

Get ready to discover mathematics all around you this spring in everyday activities!

Just like reading, regular practice with problem solving, computation, and math facts will maintain and strengthen the mathematic gains you have made over the school year.

Enjoy these activities to explore problem solving at home. The goal is for you to have fun thinking and working collaboratively as a family to communicate mathematical ideas.

While you are working ask how the solution was found and why a particular strategy helped you solve the problem.

Literature and websites are also recommended to explore mathematics in new ways.

Keeping a Math Journal is a great way for children to log their ideas about Math as well as strategies for arriving at solutions.

Here is an example of a journal entry:

This journal idea is an adaptation from Math Cats by Wendy Petti

For several day locate the largest and smallest blooms on a flowering bush or in a garden bed. Pick an attribute of the blooms (number of petals, length of each bloom, number of blooms on a bush, etc.)

Estimate the selected attribute. Record the data for the attribute over several day. Compare the data gathered and note if any conclusions can be made.

April 6,

For days I had observed that the 3 large bushes in my front yard had lots of blooms.

Day	Bush 1	Bush 2	Bush 3
Monday	9	21	15
Tuesday	13	9	24
Wednesday	19	3	30
Thursday	23	0	21

I seems to me that the most blooms a bush could get was about 25 and then the number of blooms declined. I think that is because the weather is getting hotter and the blooms need warm not hot weather.

Cool Math Books to in time to celebrate Spring

Check out the sampling of great Math/Literature Connections at

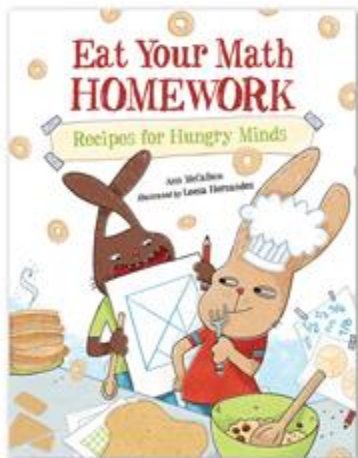
<http://www.carolhurst.com/subjects/winter.html>

http://www.mathstart.net/books/level_3/detail.php?level_id=3&book_id=57

Greg Tang's books and games never fail to provide kids with a genuine challenge and unique perspective on RICH problem solving

<http://gregtangmath.com/books>

Coming Soon

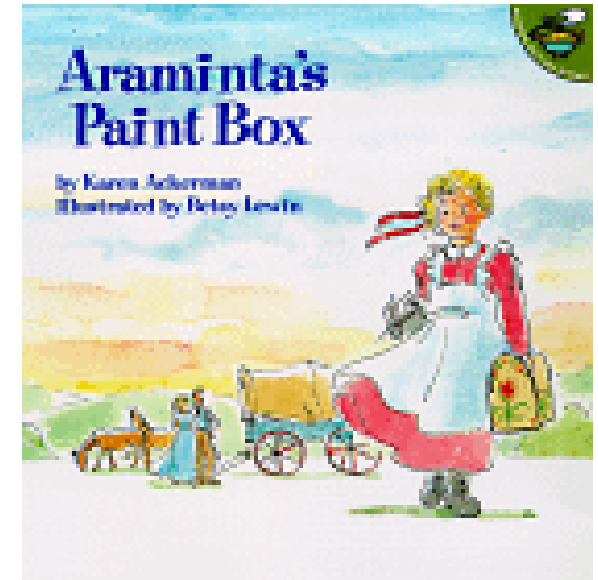


Make a Math Connection

This splendid math/literature connection comes from Carol Otis Hurst

Spring time is a great time for families to get out and take day trips. Ask kids to imagine what it might have been like to travel with your family about 130 year ago. Karen Ackerman and Betsy Lewin's book, [Araminta's Paint Box](#) is a story in which a little girl and her family travel by covered wagon to California and, on the way, she loses a treasured paint box. The paint box undergoes many transformations as it is passed from user to user but it also gets to California and, wonder of wonders, gets back into Araminta's possession. As a family, use some maps to trace both routes and calculate the mileage of Araminta and of the paint box. You can estimate the time it must have taken for both trips then and what it would take now.

This book begs the question, "What are the odds of the two ending up in the same place at the same time?" Of course, those odds are impossible to estimate accurately but it leads to a discussion of how odds are calculated and hands on activities using counters and random selection to check odds prediction.





Check out this great **FREE** resource from Teachers Pay Teachers that incorporates the theme of Earth Day with Math.



Education World offers articles and activities for families to learn and discover about Earth Day. - See more at:

<http://www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/earthday.shtml#sthash.Q86n15xa.dpuf>



Enjoy this educational Earth Day activities from PBS that support kids in exploring the connection between Math and Science.

[A Little Recycling Goes a Long Way/Probability: http://www.pbs.org/teachers/mathline/concepts/earthday/activity2.shtm](http://www.pbs.org/teachers/mathline/concepts/earthday/activity2.shtm)

Earth Day Math Activities from Math Wire

Featured Links: PBS Mathline



In a time when environmental activists are urging every American to make small changes, these **PBS Mathline** activities focus on mathematical investigations of earth-friendly practices, including energy usage and recycling. They provide real data and encourage students to follow the data trail through time in hopes that they will be prompted to take action.

- Activity Links
 - See What We Do Adds Up, a PBS lesson that prompts children to reflect on the average per person trash output and how it add up over time. [What We Do Adds Up](#)
 - What's in the Bag, a lesson that examines the use of paper bags and their impact on trees and landfills. [What's in a Bag?](#)

See [More Math Concepts](#) from PBS Mathline resources for additional real-life applications of math

Additional Math Activities



Consider using some of these activities to incorporate earth-friendly data and practices into enriching math activities.

- [Planting Trees](#) examines data on how many trees would be needed to undo the carbon dioxide emissions of a single family car, given the yearly mileage.
- [Math Hunt: Earth Day](#) uses mathematical data to explore environmental issues.
- Scholastic's [Think Green Cyberhunt](#) develops environmental awareness in young students.
- Consult [Earth Day Network's Lesson Plans k](#) for some mathematical suggestions to enrich Earth Day celebrations
- [Compact Fluorescent Bulb \(CFL\) Fact Sheet](#) prompts math problems and solutions
- [The Trash We Pass](#) challenges students to examine the environmental implications of trash disposal in our country. It begins with this question:
 - Did you know that only 2 man-made structures on Earth are large enough to be seen from space? Can anyone guess what they are?
 - The answers are the Great Wall of China and the Fresh Kills Landfill
- Visit [EPA's Climate Change for Kids](#) for information on this current hot

Explore these webpages for Math Family Spring Fun

<http://mathwire.com/seasonal/winter07.html>

http://www.dadeschools.net/winterbreak/pdfs/math/math_gr3.pdf

Fun Websites to Explore all Year Long:

www.funbrain.com

www.aplusmath.com

www.pbskids.org

www.illuminations.nctm.org

Click on **ACTIVITIES**. Click on **K-2** and press **SEARCH**.

Games To Play All Year Long (You will need a deck of cards)

1. Compare

Remove the face cards from a deck of cards. Remember an Ace is the same as 1. Pass out all of the cards in the deck among all of the players. Each player flips over one card at the same time. The player with the higher number keeps both cards. If the two cards are the same, turn over another card. The player with the higher number keeps all four.

2. Double Compare

Same as above, but turn over two cards each time and find the sum. The one with the larger sum takes the cards.

3. Close to 10

Remove the face cards from a deck of cards. Deal 3 cards to each player. Which two cards brings you closest to 10? Which player is closest to 10? Example: You turn over the cards 5, 4, 3 and your opponent turns over an Ace, 8, and 3. You can make 9 (5 and 4) and your opponent can make 9 (Ace and 8) or 11 (8 and 3). It's a tie since you are both 1 away from 10!

Other games to play:

Checkers, Memory, Chutes and Ladders, jigsaw puzzles, Parcheesi, Fish, Crazy Eights, Candy Land, Blink, Connect Four, Legos, K'Nex.

Check out the PDF: [Making Math More Fun Board Games](#) that contains a variety of board games for different grade levels..