

GRADE 4



WORKSTATION FLIP CHART

Writing

The McGraw-Hill Companies



Published by Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, of McGraw-Hill Education, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.,
Two Penn Plaza, New York, New York 10121.

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Printed in Colombia

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Writing

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Writing

Should We Move?

20 Minutes



- Write a letter to a newspaper advice column asking for help on how to handle a family move.
- Include where you live now and where your family is moving to.

Extension

- Brainstorm ideas and write a list of helpful hints to use when moving from one place to another.

Moving Day

1. Write down friends' addresses and telephone numbers.
2. Label each box of items.
3. Clean bedroom.

Things you need:

- pen and paper




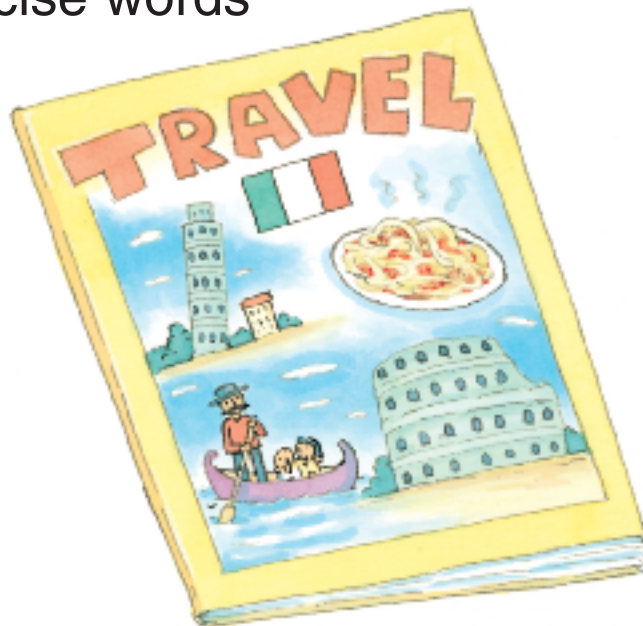
Writing

Just the Place

20 Minutes



-  Research a place you would like to visit and write details you find on note cards.
- Use your note cards to write a radio ad that will persuade others to go to the same place.
- Use strong, precise words in your ad that will create a picture in the listener's mind.



Extension

- Make a brochure advertising the place you would like to visit.
- Include facts and illustrations or photos with captions.

Things you need:

- pencil and paper
- note cards
- colored pencils or markers




Writing

A Personal Narrative

20 Minutes



-  Write a journal entry about a happy experience you have had.
- You might write about a trip you took and explain what happened on this trip.
- Make sure that your personal narrative has a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Extension

- Draw a picture of one part of your personal narrative.
- Write a caption under your picture explaining what happened.



Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers




Writing

Home Sweet Home


20 Minutes



-  If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you like to live?
- Write a descriptive paragraph about this place. Include details about what you would see and hear each day.

Extension

- In a geography book, look up the place you would like to live.
- Add one additional detail to your paragraph about this place that appeals to you.



Things you need:

- geography book
- pen and paper





Writing

I Want a Job!

20 Minutes



- Pretend that you want to get a job to earn extra money.
- Think of a job that you could do. Write a letter to your parents. Persuade them that you are responsible enough to do this job.
- Use strong reasons that will appeal to your parents.



Extension

- Illustrate your letter. Show yourself doing some of the things you described in your letter.

Things you need:

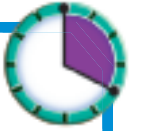
- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers




Writing

Good Jobs!

20 Minutes



-  Prepare to interview two people such as family members or neighbors about their jobs.
- Make a list of five questions to ask each person about the specific job.

Extension

- With a partner, role-play the interview. One student can ask the questions and one student can pretend to have the job.



Things you need:

- pen and paper




Writing

Personal Letter

20 Minutes



-  Choose someone you know and admire.
- Write a letter to that person telling what makes him or her special to you.
- Use specific details and examples of what he or she does that inspires you.

Extension

- Make a Character Web about the person you wrote about.
- Include the parts of his or her personality that you think would be good character traits.

Dear Aunt Sue,
You are an inspiration to me
because ...

Things you need:

- pen and paper



Writing


A Good Career

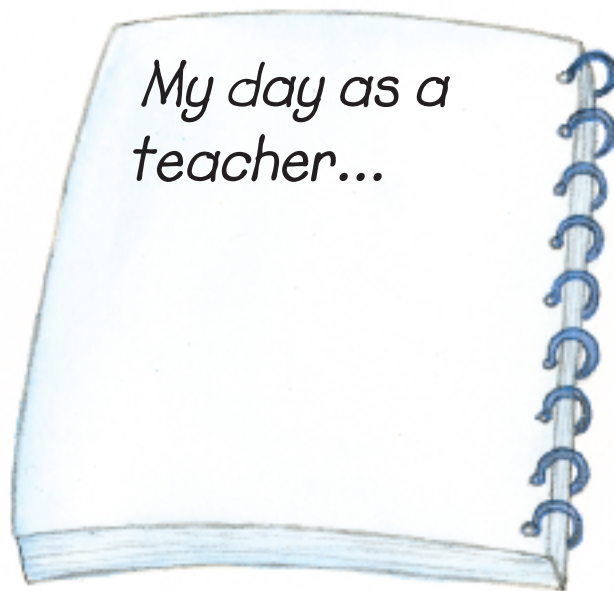
20 Minutes



- Choose a career that you would like to have in the future.
- Write a paragraph telling why you think you would enjoy this career and be successful at it.

Extension

-  Write a journal entry telling about a day in your life working the job of your dreams.



Things you need:

- pen and paper



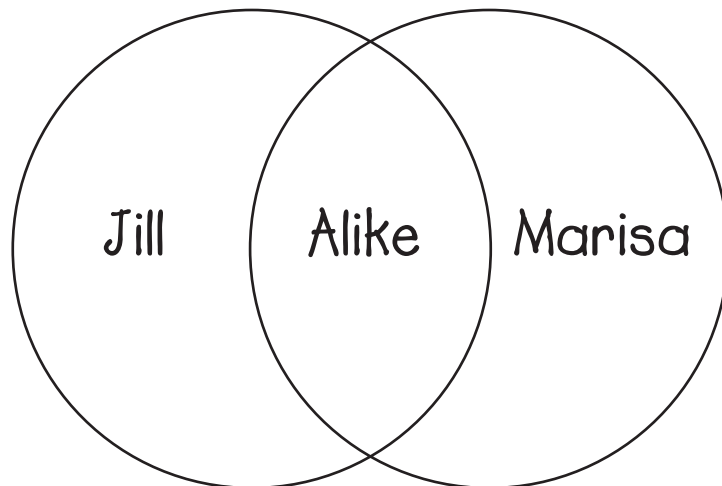
Writing

My Friend and I

20 Minutes



- Think about a good friend or classmate.
- Brainstorm how you are alike and different. List the likenesses and differences on a piece of paper.



Extension

- Draw a Venn diagram. In the middle, write how you and your friend are alike. In the outer circles, write how you are different.
- Then use your Venn diagram to write a paragraph that compares and contrasts you and your friend.

Things you need:

- pen and paper




Writing

POEM ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

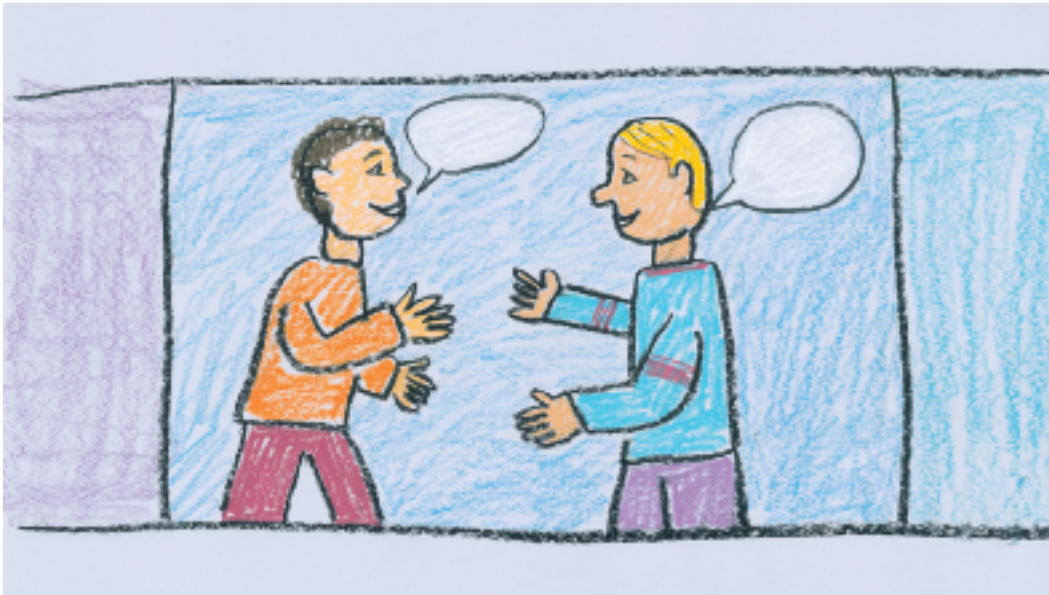
20 Minutes



-  Write a poem about a friendship between you and a good friend or family member.
- Include what you enjoy doing together.

Extension

- Draw a comic strip about how you and your good friend met.
- Write captions to go with each illustration.



Things you need:

- pen and paper
- ruler
- colored pencils or markers



Internet Research and Inquiry Activity

Students can find more facts at www.macmillanmh.com




Writing

Write a Poem

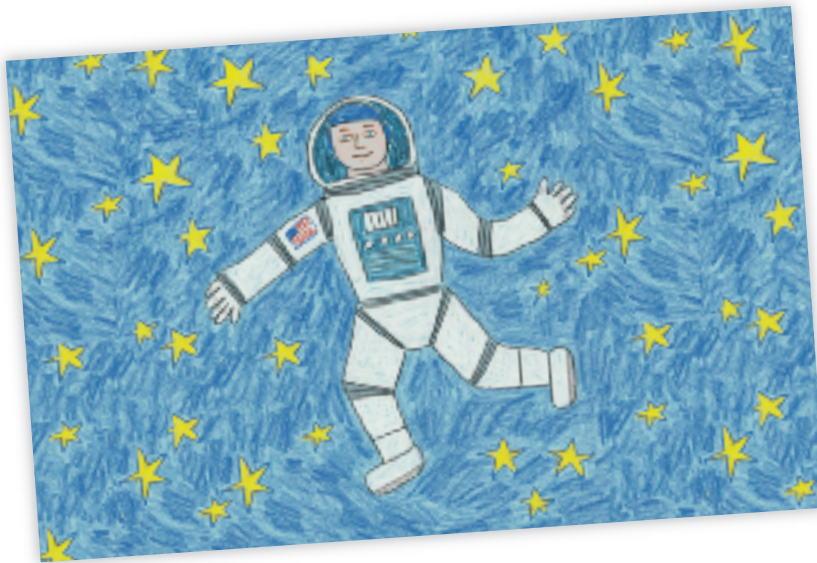
20 Minutes



-  Write a list of things you would like to do in the future.
- Use your list to write a poem about what you would like to become.
- Include strong words that show your enthusiasm.

Extension

- Illustrate a detail from your poem.
- Share your poem with a partner.



Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers



Writing

MY INSPIRATION!

20 Minutes



- Think of a person you know and admire.
- Write a list of five things this person has done to inspire you.

Extension

- Using your list, write a paragraph about the person.
- Illustrate your paragraph by drawing a picture of him or her.



Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers




Writing

PLAY BALL!

20 Minutes



- Choose your favorite sports team.
-  Write a letter to a friend telling why your team is a great team. Use reasons that will persuade your friend to agree with you.

Extension

- Share your letter with a partner. Ask your partner if your letter was persuasive enough.
- Add more reasons if necessary.



Things you need:

- pen and paper



Writing

Team Spirit

20 Minutes



- Write a paragraph explaining what you think having team spirit means.
- Tell why people who work together need team spirit to succeed at a task.

Extension

- Choose a job in which workers need team spirit. Write an advertisement illustrating why people who do this job need team spirit and cooperation.



Things you need:

- pencil and paper
- colored pencils or markers




Writing

The Great Outdoors

20 Minutes



-  Write a personal narrative about an outdoor experience, such as a hike or a bicycle ride that you enjoyed.
- Tell about your experience. Use vivid words that express your feelings.

Extension

- Illustrate your narrative. Share it with your classmates.



Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils




Writing

Step-by-Step

20 Minutes



-  Think about your favorite activity and write a paragraph that tells how to do this activity. First explain what the activity is. Then describe how to do it in steps.
- Use sequence words such as *first*, *next*, *then*, and *finally*.

Extension

- Draw a picture of yourself doing your favorite activity. Write a caption under the picture.

first, next, then, and finally

Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers




Writing

Tall Tale

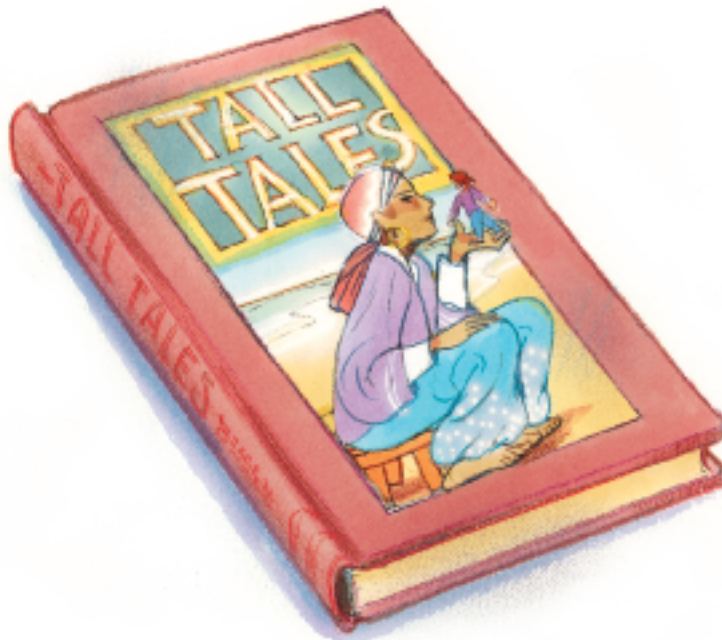
20 Minutes



-  Make up a character who might appear in a tall tale.
- Write a descriptive paragraph about your character. Use vivid words and specific details that will make this character come to life.

Extension

- Add an example of hyperbole, or exaggeration, to your description. For example, you might write that your character has hands as big as frying pans.



Things you need:

- pen and paper



Writing

A Day in the Life

20 Minutes



- Research different characters from tall tales.
- Choose a tall tale character and write a journal entry of what a day in your life might be like.

Extension

- With a partner, role-play the tall tale characters you chose.

Things you need:

- tall tales
- pen and paper

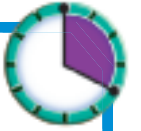





Writing

WRITE A PLAY

20 Minutes



-  Write a short play about a funny event that happened at school or at home.
- Write dialogue that the characters would have said.
- Add stage directions that tell the actors how to say the words or where to move.

Extension

- Have your classmates read your play aloud. Find one place where you can improve the dialogue so that it expresses the characters' feelings.



Things you need:

- pen and paper



Writing

Describe a Tipi

20 Minutes



- Use an online encyclopedia or other reference materials to find out about what materials were used to make tipis, how they were used, and what the different symbols or designs on them may have meant.



Extension

- Using a pen or marker, draw an outline of a tipi on a lined sheet of writing paper.
- Write a paragraph describing your tipi in the outline and decorate the edges.

Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils and markers




Writing

WE NEED MORE BOOKS

20 Minutes



-  Suppose you wanted to write a report about snakes, but the library had no books on the topic.
- Write a letter to the librarian. Include some ideas on how the library might be able to help its customers.

Extension

- Reread your letter. Is the tone polite? Are your suggestions reasonable? Find one place where you can improve your letter.
- Rewrite your letter to include your changes.



Things you need:

- pen and paper



Writing

Snakes Are Good

20 Minutes



- Suppose you have a friend who doesn't like snakes.
- Use an online encyclopedia to find out why snakes are good.
- Write a persuasive paragraph to your friend and try to change his or her opinion.

Three Good Things About Snakes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Extension

- Create a poster illustrating "Three Good Things About Snakes."

Things you need:

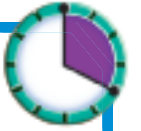
- online encyclopedia
- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers



Writing

Explain It Plainly

20 Minutes



- Think of a problem that you solved. For example, did you find a way to make your dog stop barking?
- Write a paragraph about your experience. In your topic sentence, state the problem that you solved.
- Then write in order the steps you took to solve the problem.

Extension

- Share your paragraph with a classmate. Ask your classmate if your steps are clear and complete.
- Find one place where you can add more details to make your writing better.



Things you need:

- pen and paper




Writing

20 Minutes



Taking Care of Pets

-  Write an explanatory paragraph about why it is important for people to train their pet dogs.
- Include a strong topic sentence and support your topic with examples and details.

Extension

- Draw a cartoon about how a badly trained dog causes problems.
- Write a humorous caption under your cartoon.



Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers




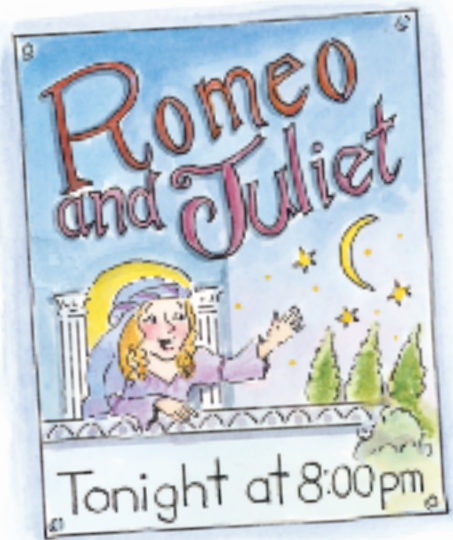
Writing

It's a Great Play

20 Minutes



-  Imagine that your class is putting on a school play.
- Create a poster to advertise the play.
- Use strong, vivid adjectives to describe the play. Your goal is to persuade others to come see the play.



Extension

- Illustrate your poster. In your drawing, show something that is connected to an action from the play, such as a scene or character.

Things you need:

- poster board
- colored pencils or markers



Internet Research and Inquiry Activity

Students can find more facts at www.macmillanmh.com



Writing

Write Dialogue

20 Minutes



- Create two characters for a play. Write a short dialogue that the two characters might have with each other.
- Give your play a name.

Extension

- Write stage directions telling the actors where they should stand and what actions they are to perform. For example, you can tell how the characters should say their lines, or where the characters should move on the stage.



Things you need:

- pen and paper




Writing

A Personal Essay

20 Minutes



-  Write a personal essay about an important experience in your life.
- In your essay, clearly express your opinions about the experience. How did it make you feel? What did you think at the time? What do you think now?



Extension

- At the end of your essay, write a few sentences summarizing why the experience you described is important to you.

Things you need:

- pen and paper



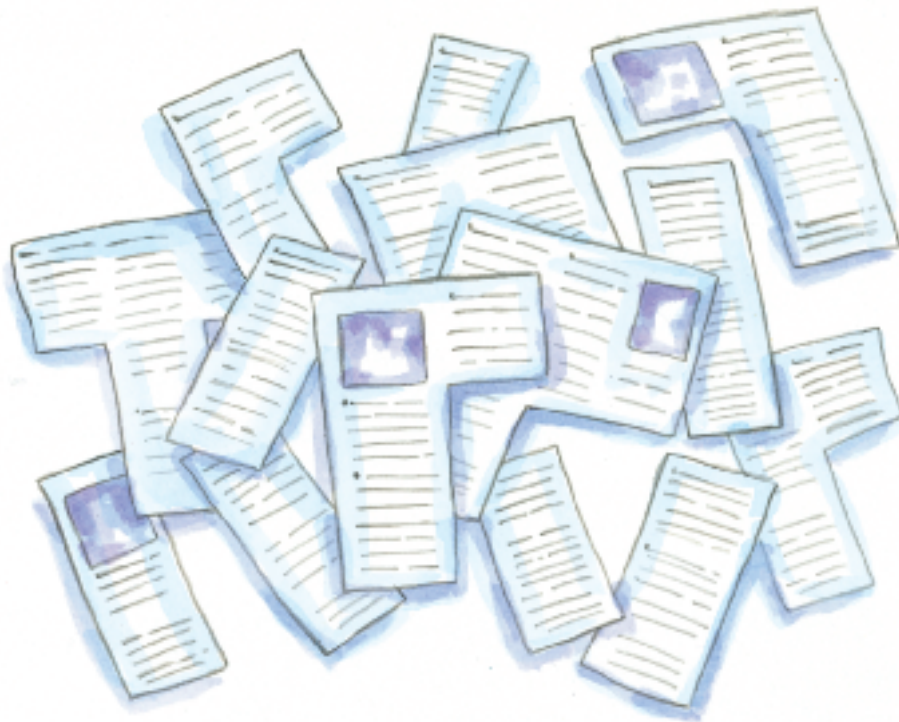
Writing

Current Events

20 Minutes



- Read a newspaper or magazine article about something interesting that recently happened in the world.
- Write three important facts you learned about the event.



Extension

- Using your facts, write a paragraph that expresses your opinions about the event. Your opinions can be about any detail mentioned in the article or the author's point of view.
- Exchange your paragraph with a partner.

Things you need:

- newspaper or magazine article
- pen and paper



Writing

An Introduction

20 Minutes



- Imagine that a famous actor is coming to speak at your school. You have been asked to introduce this person. Make a list of things you would want to include in your introduction. Include your opinion of the person.

Extension

- Share your introduction with a classmate and ask him or her to give you more ideas to include. Try to come up with five more things.



Things you need:

- pen and paper




Writing

My Favorite Painting

20 Minutes



-  Look through an art book and choose a painting you like. Write a description of the painting including what colors and textures the artist used. Describe the feeling that the painting expresses.



Extension

- Add to your description by writing another paragraph that tells your personal opinion about the painting.

Things you need:

- art books
- pen and paper



Writing

Animal Madness?

20 Minutes



- Think about what insect or animal may cause problems in your community.
- Write five questions about the problems. Begin your questions with *Who, What, Where, When, and Why*.
- Find the answers to your questions using prior knowledge and other references.



Extension

- Write a news article about the insect or animal problem for your local newspaper.
- Describe the problems and explain what you think could be done to solve them. Use specific details and examples.

Things you need:

- pen and paper
- reference materials




Writing

Zoo Favorites

20 Minutes



-  What is your favorite zoo animal?
- Write a descriptive paragraph about this animal using vivid words and details to tell what it looks like, where it lives, and when you last saw one of its kind.

Extension

- Write three sentences that include clues about your animal.
- Read your sentences aloud to a partner. Can she or he guess what the animal is?



Things you need:

- pen and paper




Writing

Write a Summary

20 Minutes



-  Write a summary of a newspaper or magazine article that you have read. State the main idea of the article in your topic sentence.
- End your summary with a strong concluding sentence that restates the main idea.

My Summary

Birds migrate during a change of season.

Extension

- Exchange your summary with a partner.
- Have your partner rewrite the summary using different words and types of sentences to state the main idea and details of the article.

Things you need:

- newspaper or magazine article
- pen and paper



Writing

Look, Up in the Sky!

20 Minutes



- Think about an object you see in the sky, such as a planet, a cloud, a comet, or the sun.
- Use a science book or encyclopedia to research the object. Then write a paragraph describing it. Begin by explaining what the object is and be sure to include interesting facts.



Extension

- Read your paragraph to a partner. Have him or her write a list of questions about your object.
- Try to answer each of your partner's questions.

Things you need:

- science book or encyclopedia
- pen and paper



Internet Research and Inquiry Activity

Students can find more facts at www.macmillanmh.com



Writing

Painting a Mural

20 Minutes



- Suppose your town wants a mural painted on a community building.
- Write an explanatory paragraph about how to paint a mural.
- Think about the supplies and equipment you would need. Explain how to plan a design.

Extension


- Write a persuasive paragraph about why your mural should be painted on the building.

Things you need:

- pen and paper






-  Choose something that you know how to do. Perhaps you know how to build a bird feeder, or how to plant and care for a garden.
- Using sequence words, write a how-to paragraph about it. State your topic and list materials you need. Be sure to include all the steps.

Extension

- Reread your paragraph.
- Find two or three places where you could change your writing or add a word to make it clearer.



Things you need:

- pen and paper





Writing

EARTHQUAKES IN THE NEWS

20 Minutes



- Write a news article reporting on an earthquake. Write a headline for your article and three subheadings.

Extension

- Write a “Be Prepared” list to go with your article telling readers what to do in an earthquake.



Things you need:

- pen and paper




Writing

Personal Narrative

20 Minutes



- Think of a time that you were brave.
-  Write a story telling what happened and what you did. Use sensory details to tell what you heard or saw and how you felt.



Extension

- Illustrate one part of your story. Write a caption to explain your picture.

Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers.




Writing

The Future You

20 Minutes



-  Think about and brainstorm ideas on what you would like to do or be in the future.
- Write your thoughts in a list form.

teacher
scientist
writer
veterinarian

Extension

- Using your list, write an essay explaining which job appeals to you the most and why.
- Draw a picture of the “future you” to accompany your essay.

Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers



Writing

A Job Interview

20 Minutes



- Think of someone you know who has a job that interests you.
- On note cards, write questions an interviewer might ask a person applying for the job.

Extension

- Using your questions, role-play a job interview with a partner. One of you should play the interviewer and the other should play the person applying for the job.
- Make sure you take turns so your partner has a chance to play both roles.



Things you need:

- pen or pencil
- note cards




Writing

What If...

20 Minutes



-  Using books on survival in the desert and the Internet, do research and make a list of things you should take with you on a trip to the desert.
- Write a description for each item.



Extension

- Make a “Survival in the Desert” handbook.
- Choose five items from your list and create a page for each.
- Illustrate your handbook.

Things you need:

- online resources
- reference materials
- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers



Writing


WHAT WOULD YOU MISS?

20 Minutes



- Pretend you are in the desert and far from home. What three things from home would you miss?
- Write a letter to a friend or family member telling him or her what it is you miss about home and why. Be sure to support your letter with specific reasons.
- Vary the length of your sentences to make the letter more interesting.

Extension

-  Write a journal entry describing a day in your life in the desert.

Things you need:

- writing paper
- pen or pencil






Writing

Punctuating Dialogue

20 Minutes



-  Choose a character from a story.
- What did this character say to another character in the story? How did the other character respond?
- Write a short dialogue between the two characters.

Extension

- Exchange papers with a partner. Check the punctuation of the dialogue.

Things you need:

- paper
- pen or pencil





Writing

How Do You Play the Game?

20 Minutes



- Choose a game that you know how to play.
- Write a dialogue between you and a friend explaining to him or her how to play your game.
- Check your punctuation.

Extension

- Draw a picture to go along with your dialogue.

Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers



Internet Research and Inquiry Activity

Students can find more facts at www.macmillanmh.com




Writing

My Favorite Book

20 Minutes



-  Write a review of your favorite book.
- Include details about why you enjoyed it.
- Use a variety of sentence structures to make your writing more interesting.

Extension

- Make a book cover to go with your book review. Include pictures that tell something about the book.

Things you need:

- book
- pen and paper
- colored pencils





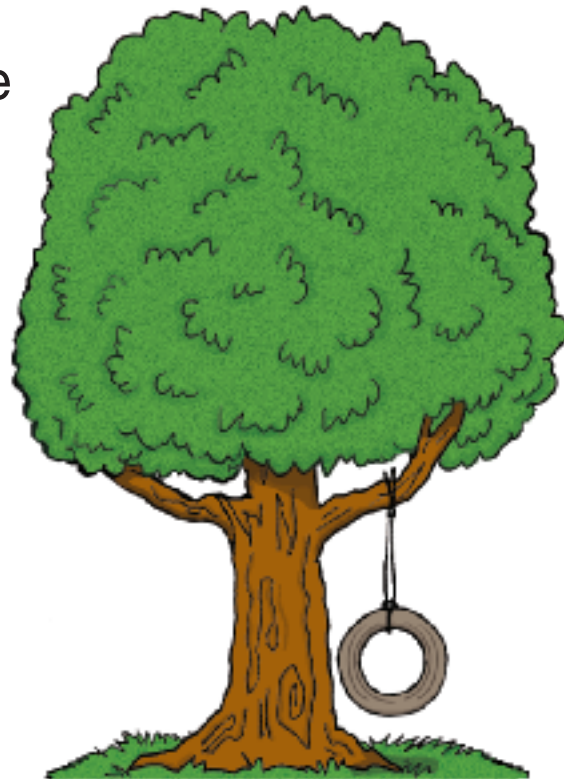
Writing

A Tree and Me

20 Minutes



- Read a poem about trees, such as “Every Time I Climb a Tree” by David McCord.
- Then write a personal response to the poem.
- Does the poem make you see something in a new way?
- If you have ever climbed a tree, do you feel like the poet does?
- Use details from the poem to support your response.



Extension

- Write a poem about an animal that lives in a tree.
- Share your poem with a classmate.

Things you need:

- poems about trees
- pen and paper




Writing

Ocean Creatures

20 Minutes



-  Brainstorm descriptive words about a sea creature and write a concrete poem about it.
- Remember that a concrete poem takes the shape of whatever topic you are writing about.

Starfish are rough.
 Starfish are sensitive.
 Starfish are pink.
 Starfish are rough.
 Starfish are rough.
 Starfish are rough.
 Starfish are rough.
 Starfish are rough.
 Starfish are rough.
 Starfish are rough.

Extension

- Take two or three details from your poem about a sea creature and offer them as clues to a partner.
- Ask your partner to guess which creature you are describing.

Things you need:

- pen and paper



Writing

Under The Sea

20 Minutes



- Choose an informational book or an article about sea life.
- Write a brief summary of the article, stating the main idea in your topic sentence. Remember to give supporting details.



Extension

- Draw a detailed picture to support your summary. Make sure to include a caption.

Things you need:

- informational books and articles
- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers




Writing

State Your Opinions

20 Minutes



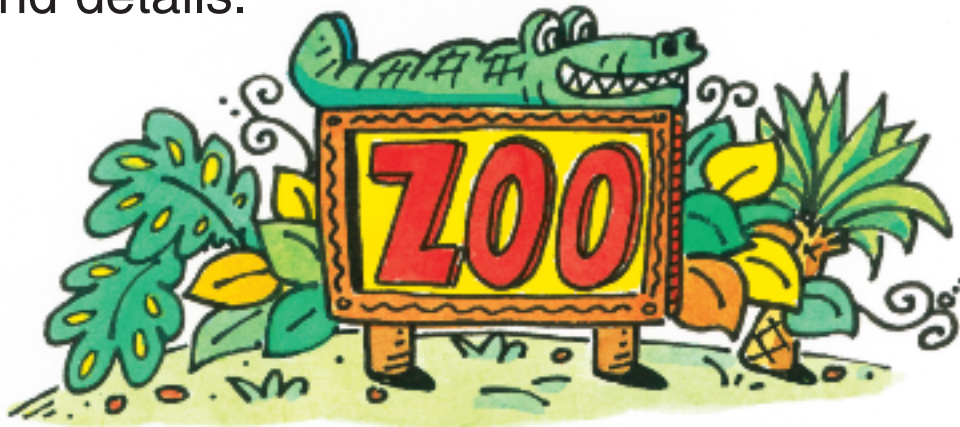
-  Some people think that zoos help preserve and protect animals. Other people think that zoos harm the animals that live there.
- Write a paragraph about zoos. Begin by explaining what zoos are and what their purpose is.
- Then give your opinion about zoos. Support your opinion with examples and details.

Extension

- Choose your strongest reason. Make it stronger by adding more details.

Things you need:

- pen and paper





Writing

20 Minutes



A Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary

- If you have space in your backyard for a shelter for small animals, or a bush with berries that animals can eat, you can create a backyard wildlife sanctuary.
- Use an online encyclopedia to research how to build a backyard wildlife sanctuary.



Extension

- Use your information to write an explanatory paragraph about building a backyard wildlife sanctuary.

Things you need:

- online resources
- pen and paper



Writing

20 Minutes



A Book Review

- Choose a book of poetry that you especially like. Write a book review that will make others want to read this book.
- Include a strong opening sentence that will grab the reader's attention.
- Write a brief summary about the kinds of poems included in this book.
- Support your recommendation with examples of poems from the book.



Extension

- Make a book cover for your book review.
- Include pictures that tell something about the book of poetry.

Things you need:

- poetry books
- pen and paper
- colored pencils




Writing

MONEY MATTERS

20 Minutes



-  Write a short paragraph about how people can save money.
- Include a clear topic sentence and supporting details.
- Make sure to include facts and examples in your paragraph.

Extension

- Exchange papers with a partner.
- Identify the topic sentence and supporting details in your partner's paragraph.
- Tell what parts are clear and what parts are hard to understand.



Things you need:

- paper
- pencil




Writing

The World Around You

20 Minutes



-  Pick a place in your community. It could be a building or a park.
- Make a list of details about this place. Use questions like these to help you think of details: What does it look like? How does it smell? What is it used for? When was it built? What is its name? Who usually goes there?

Extension

- Write a paragraph about the place you chose. Be sure to write a good topic sentence and support it with details from your list.
- Draw a picture of the place to support your paragraph.



Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers



Writing

A Time Long Ago

20 Minutes




- Imagine you lived in your community twenty or thirty years ago. What do you think your community looked like back then?
- Choose an elderly person who has lived in your community for many years.
- Write five questions you would ask this person about what the community was like twenty or thirty years ago.



Extension

- Share your list of questions with a partner. Can your partner help you think of any additional or better questions to ask? Revise your list as needed.



Things you need:

- pen and paper




Writing

Something's Missing!

20 Minutes



-  Write a paragraph telling about a time when you lost something.
- Include what you lost and the steps you took to try to find it.



Extension

- Draw small illustrations to support each step you took to find the lost item.
- Include a brief caption for each one.
- Read your paragraph with a partner.

Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers



Writing

Write a Headline

20 Minutes



- Read a magazine or newspaper article about a mystery.
- Write a new headline for the article that will make readers want to learn more.

MYSTERY SOLVED

**NEW CLUES HELP
SOLVE MYSTERY**

**FAMOUS DETECTIVE
JOINS THE CASE**

CASE CONTINUES

Extension

- Write a continuation of the story you read. Was the mystery ever solved? Include further details in one last paragraph.

Things you need:

- magazine and newspaper articles
- pen and paper




Writing

A Character Sketch

20 Minutes



-  Choose one of your favorite characters from a story.
- Write a character sketch that describes him or her.
- Begin your sentences in different ways to add interest to your writing.



Extension

- Draw a picture of your character.
- Place labels around your drawing using various character traits.
- For example, a label near the heart might say “kind person.”

Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils



Writing

A Weather Forecast

20 Minutes



- Imagine that you are going to interview your local TV weather forecaster.
- Write five questions you might ask this person in an interview.

Extension

- Would you like to be a weather forecaster? Write a paragraph telling why or why not.

Why I Would Not Want to Be
a Weather Forecaster



Things you need:

- pen and paper




Writing

When the Lights Went Out

20 Minutes



-  Write a fictional narrative about being without electricity.
- Include a title, beginning, middle, and end.



Extension

- Exchange narratives with a partner. Ask your partner to write an alternative ending to your story.
- Read or act out the narratives.

Things you need:

- pen and paper



Writing

Lights Out

20 Minutes



- Did you know that some lights can be turned off just by clapping your hands? Or that tape recorders can be turned on at the sound of your command?
- Write a short summary about an invention that has made life easier for everyone. Tell what the invention is and then explain how it works.
- Use sequence words in your summary.



Extension

- Draw and label a picture of the invention.
- Write a caption that explains how the invention helps people.

Things you need:

- pen and paper
- colored pencils or markers