

Fun Facts

We're Off! and Soaring!

Challenger School

March

(4-year-old preschool and k-prep)

Science Sense

What's the Weather?



Students will learn about the weather in March. We'll talk about meteorologists and how they forecast weather.

We'll do wind and weather experiments. For instance, we'll hold up a balloon outside to determine which way the wind is blowing.

Our class will study:

See You Later, Alligator!

Did you know?

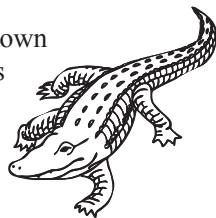
Frogs and toads are amphibians, which means "double life." They live part of their lives in the water and part of their lives out of the water.

Snakes smell with their tongues! They stick their forked tongues out all the time to bring odor particles into their mouths.

Alligators and crocodiles have their nostrils and eyes on the tops of their heads so they can keep their heads almost completely underwater and still breathe and see.

Turtles do not have outer ears, but they hear by feeling vibrations from the ground and water.

Lizards are silly animals. They like to clown around—walking upside down on fences and attempting to fly.



Our class will study:



Music Magic

One-Vowel Family Ride

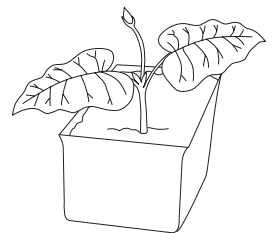
Words and music by
Barbara B. Baker

Loping

Yip-pee ki-yay yip-pee ki-yo, as I ride a-round the coun-try, I
 6 take my one-vowel fam-i-ly a-long, and sing the one-vowel song,
 10 ab ack ad af ag al am an ap as at
 16 av ax az! One-vowel fam-ly ride!

Watch It Grow!

Students will learn about edible roots (potatoes, yams, carrots, turnips, radishes, beets), stems (celery, asparagus, broccoli, rhubarb), leaves (lettuce, cabbage, spinach), fruits (apples, watermelons, oranges, grapes, peaches, lemons), and seeds (peas, wheat, lentils, beans). As you eat some of these at home, you can chat about them with your child.



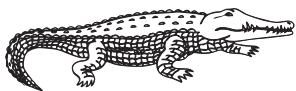
The children will be watching celery in class to see how it gets a drink. And they'll plant their own seeds to watch them grow. Your child will bring his or her own plant home!

Our class will study:

More Fun Facts!

Science Sense

Here's how our science curriculum works. See You Later, Alligator! is one week's unit for the kindergarten-prep classes in March. Children who attend five days a week learn about all five animals in the unit. Those who attend two- or three-day sessions study selected animals from the unit.



Each month, Fun Facts tell you which sections of the unit your child's class will study. If your child really enjoys a particular unit, you may want to learn more about it together at home.

The various age levels study different subjects, except for certain universal units such as Washington and Lincoln, Christopher Columbus, etc.

Each year, students do different art, music, dances, and musical dramas. The complexity and number of activities advance each year; we expect older students to do more activities independently.

Wonderful Weather



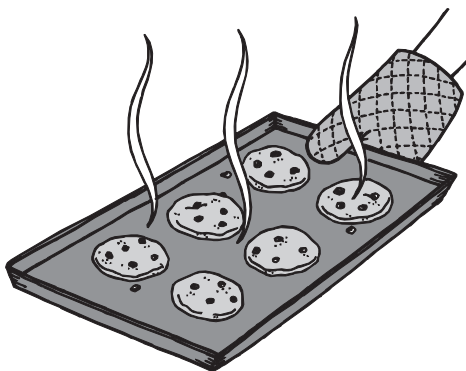
Did you know?

- Sunshine makes our weather.
- Clouds are really water vapor, millions of tiny water droplets.
- Fog is just a cloud that is on the ground!
- Wind is responsible for changing our weather. It moves the weather from one area to another.
- Rain or precipitation is really water droplets in clouds that become too heavy and fall to earth.
- Snow is ice crystals that form on the water droplets in clouds.

Nimble Numbers

It's the right time for children to start with "story problems." These are easy if they begin now. If a child's abstract visualizing skills match the complexity of a story problem, math stays fun! Try it!

Cookie Stories. The teachers love to try to "stump" their students, but they never can! The children are too smart! Teachers say things like, "If your dad gives you two cookies, how many will you have?" Students say, "Two, of course!" Then the teacher says, "But what if you don't eat any, and I give you two more cookies? How many will you have?" Because of their counting skills, the students know the answers.



Counting, Counting, Counting. As children practice counting objects, they also should do story problems (like our "Cookie Stories"). You can do these stories with them. Use numbers they can visualize and concrete objects to demonstrate your story. Also have your child answer the same questions without the objects. Keep the numbers under five, adding more objects as your child becomes more capable.

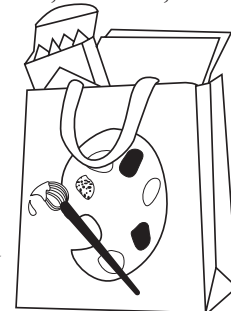


Amazing Art

Children love it when the teacher says, "Today I'm giving you the art paper, and you will create your own pictures!" The teacher draws the science animal as she talks about the basic shapes of the animal. She puts her picture away, and then the students make their own pictures.

Children learn to remember shapes, sizes, and colors and learn to be creative on their own. Students may add flowers, birds, trees, buildings, grass, rain, sunshine, or even **you** to their pictures!

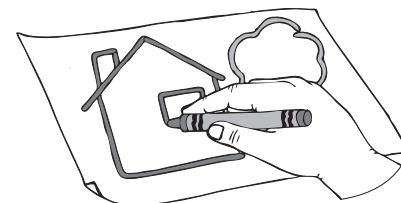
You can give your child things to draw, too! Take a bag with paper, pencils, and crayons whenever you go places.



Rather Thans

Rather than: "Are you sure you were listening to your teacher?"

This: "Wow! That looks very sophisticated. Tell me about your Amazing Art!"



Rather than: "After I finish my computer work, get your paper and crayons."

This: "I must finish my work, but let's get your crayons and paper. I'll type and watch you draw your Amazing Art up here at the desk by me!"

—Barbara B. Baker



CHALLENGER
SCHOOL

To view school calendars,
visit our website.

ChallengerSchool.com