CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES FOR

Our Earth
1. Our Little Forest

Goal: Make a diorama of the forest.

Learning More About the Forest

Remind children that many different kinds of plants and animals live in the forest. Have children begin by reading individually.

- Provide children with materials that show a variety of plants and animals.
- Tell them to keep a list of the things they will draw for their diorama.

Picture the Facts

- Check with children on the progress of their picture making.
- Encourage children to use accurate colors for each plant or animal they draw.
- Option: Show children how to make a one-inch tab below each picture and fold the tab under the picture so that it stands up when they tape it in the box.

Set Up a Diorama

Tell children that a diorama is a tiny scene built inside an open box. Have them work in small groups to make their dioramas together.

- Help children place and attach their stand-up pictures.
- Have children view each diorama and record what they see.
- Have them make their lists as specific as possible, including each different plant and animal they see.
- Have children compare their lists.

Expected Outcome

A good diorama will include:

- ✔ a variety of living things
- ✔ accurate colors and details
2. “How Does It Move?” Chart

60 MINUTES  SMALL GROUP  INDIVIDUAL

(Science)

Materials: copies of This Is Our Earth, books or magazines that show animals in natural settings, 12” × 18” drawing paper, markers

Goal: Make a chart that shows how animals move.

Have children look through This Is Our Earth and talk about the different ways animals move. On the board, make a model chart with the headings Walk, Swim, and Fly. Show children how to fold their paper to make their own charts.

• Children may decide to add another heading to their charts.
• They may work individually or in groups to make their charts.

3. Thank You, Tree!  60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL

(Science) (Social Studies)

Materials: books and other reference materials about trees, crayons

Goal: Write a thank-you note to a tree.

Have children look through This Is Our Earth and discuss the trees in each setting. Talk about the many products people eat or use that come from trees. List ideas that children might use to write their thank-you notes.

• Have on hand literature relating to trees, such as The Earth Is Good by Michael DeMunn and The Apple Pie Tree by Zoe Hall.
• When children have completed their thank-you notes, you might suspend the notes from a tree branch inserted in a pail of sand.

Additional Independent Work

Connecting/Comparing Literature

Have children compare the On My Way Practice Reader How Raven Played a Trick with the anthology selection The Forest, using what they have learned about Categorize and Classify. Children may discuss or write about their comparisons.

Other Activities

• TE p. T33, Word Endings
• TE pp. R13, R21, R27, Challenge
• Education Place: www.eduplace.com
  More activities related to The Forest
• Accelerated Reader®, The Forest
1. From Small to Big

**Goal:** Write a research report on the life of an animal.

**Find Information**
Remind children that *Butterfly* tells how an animal changes from the time it is born to when it grows up.

- Have children choose the animal they will write about.
- Tell them to use a K-W-L chart to organize what they know and what they want to learn.
- Tell children to take notes on their K-W-L chart as they do their research. Alternatively, they may use a learning log to take notes as they read each book.

**Write a Report**
Check with children on their progress. Tell them to decide what information and drawings they will include in their report.

- Remind children that they need to write about how the animal they chose is born and grows up.
- Tell children to use their K-W-L chart and their Research Report Planner as they draft their reports.

**Publish Your Report**
- Decide with children how the reports will be published (e.g., posters, individual reports, class book pages).
- Have children make a final copy of their research reports.
2. **This Is Our Earth**  
(Challenge Theme Paperback)  
(Science)  

**Materials:** large paper, crayons, markers

**Goal:** Compare two different places.
Have on hand trade books such as *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain* by Verna Aardema; *The Sun, the Wind and the Rain* by Lisa Westberg Peters; and *Desert Giant* by Barbara Bash, as well as others within the children’s reading range. Before they begin, remind children of the following basic science facts:

- All living things require water.
- Ice is frozen water.
- Some animals and plants adapt to extreme conditions such as heat or cold. That is, they live differently than they would under more mild conditions.

3. **A Topic–Main Idea–Details Ant**  

**Goal:** Draw an ant chart to summarize a book.
Tell children that they will be making a chart in the shape of an ant. Each part of the ant is a part of the chart. Show them the chart on Transparency 8–11 and point out how the parts in each column are like the parts of their ant. Have them fill in their ant chart.

**Additional Independent Work**

**Connecting/Comparing Literature**

Have children compare the On My Way Practice Reader *All About the Weather* with the anthology selection *Butterfly*, using what they have learned about Topic, Main Idea, and Details/Summarizing. Children may discuss or write about their comparisons.

**Other Activities**

- Challenge Theme Paperback, *This Is Our Earth*
- TE p. T112, Vowel Pairs
- TE p. T136, Write a Story
- TE pp. R15, R17, R23, R29, Challenge
- Education Place: www.eduplace.com
- More activities related to *Butterfly*
- Accelerated Reader®, *Butterfly*
1. Johnny Appleseed: The Play

120 MINUTES  SMALL GROUP

(Creative Arts Center)

Materials: drawing paper; crayons or paints; tape, straws or sticks; a puppet stage (a big box with the bottom and front cut out); Graphic Organizer Master 4

Goal: Use paper-doll puppets to act out a play about Johnny Appleseed.

Tell children that a play is a good way to bring a book to life and to tell it to many people at once. Have them form small groups to put on puppet plays about Johnny Appleseed.

Write Your Play

Assist groups as they dramatize the story of Johnny Appleseed.

- Remind children to limit the number of events in their play.
- Have children think about which parts of the story they can show using puppets and which parts a narrator will explain to the audience.
- Tell children to write their play using a Sequence of Events chart.
- Have them make a copy of their play for each actor.

Present Your Play

- Children continue to work on this project.

Make the Puppets

- Children continue to work on this project.

Expected Outcome

A good play will include

- creative, easily identifiable puppets
- an accurate, sequential story
- a smooth performance that captures the audience’s attention

Expected Outcome

- ✔ creative, easily identifiable puppets
- ✔ an accurate, sequential story
- ✔ a smooth performance that captures the audience’s attention
2. Picture Reading 60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL  PAIR
(Social Studies)
Materials: old magazines and newspapers with photographs, safety scissors

Goal: Draw conclusions from a picture.
If possible, provide pictures that have some familiar elements, such as the setting or the kind of activity, so that it is reasonable to ask children to draw conclusions. Suggest to children that they come up with alternate stories for their partner’s pictures.

3. From Seed to Tree 60 MINUTES  INDIVIDUAL
(Science) (Social Studies)
Goal: Tell a story about what happens to a tree you pretend to plant.
Have children make a chart before they write their story. Tell them to write all their questions in the left-hand column and their answers in the right-hand column.

Additional Independent Work
Connecting/Comparing Literature
Have children compare the On My Way Practice Reader Hiking at Pound Beach with the anthology selection Johnny Appleseed, using what they have learned about Drawing Conclusions. Children may discuss or write about their comparisons.

Other Activities
• TE pp. R19, R25, R31, Challenge
• Education Place: www.eduplace.com
  More activities related to Johnny Appleseed
• Accelerated Reader®, Johnny Appleseed