

# Back-to-School Activity Guide



## First Grade

## About This Guide

Are you concerned that over the summer your child will forget everything he or she learned in kindergarten? This packet of fun activities and skill-builders will help prepare your child for the new school year. Each activity has been selected to draw on prior knowledge and is a sneak peek of what he or she will learn in the first grade. Enjoy these worksheets with your son or daughter during the summer months, and once it's time to go back to school, your child will feel well-rested and equipped for the upcoming year.

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## First Grade: What Will They Learn?

In first grade, your child will have to interact with his classroom teacher as well as art, music, and physical education teachers. The school day will become longer. He'll eat at school and go to and from school with limited assistance. He'll also have some homework assignments. Find out what else your child will learn this year.

- Read at least 100 sight words.
- Master letter-sound patterns.
- Sound out simple words.
- Locate the main idea and details in stories.
- Recall the sequence of events in oral and written stories.
- Print words legibly.
- Capitalize the first word in a sentence and use the period and question mark at the end of a sentence.
- Recognize the singular and plural forms of nouns.
- Count to 100 by ones, twos, fives, and tens.
- Write the numerals 1 to 100.
- Master addition and subtraction facts up to 12.
- Understand place value of ones and tens.
- Understand concepts of greater and less than.
- Use simple maps and globes.
- Make more detailed observations about the natural world.



## Summer Reading List Grades K-2



### ***Make Way for Ducklings* / by Robert McCloskey**

It's not easy for duck parents to find a safe place to raise their ducklings, but during a rest stop in Boston's Public Garden, Mr. and Mrs. Mallard think they just might have found the perfect spot. When Mrs. Mallard and her eight ducklings are stuck at a busy street in downtown Boston, their policeman friend Michael rushes in to stop traffic and make way for them.

### ***Lon Po Po* / by Ed Young**

This is the Chinese version of the traditional story of *Little Red Riding Hood*. Three sisters, Shang, Tao, and Paoze, must defend themselves against a frightening wolf while their mother is away visiting their grandmother for her birthday.

### ***Miss Nelson is Missing* / by Harry Allard**

The students in Miss Nelson's class have difficulty following the rules and being respectful. One day Miss Nelson concocts an ingenious plan and disappears, making it necessary for substitute "Viola Swamp" to take over. Soon the children are inundated with homework and have their story time taken away. Eventually, Miss Nelson comes back to a much-improved class that appreciates her.

### ***The Garden of Abdul Gasazi* / by Chris Van Allsburg**

A Caldecott Honor winner, *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi* charms readers with its engaging storyline and brilliant pencil drawings. The adventure begins when Alan loses Fritz, the dog he is sitting for. Fritz wanders into a garden owned by a former magician. Alan hopelessly looks for Fritz and to his dismay thinks that the dog has been turned into a duck by the old magician.

### ***If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* / by Laura Joffe Numeroff**

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* is a wonderful tale of a boy who tries to meet the demands of a very needy mouse. Young readers will come away smiling at the mischief in this delightful picture book.

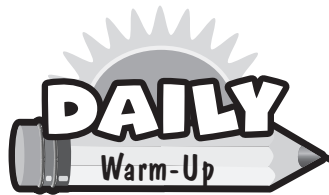
### ***The Little Engine That Could* / by Watty Piper**

*The Little Engine That Could* is a classic tale of a determined railroad engine that, despite its small size, triumphantly pulls a train full of toys to the waiting children on the other side of a mountain.

### ***So You Want to Be President?* / by Judith St. George**

So you want to be president! Why not? From the embarrassment of John Quincy Adams to the mischievous adventure of Theodore Roosevelt's pony, Judith St. George shares the backroom facts, the spitfire comments, and the comical anecdotes that have been part and parcel of America's White House. Hilariously illustrated by Caldecott Honor-winning artist David Small, this celebration shows us the foibles, quirks, and the humanity of men who have risen to one of the most powerful positions in the world.



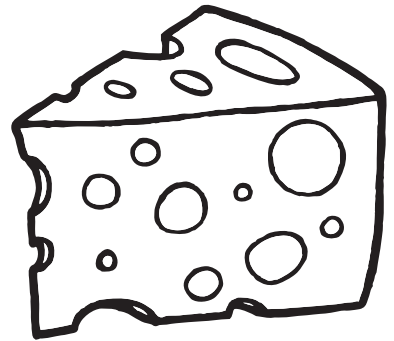


## KING CHEESE

Once, there lived a mouse named King Cheese who ruled the land. He visited each mouse house to make sure all the mice were well. On his trips, he forgot to pack food. So he got very hungry. "Oh, I wish that all I touched would turn to cheese!" he said.

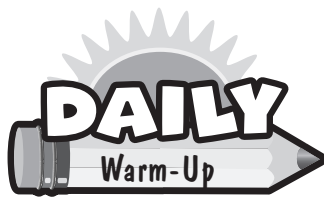
A yellow fairy appeared and said, "Your wish has been granted!" King Cheese reached for his sword. It turned into cheese. He knocked on a door. The door turned to cheese. A mouse bit a hole in the door and stepped out. "Your majesty?" The king shook the mouse's hand. The mouse turned to cheese, too. "Help! Help!" cried the king. But everything he touched turned to cheese. He sat down and cried big, cheesy tears. "I'm sorry! I will always pack food before a trip!" he said.

At once, cheese turned back into houses and grass and mice. From that day on, King Cheese always carried a little bag of cheese on his trips. He never got hungry again.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why is King Cheese always hungry?
  - a. because he goes on trips
  - b. because he forgets to take food
  - c. because he loves cheese
  - d. because he rules the land
2. What happens to the king's sword?
  - a. It turns into a fairy.
  - b. It turns into a mouse.
  - c. It turns into cheese.
  - d. It cuts the king.
3. Why does the king cry for help?
  - a. because everything has turned to cheese
  - b. because he is hungry
  - c. because he sees a fairy
  - d. because he packs food for his trip
4. What is the message of the story?
  - a. Be prepared.
  - b. Eat cheese.
  - c. Watch out for fairies.
  - d. Cry for help.



# Answer Key

## King Cheese

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. a

# Nouns, Nouns Everywhere

A noun is a word that names a person, place, or thing. Under each category below, write as many nouns as you can.

## PEOPLE

Mom

## TOYS

Raggedy Ann

## PLACES

home

## TRANSPORTATION

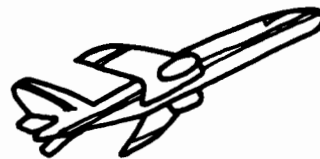
airplane

## GAMES

Monopoly®

## ANIMALS

bear



# Sequence Cards



**Amy and Melanie mixed lemonade  
in a plastic pitcher.**



**They put the lemonade stand  
in front of their house.**



**They sold the lemonade drinks  
for one quarter each.**



**Ten children and two adults  
bought the cold lemonade.**



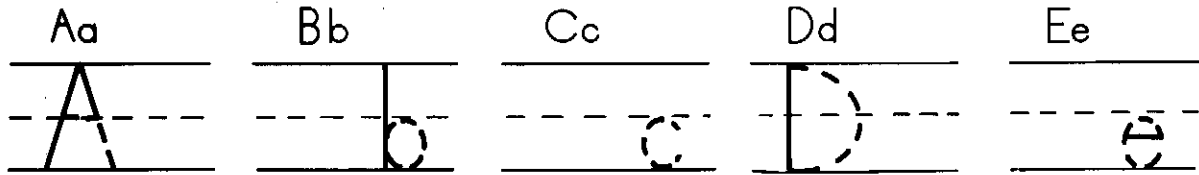
**Amy and Melanie were on their  
way to the movies.**



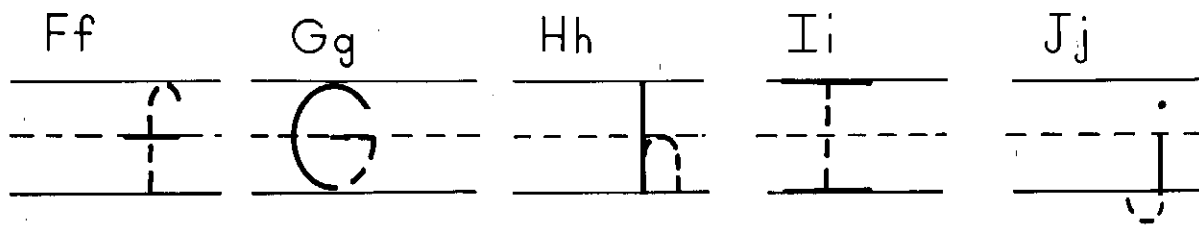
# Form the Alphabet

Finish each incomplete letter. Then write the missing upper- or lower-case letter beside it.

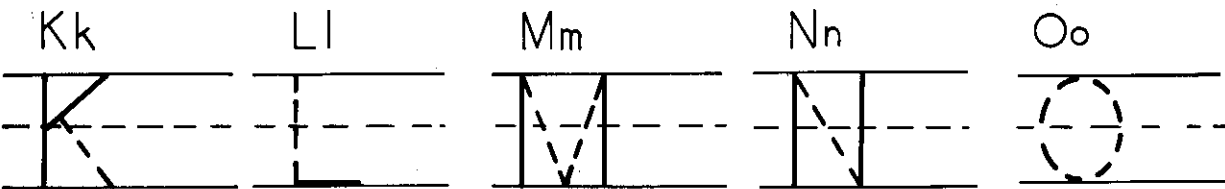
Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee



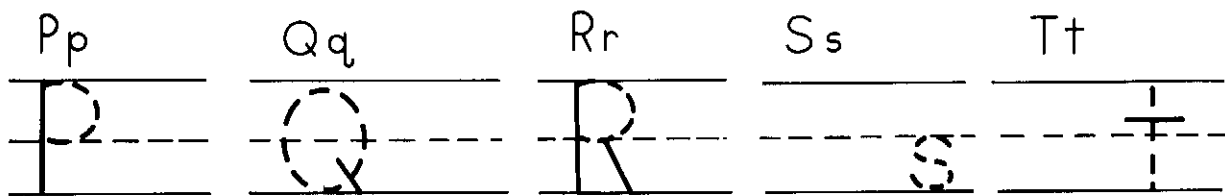
Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj



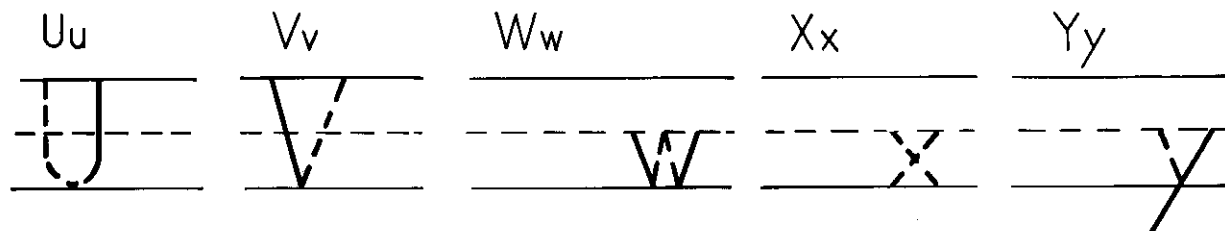
Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo



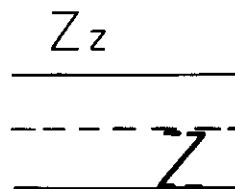
Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt



Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy



Zz



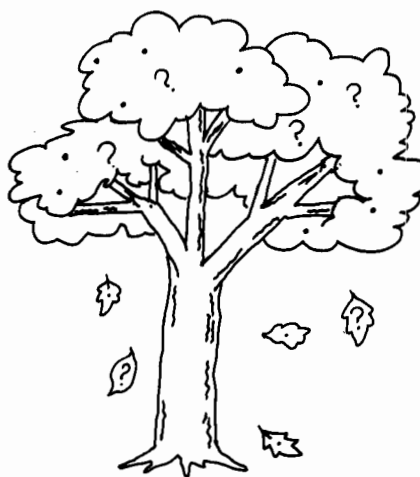
# Falling Leaves

These falling leaves are carrying punctuation marks. Which one do you need after each sentence?

A QUESTION MARK ( ? ) is used at the end of a question.

A PERIOD ( . ) is used at the end of a statement.

**Directions:** Copy each sentence below that is a question. Remember to use a question mark at the end of each question.



1. David went to the store ☐      How did he get there ☐

---

---

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2. What does Mary want for her birthday ☐      She wants a new bike ☐

---

---

---

3. The rain is beginning to fall ☐      Will we still have a picnic ☐

---

---

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Now put a punctuation mark at the end of each statement. Which punctuation mark will you use? \_\_\_\_\_

# I Want to Be a Police Officer

## Storytime and Role-Play

Read aloud stories about police officers.

Discuss the pictures and text with students. You may wish to have students role-play parts of the stories.

## Police Station

Save small milk cartons after they are emptied. Rinse them out with water and use glue or a stapler to reclose the tops. Have students use tempera paint to make the milk cartons look like police stations. See the illustration shown here.



## Poem

Use the following poem with students. Ask them to pretend to be police officers and do the actions described in the poem.

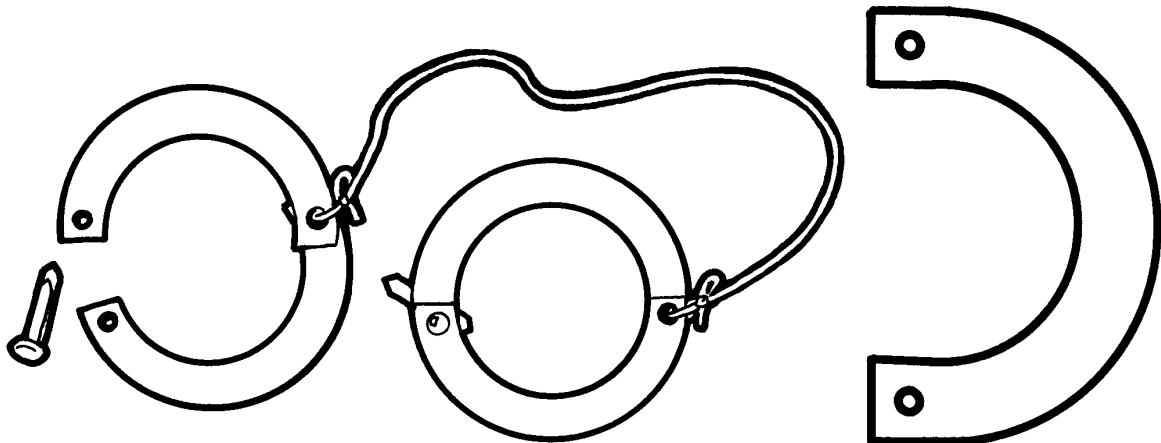
### Policeman (Author Unknown)

There is a car driving down the street.  
Here's the policeman walking his (her)  
beat.  
Now he (she) is checking the stores at  
night,  
To see that doors are locked up tight.

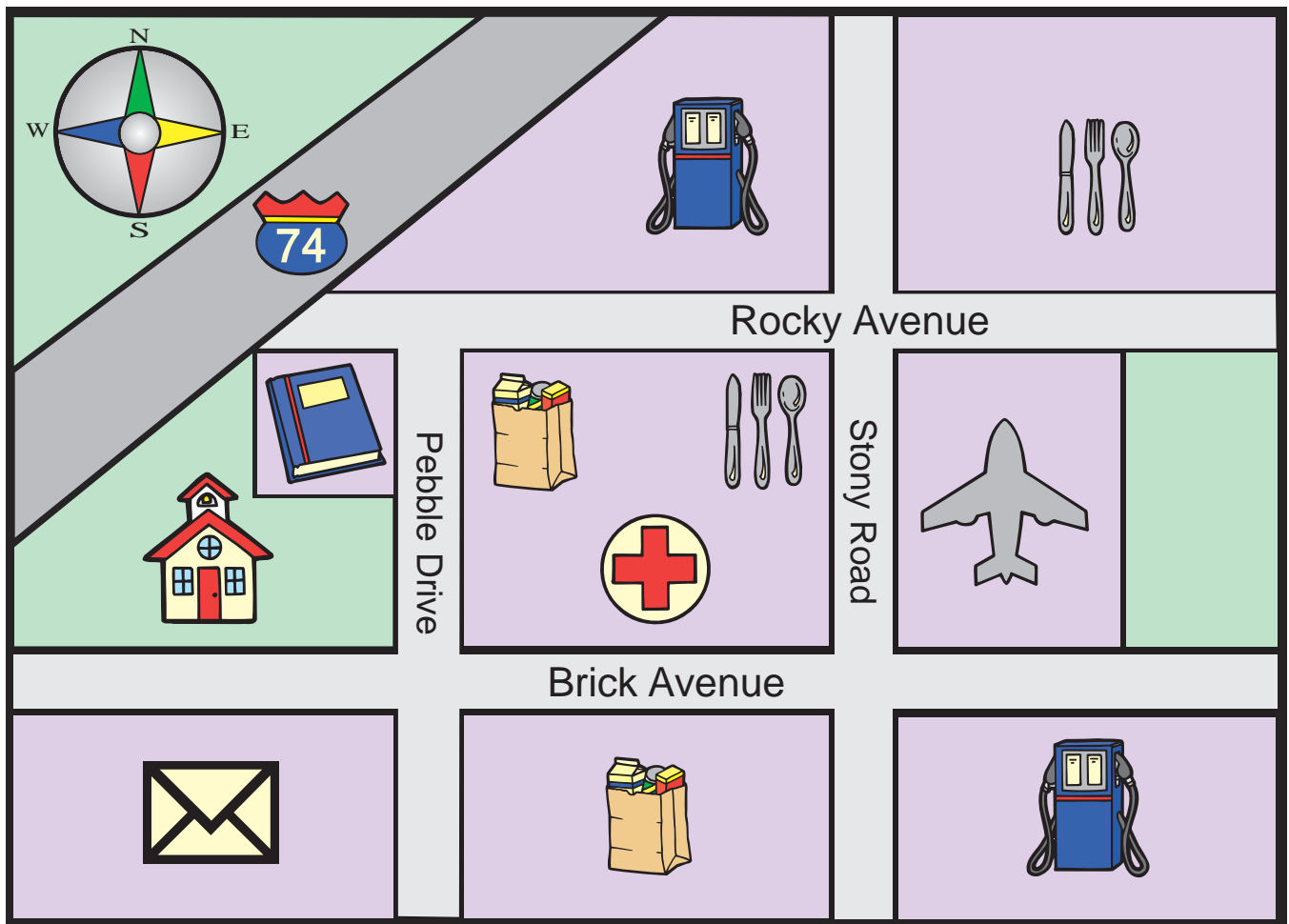
And this is a friendly traffic cop,  
Who tells you when to go or stop.  
When cars get in a traffic jam,  
He (She) helps them better than anyone  
can.

## Handcuffs

Enlarge the pattern shown below onto pieces of posterboard. Have students use posterboard, brads, and yarn to make sets of handcuffs. Students can use the handcuffs as they role-play being police officers.



# Community Map



## Questions

1. On what streets are the the restaurants located?
2. On what street is the school located?
3. On what street is the hospital located?
4. What place is north of the airport?
5. What highway runs through this community?
6. What are the nearest cross streets to the post office?

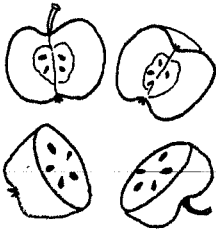
## **Answers**

1. Rocky Avenue and Stony Road
2. Brick Avenue
3. Brick Avenue
4. a restaurant
5. Highway 74
6. Brick Avenue and Pebble Drive

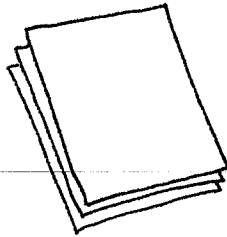
# Apple Art

Make apple prints.

## Materials



apples cut  
in half



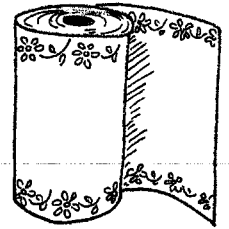
paper



paints and  
paintbrush



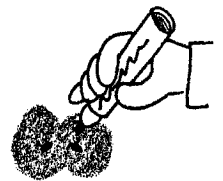
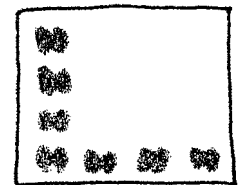
marker



paper  
towels

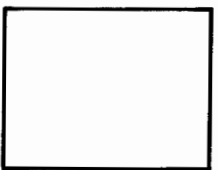
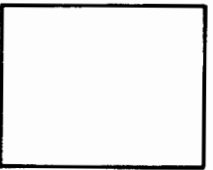
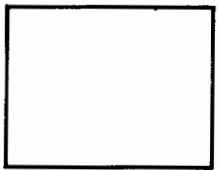
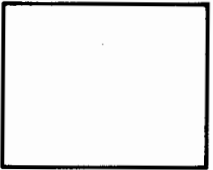
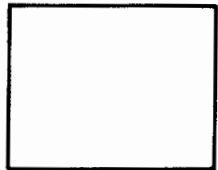
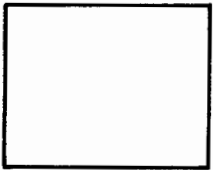
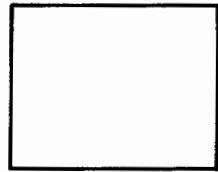
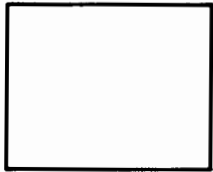
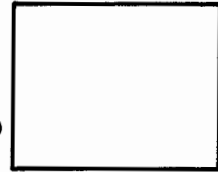
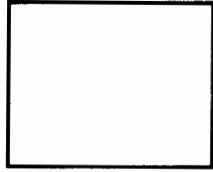
## Steps











1. Pat the cut side of an apple half with a paper towel.
2. Brush one color of paint on the cut side.
3. Press the painted side on the paper.
4. Print any design you like. You can make a row across. You can make a row down. You can make a circle or a square.
5. Use a marker to draw the apple seeds.



# Our Five Senses

Look at the pictures below. Cut out the picture that shows which sense you would use. Paste it next to the correct picture.

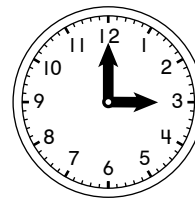
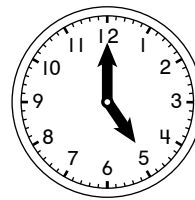
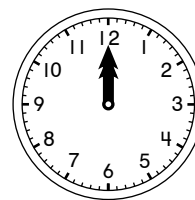
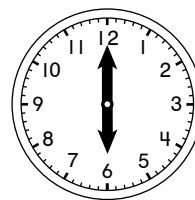
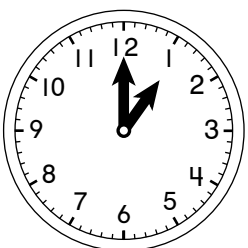
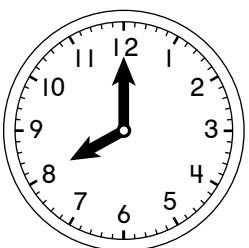
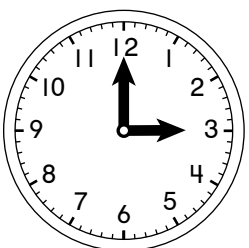
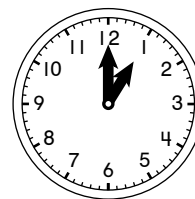
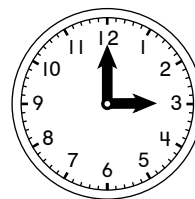
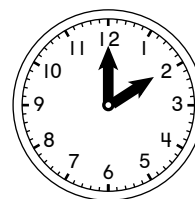
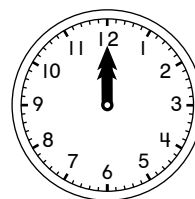
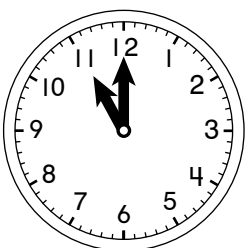
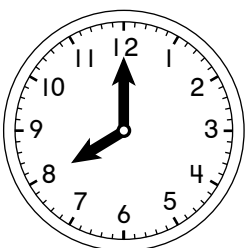
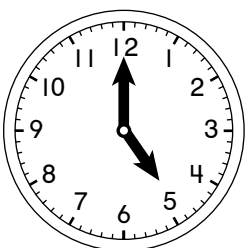
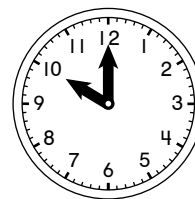
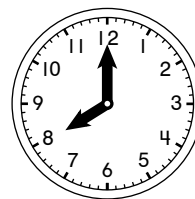
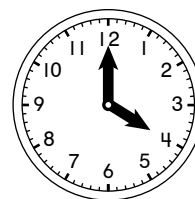
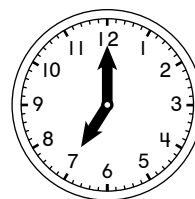
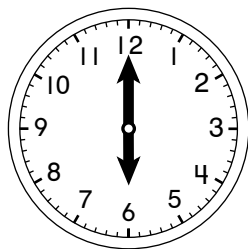
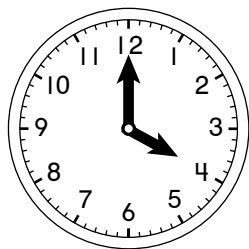
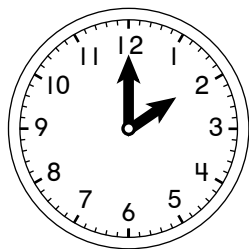


|   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

# Patterns in Time

Look for the pattern in each row.

Circle the clock that comes next.



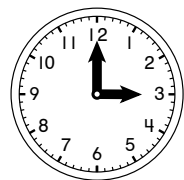
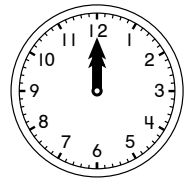
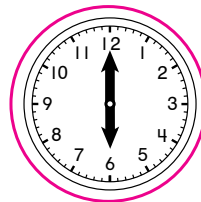
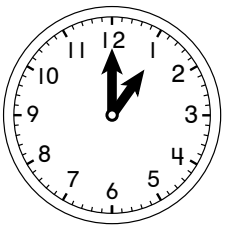
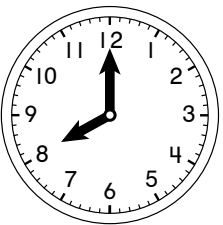
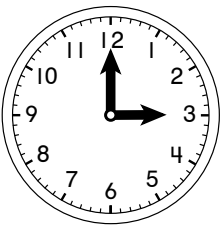
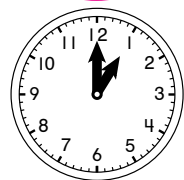
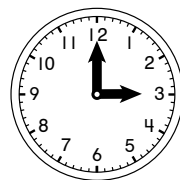
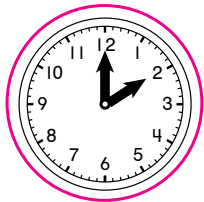
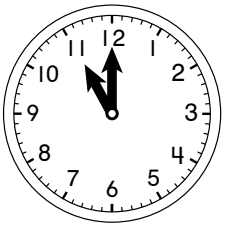
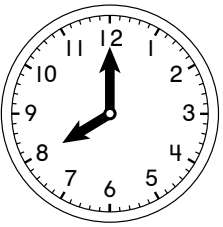
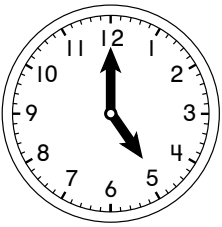
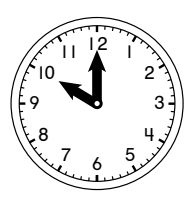
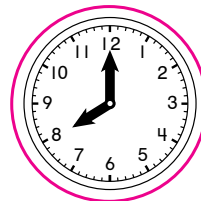
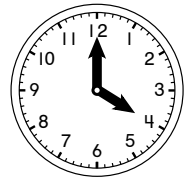
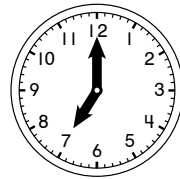
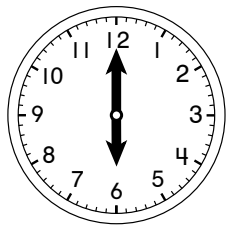
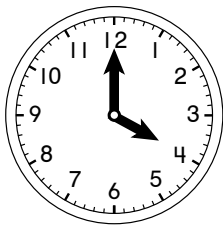
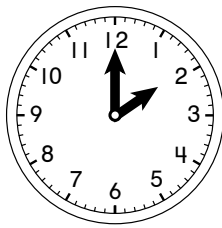
**Notes for Home** Your child recognized and continued patterns which involved repeated addition of 2, 3, and 5 hours. *Home Activity:* Ask your child to show how he or she figured out the pattern in each row.



## Patterns in Time

Look for the pattern in each row.

Circle the clock that comes next.



**Notes for Home** Your child recognized and continued patterns which involved repeated addition of 2, 3, and 5 hours. *Home Activity:* Ask your child to show how he or she figured out the pattern in each row.

# Measuring with Rulers

Measure the following creatures using the rulers at the bottom of this sheet.



\_\_\_\_\_ cm



\_\_\_\_\_ in.



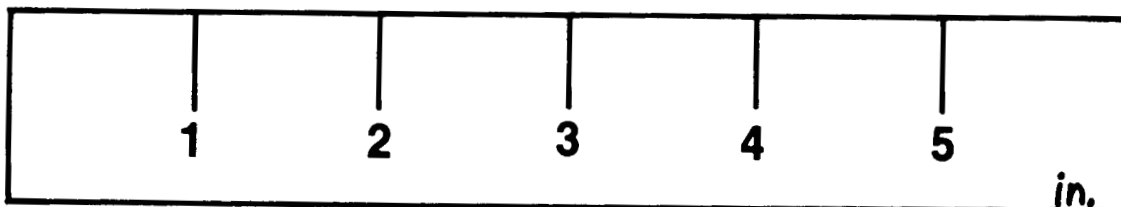
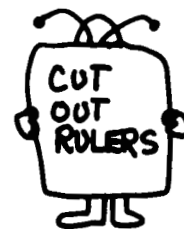
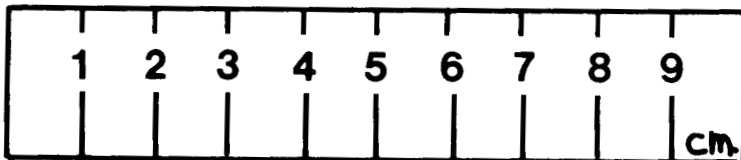
\_\_\_\_\_ in.

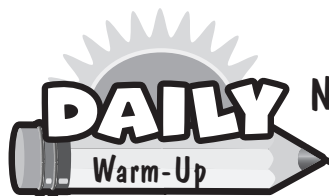


\_\_\_\_\_ cm



\_\_\_\_\_ cm





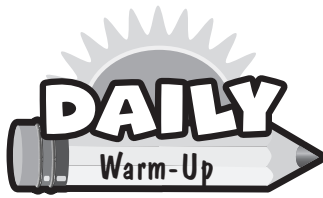
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name the pattern.



\_\_\_\_\_

2. Draw an **ABCABC** pattern.



1. AABCAABC
2. Answers will vary.

# Elementary Supply List

Parents,

Your children are very excited about beginning a new school year. Please make every effort to purchase all of the supplies on the list. In advance I want to thank you for your cooperation. I look forward to working with you throughout the school year.

- ☐ 1 container of baby wipes
- ☐ 1 back pack
- ☐ 1 calculator
- ☐ 1 box of 64 crayons
- ☐ 2 erasers
- ☐ 4 glue sticks
- ☐ 3 different colored highlighters
- ☐ 1 pack of index cards
- ☐ 1 pack of water-based markers
- ☐ 1 pencil box
- ☐ 2 pencil sharpeners
- ☐ 10 pencils
- ☐ 6 pocket folders
- ☐ 1 pack of Post-it Notes®
- ☐ 2 boxes of facial tissues
- ☐ 1 inch/cm ruler
- ☐ 1 pair of scissors
- ☐ 1 roll of Scotch tape
- ☐ 1 three ring binder (2-3 inches)
- ☐ 1 pack of wide-ruled notebook paper

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Grade Levels: | Pre-K - 5 |
|---------------|-----------|

## Cold and Flu Prevention Checklist



### ☒ **Stay Home If You're Sick**

We want to teach our kids the importance of working hard, but it's just good sense to stay home from work or school when you're sick, to prevent the spread of cold and flu germs.

### ☒ **Keep Your Hands Clean**

You never know what germs you might be picking up in the course of the day. It's a good idea to wash your hands frequently, especially before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or using the bathroom. Use warm water and soap, and make sure you lather up for 20 seconds!

### ☒ **Cover Your Nose & Mouth When Coughing or Sneezing**

Avoid spreading cold and flu germs to others by coughing or sneezing into a tissue. If none is available, don't cough or sneeze into your hands! Instead, turn your head away from nearby people and, if necessary, aim for your shoulder.

### ☒ **Don't Touch Your Eyes, Nose, or Mouth**

Germs that might otherwise languish on your hands can easily infiltrate your system when you rub your face. Try to keep your hands away from your face as much as you reasonably can.

### ☒ **Get Plenty of Rest**

Your body works overtime to hunt and destroy harmful germs when you're resting or relaxed, but high stress levels leave you susceptible to invasion. Get some rest and give your white blood cells the time they need to do their job.

### ☒ **Avoid Unnecessary Close Contact**

It's an unfortunate fact that a person can spread flu germs a full day before exhibiting symptoms, and then up to five days after that. Steer clear of those with flu-like symptoms—they'll understand. And if you're sick, avoid close contact with others.

### ☒ **Eat Plenty of Fruits & Vegetables**

Eating right is always important, but particularly during cold and flu season. The vitamins and minerals found in fruits and vegetables can buttress your body's immune system against invaders.

### ☒ **Get Fresh Air & Exercise**

It's a myth that low temperatures cause cold and flu. In fact, the culprit is increased, prolonged contact with greater numbers of people. Going outside for a walk means you'll get exercise and get away from potential germ-bearers.