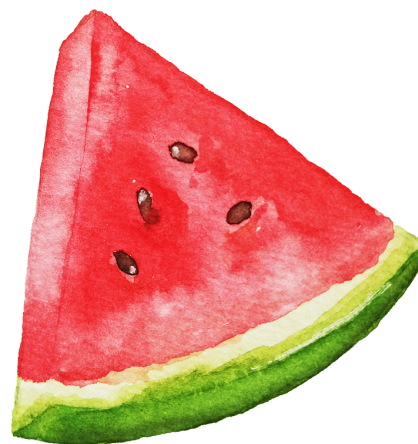


Nature Journaling

WEEK THREE: Observe and
Draw Fruits & Vegetables



Neatly on the top of the page, copy
the common name and Latin name of
each fruit or vegetable you drew.

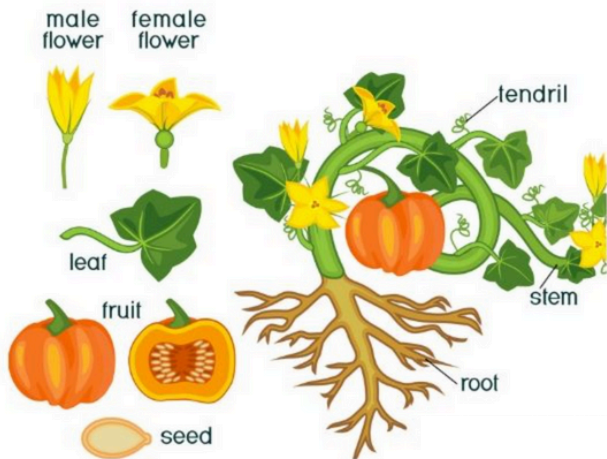


Draw Apples
Tutorial



Watercolor Citrus
Tutorial

Cucurbitaceae: Gourd Family)



ORIGINS

Most of the cucurbits are native to the Americas. They were among the first plants to be domesticated in the New World.

Squash is one of the three sisters (corn, beans, and squash) in the Native American cropping system.



CLASSIFYING CUCURBITS

FAMILY

Cucurbitaceae

There are about 800 species in this family.



GENUS

Cucurbita

In Latin, this means "gourd."



There are 14 species in this genus.

SPECIES

Scientists have grouped cucurbits into different species based on differences in the structure of the flowers and other plant parts. Three species commonly grown in gardens are:

Cucurbita maxima

hubbard squash

big max pumpkin



Cucurbita moshata

butternut squash

buttercup squash

Cucurbita pepo

spaghetti squash

gourd

zucchini

yellow crookneck

acorn squash

gourd

zucchini

yellow crookneck

acorn squash

gourd

zucchini

yellow crookneck

acorn squash

CUCURBIT PLANTS

Summer squash, such as zucchini and yellow squash, grows like a bush. Winter squash and pumpkins have long running vines.



Cucurbit plants have large leaves.

On a single plant, male and female flowers look like large, yellow, flaring funnels.

The female flower has a swelling, which becomes the fruit.



Nature Journaling

WEEK FOUR: Observe and Draw Flowers



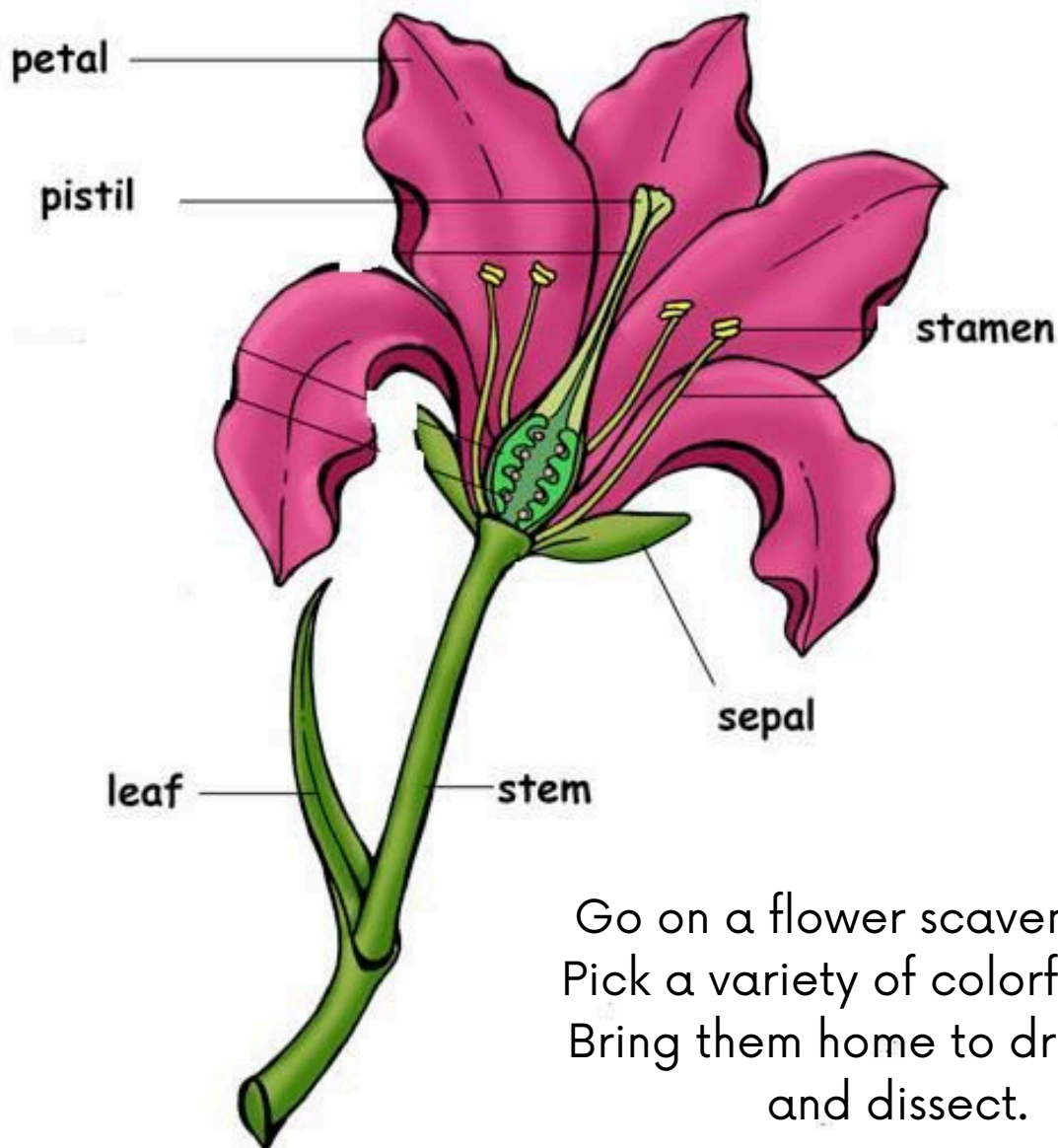
Watercolor Rosebud Tutorial

Neatly on the top of the page, copy the common name and Latin name of each flower you drew.



Nature Journaling: Flowers

The Parts of the Flower



Go on a flower scavenger hunt.
Pick a variety of colorful flowers.
Bring them home to draw, press,
and dissect.

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





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MARCH: Asia and India

APRIL: Asia and Middle East

MAY: Australia, New Zealand & Oceania

SUMMER: Africa & Antarctica



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