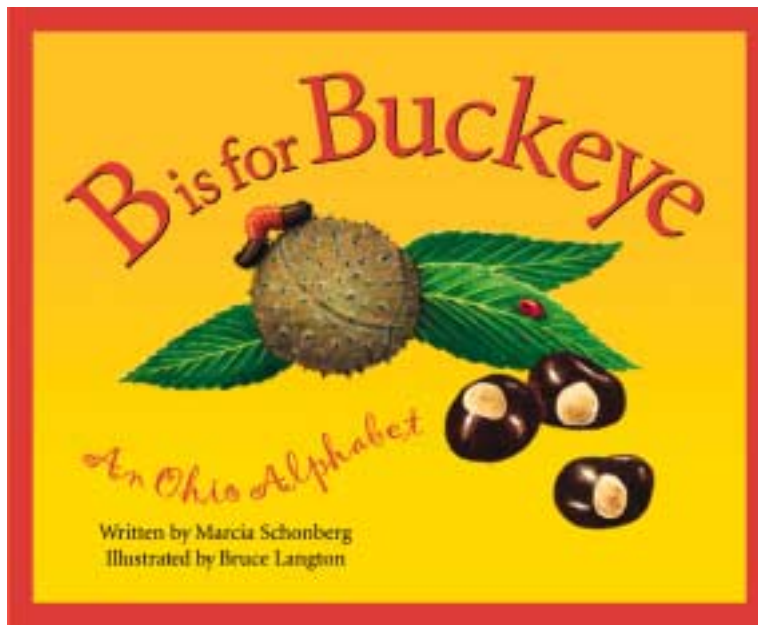


A Teacher's Guide

by NANCY A. MONROE



ACTIVITY IDEAS FROM A to Z

Using Ohio Learning Outcomes

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A. ASTRONAUTS

1. Write reports on different astronauts.
2. Each child writes a report on a special astronaut, then dresses as their astronaut and gives a 2-3 minute speech. Decorate the room like a space ship - invite parents.
3. Research various space shuttles. Create a chart comparing the length, weight, accommodations, etc. of the various spacecraft.
4. Students use the chart to make comparisons and draw conclusions.
5. Write NASA for information on the space program.
6. Take a field trip to COSI Columbus space exhibit, Neil Armstrong Aviation & Science Museum or NASA John Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field (216-433-2001).
7. Read *Earth, Sky, and Beyond, A Journey Through Space* by Jean Pierre Verdet.

B. CELEBRATE THE BUCKEYE

1. Give each child a buckeye. Let each child sketch their buckeye. Discuss shading, color and repetitive shape.
2. Adopt a buckeye tree (or another) as a class tree. Study the bark, leaves, tree shape, looks, smell etc. in the various seasons. Do rubbings of the bark and leaves.
3. Collect buckeye leaves and other leaves, dry them between newspapers and do leaf animal pictures. *Look What I Did With A Leaf* by Morteza E Soki.
4. Make buckeye cookies (recipes in back).

C. OHIO CITIES

1. Write reports on different Ohio cities. Plot their locations on a map.
2. Be a Tourist: "Read around Ohio." Discuss linear scale. The minutes read could equal "miles" from city to city. Something that represents that city could be given as they move from city to city.
3. Take a field trip to the state capitol or city government. Discuss the different branches of the government.
4. Each child makes a quilt square of their city. Use paper or cloth squares and sew or tape them together.

STATE SYMBOLS

1. Bring in red carnations. Have the students sketch and paint the carnations.

ORNITHOLOGY - BIRD STUDY

1. Set up small research groups to research birds found in Ohio. Each child in the small group finds information on the following differences in the bird
 - Description
 - Food
 - Habitat
 - Nest building
 - Reproduction
 - Unusual characteristics
2. Make their bird eggs out of paper mache and paint.
3. Create their birds nests with natural materials.
4. Each group presents to the class and sharing their nests and eggs.
5. Invite a naturalist come in and speak to the children about birds found in Ohio.
6. Read *Flutes Journey - The Life of a Wood Thrush* by Lynn Cherry.

D. WILD FLOWERS

1. Do a crayon resist painting of the state wildflower (the Trillium), or the rare Lakeside Daisy.
2. Make up an alphabet book of Ohio wildflowers. Each child is responsible for a different letter.
3. Discuss “endangered” and list endangered Ohio species.

CELEBRATE CHEESE

1. Write a letter to Wellington, Ohio, the cheese capital in the 1800s and request information about the historic cheese industry. Contact the Tuscarawas Convention & Visitors Bureau, (800-527-3387) for information or a tour of Sugarcreek, the “Little Switzerland” of Ohio.
2. Visit a dairy farm or cheese factory.
3. Arrange to have a dairy farmer come to the classroom and talk about dairy farming through the years.
4. Set up a model farm in the classroom.
5. Compare the different types of cows. Create a chart comparing size, color, weight, good qualities, etc.
6. Contact local 4-H clubs for information. Find out if you have 4-H groups for non-rural students and invite a speaker.

E. THE GREAT LAKES

1. Learn the names of the Great Lakes.
2. Have the class read, research and write trivia about the Great Lakes or Lake Erie. Make a trivia book about Lake Erie. “Did you Know” book.
3. Read *Lake Erie* by Ann Armbruster.

4. Read *Amazing Boats - Eyewitness Juniors*.
5. Research the different ships that have sailed on Lake Erie.
6. Research the battles that have taken place on Lake Erie. Plot the battles.
7. Do mock-ups of the battles.

VARIETIES OF FISH FOUND IN OHIO

1. Discuss varieties of fish found in Ohio.
2. Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4. Assign each group with a particular fish found in Ohio. The children in each group look for facts on their assigned fish species. Every student in the group draws their assigned fish on white paper, cuts it out, writes a fact about it on the fish and colors it. Cover a wall with blue paper and hang the different schools of fish together.
3. Children draw make-believe fish that have to be a certain number of centimeters long.
4. Read *Lightning's Tale, The Story of a Wild Trout* by Hugh Campbell.

F. GEOLOGY

1. Bring in a various types of rocks.
2. Make a rock collection.
3. Create a flow chart tracing the mineral (flint) from its raw state to its various uses.
5. Research flint and form a list of all the uses of flint.
6. Research the history of flint mining.

NATIVE AMERICANS

1. Research the different tribes native to Ohio and the Great Lakes region.
2. Read *Paddle to the Sea* by Holling Clancy Holling

G. THE SHAPE OF OHIO

1. Read *The Legend of Sleeping Bear, The Legend of Mackinaw and The Legend of the Loon* by Kathy-Jo Wargin
3. Have the children write a legend explaining how an Ohio landform was created.
4. Discuss glaciers and how they helped form the topography of Ohio. Using frozen snow, demonstrate glacier action on clay.
5. Using clay, or paper mache, have the children construct examples of gorges, ravines, rock bridges, cliffs, boulders, caves, and glacial grooves.
6. Research fossils found in Ohio. List the types of animals found in limestone. Put them in alphabetical order.

WATERFALLS

1. Research and locate waterfalls in Ohio.
2. Make watercolor paintings of waterfalls.
3. Graph different waterfall characteristics using the 5 largest waterfalls in the

world. (Example: Largest volume, greatest drop, widest)

H. BOTANY & BIOLOGY

1. Take a field trip to Holden Arboretum or one of the arboretums near you.
2. Plant a garden at your local school.
3. Children plant their own seed in the classroom. Each child keeps an on-going graph of growth each day.
4. Have a local landscaper or florist speak to the class.
5. Study different life cycles of butterflies - order cocoons or collect larva (monarchs from milkweed)
6. Visit a butterfly exhibit if there is one near you.

I. HISTORICAL INVENTIONS.

1. Read about inventions. *Inventions No One Remembers* by Chip Lovitt.
2. Contact National Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron for information.
3. Research Ohio inventors. Children present their findings to the class.
4. Have the class write how inventions have affected their lives.
5. Using legos, demonstrate assembly lines. Adding one part at a time. Discuss how assembly lines affected production.
6. Have the children research an invention created over 100 years ago. Create models with information. Set up an antique museum for others to visit.
7. Create a timeline of inventions.

J. CELEBRATE APPLES

1. Read *Johnny Appleseed* by Alike and *Apple Picking Time* by Michele Benoit Slawson.
2. Create a timetable of Johnny's life.
3. Copy and read apple poems.
4. Make apple prints - slicing apples in different ways.
5. Have each child bring in an apple. Group the apples in various ways: size, color, shape, etc. Graph the results.
6. Children make up questions that can be answered by studying the graphs.
7. Use a balance scale to weigh apples in grams. Working groups.
8. Make applesauce.
9. Have an apple tasting party.
10. Write a legend about a famous Ohio person.

K. AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

1. Teacher's book: *National Gallery of Art Activity Book*. National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.
2. Display African American art. Study the different techniques. Children can try to duplicate the style.

3. Introduce the children to African music.
4. Discuss the different ethnic heritages in Ohio.

L. ENTOMOLOGY - (INSECT STUDY)

1. Children do an insect collection, labeling each insect.
2. Create their own insect with three body parts, six legs, head, thorax, and abdomen. Write about their created insect. Have the children describe what their insect eats, how it lives and how it reproduces.
3. Have an Entomologist visit the class.

M. PADDLEBOATS

1. Read history of the paddleboat and its affect on Ohio.
2. Ask a riverboat captain to come in and tell what life is like on a riverboat.
3. Locate which rivers had paddleboats. Label the different rivers.
4. Divide the class into groups and ask each student to write a report about Marietta at various times, from first settlement to current time.

N. NATURE PRESERVES

1. Invite someone from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to talk about how nature preserves can be protected, and tell students what they can do to help.
2. Have children locate and plot the nature preserves on a map.
3. Visit a nature preserve for an interpretive spring hike and then a picnic.

OHIO CAVES

1. Research different Ohio caves.
2. Read: *One Small Square Cave* by Donald M Silver.
3. Write to the National Speleological Society, Cave Avenue, Huntsville, Al 35810 or call 205-852-1300 and ask for the Junior Speleological Society
4. Turn the classroom into a cave. Students research the different mineral structures and unusual cave creatures.
5. Students can grow crystals.

O. TOPOGRAPHY

1. Do a topographical map of Ohio, showing plateaus, forests, mountains, cliffs etc.

HISTORY

1. Do a time line of different historical events that occurred in Ohio.
2. Research and draw the flags have that flown over Ohio.
3. Make a list showing the order the states entered the Union.
4. Do murals depicting different historical events. Have the children work in groups.

5. Research the Amish and Mennonite communities. Compare and contrast them with a Venn diagram. Perhaps add our American lifestyle for a comparison.

P. PRESIDENTS

1. Each child learns about a particular president.
2. "Did you know?" book: Each child does a page. (*Example: Did you know that James A Garfield was a preacher?*) Do a picture with it.
3. Research favorite foods of Presidents. Have a Presidential foods tasting party. Reference: *Lives of the Presidents* by Kathleen Krull.
4. Read *The Legend of the Teddy Bear*.
5. There is a birthday party for Grant each year in southern Ohio. Have your own birthday party for other presidents.

Q. NUTRITION

1. Create a favorite breakfast food graph. Children make up questions that can be answered using a graph.
2. Do a nutrition unit focusing on the importance of breakfast. Keep a log of what students eat each day for a week.
3. Children work in groups baking something made from oatmeal. Share their results with each other. Stress measurement.
4. Study the nutrition facts on the cereal boxes. Compare the various cereals.
5. Learn why cereal is a healthy food/snack. Make granola (recipe in back).

R. ROLLER COASTERS - MATH

1. Graph favorite rides and foods at Cedar Point.
2. Compare and contrast various rides.
3. Each child makes up a fake trivia fact. (*Example: The Cookie Drop roller coaster does a drop of 1000 feet per second.*) Share your facts.
4. Children design and construct their own roller coaster. Good group activity: List particular facts about their roller coaster.
5. Write to roller coaster designers.

S. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

1. Plan a field trip to Battelle Park in Columbus to see the Santa Maria replica.
2. Pretend you're setting sail. What would you pack on your ship? Children can brainstorm in groups. Which group would make it across the ocean best?
3. Read about the Santa Maria.

T CELEBRATE TOMATOES – MATH

1. Have each child bring in a tomato. Group them by size, type and color. Graph them.
2. Estimate your tomatoes weight and then weigh them in grams using a balance scale.
3. Align the tomatoes in a row from largest to smallest. Create a still life of the tomatoes.
4. Measure the circumference of the tomatoes.
5. Make mini pizzas to celebrate tomatoes using English muffin, tomato sauce pepperoni and cheese.
6. Read the Tomato book: *Tomatoes From Mars* by Yorinks Drucker.

U. UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Reading: *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky* by Faith Ringgold; *The Last Safehouse* by Barbra Greenwood; *The Drinking Gourd* by F. N. Monjo; *Sweet Clara and The Freedom Quilt* by Debora Hipkinson.

1. Discuss the significance of the Quilt.
2. Have each child do a square, either out of construction paper or cloth. They can be sewn or taped together to form a big quilt.
3. Trace the routes on a map.

V. INTERESTING INVENTIONS

Reading: *Toilets, Toasters and Telephones* by Susan Goldman Rubin.

1. Have an inventions convention. Each child or group develops an invention.
2. Make invention lists: funniest, most useful, etc. Have children work in groups. Give each group a heading. The group brainstorm inventions.
3. Read: *How to be an Inventor* by Murray Suid.

W. AVIATION

Reading: *Amazing Flying Machines* by Juniors.

1. Arrange a field trip to Dayton, or to an airport nearby.
2. Have a pilot come in to the class to talk about flying.

X. NATIVE AMERICANS

1. Research the Shawnee settlements, Xenia.
2. Children recreate the settlement.

HEALTH

1. Xenia is known for its hiking, biking, and skating. Have a speaker come in and discuss safe biking, proper clothing, etc.
2. Discuss proper nutrition for participating in outdoor activities.
3. Children write about their favorite outdoor activity, and make a pipe cleaner

figure doing the activity.

Y. BRIDGES IN OHIO AND AROUND THE WORLD.

1. Study various bridge designs. Divide the students into groups to research different types of bridges and build models of them.
2. Compare different bridge lengths.
3. Invite a civil engineer to discuss fundamentals of bridge building.
4. List famous bridges around the world
5. List bridges in Ohio.
6. Have the children build bridges using only toothpicks and white glue. Suspend the bridges between two books 12" apart and then load them with weights to see which bridge will hold the most before collapsing.

Z. ZOOS IN OHIO

1. Research endangered animals.
2. Contact zoos for programs available for schools.
3. Take a field trip to a local zoo.
4. Throughout the school year, children work on their own "Unusual Facts" animal book. A fact is written in a complete sentence (in their own words) and a picture.
5. Each child picks one endangered animal to research. Make a diorama showing it in its environment.
6. Have the children make a list of animals found in Ohio that might be found in a zoo.

Your Own Ohio Alphabet

Name: _____

This is your own Ohio alphabet. What does each letter remind you of in Ohio? Is it a special place, animal, food, or special thing to you in our state?

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y

Z



Do you know where to find?

Name: _____

1. Dawes Arboretum in Newark
2. Wellington, "The Cheese Capital of United States"
3. Lake Erie
4. Kelleys Island State Park
5. Columbus
6. Cedar Point
7. The Y Bridge
8. Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
9. Toledo Zoo
10. Akron Zoological Park

BUCKEYE RECIPE

Mix in a bowl:

1 stick of margarine or butter
2 c peanut butter - 18 oz. Jar of crunchy or plain.
3 c Rice Krispies . Stir in 1 lb. powdered sugar then form in balls. Melt ½ bar of paraffin wax then add a large bag of chocolate chips (12 oz.) and melt. Dip ball in chocolate mixture and set out on wax paper. Don't cover the entire ball with chocolate so it looks like a buckeye.

B can be for CANDY BUCKEYES

1# melted margarine or butter
3# powdered sugar
2# peanut butter

Mix well and roll into one-inch balls. Melt one large package semi-chocolate chip with ¼ stick paraffin. Using a toothpick, dip each peanut butter ball into the chocolate, leaving the top of each exposed to resemble a buckeye.

Yield: 50-60

CRISPY GRANOLA

4 cups rolled oats (not instant or quick)
2 cups bran buds or other bran cereal
1 ½ cups shredded coconut
1 ½ cups chopped walnuts or other nuts
¾ cup honey (I use less)
¾ cup oil (I use less)
2 teaspoons vanilla

Combine the honey, oil, and vanilla in a small pot and heat it. Mix the dry ingredients in a large bowl, then pour honey mixture over it and mix thoroughly. Transfer to large cookie sheets and place in 300-degree oven for about 15-20 minutes, checking and mixing granola every five minutes to prevent burning. Granola should brown slightly and will crisp while cooling. Add raisins or other dried fruit before storing. Store in a zip-lock bag.