

Science and Social Studies Back to School!

Science experiments and hands-on social studies activities, printables, and worksheets

Make a Community Student Instructions

Part 3: Describe your community to the class!

- Decide as a group what needs to be said.
- Decide who will do the talking to represent your group.
- Support the speaker for your group.



Part 4: Reflect upon your work

1. What worked well with your group? _____

2. What didn't work well with your group? _____

3. If you could change your community, what would you change? _____

Sampler

Pollination Activity

Materials needed:

- Cheesy treats
- Paper bags (with a handful of cheese flavored treats and a flower on the side.)
- Bee* to travel from flower to flower looking for nectar, glued or taped to a popsicle stick.

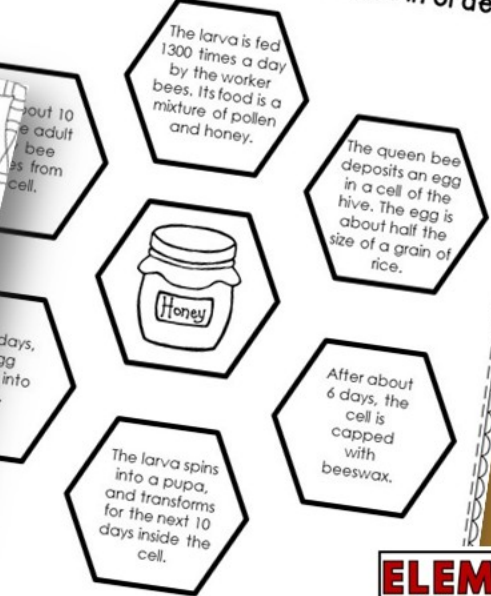


What happens:

1. Travel from flower to flower looking for nectar. You will imitate what the bees do! and color a bee and a flower from the following pages.
2. Color the flower and attach the flower to the paper bag. Make sure your bag is filled with "nectar".
3. Color the bee and attach it to the popsicle stick.
4. Wash your hands thoroughly.
5. When everyone is ready, fly your bee from flower to flower, "sucking out the nectar". (Remember, your hands must be clean before you begin, but you can't wash or lick your fingers once you start!)

Life Cycle of the Honey Bee

Use the next page to cut and paste the parts of the honey bee's life cycle in order.



Which of these skills would a scientist use in this situation?

Dawn this plant with top of the...

Which of these skills would a scientist use in this situation?

Robert noticed his bean plant was sagging, and the leaves were brown around the edges. He wondered if he remembered to water it.

Observing Communicating
Classifying Measuring
Inferring Predicting

Basic Science Process Skills

These are the basic skills all Scientists use:



Communicating:

Using conversation, drawings, graphs, or written sentences to let others know what you are thinking.

Classifying: Grouping objects into categories according to the properties they have in common.

Measuring: Using units of measure to identify dimensions of objects and/ or changes.

Observing: Using your 5 senses to explore and gather information about objects or events.

Predicting: Use your prior knowledge and observations to think about what could happen.

Inferring: Thinking about and explaining what your observations mean based on previously gathered information.



Which of these skills is the scientist using in this situation?



Mary found an interesting insect in her backyard. She decided to watch to see how it reacts to the ants nearby

Observing Communicating
Classifying Measuring
Inferring Predicting

Which of these skills would a scientist use in this situation?



Craig wanted to see how much his plant would grow in a week, so he measured how many centimeters it was at the beginning of the week, then measured again in centimeters at the end of the week.

Observing Communicating
Classifying Measuring
Inferring Predicting

Which of these skills would a scientist use in this situation?



Kevin wanted to know if the bug stuck in the window screen was an insect or an arachnid, so he counted the legs and body parts.

Observing Communicating
Classifying Measuring
Inferring Predicting

Which of these skills would a scientist use in this situation?



Amy wanted to tell her aunt in another state about her new puppy. Amy told her aunt the puppy was covered with light brown fur, and about 18 inches long.

Observing Communicating
Classifying Measuring
Inferring Predicting

Which of these skills would a scientist use in this situation?



Dawn thinks her pea plant will reach the top of the window by next Friday.

Observing Communicating
Classifying Measuring
Inferring Predicting

Which of these skills would a scientist use in this situation?



Robert noticed his bean plant was sagging, and the leaves were brown around the edges. He wondered if he remembered to water it.

Observing Communicating
Classifying Measuring
Inferring Predicting

Which of these skills would a scientist use in this situation?



Misty was playing a game where she had to close her eyes and figure out what she was holding without peeking. She felt it, smelled it, then she took a bit of her yummy apple.

Observing Communicating
Classifying Measuring
Inferring Predicting

Which of these skills would a scientist use in this situation?



Joseph put two apples on one side of the balance scale. He put one mango on the other side, and both sides balanced.

Observing Communicating
Classifying Measuring
Inferring Predicting

Make a Community - Teacher Page

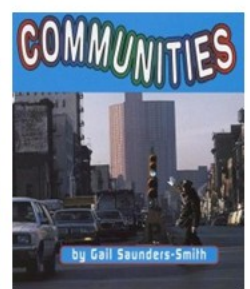
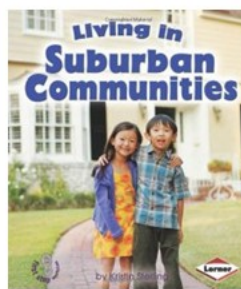
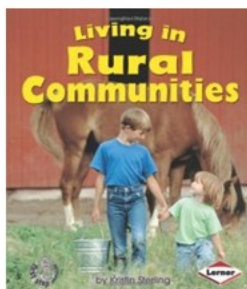
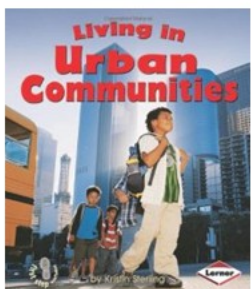
Before the children can make their own community, they need to know basic information about communities, including the 3 types of communities:

Urban: An urban community has a lot of people, cars, and buildings. The buildings are all close together, and can be tall skyscrapers. A city has parks, stores, office buildings, and public transportation.

Suburban: A suburban community has less people and less buildings than an urban community. The buildings are smaller, and are mostly homes. People in suburbs often commute to a nearby city to work.

Rural: A rural community has far less people and buildings than a suburb or an urban community. It has lots of open spaces, and farmland.

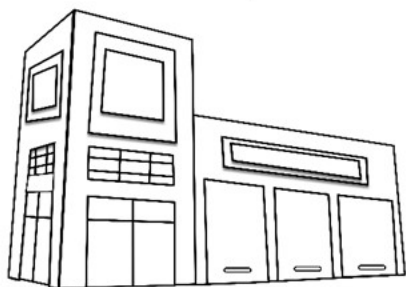
As in any learning experience, it's important that children have some background knowledge. Whether your school is in the city or the country, or someplace in between, it's important that they know about the different kinds of communities before they make one. The books listed below are a great start! Plus, there are youtube videos and Brain Pop!



Make a Community - Teacher Page

Suggestions:

- Groups can vary in size. With younger children, I prefer to keep groups 4 or less. You can decide on the groups, or let the children choose.
- Make sure there is plenty of conversation about all the things that are in communities. A brainstormed class list would be awesome!
- This is a 2 day activity. Give them a day to discuss and plan their community, then a second day to put it together.
- Have resources available: both fiction and non-fiction books that feature different types of communities with detailed drawings or pictures with features of communities.
- Suggested materials for making communities: blocks, math manipulatives, boxes and other recyclables, Legos, or let the children bring materials from home!



Make a Community

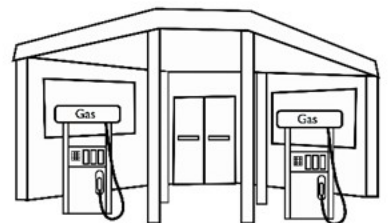
Student Instructions

Your team is going to design a community!



Part 1: Plan your community with your group!

- What is the name of your community?
- Is it an urban, suburban, or rural community?
- What important buildings are in the community?
- How do people travel around the community?
- What kind of businesses are in the community?
- Are there bodies of water in or near your community?
 - Where are the hills? Lowlands? Mountains?
- What type of weather is typical in your community?
 - What do people do for entertainment in your community?



Part 2: Make your community!

- Decide what materials your group will use.
 - Decide upon your work space.
- Decide which group members will work on each part.

Make a Community

Student Instructions

Part 3: Describe your community to the class!

- Decide as a group what needs to be said.
- Decide who will do the talking to represent your group.
 - Support the speaker for your group.



Part 4: Reflect upon your work

1. What worked well with your group? _____

2. What didn't work well with your group? _____

3. If you could change your community, what would you change? _____

Thank you for your interest in my teaching materials!
If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at

elementarymatters@gmail.com

Visit my blog for freebies, tips, and
teaching resources at

www.elementarymatters.com



Look for me on these social media platforms!

Sign up for my
helpful emails
and grab this
fun resource!

Or find links to all social media here:
bit.ly/ElementaryMatters



Thanks! 😊
Sally from
Elementary
Matters

Fonts by:

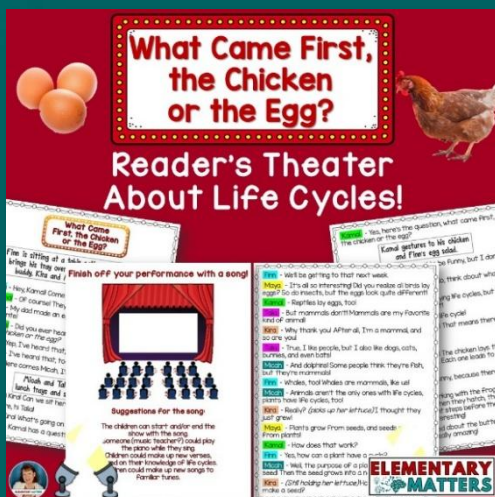


**Children matter.
Teachers matter.
Learning matters.
Kindness matters.
Respect matters.
Integrity matters.
Character matters.**

Graphics by:



**Elementary
Matters!**



Click **HERE** for
your freebie!



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Additional licenses are available at a discount if you choose to share with your team.

Be sure to check out these *Back-to-School* resources:

Team Building and Character Development

Establish clear expectations and a community spirit from the first day!



Strategies for Success!

- Be Safe!
- Be Respectful!
- Be Responsible!
- Be a Team Player!
- Be Kind!
- Be an Active Learner!

Classroom Management Strategies

Team Building, Ice Breakers, & Get to Know You Activities

Building community right away matters!



Get to Know You

- What is your favorite thing to do after school?
- If you could be a character in a book, who would you be?
- What makes you sad?
- What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Get to Know You Game

A game to build community and friendship in the classroom



Get to Know You Game

- What is your favorite thing to do after school?
- If you could be a character in a book, who would you be?
- What makes you sad?
- What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Brain-Friendly Addition and subtraction Fact Fluency Practice and Assessment

A complete classroom system for math facts mastery!

The Bundle!

Includes practice cards, study guides, brain breaks, assessments, and a game!

Brain-Friendly Multiplication and division Fact Fluency Practice and Assessment

A complete classroom system for math facts mastery!

The Bundle!

Includes practice cards, study guides, brain breaks, assessments, and a game!

Back to School Essentials!

Everything you need to be organized for that first week of school!

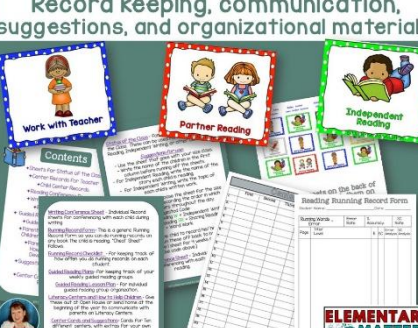


Back to School Essentials!

- Open House Ideas!
- Checklists
- Parent Communication
- Getting to know you activities!
- Procedures
- Formal

Guided Reading & Literacy Centers Management Resources

Record keeping, communication, suggestions, and organizational materials!



Guided Reading & Literacy Centers Management Resources

- Work with Teacher
- Partner Reading
- Independent Reading
- Contents
- Table of Contents
- Record Keeping

Daily Questions for September!

Great for morning greetings, bell ringer activities, morning meetings, group discussions, language models, or writing prompts!

Get them thinking and sharing every day!

Today is September 7th. Today is National Acoron Squash Day. Acoron squash is actually shaped like an acorn, but is related to zucchini. What else can you think of that is shaped like an acorn or a zucchini?

Use as a daily writing prompt!

Perfect for morning meeting!

School Days are Fun Days! Calendar of Fun!

2025 - 26

June 2025 through August 2026

Filled with 365 useful, unusual, and quirky holidays and excuses for learning!

AUGUST 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025

OCTOBER 2025

NOVEMBER 2025

DECEMBER 2025

JANUARY 2026

FEBRUARY 2026

MARCH 2026

APRIL 2026

MAY 2026

JUNE 2026

JULY 2026

AUGUST 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026

OCTOBER 2026

NOVEMBER 2026

DECEMBER 2026

JANUARY 2027

FEBRUARY 2027

MARCH 2027

APRIL 2027

MAY 2027

JUNE 2027

JULY 2027

AUGUST 2027

SEPTEMBER 2027

OCTOBER 2027

NOVEMBER 2027

DECEMBER 2027

JANUARY 2028

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MARCH 2028

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DECEMBER 2050

Writer's Workshop Starter Kit

Everything you need to start Writer's Workshop including organization, record keeping, contents of writing folders, and mini-lesson ideas!




Writer's Workshop Starter Kit

- Table of Contents
- Contents
- Record Keeping
- Materials for children's folders!
- Ideas for mini-lessons!
- Suggestions for running Writers' Workshop!
- Ideas for conferencing!
- Scheduling suggestions!

Be sure to check out these digital resources on the *Boom Learning* platform!

Boom Digital Task Cards August General Knowledge

Explore general knowledge with questions from the August calendar!




August General Knowledge

- Explore general knowledge with questions from the August calendar!
- Perfect for fast finishers!

Boom Digital Task Cards Basic Skills Practice & Review for Beginning 2nd Graders

Practice and review important literacy and math skills with a Fun Back-to-School theme!

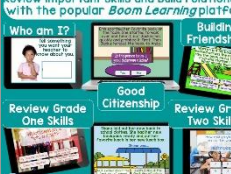


Basic Skills Practice & Review for Beginning 2nd Graders

- Practice and review important literacy and math skills with a Fun Back-to-School theme!
- Perfect for fast finishers!

Boom Digital Task Cards Back-to-School Boom Bundle!

Review important skills and build relationships with the popular Boom Learning platform!




Back-to-School Boom Bundle!

- Review important skills and build relationships with the popular Boom Learning platform!
- Perfect for fast finishers!

Boom Digital Task Cards Basic Skills Practice & Review for Beginning 3rd Graders

Practice and review important literacy and math skills with a Fun Back-to-School theme!



Basic Skills Practice & Review for Beginning 3rd Graders

- Practice and review important literacy and math skills with a Fun Back-to-School theme!
- Perfect for fast finishers!

Boom Digital Task Cards September General Knowledge

Explore general knowledge with questions from the September calendar!



September General Knowledge

- Explore general knowledge with questions from the September calendar!
- Perfect for fast finishers!

Science and Social Studies The Whole Year!

Science experiments and hands-on social studies activities, printables, and worksheets

Activities include: Force and Motion, Mapping, Famous People, Experiments, 10 different seasonal collections, 75 different activities, Citizenship, Materials, Scientists Make Predictions, USA, Life Cycles, Informational Reading, Landforms, Fun Activities, and more!

Parent/ Caregiver Informational Brochure Yearly Collection

Research-based information to help parents help their children in school!

Includes: Helping Our Children be Successful, May Edition, and various educational tips and resources for parents and caregivers.

Team Building Games!

60 games and activities for building trust and relationships in the classroom

Activities include: Communication Games, Group Building, Trust Exercises, and more! Includes an optional group evaluation!

Writer's Workshop Starter Kit

Everything you need to start Writer's Workshop including organization, record keeping, contents of writing folders, and mini-lesson ideas!

Includes: Writing Folders, Mini-lesson Ideas, Record Keeping, and more! Perfect for running a successful writer's workshop.

Be Ready for the Whole Year!

Brain-Friendly Addition and subtraction Fact Fluency Practice and Assessment

A complete classroom system for math facts mastery!

Includes: Fact Families, Brain Breaks, Assessment Cards, and more! Designed around how the brain learns!

Brain-Friendly Multiplication and division Fact Fluency Practice and Assessment

A complete classroom system for math facts mastery!

Includes: Fact Families, Brain Breaks, Assessment Cards, and more! Designed around how the brain learns!

Team Building and Character Development

Establish clear expectations and a community spirit from the first day!

Includes: Strategies for Success, Classroom Management, Character Traits, and more! Perfect for establishing a positive classroom environment.

Monthly Check-Ins!

Use these monthly check-ins to help see the growth of students as the year progresses!

Includes: Monthly Check-in Sheets, Reflection Questions, and more! Perfect for tracking student growth throughout the year.

Daily Questions for The Whole Year!

Great for morning greetings, bell ringer activities, morning meetings, group discussions, language models, or writing prompts!

Includes: Daily Questions, Seasonal Questions, Writing Prompts, and more! Perfect for starting the day with a thought-provoking question.

The Ultimate Life Cycle

For use with interactive notebooks, art projects, research projects, or science lessons

Includes: Animal Life Cycles, Plant Life Cycles, Interactive Notebook Pages, and more! Perfect for teaching about the life cycle of various organisms.

No Prep Activities and Worksheets For the Whole Year!

Integrate math and literacy activities into seasonal fun learning!

Includes: Math Activities, Literacy Activities, Seasonal Fun, and more! Perfect for integrating math and literacy into seasonal learning.

School Days are Fun Days! Calendar of Fun!

2025 - 26

Includes: Monthly Calendars, Fun Activities, and more! Perfect for making school days fun and engaging.

Songs and Chants for the Class Team!

Integrate reading and music into morning meeting and community building!

Keep the Peace
If you know some friends are fighting, try to get them to stop. If you can't get them to stop, tell the teacher. If you see them fighting, tell the teacher. If you see them fighting, tell the teacher.

Talk it Out!
Talk, talk, talk it out. When you can't agree, that could be the key. Talk, talk, talk it out. Your thoughts are the key.

This is Our Safe Place
This classroom is our safe place. We are all safe here. We are all safe here. We are all safe here. We are all safe here.

Team Building, Community Building, Friendships, S.E.L., and Social Skills

Team Building Games!

60 games and activities for building trust and relationships in the classroom

- Perfect for classrooms, sports teams, after-school groups, community groups, families, and even businesses!
- Includes an optional group evaluation!
- Includes blank cards to add your own!
- Also available in black and white for easier printing!

Science and Social Studies The Whole Year!

Science experiments and hands-on social studies activities, printables, and worksheets

Daily Questions for The Whole Year!

Great for morning greetings, bell ringers, activities, morning meetings, group discussions, language models, or writing prompts!

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Get to Know You Game

A game to build community and friendship in the classroom

The Ultimate Life Cycle

For use with interactive notebooks, art projects, research projects, or science lessons

Reader's Theater Bundle

Performers and Audience Decide on the Ending!

Starring: Kindness

Practice important reading skills while working on Social-Emotional Skills! Problem-solving Fun!

Reader's Theater with a Twist! Performers and Audience Decide on the Ending!

Starring: Respect!

Practice important reading skills while working on Social-Emotional Skills! Problem-solving Fun!

Reader's Theater with a Twist! Performers and Audience Decide on the Ending!

Starring: Friendship

Practice important reading skills while working on Social-Emotional Skills! Problem-solving Fun!

Reader's Theater with a Twist! Performers and Audience Decide on the Ending!