



*AMC Montessori Fall 2009
Hands-On Creative Lesson
Planning Newsletter*

The AMC Montessori Newsletter

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Heidi Anne Spietz, Editor

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<http://www.amonco.org>

The AMC resource participants have generously shared hands-on activities that you will want to use in coming months. You'll be impressed with the ingenuity and creativity expressed in the recipes and crafts they have chosen to share with you. Use their ideas to foster interest in science, social studies, art, mathematics, and other academic hands-on learning activities. Integrate the recipes and crafts into your multicultural lesson planning as well.

Hopefully, you will let the participants know how much you have enjoyed their recipe(s) and craft(s). Visit the websites listed throughout the newsletter. You'll find additional helpful lesson information at these sites.

American Montessori Consulting is not responsible for any of the crafts or recipes posted here. All of the crafts and recipes are copyrighted and are the property of the participating AMC resource organizations listed in this newsletter. For questions concerning their individual copyrighted material, you need to visit the website listed in association with the craft(s) and recipe(s) that interest you and obtain the telephone number and/or e-mail address of the contact person(s).

If you would like friends on special listservs to know of this newsletter, please request that they download the newsletter directly from

http://www.amonco.org/montessori_fall_handson.html

Use special precautions when involving children in any craft or recipe where there is a potential for harm. Some children have special food allergies and/or other medical conditions like diabetes. Small children need supervision. Scissors, hot glue, hot stoves and ovens, and other elements in making some of these recipes and crafts need to be considered. Please consider carefully the age and maturity level of the child before allowing him or her to participate.

Be sure to visit each resource participant's site to see the marvelous selection of educational offerings you can use in your school and home classrooms. You'll also find creative, unique educational gift items that are sure to be enjoyed by the special young people in your life.

The following creative ideas are from the AMC Montessori Resource Center <http://www.amonco.org/directory.html> participants. Visit their websites for additional innovative ways to reach your students throughout the school year.



Contents of Part VII of the AMC Montessori Fall 2009 Hands-On Creative Lesson Planning Newsletter

Fun Filled Creative Ways to Use the USA Map
Lesson Plan for Autumn by Vivaldi
Apple Angel Food Cake
Oma's Cookies ~ A German Recipe

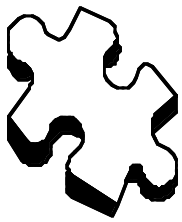
The Puzzle Man

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Website: <http://www.thepuzzleman.com/>

Fun Filled Creative Ways to Use the USA Map



Visit http://www.amonco.org/puzzleman_usa_map.jpg to use with this lesson.

Puzzles are a fun learning toy that can enhance any home or classroom. Our USA Map is one of our most popular puzzles, and can be a big help in to students learning geography.

In our experience, learning happens in stages. At first, a young child (4-5) tends to put the puzzle together based on shape alone. You can help increase the “fun-factor” by providing an outline of a map for the child to follow. An inexpensive place mat that can be found at most discount stores is wonderful for this, and also provides for extra mealtime conversation. Using the map as an aid while playing allows the child to match the pieces to the location, therefore increasing shape recognition skills as well as hand-eye coordination. Using the map also limits the frustration a younger child might feel when faced with such a large puzzle.

After children learn the shapes of the states, they will begin to learn the names of the states. The map can be a wonderful tool at home when talking about relatives who live in other states, or vacation/travel plans. When a child asks where Uncle Joe lives, for example, it’s easy for a parent to say, “Let’s get the map!” and give a visual explanation as well as a verbal one. It also can aid in school work when referencing places in history or literature. Learning the names of individual states can become a game that is played by the whole family. (How many of your states and capitals do you remember???)

Usually, the last step in the process is to learn the capitals of the states. This is more difficult and is generally accomplished by 4th or 5th grade, depending on amount of play/learning time.

In our experiences, we have had many children come to us at craft fairs saying that they “know the states” because they learned a song in school, or played a game on their computer. However, when faced with our map, they were unable to identify individual state shapes or locations. We think this is because songs and computer games are ‘once-removed’ while a puzzle is a more hands-on, direct experience, and this therefore more likely to be retained in the memory. All of our nieces and nephews (15 of them!) have painlessly learned their states and capitals using the USA Map. We always get the phone call when they ace their geography tests.

Puzzles can also be used for fun and learning in the classroom. Teachers we know keep a USA Map open on a table in the room. Students are encouraged to time each other putting it together. These numbers are recorded on a clipboard and then used to solve map and graphing problems. Some questions you might ask are:

1. What is the average time it took a person/team to do the puzzle?
2. There are 30 people in the class. What percent of people tried the puzzle? What percent of the people tried the puzzle more than once?
3. What percentage of the people were male; what percentage were female?
4. Make a graph that shows each person who did the puzzle and their time.
5. Who completed the puzzle the fastest? Approximately how many seconds did it take to put each piece into the puzzle? There are 53 pieces in the puzzle.
6. Think of 5 ways to use puzzles in your classroom.
7. Think of 5 reasons why puzzles are an important form of play.

The above ideas are directly related to the use of the USA Map, but certainly you can find creative ways to adapt them to all kinds of puzzles. Use your creativity, have fun, and learn in the process. Happy Puzzling!



About The Puzzle Man

All puzzles are individually hand-crafted with quality and education in mind. We use the highest quality, furniture grade plywood that is domestically made from replenishable forests. Each puzzle is cut one at a time, then sanded and stained using a non-toxic, water-based stain. The puzzle is sealed with a clear, non-toxic finish so that it is baby safe and may be cleaned using a damp cloth. Replacement pieces are offered. See the site for details."

The puzzles are widely used by Montessori teachers, public school teachers, homeschoolers and parents. Colors and shapes, alphabet and number recognition, art, and map puzzles of countries, continents are **offered online** by The Puzzle Man. Most of the Map Geography Puzzles are detailed with the name of the state/country under each piece, and the name of the capital on the back of each piece. The company offers many Personalized Puzzles as well.

Visit <http://www.thepuzzleman.com> or call 530-637-5575 to request additional information.



Classical Magic®

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Website: <http://www.singnlearn.org/khxc/ccp0-catshow/classicalmagic.html>

Lesson Plan for *Autumn by Vivaldi* – from *The Four Seasons*

Marjorie Kiel Persons

Classical Magic®

<http://www.singnlearn.org/khxc/ccp0-catshow/classicalmagic.html>

Adaptable for an Autumn Party

1. Teach the song first, singing the lyrics and using simple actions. as suggested below.
2. Older children can sing with the lyrics as they carve faces for their pumpkins.

Antonio Vivaldi (vi-VALL-dee) had red hair and was known as "the Red Priest." He was born in Venice, Italy. On the day that he was born an earthquake struck the city. There is a theory that his mother, in her terror, vowed that her son would become a priest if they did not suffer damage. Also, studying for the priesthood was often the only way a poor child could obtain free schooling.

Vivaldi's education had included violin instruction. After being ordained as a priest, he was named as the violin teacher at an orphanage for girls in Venice. The girls that Vivaldi taught became very accomplished musicians. He wrote volumes of music for them and organized concerts that drew audiences from all over Europe.

You'll find music and lyrics for all of *The Four Seasons* in *Themes To Remember*, Volume 2.

AUTUMN

Verse One : [: **Autumn colors glow**

Trees all dressed up for the show

Leaves play tag on the ground below. :]

Sing with the "music and lyrics" CD track.

1. As children are singing, if you say "**forte**" (loudly) the first time and "**piano**" (quietly) for the repeat, they will easily learn the meaning of those musical terms.
2. Notice the repeat sign at the beginning and end. Both music and words are repeated.
3. Small children can pretend they are leaves dressing in bright colors or leaves playing tag.
4. Older children can learn about personification. (Giving human traits to non-human things.)
Do trees dress up for a show?
Do leaves play tag?

5. Art activities:

Make leaf rubbings by placing them under a sheet of paper and rubbing or crayons over the leaf form.

Make a collage of many different kinds of leaves.

Make a bouquet of small branches of leaves to place in a vase.

Draw "human" trees dressing for a show or "human" leaves playing tag.

Draw a picture illustrating one verse or a complete fall scene.

(Show illustration from book.)

Verse Two: Apples on the trees

You can pick them if you please.

Drink some apple cider

While you snuggle up beside her,

Stay for Vivaldi's show.

Drink some apple cider,

Snuggle up beside her,

Stay for Vivaldi's show!

1. Pretend to pick apples from the trees. (The apples should be "twisted" rather than pulled to prevent damage to the trees.)
2. Pretend to drink apple cider. (For a party, apple cider can be provided.)
3. Find a partner to "snuggle" with!
4. Hold up the portrait of Vivaldi when his name is mentioned.
(Enlarged portraits are available by web order.)

Verse Three is a repeat of the first verse.

Repeat actions as in first verse – trees dressing for the show or leaves playing tag.

Verse Four: [: Pumpkins on the vine

Soon have faces that will shine.

Jack-o'-lanterns will smile

From each darkened window pane. :]

1. Children can pretend that they are pumpkins and make grotesque faces!
2. Draw Jack-o'-lantern faces and show them to each other. These could be used as patterns for carving pumpkins.

Verse Five: [: Drink some cider

Sit beside her,
Watch that spider!!
Stay for Vivaldi's show. :]

1. Children can make 3-D spiders using black construction paper. Fold the 1 leg pieces back and forth to make them "springy." Hang them from a string or rubber band.
2. If you have a cloth or soft plastic spider, play a spider "hot potato" game. Stand in a circle. Toss the spider while the music plays. Stop the music and the child holding the spider is a "pumpkin." You may do your own variation of this game.



About Classical Magic®

Classical Magic® Products:

Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* can be found in *Themes To Remember* – Volume 2, HC book with CD. *Autumn*, p. 6, 12 – 13 CD Tracks [5] & [6]
Portraits of the Music Masters – p. 10 – 11

For a music appreciation program with a difference, go to

<http://www.singnlearn.org/khxc/ccp0-catshow/classicalmagic.html>

When music is combined with lyrics, both go into **long-term memory**.
Children learn words better with music, and music better with words.

Singing with classical music is fun.

Singing promotes a good attitude.

Good attitude is the most important factor in efficient learning.

Set the foundation your children's lifetime adventure with classical music.



Conceptual Learning

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Website: <http://www.conceptuallearning.com/>

Below is a delicious treat that friends and family will enjoy.

Apple Angel Food

Prepare angel food cake batter
Mix in 1/2 lb of pecans
Pour into angel food cake pan
Slice a couple of Granny Smith apples on top
Bake as directed
Cool

With spatula, loosen cake from sides
Place on platter and invert
Serve and enjoy!



About Conceptual Learning

Conceptual Learning Materials has introduced several new series into the Insights into Math Concepts line.

To ease the children into more abstract fraction work, we have introduced "Fraction Match," a series of 15 matching exercises that include graphics, verbal expressions, and fraction symbols for various configurations. These include numerators of one, numerators greater than one, fraction of a set, improper fractions, mixed numbers, fractions on a number line, equivalencies, and simple addition of fractions. The work is appropriate for students in 2nd through 4th grades. Other recent fraction releases include "Fraction Operations" which

focuses on addition & subtraction of unlike fractions. "More Fraction Operations" includes multiplication and division of fractions and mixed numbers as well as a comprehensive overview of all fraction operations. Previously released fraction series include "Fraction Concepts," "Fraction Line and Labels," and "Fraction Order."

Three levels of time have also been introduced. The incremental matching cards encompass time to the hour, half hour, quarter hour, five-minutes, and time intervals of varying difficulty.

"Introduction to Decimals" has been expanded to include mixed rounding and as well as operations involving one and two-place decimals. Previously released decimal series include "Decimal Line and Labels," "Decimal Order," "Advanced Decimals," as well as "Decimal/Fraction Equivalencies."

Please contact us for a new catalog and be sure to visit

<http://www.conceptuallearning.com> We are looking forward to hearing from you!



Excellence in Education

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Website: <http://excellenceineducation.com>

Recipe Submitted by Carolyn Forte

Oma's Cake

This recipe is from **Excellence In Education <http://excellenceineducation.com>** It's favorite recipe from Martin's German Grandmother (Oma) and is very versatile as you will see. It is light and at the same time very delicious. We call it a cake, but I have used the dough in the classroom with young children. It can be

molded like clay into shapes (letters, objects, flowers, etc.) and then baked on a cookie tray. After the molded shapes are baked, dust them with powdered sugar. Yum!

1 3/4 cups flour
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 lb. butter (one stick), softened
1 egg
2 teaspoons baking powder

Mix flour and baking powder. Beat egg with sugar. Mix both together. Knead in soft butter. This will take a while and at first, you may think there is not enough butter to make a dough. There is; just keep kneading until it has the consistency of play dough. Now you can make the "cookies" described above, or you can use the dough to make "Oma's cake:"

Take half the dough and press it into a greased round 8 inch cake pan (a spring form works best). Then cover the dough with fresh pear halves (peeled) or apple slices. Sprinkle with a mixture of sugar and cinnamon. Press the rest of the dough over the pears (or apples) and bake at 350 degrees for about 1/2 hour. Be careful. The cake should not brown. It should be just golden and still soft. Cool. Dust with powdered sugar.

For "cookies:" bake at 350 degrees for 6 to 10 minutes. Watch to see that they are only golden or they will be too hard. The time will vary with the thickness of the dough.

You can double or quadruple the recipe and store it covered in the refrigerator for a week or two.

Auf Wiedersehen! ~ Carolyn at Excellence In Education



About Excellence in Education

Excellence in Education serves the homeschooling community and others searching for creative and interesting curriculum. EIE offers everything from a catalog of games, many of which are hands-on, to the EIE Independent Study Program. The latter is a help to all homeschooling parents in general, and to those who are new and need a sense of direction in particular.

This company also offers a unique game curriculum which gives the presenter a complete supplemental curriculum based on games. An EIE representative shares the following commentary:

"FUN-ED was created in 1993 by our daughters. We used games extensively in our own homeschool program and they wanted to share the fun with other families. Although FUN-ED is intended for everyone, we offer an array of manipulative and multi-sensory products that will be especially helpful to children with handicaps, developmental delays and "learning disabilities." Visit <http://excellenceineducation.com> to learn more about the extensive offerings available from this fine organization.



Read the other parts of this creative hands-on lesson planning newsletter by visiting
http://www.amonco.org/montessori_fall_handson.html

End of Part 7

