

September - Summer

Morning

Time Plans

Cultivating Character



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Simple Homeschooling 

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

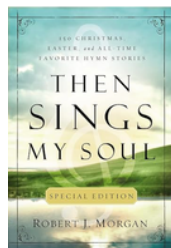
Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will focus on building godly character, developing good habits, and learning social manners. For each character trait, a Bible story and a Bible verse is given that demonstrates the monthly theme. In addition,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

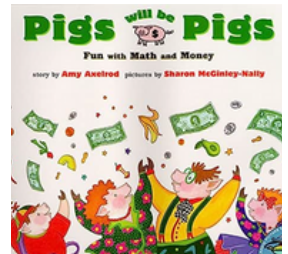
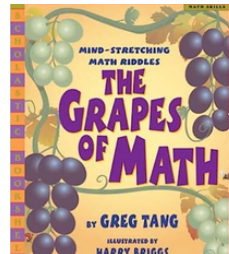
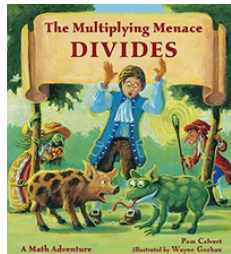
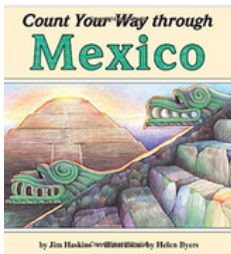
Poetry

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.



January Morning Time Plans



Character Trait
Perseverance

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Bible Study

Throughout the month, read and discuss the story of Noah and the building of the Ark (Genesis 6: 9-22). Focus on the memory verse: Galatians 6:9. Discuss how Noah diligently worked on the ark and preserved even while being mocked. Using suggested verses, older students can do a word study on "perseverance" & "diligence." Younger students can use suggested verses for copywork.

Character Study

Discuss the definition of Perseverance and its corresponding Fruit of the Spirit and attribute of God: Patience. Practice being diligent. Role play different situations.

Hymn Study

Listen and memorize the hymn, "Blessed Assurance." Learn more about the writer, Fanny Crosby.

Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "Try Again" by William Edward Hickson.

Writing

Respond to the journal writing prompts and share. For this month's writing activity, create SIM word walls for overused words.

Art Study

Study the "Composition with Red, Blue & Yellow" and other works by Piet Mondrian. Learn about the artist, Mondrian.

Math Work

Play Cows & Bulls. Read math picture books about problem solving. Decipher number & color codes and play other strategy games.

Nature Study

Review the five main kingdoms and introduce the Animal Kingdom. Focus on Invertebrates: Worms & Cnidarians

Read Aloud

Read aloud a chapter book about being diligent and being patient such as Five Children & It by Nesbit. Read picture books about perseverance such as The Most Magnificent Thing by Spires, The Little Engine That Could, Rosie Revere, Engineer by Beaty, Whistle for Willie by Jack Ezra Keats, The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss, The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle and The Paper Boy by Dave Pilkey.



Daily

Read portions of Genesis 6: 9-22. Memorize Galatians 6:9.
Memorize a portion of the poem, "Try Again" by Hickson.
Listen to "Blessed Assurance" and learn it.
Read aloud from the chapter book, *The Five Children & It* by Nesbit.
Read aloud one of the math or character trait picture books.
Respond to a journal writing prompt.

Week One

Discuss the definition of diligence and how the Bible character demonstrates this trait.
Do Week One of Art Study: Composition with Red, Blue & Yellow."
Do Week One of Nature Study: Animal Kingdom (Invertebrates)
Read Grapes of Math by Greg Tang. Do the riddles on each page.
Do the writing activity: Said Is Dead.

Week Two

Review the definition of diligence and perseverance and learn how different animals demonstrate this trait.
Do Week Two of Art Study: "Broadway Boogie- Woogie."
Do Week Two of Nature Study: Worms (Invertebrates)
Read Math for All Seasons by Tang. Do the riddles on each page.
Do the writing activity: Million Dollar Verbs.

Week Three

Learn and practice etiquette skills that show perseverance.
Do Week Three of Art Study: Create own "Composition C."
Do Week Three of Nature Study: Cnidarians (Sea Anemones).
Play "Cows & Bulls" and "Mastermind."
Do the writing activity: Million Dollar Adjectives.

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: Learn about Piet Mondrian.
Do Week Four of Nature Study: Cnidarians (Jellyfish).
Play any strategy games such as Chess, Clue, Codenames, and/or Go.



Memorize

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"- Galatians 6:9

Read Genesis 6

These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them."

Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Trait

Perseverance is steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty, delay, or failure. It is continuing to do work in spite of obstacles. Diligence is an attribute of Perseverance. Diligence is careful and persistent work or effort. It is a steady, earnest, and energetic application in completing tasks.

Practicing Perseverance

Perseverance is the skill that helps children and teens work through challenges so they can meet their goals. In other words, perseverance is sticking with it! Diligently working on a goal or project requires a person to consistently work on it till it is completed. For instance, a child trying to improve his running time might sprint every day for 10 minutes.

Practice these daily or weekly perseverance habits:

- Set daily, weekly, monthly and/or yearly goals. Break down the goal into manageable steps. Track your progress and little wins.
- Encourage breaks when frustration begins. Accept failures. Mistakes will happen.
- Approach a problem or task in a different way. If the math problem is hard, try it another way.
- Stick to a task, an activity, a class, or team responsibility even when it is hard or challenging. Don't quit mid year, mid season, or mid activity. Stick to it. If it is not enjoyable, then don't do it next time.

Examples in Nature

The animal kingdom is full of creatures who work diligently and persevere even in challenging circumstances. Emperor Penguins stand in -40°C Antarctic blizzards for 2 months without eating, balancing the egg on their feet to keep it warm until the chick hatches. A spider may rebuild its web daily if destroyed by wind or prey. It spins thousands of silk threads with precision, even after repeated failure. Salmon fight powerful river currents and travel hundreds of miles to return to their birthplace to spawn.



Bob & Friends

In the sun-dappled heart of Harmony Hollow, a diligent young worker bee named Bob set out with his best friends Polly, Nell, and Betty to build a brand-new beehive high in the ancient oak. Their queen had tasked them with finishing before the first frost, crafting perfect hexagonal cells strong, snug, and sweet.

Each dawn, the team zipped out like golden arrows. Bob visited 100 flowers per trip, sipping nectar with focus, while Polly danced the waggle to guide them to clover patches, Nell carried pollen in orange pom-poms on her legs, and Betty chewed and shaped the wax they produced from their bellies. Together, they made 40 trips a day, visiting 4,000 flowers.

Three weeks in, a fierce summer storm hammered the half-built hive, washing away two entire combs into the mud. The colony buzzed in despair, wings drooping at the thought of failing before frost. Yet Bob rallied them with quiet resolve. They doubled their shifts, visiting 5,000 flowers daily. Bob taught baby bees to secrete wax faster, Polly mapped midnight moon-flower routes, and Nell used spider silk to haul supplies up the oak. For six more weeks, legs aching and wings weary, they pressed on without pause.

On the final golden morning, exactly 60 days after starting, the hive stood complete with 10,000 perfect cells, brimming honey stores, and a nursery ready for spring. Having visited over 240,000 flowers in total, the four friends watched Queen Golden arrive to praise their diligence and perseverance. That night, under a honey moon, Betty, Polly, Nell, and Bob joined the colony in a joyful festival, their steady wings and brave hearts having built not just a hive, but lasting hope for Harmony Hollow.



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 PATIENCE & PERSEVERANCE

Wait your Turn. When playing a game or sharing food, let your opponent go first or let your friend select his or her food first. When waiting in line, avoid cutting in or pushing ahead. Patiently wait for your moment, whether at a checkout line or during a discussion.

Don't interrupt. Give full attention when someone speaks, without interrupting or rushing to respond. Nod, maintain eye contact, and wait for them to finish before replying, showing you value their thoughts.

If an adult or someone is in the middle of a conversation or action, wait patiently for him or her to finish before giving your request or sharing your thoughts.

Hold doors open for others. Hold a door open for someone behind you, even if it means pausing briefly. This small act of kindness prioritizes their convenience and shows patience.

Respond calmly. When faced with delays, mistakes, or rudeness, respond with kindness instead of frustration.

Offer Help. If someone is struggling with heavy bags or a task, offer assistance without rushing them. Patiently support their pace, like helping an elderly person cross the street.

Respect Time. Arrive punctually for appointments or events, but if others are late, avoid showing impatience. Offer a warm greeting instead, making them feel at ease.



Joy

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

Galatians 5:22

Word Study for Teens

Another word for self-control is self-discipline. Self-discipline is the ability to control one's impulses, emotions, and behaviors in pursuit of long-term goals, even when faced with distractions, discomfort, or temptation. Self-discipline is the foundational mechanism that enables diligence. Perseverance ensures a person will complete what he set out to do.

James 1:12 (ESV) "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life."

Romans 5:3-4 (NLT) "We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character."

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJ) "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"

Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT) "I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race."

James 1:2-3 (NIV) "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

2 Timothy 4:7(NIV) "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

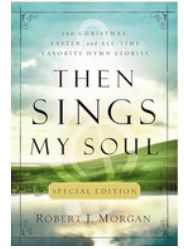
Colossians 1:11 (NLT) "Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father."

Isaiah 40:31 (ESV) "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength... they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."



Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.



This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.



Composed by Fanny Cosby



Try Again

By William Edward Hickson

'Tis a lesson you should heed,
Try, try again;
If at first you don't succeed,
Try, try again;
Then your courage should appear,
For if you will persevere,
You will conquer, never fear;
Try, try again.

Once or twice though you should fail,
Try, try again;
If you would at last prevail,
Try, try again;
If we strive, 'tis no disgrace
Though we do not win the race;
What should you do in the case?
Try, try again.

If you find your task is hard,
Try, try again;
Time will bring you your reward,
Try, try again;
All that other folks can do,
With patience, should not you?
Then your courage should appear;
Try, try again.



MILLION DOLLAR WORDS



There are a few words that are overused. When writing, try not to use them. Instead, replace them with "Million Dollar Words."

Boring & Overused Adjectives

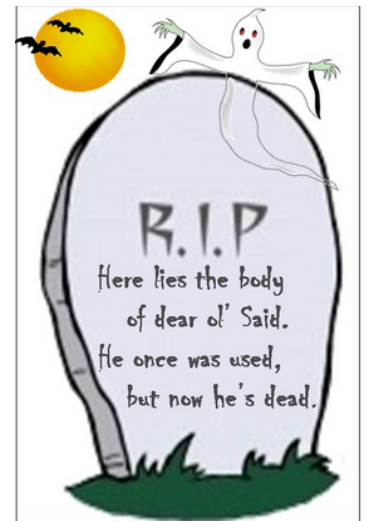
Here is a list of boring adjectives that are overused when writing. Try not to use them. Instead, use "Million Dollar" Adjectives, which are more descriptive.

GOOD / BAD**PRETTY / UGLY****NICE / MEAN****INTERESTING / A LOT**

On a large poster board, write the word "Good" on the front and the word "Bad" on the back. Brainstorm "Million Dollar Words" you can use instead for the word "Good." Write the synonyms for "good" on the front of the poster board. Then on the back of the poster board, brainstorm "million dollar" words for "bad." Do the same for the other overused adjectives. Hang the posters up for reference. After you write a paragraph or story, use your lists of "million dollar" words to replace all of the boring adjectives.

Said Is Dead

The verbs "say" & "said" are overused especially when writing stories and narratives. Print the "Said Is Dead" tombstone handout. Brainstorm synonyms or "million dollar" verbs you can use instead. Write them on RIP tombstone. Next time, you are writing a story with dialogue, use a Million Dollar Verb instead of the dead "say" or "said."



Boring & Overused Verbs

Here is a list of boring verbs that are overused when writing. Try not to use them. Instead, use "Million Dollar" verbs, which convey more action.

GO / WENT**COME / CAME****SEE / SAW****GET / GOT****EAT / ATE**

Do the same poster board activity for boring verbs. For fun, read aloud all of the the "million dollar" words on each verb poster. Act out each verb as it is read aloud. For example, as you read aloud the synonyms for eat / ate, act out chomp, slurp, nibble, etc.

SAID is DEAD

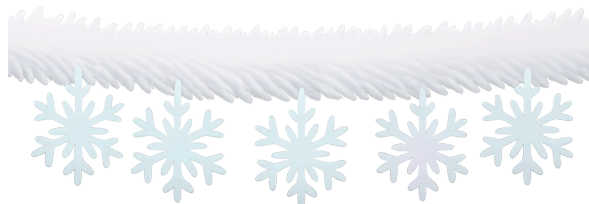
R.I.P.



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 weather today.
- Make a list of what you did yesterday. Be specific.
- Write about a time when you felt sad. Why were you sad?
- Pretend you are your pet. Write about his/her typical day from your pet's point of view.
- The title of a story is "The Day My Shoes Ran Away." Write the story.
- Think of 3 sets of rhyming words for the words say, dog, and brown. Then write a nonsense story or poem with them.
- Retell your favorite Bible story in your own words.
- List at least 15 things that make you smile.
- Finish the story that starts with "I opened the pantry for cereal and found my cat wearing my baseball cap, guarding the marshmallows...."
- Describe your mom (or dad). What do you like to do with her (or him)?
- Explain how to make your favorite sandwich. Make sure you include all materials.
- What do you like best about winter? Why? What do you like least? Explain.
- List 20+ synonyms for the word "pretty."
- Give at least 5 ways to finish this sentence: "She ran like a"
- Find a nature picture in a book (or online). Write a description of it. Use sense words to describe how it looks, feels, smells, sounds, (and taste if applicable).
- Make a list of Interjection words such as Yay! What? Stop!.
- Finish the story that starts with "The puddles started jumping upward, and the clouds spelled out, Help!"
- Retell your favorite fairytale from the villain's perspective.
- Write a letter to your friend today.
- Make a list of things you would find in your room.
- Finish the story that starts with "The envelope on my porch had no stamp, just my name...."
- The title of the story is "The Eraser That Erased Time." Write the story.



Artist: Piet Mondrian
Composition II in Red, Blue, and
Yellow
1922, Holland
Painting, De Stijl



Week One

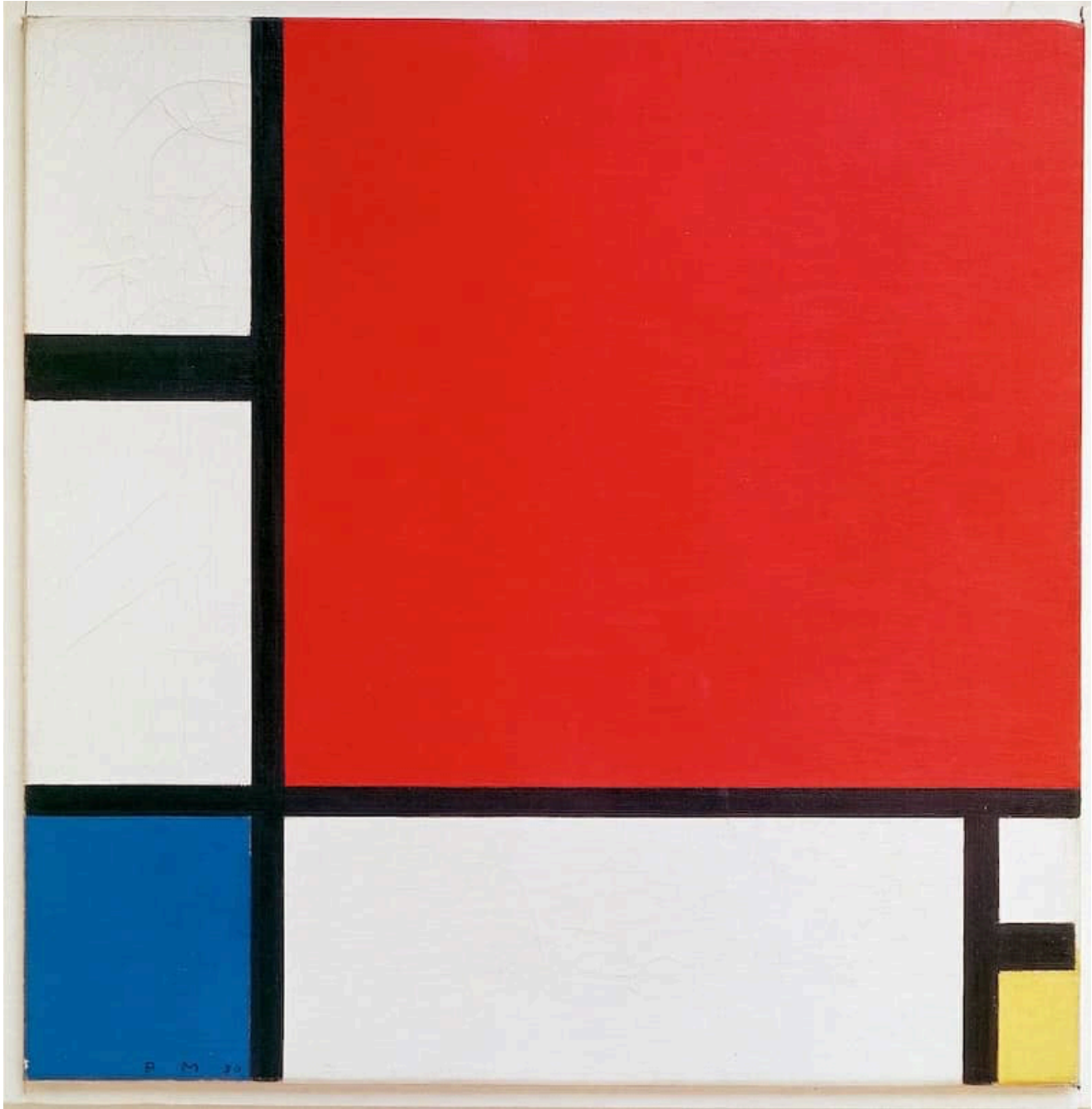
- 1). Print in color two paintings: "Composition II in Red, Blue, & Yellow" & Composition C.
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details. (You may not need 5 minutes for Mondrian's work.)
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the art work from memory.
- 4). Turn 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

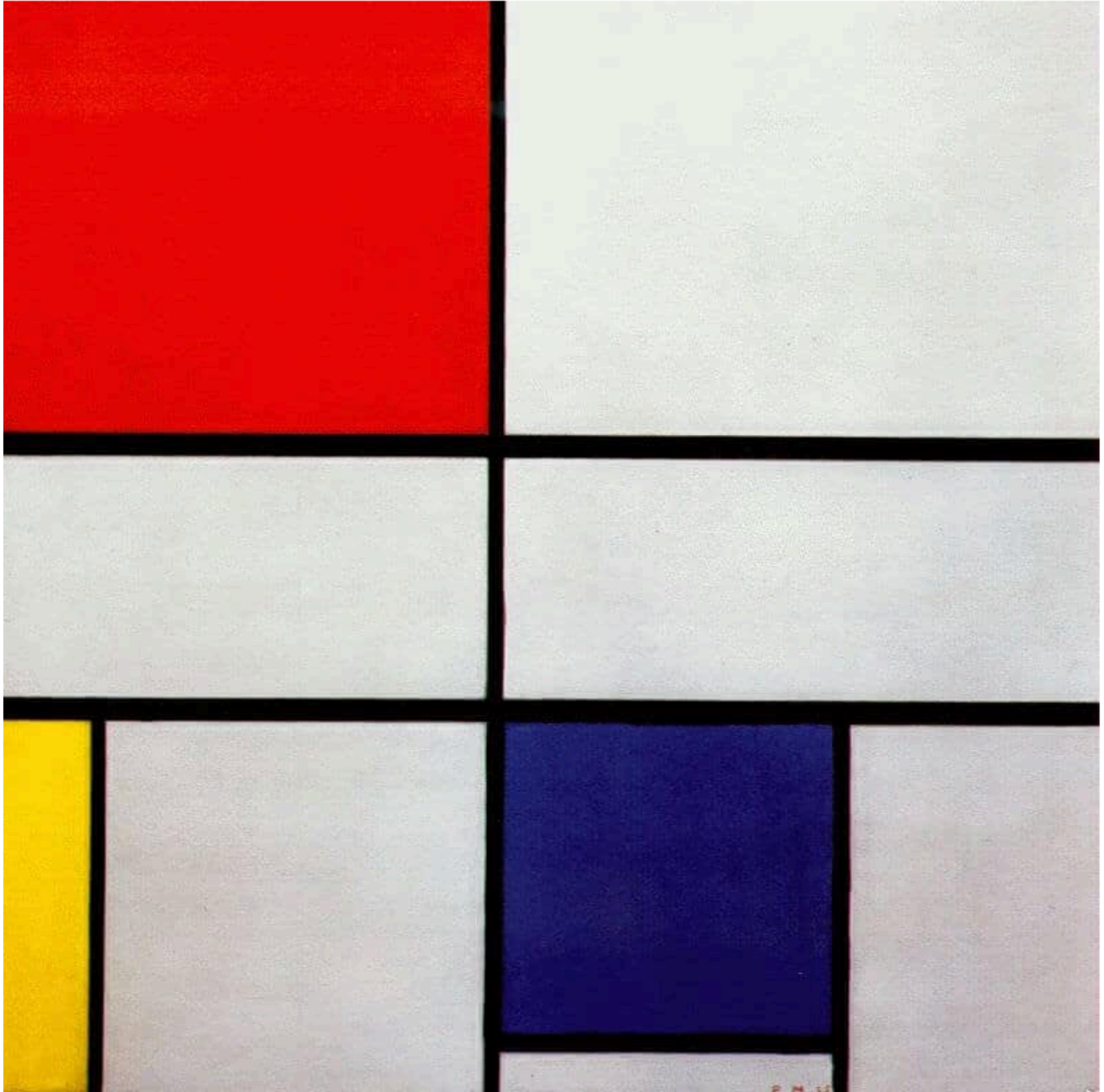
- 1). Print in color the painting "Broadway Boogie Woogie."
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the art work from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it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



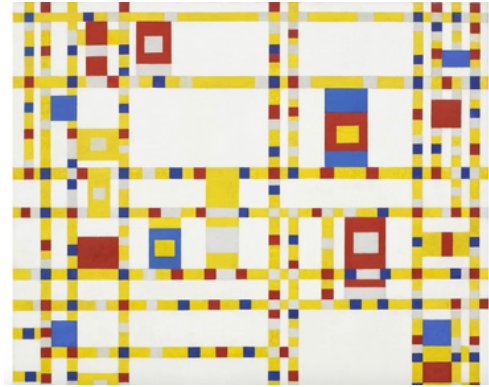
Composition II in Red, Blue & Yellow



Composition C



Artist: Piet Mondrian
1922, Holland
Pioneer of Modernism



Week Three

- 1). Learn about the artist, Piet Mondrian. Read Meet Piet Mondrian: Meet the Artist Series.
- 2). Piet Mondrian was born on March 7, 1872, in Amersfoort, Netherlands, and spent much of his life in the Netherlands, Paris, London, and finally New York City, where he died on February 1, 1944.
- 3). Initially a realistic landscape painter, he evolved through Cubism to co-found the De Stijl movement and pioneer Neoplasticism. His abstract style is defined by grids of black lines, primary colors, and white spaces, which create a sense of balance.
- 4). Look at Mondrian's other composition prints. Can you describe Neoplasticism in your own words? Do you like art work primarily created with shapes?

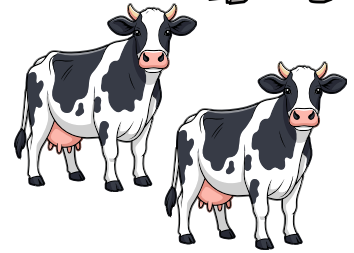
Week Four

Create your own "Composition C." Start with a plain white piece of paper. Use a black marker or crayon to draw thick straight lines across the paper, both up and down and side to side, to make a grid of boxes that look like windows. (You can also use black electrical tape.) Pick a few of the boxes and color them completely with red, yellow, or blue crayons or paint using a brush or cotton swab. Leave most of the boxes white to keep it simple and clean. When you finish, your picture will look like Mondrian's "Composition C" with its bold lines and bright color blocks.



Cows & Bulls

Classic Number Guessing Logic Game



MATERIALS:

- paper and pencil

GOAL: Guess the secret 4-digit number (the “code”) in as few tries as possible.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Player A secretly creates a 4-digit code. Example: 5 2 7 9. Numbers can repeat such as 1990.
- The guesser writes a 4-digit guess.
- After each guess, Player A gives two clues:
 - Bulls 🐂 (✓) = Correct digit in the correct position.
 - Cows 🐄 (○) = Correct digit but in the wrong position.



EXAMPLE ROUND:

Secret Code: 5 2 7 9

Guess #1: 5 3 1 7

Hint #1: 1 Bull (✓), 1 Cow (○) - 5 is correct & in position (Bull) & 7 is correct but wrong spot (Cow)

Guess #2: 5 7 3 9

Hint #2: 2 Bulls (✓), 1 Cow (○)- 5 and 9 in correct spots (2 Bulls) & 7 is correct but wrong spot (1 Cow)

Guess #3: 5 2 7 9

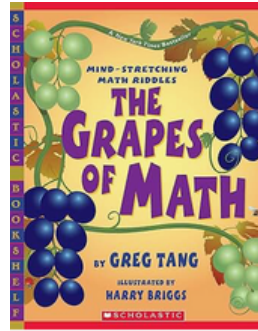
Hint #3: 4 Bulls (✓) → You Win!

Mastermind Variation: Use four different colored markers. Create a code of 4 different colors instead of numbers.

Play ONLINE Version: Bulls & Cows



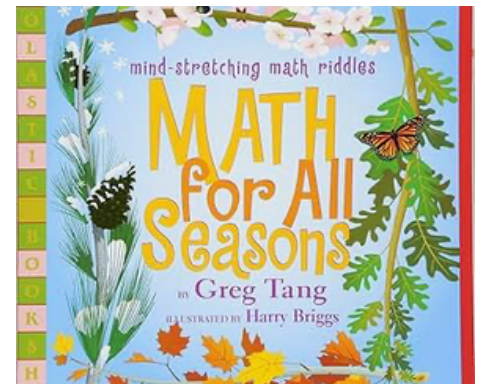
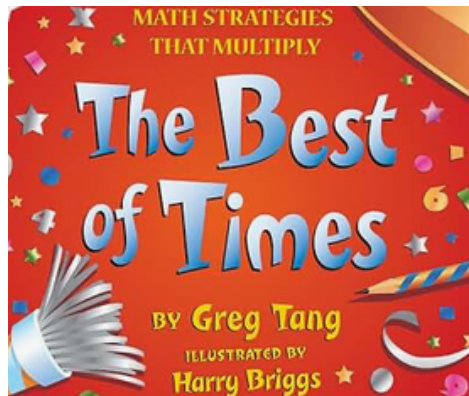
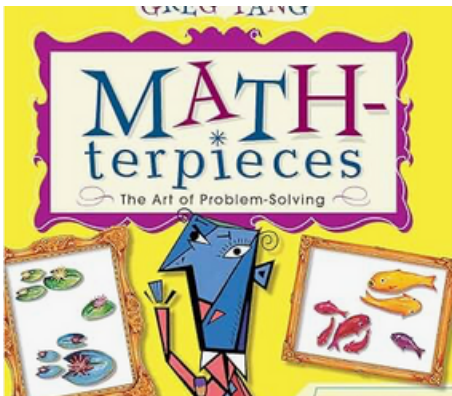
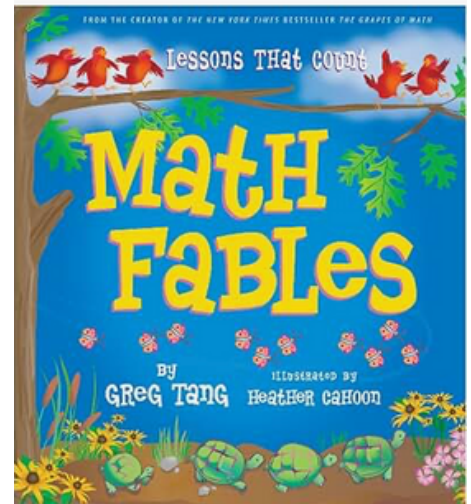
Math Picture Books



Gather these problem-solving picture books by Greg Tang from your library or order them on Amazon. ****Click on the book to order from Amazon.**** Grapes of Math is a great one to start with but it doesn't matter which one you read first. I love them all! If you want to highlight art work, start with Math-terpieces. If you want to focus on fables, start with Math Fables. Have fun. As you read each page, have fun solving the puzzles on each page.

Here are a few great books to get you started:

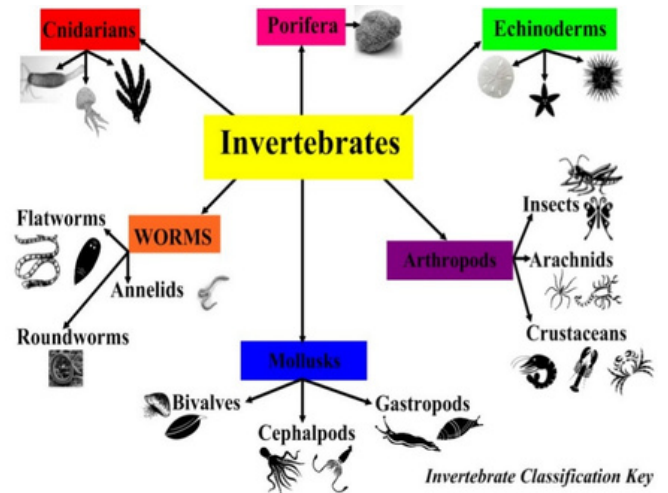
- Grapes of Math by Greg Tang
- Math for All Seasons by Greg Tang
- Math Fables by Greg Tang
- Math-terpieces by Greg Tang
- The Best of Times by Greg Tang



Animal Kingdom

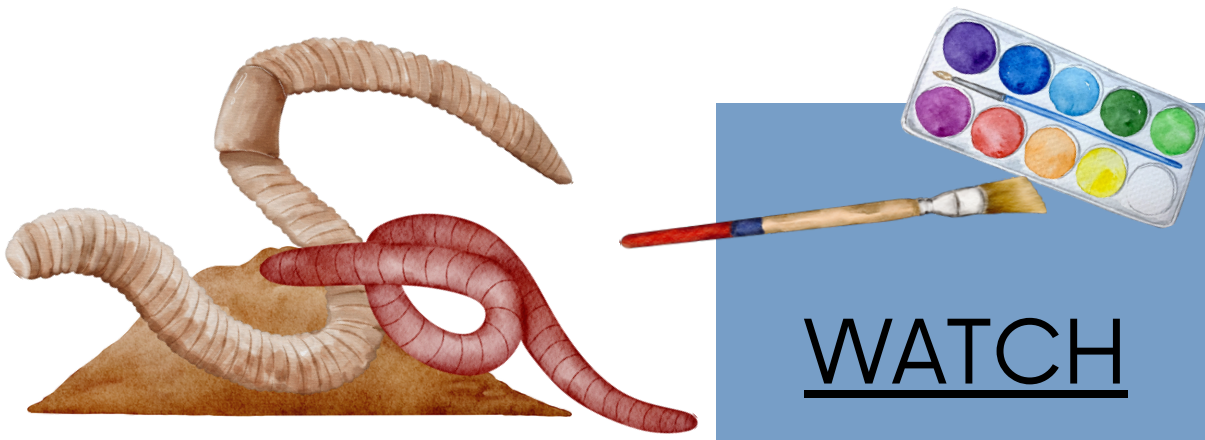
WEEK ONE: Invertebrates

The Animal Kingdom is divided into two groups: Invertebrates (no backbone) and Vertebrates (with backbone). In your nature journal, draw the different groups of invertebrates. Pick an animal from each to draw in your nature journal.



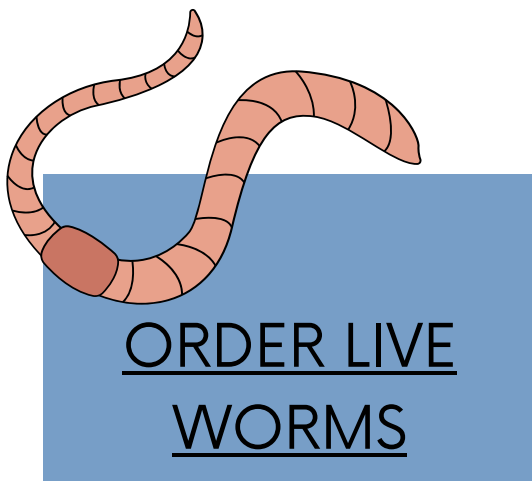
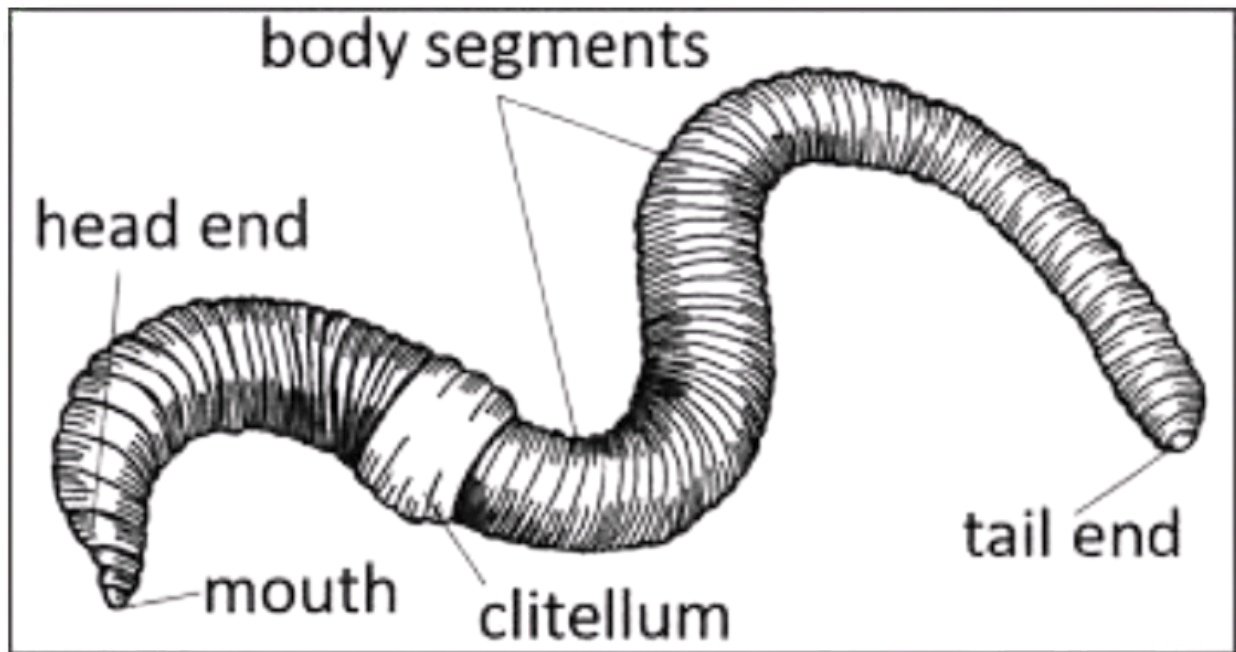
WEEK TWO: Worms

One group of invertebrates are worms. The most common are Annelida, or segmented worms. Most Annelids are helpful such as earthworms. Many harmful worms are parasites such as flat worms, round worms, and ring worms. Go on a hunt for earthworms or go to your local nursery and buy a container of worms used in compost bins. Observe and then draw them. Don't forget to record their name and classification next to your drawing. Older students can also label the drawings.



Worm Experiments

Focus on Worms this week. Draw and research different kinds of worms. Observe live worms and/or dissect worms. Create a compost.



ORDER
DISSECTION
KIT



Create a Compost

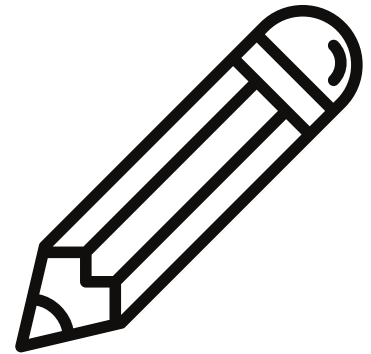
Creating a DIY compost is a great way to recycle organic waste and enrich your garden soil. Here are some simple steps to get you started:

1. Choose a Location. Find a dry, shaded spot in your yard that's easily accessible.
2. Select a Compost Bin or Pile. You can use a bin (store-bought or homemade) or simply create a pile.
3. Gather Materials. Green Materials: Kitchen scraps (fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds), grass clippings, and plant trimmings. Brown Materials: Dry leaves, straw, cardboard, and paper.
4. Layer Your Materials. Start with a layer of brown materials (about 6 inches). Alternate layers of green and brown materials, maintaining a ratio of roughly 2:1 (browns to greens).
5. Moisten the Pile. Add water to keep the pile damp but not soggy. It should feel like a wrung-out sponge. Add live worms to speed up the decomposition.
6. Aerate the pile very few weeks. Use a shovel to turn the compost. Continue adding materials and turning the pile to keep the process going.



WEEK THREE: Cnidarians

Draw A Sea Anemone



Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a sea anemone (or any coral). Take your time and observe carefully the prominent features of the sea anemone. Notice the different coloring and patterns.

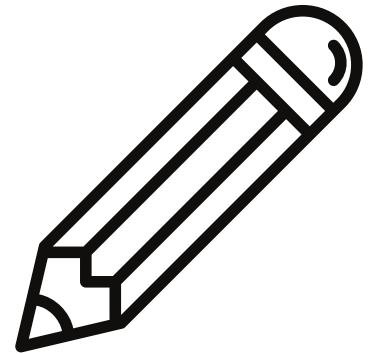
Step 2: Copy the common name and Latin name neatly onto the top of the page.



WATCH



WEEK FOUR: Jellyfish
Draw A Jellyfish



Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a jellyfish (or several different kinds of jellyfish). Take your time and observe carefully the prominent features of the jellyfish. Notice the different coloring and patterns.

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



WATCH





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



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your next Mom's event
or local homeschool
conference.

[CONTACT](#)



Need help
homeschooling? Sit
down, relax, and book a
coffee date with Carrie.

[SCHEDULE](#)