

September - Summer

# Morning

# Time Plans

## Cultivating Character



Carrie De Francisco  
WWW.COFFEEWITHCARRIE.ORG

# 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

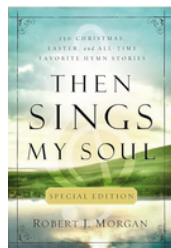
Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will focus on building godly character, developing good habits, and learning social manners. For each character trait, a Bible story and a Bible verse is given that demonstrates the monthly theme. In addition,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

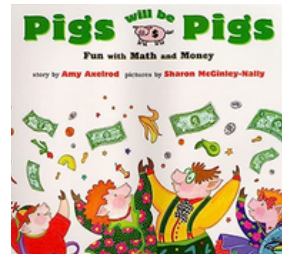
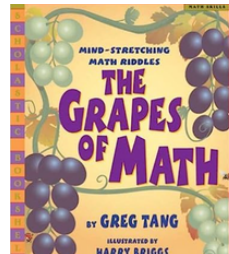
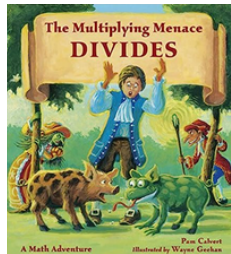
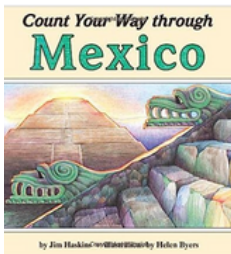
## Poetry

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.



# September Morning Time Plans



Character Trait  
Respect

Carrie De Francisco  
[WWW.COFFEEWITHCARRIE.ORG](http://WWW.COFFEEWITHCARRIE.ORG)

## Bible Study

Throughout the month, read and discuss the story of young Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-20). Focus on the memory verse: 1 Samuel 3:10. Discuss how Samuel demonstrated respect to God and to his elder, Eli. Using suggested verses, older students can do a word study on "respect," "humility," and "gentleness." Younger students can use suggested verses for copywork.

## Character Study

Discuss the definition of Respect and its corresponding Fruit of the Spirit, Gentleness (Humility).

## Hymn Study

Listen and memorize the hymn, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus." Learn more about the composer, Helen Howarth Lemmel.

## Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "If" by Rudyard Kipling.

## Writing

Respond to the journal writing prompts and share. Use wordless picture books for this month's writing activities.

## Art Study

Study the "Two Birds" tessellation and other works by M.C. Escher. Learn about the artist, Maurits Cornelis Escher.

## Math Work

Learn and play Addition and Multiplication Battle. Read math picture books that focus on geometry and shapes. Start with Grandfather Tang's Story by Ann Tompert, The Greedy Triangle by Marilyn Burns, and the Sir Cumference Series by Cindy Neuschwander.

## Nature Study

Learn about the classification system created by Carl Linnaeus and the five main kingdoms. Focus on the Protista Kingdom.

## Read Aloud

Read aloud a chapter book about respecting others such as Wonder by R.J. Palacio. Read picture books about respecting elders such as Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Fox, The Boys by Lovlie, Miss Fannie's Hat by Karon, and Song and Dance Man by Ackermen.



## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

September  
*Respect & Humility*

### Daily

Read portions of 1 Samuel 3:1-20. Memorize 1 Samuel 3:10.  
Memorize a portion of the poem, "If," by Kipling.  
Listen to "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" and learn it.  
Read aloud from the chapter book, Wonder.  
Read aloud and discuss one of the math picture books or one of the character trait picture books.  
Respond to a journal writing prompt.

### Week One

Discuss the definition of Respect and how the Bible character demonstrates this trait.  
Do Week One of Art Study: M.C. Eschner and Tessellations  
Do Week One of Nature Study: Scientific Classification  
Play Addition Battle: Easy Version  
Introduce and do the writing activity: Wordless Picture Books

### Week Two

Review the definition of Respect and learn how different animals demonstrate this trait.  
Do Week Two of Art Study: "Two Birds"  
Do Week Two of Nature Study: Five Kingdoms  
Play Addition Battle: Quick Version  
\*\* Repeat the wordless picture book writing activity if you enjoyed it.

### Week Three

Learn and practice etiquette skills that show respect (& humility).  
Read the book, Otter B: Taking Turns by Pamela Kennedy.  
Do Week Three of Art Study: Other Tessellations by M. C. Eschner  
Do Week Three of Nature Study: Kingdom Protista & Algae  
Play Multiplication Battle: Easy Version  
\*\* Repeat the wordless picture book writing activity if you enjoyed it.

### Week Four

Do Hymn Study. Discuss the lyrics. Read about the lyricists and the story behind the hymn. Finish memorizing it.  
Do Week Four of Art Study: Create an original tessellation.  
Do Week Four of Nature Study: Kingdom Protista & Protozoa  
Play Multiplication Battle: Quick Version  
\*\* Repeat the wordless picture book writing activity if you enjoyed it.



— Carrie —  
DE FRANCISCO

## Memorize

"Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."  
1 Samuel 3: 10

## Read 1 Samuel 3:1-20

The boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. Now in those days the word of the LORD was rare, and visions were scarce. And at that time Eli, whose eyesight had grown so dim that he could not see, was lying in his room. Before the lamp of God had gone out, Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was located.

Then the LORD called to Samuel, and he answered, "Here I am."

He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you have called me."

"I did not call," Eli replied. "Go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

Once again the LORD called, "Samuel!"

So Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you have called me."

"My son, I did not call," Eli replied. "Go back and lie down."

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, because the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

Once again, for the third time, the LORD called to Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you have called me."

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy. "Go and lie down," he said to Samuel, "and if He calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Then the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."

Then the LORD said to Samuel, "I am about to do something in Israel at which the ears of all who hear it will tingle. On that day I will carry out against Eli everything I have spoken about his house, from beginning to end. I told him that I would judge his house forever for the iniquity of which he knows, because his sons blasphemed God and he did not restrain them. Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli, 'The iniquity of Eli's house shall never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

"Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."  
1 Samuel 3: 10

Samuel lay down until the morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but Eli called to him and said, "Samuel, my son."

"Here I am," answered Samuel.

"What was the message He gave you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God punish you, and ever so severely, if you hide from me anything He said to you."

So Samuel told him everything and did not hide a thing from him.

"He is the LORD," replied Eli. "Let Him do what is good in His eyes."

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and He let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. So all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD. And the LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, because there He revealed Himself to Samuel by His word.

## DISCUSSION

1. After reading the passage, do the "Three Question Method."
  - a. What is the passage about? (Narration)
  - b. What can we learn from this passage? (Interpretation).
  - c. How can we apply this passage? (Application)
2. Read the definition of Respect. How did Samuel respect Eli? How did he respect God? How did Eli respect (and disrespect) God? How did Eli's sons disrespect God? What examples of humility are in this passage?
3. Read the corresponding Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness (Humility). Role play ways you can show respect and scenarios where humility is needed. Act out examples of being disrespectful and being proud or arrogant.



### Trait

Respect is rooted in love, humility, and recognizes the worth of God and His creation, expressed through actions that honor and value others.

### Showing Respect

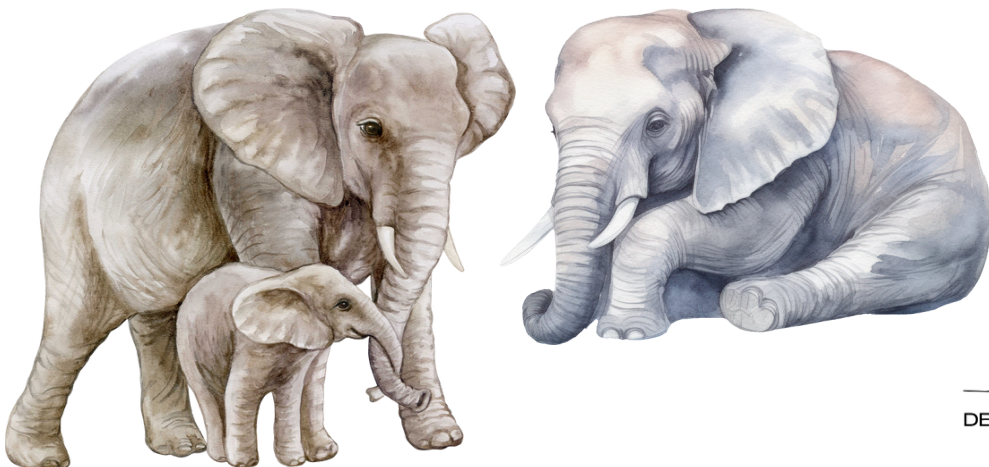
Being respectful means you act in a way that shows you value others. We can show respect for people, places, and things. Gentleness means being kind and soft in how you talk and act. Humility means not thinking you're better than others, but loving and serving them, like a kid helping a friend without showing off.

For example:

- Loving and honoring God.
- Obeying parents, elders, and those in authority.
- Using kind or polite words even when you're upset.
- Accepting differences or at least disagreeing with kind words.
- Being careful not to damage places or things.
- Using a quiet voice or calm behavior in public places.
- Sharing resources, only taking what you really need.

### Examples in Nature

Respect in the animal kingdom can be seen in behaviors that show deference, cooperation, or recognition of elders or social boundaries. Read the following story about elephants and brainstorm all of the ways elephants show respect.



## Respect Among Elephants

In the heart of the savanna, under a golden acacia tree, the elephant herd moved as one. At the front strode Kala, the matriarch, her massive frame steady and sure, her wise eyes scanning the horizon for water. The herd—mothers, calves, and young bulls—followed her lead, their trunks swaying in rhythm. One scorching day, the herd reached a dry riverbed. The younger elephants, restless and thirsty, trumpeted and stomped, eager to charge toward a distant shimmer of water. But Kala raised her trunk, signaling them to stop. She lowered her head, sniffing the cracked earth, then turned toward a narrow path lined with thorny bushes. The herd grew quiet, watching her.

Tembo, a spirited young calf, wanted to run ahead, but his mother nudged him gently, her trunk curling around his. "Follow Kala," she whispered. "She knows." Tembo obeyed, his small ears flapping as he stayed close. The herd trusted Kala's memory—she had led them through droughts before, always finding hidden springs or forgotten pools. As they walked, an older cow, Mala, lagged behind, her joints stiff from years of wandering. Kala slowed her pace, turning to check on Mala, her low rumble reassuring. The younger elephants slowed too, never straying far, their steps careful not to rush her. When they finally reached a lush oasis, Kala stood back, letting Mala drink first, her trunk resting gently on Mala's back—a sign of care for the elder.

That evening, as the herd bathed in the cool water, Tembo watched Kala guide the calves to safer shallows. He saw how every elephant, young and old, waited for her signal before moving, their eyes fixed on her with trust. Tembo nudged his mother. "Why do we always follow Kala?" he asked.

His mother rumbled softly. "She carries our herd's wisdom. We respect her because she keeps us safe and together."

Tembo nodded, watching Kala's steady presence under the starlit sky. In her strength and care, the herd found their way, bound by respect that needed no words.



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 RESPECT & HUMILITY

Show respect for elders (and those in authority) but addressing them as "Sir" and "Ma'am."

Address an adult with Mr., Mrs., or Miss or their title such as Mr. Jones, Mrs. Jenny, Coach Jones or Dr. Garcia. Only call an adult by his/her first name when given permission.

Open the door for others, especially women, children, elders and those needing help.

Say "Please" and "Thank you." When meeting someone for the first time, shake their hand, give them eye contact, and say "It is nice to meet you."

Listen attentively. Pay close attention when others speak, without interrupting. Do not talk over someone. This shows you value their words. When speaking with someone, maintain eye contact. Look at them when speaking or listening (if culturally appropriate) to show you're engaged.

Patiently wait your turn. If applicable always allow females to go first.

Don't value yourself or your abilities over others. Do not be boastful even if you have a physical or mental advantage to someone else.

Be punctual and arrive on time for events. This shows you value the other person's time as much as you value your own.

Show good sportsmanship. Be a gracious winner by not bragging. Be a gracious loser by congratulating the winner.



## Gentleness

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

## Word Study for Teens

Gentleness (or humility) can be shown through respect. Look up passages and Bible verses that emphasize honor, reverence, and love toward God, others, and authority. Use the following list to get started. Find each verse. Read it in context. Write it in a personal journal. Memorize it. Use a concordance to find similar or related Bible verses. Brainstorm ways you can apply these verses in your daily life this month.

Proverbs 1:7

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."  
This "fear" implies deep respect and submission to God's will.

Romans 12:10

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Romans 13: 1-2

"Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God."

1 Peter 2:17

"Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king."

Ephesians 4:2

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."



## Gentleness

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

## Word Study for Teens

1 Peter 3:15

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

Titus 3:2

"Always to be gentle toward everyone."

Philippians 4:5

"Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."

Proverbs 15:1

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Philippians 2:3

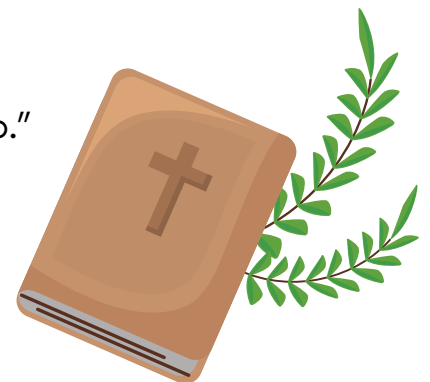
"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."

Romans 12:16

"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited."

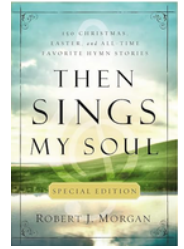
James 4:10

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."





## Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus



O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior,  
And life more abundant and free.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.

Through death into life everlasting  
He passed, and we follow Him there;  
O'er us sin no more hath dominion  
For more than conqu'rors we are!

His Word shall not fail you, He promised;  
Believe Him and all will be well;  
Then go to a world that is dying,  
His perfect salvation to tell!

Written Helen Howarth Lemmel  
(1922)



WATCH



LISTEN



If

Rudyard Kipling 1865—1936

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'



## If

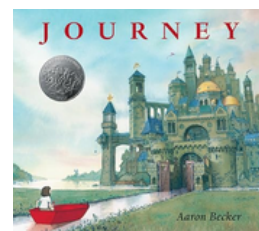
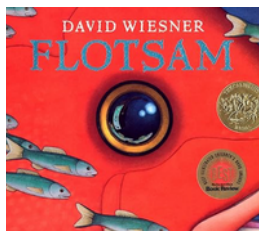
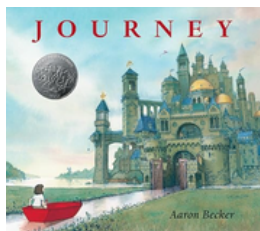
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

LISTEN

## Writing Activity

Use wordless picture books to inspire storytelling. You can repeat this activity with the same book resulting in a new and different story each time. While "reading" one of the suggested wordless picture books, ask your child to craft his/her own narrative inspired by the vivid illustrations. Ask questions along the way such as:

- "What's happening here?"
- "What emotions do you think they are feeling?"
- "What might this place be like?"



## 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.

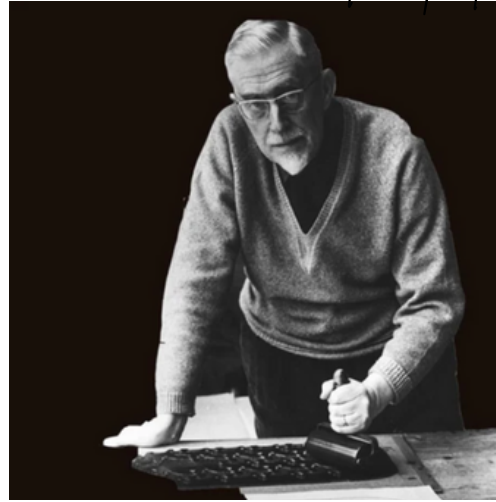
- Make a list of what you did yesterday. Be as detailed as you can.
- Write a letter to someone.
- Tell about a dream you had this week.
- Write about a time you were really angry. What caused your anger? What did you do?
- "A silver drone hovered outside my window, its red eye scanning my room...."(finish the story)
- Write a list of everything you can think of that rolls.
- Write about a book you are reading.
- What is one thing you find frustrating about living in your home?
- Describe your mom or dad. What things do you like to do with him or her?
- What do you want to do or be when you grow up?
- What is one thing you wished you had? Why?
- Describe a typical trip to the grocery store with your mom. (Replace with Thrift store if applicable)
- List what you do in a typical school day. Tell what you like and don't like.
- Write at least 20 uses of a plastic cup. Be creative too.
- "CRUNCH! Then, I heard footsteps coming...". (Finish the story)
- If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Why?
- Write a letter to your sibling. Ask him/her 3 questions. Have him/her write back in your journal.

Artist: M.C. Escher

Two Birds

1938, Holland

Tessellation Woodcut Print



## Week One

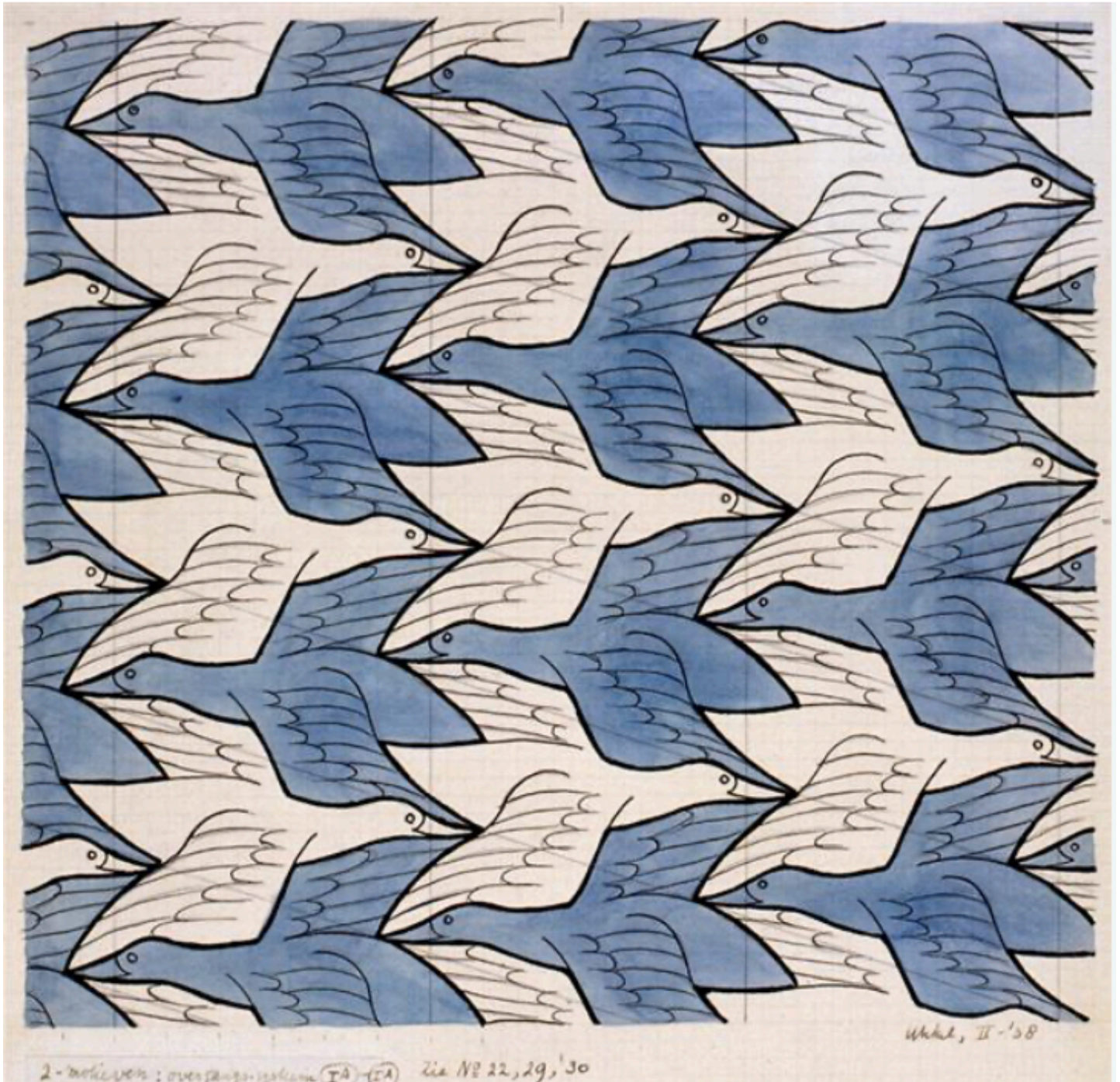
- 1). Learn about the artist, Maurits Cornelis Escher.
- 2). Maurits Cornelis Escher (1898-1972) is one of the world's most famous graphic artists. He was born in Leeuwarden, Netherlands. During his lifetime, Escher made 448 lithographs, woodcuts and wood engravings and more than 2000 drawings and sketches.
- 3). He is most famous for his so-called impossible drawings, such as Ascending and Descending, Relativity, and Metamorphosis I, II and III, Air and Water I and Reptiles. His drawings are optical illusions. Many are created using a mathematical technique call tessellations.

## Week Two

- 1). Print in color the tessellation "Two Birds."
- 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 tessellation 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?



## Two Birds



Artist: M.C. Escher  
Tessellation Woodcut Print

WATCH

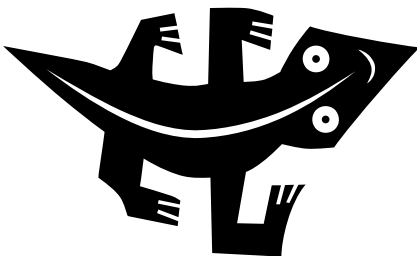


### Week Three

- 1). Look at other tessellations and optical illusional art work by M. C. Escher.
- 2). Tessellation is a way of tiling a surface with the same shape, repeated again and again. These shapes must fit perfectly together so that there are no overlaps or gaps.
- 3). Print in color other works such as Ascending and Descending, Relativity, or prints from the Metamorphosis series: Metamorphosis I, II and III, Air and Water I and Reptiles. Discuss the print. What is it? What do you notice? What do they like about it?

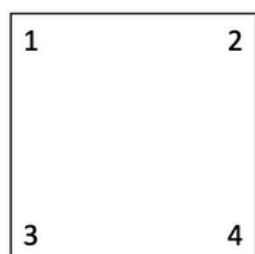
### Week Four

For fun, create your own original mathematical tessellation. You will need a pencil, scissors, tape, a black sharpie, and square post it notes or a 3 x 3 inch piece of poster board or yardstick. You will need crayons or colored pencils to put the finishing touches on your M.C. Escher inspired tessellation. Follow the written instructions given or watch the YouTube Tutorial .



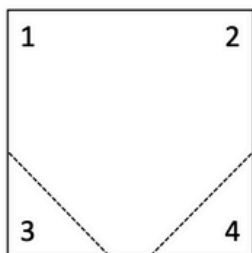


# How To Make a Tessellation

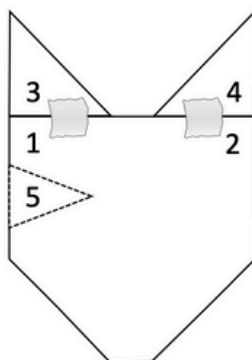


Start with a square tile of cardboard.

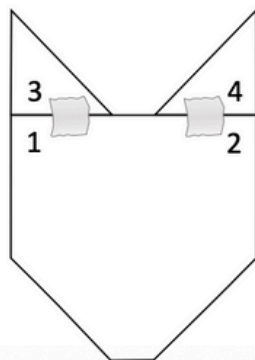
## Using a Square Tile



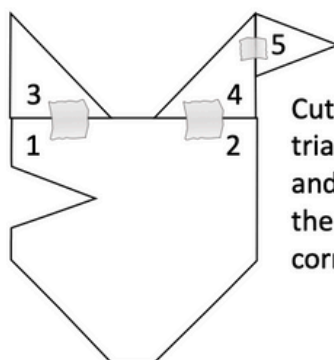
Cut along the dotted lines.



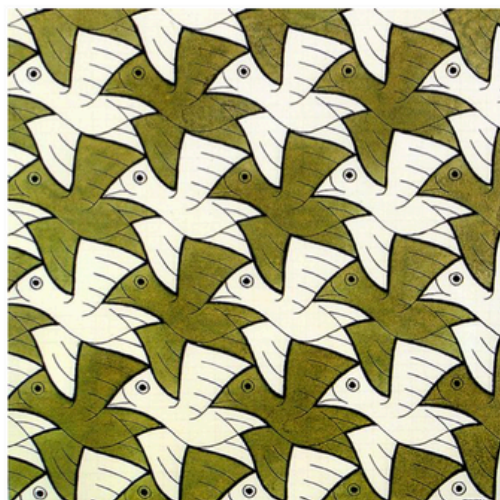
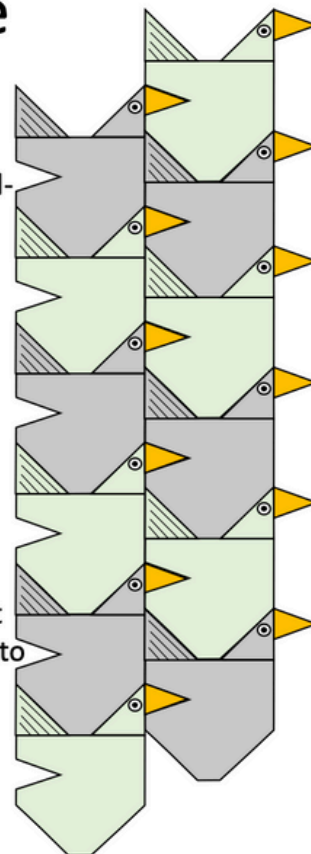
Draw a triangle mid-way down the tile.



Join the bottom corners to the top of the tile.



Cut the triangle out and tape it to the top of corner 4.



# Addition & Multiplication Battle

This is a version of the classic card game, Battle (or War).

## MATERIALS:

- Deck of cards (or a deck of Phase 10 Cards)

## INSTRUCTIONS: EASY VERSION

**Goal:** Win all the cards.

**Setup:** Remove all of the face cards. Shuffle the deck and deal all cards evenly, face-down, to each player. Players don't look at their cards.

**Play:** Each player flips their top two cards face-up at the same time. Each player takes their time finding the sum (or product) of their two cards.

**Compare:** The highest sum (or product) wins the round (Ace is 1). The winner takes all cards played.

**War:** If the sum (or product) is a tie, each player places three cards face-down, then flips over two more cards to add (or multiply). The highest sum (or product) wins all cards.

**Continue:** Keep playing rounds until one player has all the cards or time runs out.

**Winner:** The player with all cards (or most cards when stopping) wins.



## INSTRUCTIONS: QUICK RECALL VERSION

The play is the same except each player turns over one card at the same time. The first player to add up the two cards (or multiply the two cards) correctly, wins the cards.

## High School Students

## INSTRUCTIONS: INTEGER VERSION

In this version, students practice adding or multiplying positive and negative numbers. The black cards are positive and the red cards are negative. In the easy version, each player turns over two cards and takes as much time as they need to find the sum (or product). The player with the largest sum (or product) wins the cards. In the quick recall version, each player turns over one card at the same time. The first player to add up the two cards (or multiply the two cards) correctly, wins the cards.

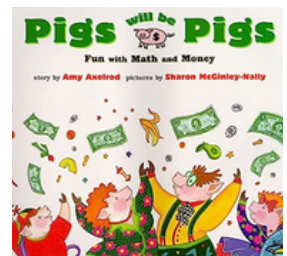
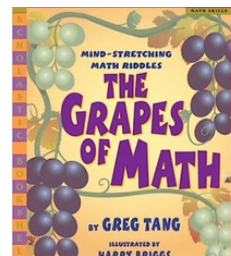
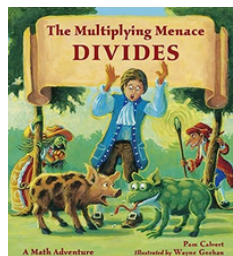
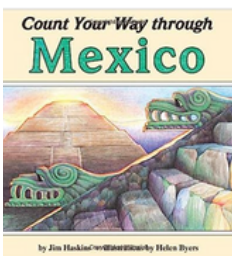


## Math Picture Books

Since you are learning about M. C. Escher's geometric art work, read math picture books that focus on geometry and shapes.

Here are a few great ones to get you started:

- Grandfather Tang's Story by Ann Tompert
- The Greedy Triangle by Marilyn Burns
- Three Pigs, One Wolf, Seven Magic Shapes by Grace Maccarone
- Mummy Math: An Adventure in Geometry by Cindy Neuschwander
- Sir Cumference and the First Round Table by Cindy Neuschwander.
- For high schoolers, read Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions by Edwin A. Abbott.



# Nature Journaling

## Week One: Scientific Classification

### CREATURE CREATION & CLASSIFICATION

Use the following questions to help you create an original creature.

- Where does your creature live? (land, sea, air...)
- What special adaptations does your creature have to help it survive in this habitat?
- What does your creature eat?
- Is your creature nocturnal, diurnal, or crepuscular?
- What is your creature's most important sense and why does it need it?
- Is it warm-blooded or cold-blooded?
- Is it a predator or prey?
- What common features does it have (feathers, fins, camouflage, fur, exoskeleton, etc)?
- Does it have a backbone (vertebrate) or no backbone?
- What part of the animal kingdom does it belong to? (insect, mollusk, amphibian, mammal, etc.)



Use your descriptions to draw your original creature.

Draw and color your creature in your nature journal. Give your creature physical traits needed such as large eyes if nocturnal, fins if it swims, sharp claws if it's a predator, etc.

Name your creature. Try to use at least one of its unique traits or adaptations in the name. i.e "horned lizard" or "green-eyed frog."

Write its common name under your drawing.



# Nature Journaling

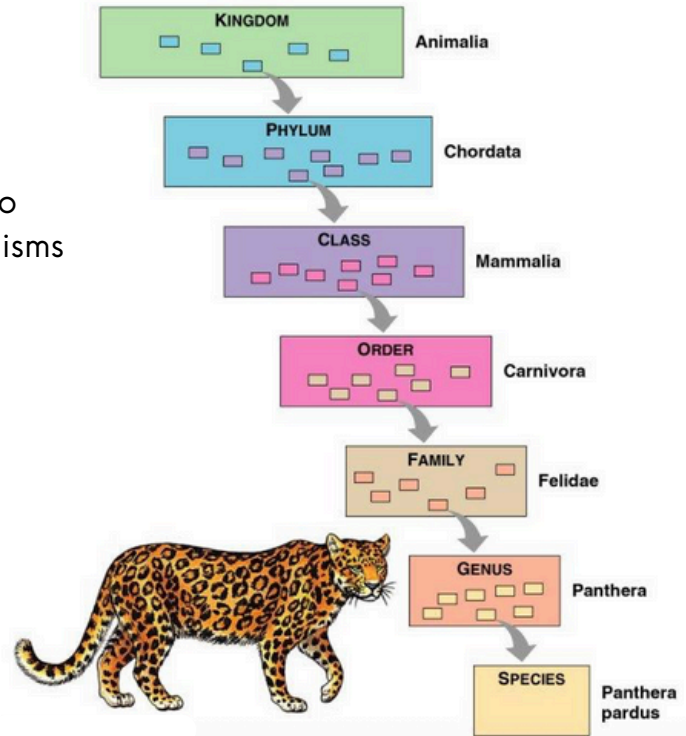
## Week One: Scientific Classification

### CREATURE CREATION & CLASSIFICATION

Carl Linnaeus created scientific classification to organize living things. This system groups organisms by shared traits.

It uses seven levels:

- Kingdom (broadest, e.g., Animalia)
- Phylum (e.g., Chordata)
- Class (e.g., Mammalia)
- Order (e.g., Primates)
- Family (e.g., Hominidae)
- Genus (e.g., Homo)
- Species (e.g., Homo sapiens)



What is your creature's scientific name?

Animalia							
Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species	

Your creature is in Kingdom Animalia.

If your creature has a backbone, it is in Phylum Chordata. If it does not, then it is in one of the following: arthropoda (e.g insects, spiders), mollusks (e.g clams, squids), Cnidaria (e.g., jellyfish, corals), Annelida (e.g., earthworms), or Porifera (e.g., sponges).

If your creature gives birth to live young, it is Class Mammalia. If it lays eggs, it might be reptile, amphibian, fish, or birds. You decide based on its habitat and adaptations.

If your creature eats other animals, it is Order Carnivora. If it eats only plants, it is Class Herbivore. If it eats both it is Class Omnivore.

Since your creature is unique, you can create or make up its Family, Genus, & Species Name. If your creature is related to a known animal, use its Family name (e.g Canis for dog or wolf).

# Nature Journaling

## Week One: Scientific Classification

Pick your favorite animal to draw in your nature journal. Write its classification next to your drawing. Don't forget to label it with its common name and its scientific name (Genus Species)



Kingdom ————— Animalia

Phylum ————— Chordata

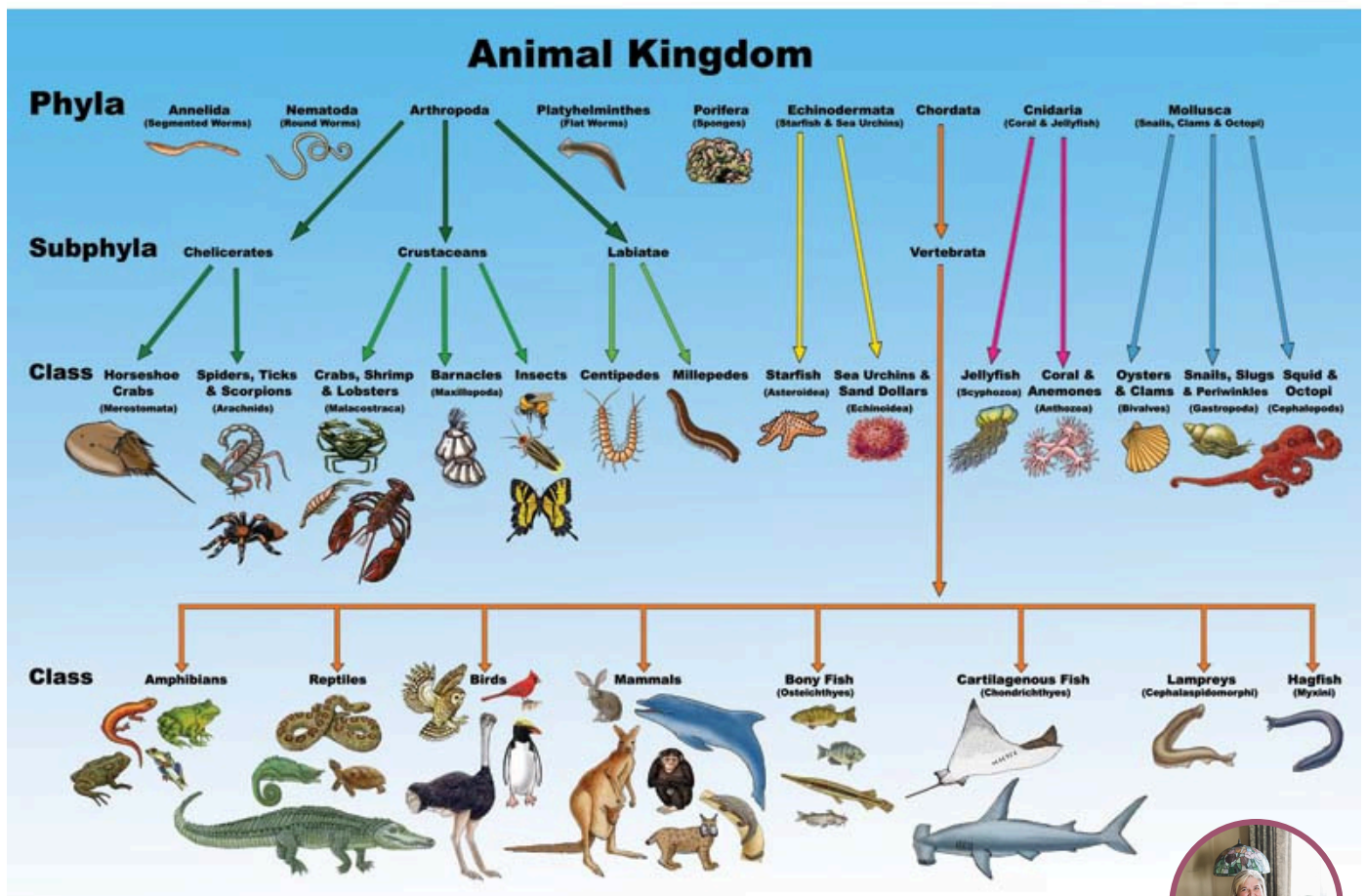
Class ————— Mammalia

Order ————— Cetacea

Family ————— Delphinidae

Genus ————— *Tursiops*

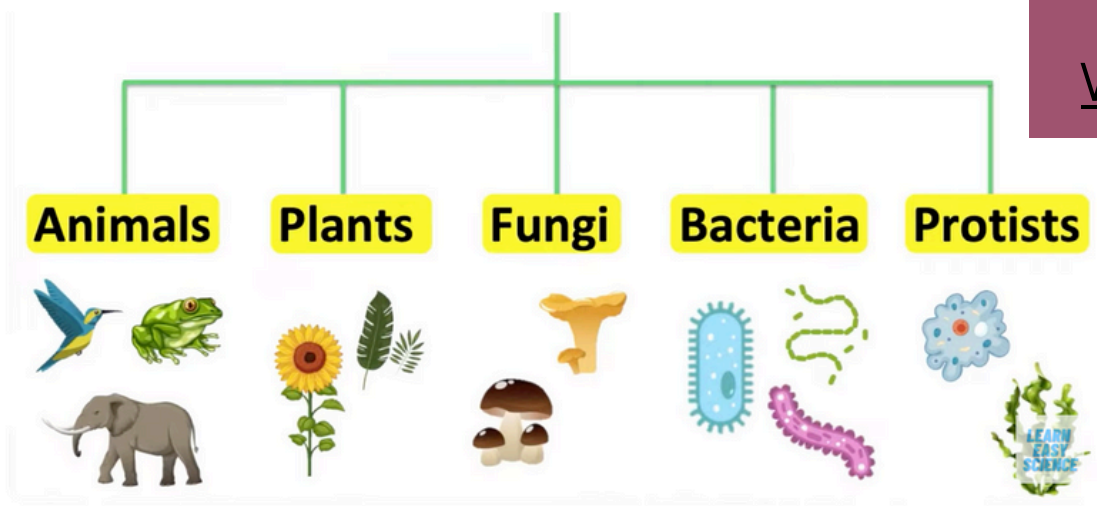
Species ————— *Tursiops truncatus*



# Nature Journaling

## Week Two: Kingdoms

Living things can be classified into five groups. They are called kingdoms. Each kingdom contains organisms that have similar characteristics. The five kingdoms are Monera (bacteria), Protista (one-celled organisms), Fungi, Plant, and Animal.



Pick one organism from each kingdom to draw in your nature journal.

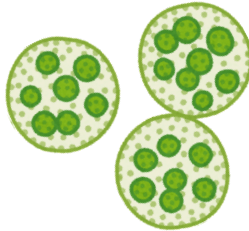
Here are a few suggestions: E-Coli for Bacteria, Amoeba for Protists, Toad Stool Mushroom for Fungi, Sunflower for Plants, and Dolphin for animal. Label each one with its scientific classification.



# Nature Journaling

## Week Three: Kingdom Protista

Kingdom Protista includes single-celled or simple multicellular organisms like algae and protozoa, that do not fit into other kingdoms. Algae are plant-like, often photosynthetic, producing energy from sunlight (e.g., seaweed). Protozoa are animal-like, typically moving and feeding on other organisms (e.g., amoebas).



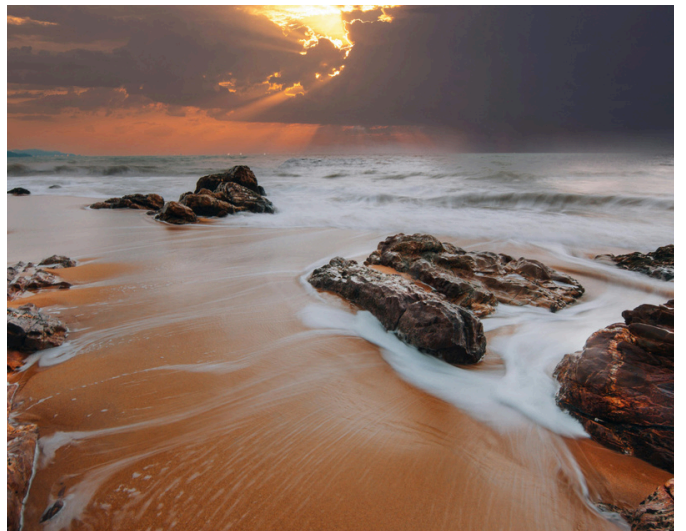
### Draw Algae

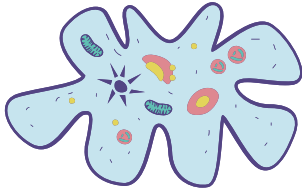
WATCH

Find algae to draw. If you live close to a pond, go for a nature walk and draw the different kinds you find. If you don't live near a pond, often you can find algae in fountains. Another alternative is to watch the video or research algae. Pick one that you like best to draw and color. Label it with its classification and scientific name (Genus Species).

### What is a Red Tide?

Have you ever seen the ocean turn red? A red tide, also known as a red bloom, is a natural phenomenon that occurs when certain species of phytoplankton, microscopic algae, rapidly reproduce, causing the water to turn red.

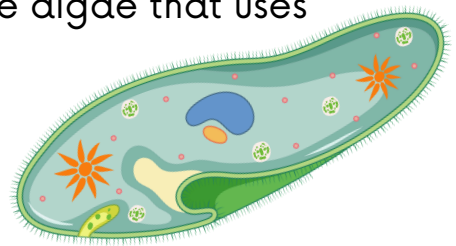




# Nature Journaling

## Week Four: Kingdom Protista

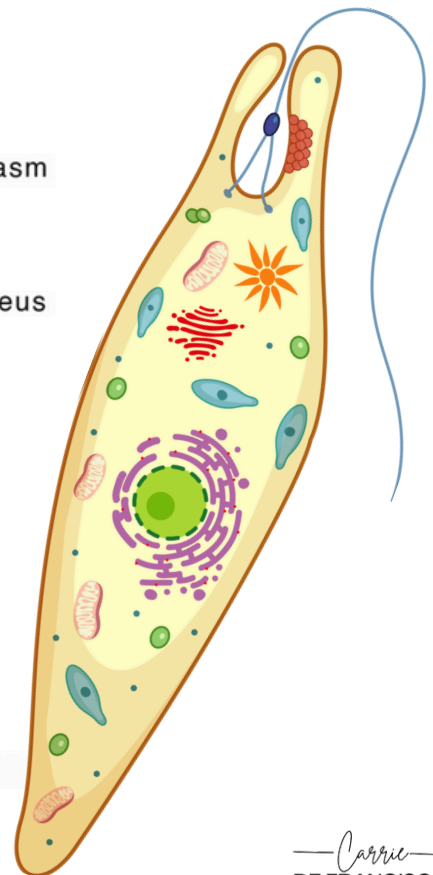
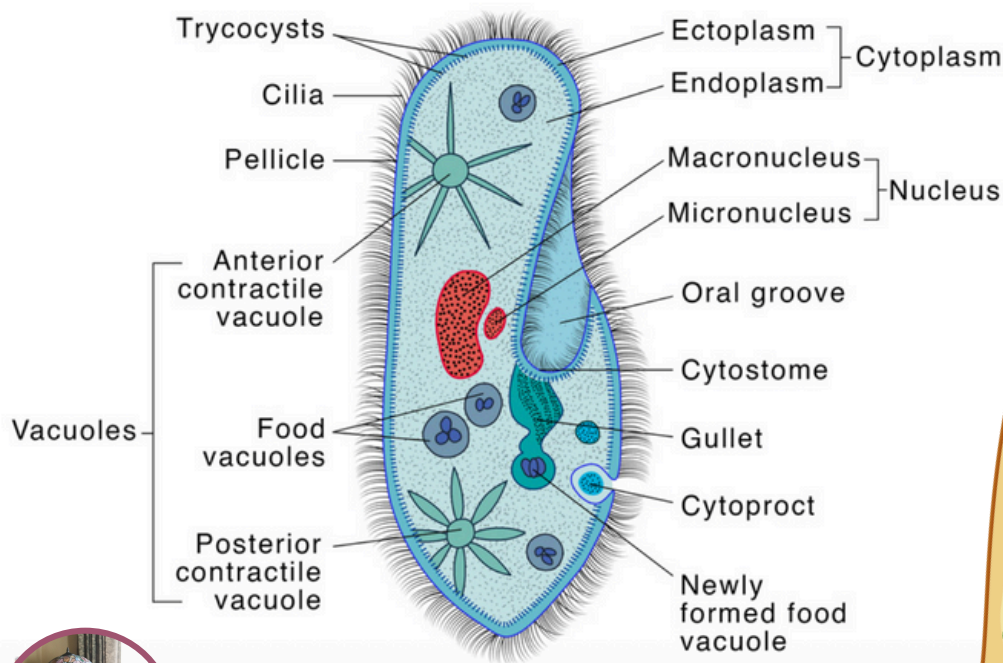
Protozoa are single-celled, animal-like protists that feed on other organisms. They move using flagella (whip-like tails, e.g., Trypanosoma), cilia (hair-like structures, e.g., Paramecium), or pseudopodia (false feet, e.g., Amoeba). They're animal-like because they're heterotrophic, which means they actively hunt or consume food, unlike algae that uses photosynthesis to produce their own food.



### Draw 3 Protozoas

In your nature journal, draw a Paramecium, a Euglena, and an Amoeba. Older students can label the parts (or organelles).

### Paramecium





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