THEME 4: Amazing Animals
CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES FOR

Amazing Animals

Selections
1 Officer Buckle and Gloria
2 Ant
3 The Great Ball Game
1. Officer’s Helper  150 MINUTES  PAIR

(Social Studies)

Materials: poster board, crayons, scissors, glue, and markers

DAY 1

Choose Your Tips

Brainstorm with children lists of safety tips. Tell them to reread the story to get ideas.

English Language Learners: Pair beginners with more advanced children.

DAY 2

Children continue to work on this project.

DAY 3

Drawing Conclusions

Check with children on the progress of their tips. Remind them that they need to tell why that tip is important. If they are using Gloria to help them, suggest that Gloria can do human-like actions, such as holding scissors, swinging on swings, or jumping rope.

DAY 4

Children continue to work on this project.

DAY 5

Share Your Tips

Allow children time to practice their presentations. You might set aside time for a question and answer session.
2. Interview a Firefighter 60 MINUTES  PAIR
(Social Studies)
If possible, ask a firefighter to come to talk to your class and allow children to ask him or her their interview questions.

3. Puppy Needs a Home 60 MINUTES INDIVIDUAL
Materials: Graphic Organizer Master 1, construction paper, poster board, crayons, and markers
Remind children to write interesting details that would make someone want to adopt the puppy. Explain that Gloria would have shown similar traits as a puppy as she does as an adult. Tell children if they really were advertising a puppy, they would include a phone number or an address.

Additional Independent Work
Connecting/Comparing Literature
Have children compare the On My Way Practice Reader Sandy Goes to the Vet with the anthology selection Officer Buckle and Gloria, using what they have learned about Drawing Conclusions. Children may discuss or write about their comparisons.

Other Activities
• Theme 4 Assignment Cards 2, 3, 4
• TE p. T62, Literature Discussion
• TE p. T64, Challenge Word Practice
• TE p. T77, Design a Stamp
• TE pp. R11, R13, R21, R27, Challenge
• Education Place: www.eduplace.com
More activities related to Officer Buckle and Gloria
• Accelerated Reader®, Officer Buckle and Gloria

Expected Outcome
Good interviews will include
✔ questions that elicit useful, important information
✔ questions that don’t have a yes or a no answer

A good project will include
✔ a drawing of Gloria as a puppy
✔ inferences about Gloria as a puppy
✔ persuasive sentences and details
**Activities**

**Selection 2: Ant**

**Theme 4:** Amazing Animals

**1. Insect Scientist**

(Science)

**Materials:** large drawing paper, tape, markers, encyclopedia, and books about insects

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**DAY 1**

**Insects I Know**

Remind children that in *Ant* they have been reading about a kind of insect. Summarize for children the information to include for each insect: name, illustration, and two details. Remind children to leave room on their poster for more insects to be added later on.

**English Language Learners:** Review the two categories with children. Have them work in pairs.

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**DAY 2**

Children continue to work on this project.

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**DAY 3**

**Add More Insects**

Ask children to try to find insects that can be added to both webs. Tell children to search for the common, non-scientific name. Inform children that some insects will change groups, depending on the stage in their life cycle. For example, a caterpillar is an insect without wings, but it has wings when it turns into a butterfly.

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**DAY 4**

Children continue to work on this project.

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**DAY 5**

**Present Your Findings**

You might want to moderate the question and answer session.
2. A Toad for Tuesday 60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL  PAIR
(Challenge Theme Paperback)

Materials: Graphic Organizer Master 3

Tell children that a story map shows a different kind of text organization. Ask volunteers to retell their story for the class.

English Language Learners: Have them work with a group of classmates that are more fluent in English.

3. Ants and Spiders 60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL
(Science)

Materials: drawing paper, dictionary, and encyclopedia

Tell children that it is not necessary to include colors and patterns in this activity. If children are having difficulty in discovering the answer needed for their conclusion, remind them to count the number of legs, main body parts, and antennae.

Additional Independent Work

Connecting/Comparing Literature ★

Have children compare the On My Way Practice Reader Sandy Goes to the Vet with the anthology selection Ant, using what they have learned about Text Organization. Children may discuss or write about their comparisons.

Other Activities

- Challenge Theme Paperback, A Toad for Tuesday
- Theme 4 Assignment Cards 6, 7, 8
- TE p. T144, Literature Discussion
- TE p. T146, Challenge Word Practice
- TE pp. R8, R15, R17, R23, R29, Challenge
- Education Place: www.eduplace.com
  More activities related to Ant
- Accelerated Reader®, Ant

Expected Outcome

A good story map and retelling will include
✔ a demonstrated understanding of text organization
✔ a demonstrated understanding of the main event and illustration of each

Expected Outcome

A good activity will include
✔ careful examination of photos for facts
✔ use of comparing and contrasting
✔ conclusions about discovered clues

Challenge Master CH 4–4

2. A Toad for Tuesday

Draw a big ant using a story map.

Step 1:

Rewrite A Toad for Tuesday. Fill in the story map. Be sure to include a title, the characters, the setting, the problem, what happens, and the ending. Use your story map to retell the story to a classmate.

3. Ants and Spiders

Think about which ant parts you found.

- There is one main event in each chapter.
- Focus on the main problem and what happens.
- Write the most important details.

Tip:

- Draw a large ant. Look at pictures in Ant to help you.
- Check your drawing. Did you draw the correct number of body parts?
- Label the ant’s body parts. Look in the encyclopedia.
- Find spider in an encyclopedia. Draw a large spider and label its body parts. Write down what category a spider is classified. Write a few sentences about why a spider is not an insect. Include three things that are different.

Tip:

- Count body parts and sections before you draw.
- Use your research to draw conclusions.
1. **Story Sticks**  
**50 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL**  
*(Social Studies)*  

**Materials:** Graphic Organizer Master 3, 3 strips of oaktag for each child, fine tip markers, glue, and tissue paper

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**DAY 1**

**Organize the Story**

If necessary, review how to use a story map. Remind children that their stories should have a beginning, middle, and end.

**English Language Learners:** Have children work in pairs.

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**DAY 2**

Children continue to work on this project.

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**DAY 3**

**Illustrate Your Sticks**

Check with children on the progress of their sticks. Remind children to choose the most important events from each part of the story. You might want to draw some stick figures on the board.

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**DAY 4**

Children continue to work on this project.

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**DAY 5**

**Story Time**

Allow children time to practice their retelling. Tell children they can refer to their story map and other notes during storytelling.
2. Leaders **60 MINUTES** INDIVIDUAL PAIR (Social Studies)

Materials: encyclopedia, Let’s Read Biography titles: Barbara Jordan, Benito Juarez, Abraham Lincoln, and/or others in that series

The three leaders chosen for this activity were people in government. You may want to talk about the kinds of problems that government leaders face.

3. Animal Interview **60 MINUTES** INDIVIDUAL PAIR

Ask volunteers to perform their interviews for the class.

Additional Independent Work

Connecting/Comparing Literature

Have children compare the On My Way Practice Reader *Sandy Goes to the Vet* with the anthology selection *The Great Ball Game*, using what they have learned about Cause and Effect. Children may discuss or write about their comparisons.

Other Activities

- Theme 4 Assignment Cards 10, 11, 12
- TE p. T212, Literature Discussion
- TE p. T214, Challenge Word Practice
- TE pp. R19, R25, R31, Challenge

Education Place: www.eduplace.com

More activities related to *The Great Ball Game*

- Accelerated Reader®, *The Great Ball Game*