



*AMC Montessori
Spring 2012 Hands-On
Creative Lesson
Planning Newsletter*

The AMC Montessori Newsletter

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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_spring_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 III of the AMC Montessori Spring 2012 Hands-On Creative Lesson Planning Newsletter

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Yummy Peanut Butter Fudge

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New Middle School Word Puzzles

It's Time to Think Outside the Book and Kindle, Too!

Exploration Education™

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

Science Activity Submitted by John Grunder

“I CAN’T TAKE THE PRESSURE!”

This simple and effective activity about air pressure has a big “wow” factor and is for children (and adults) of all ages.

Materials needed:

* Two straws (clear work best)

* One clear drinking glass

Instructions:

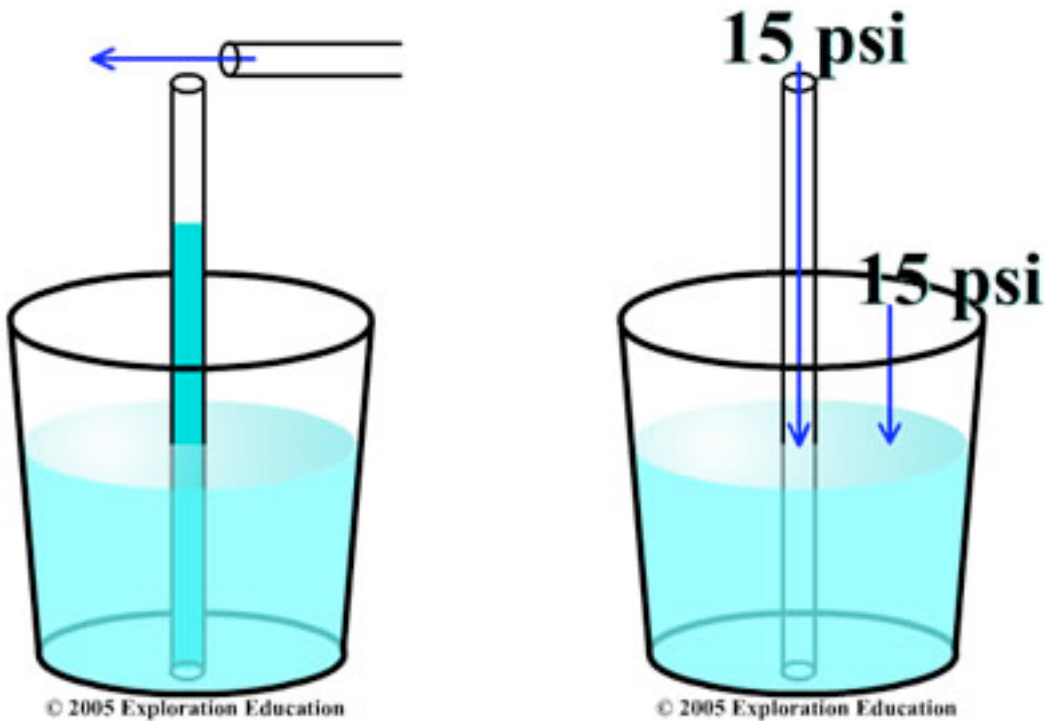
1. Fill a clear drinking glass close to the top with any liquid (water works fine, but a colored liquid allows you to see it a bit easier.)
2. Hold one straw in the glass straight up and down (vertically).
3. Hold the second straw horizontally at the top of the vertical straw.
4. Now blow hard through the horizontal straw so that the air stream is flowing across the top of the straw that is in the water.

The water will move up the straw. The faster the air blows across the top of the straw, the higher the water will rise up into the straw.

How does it work?

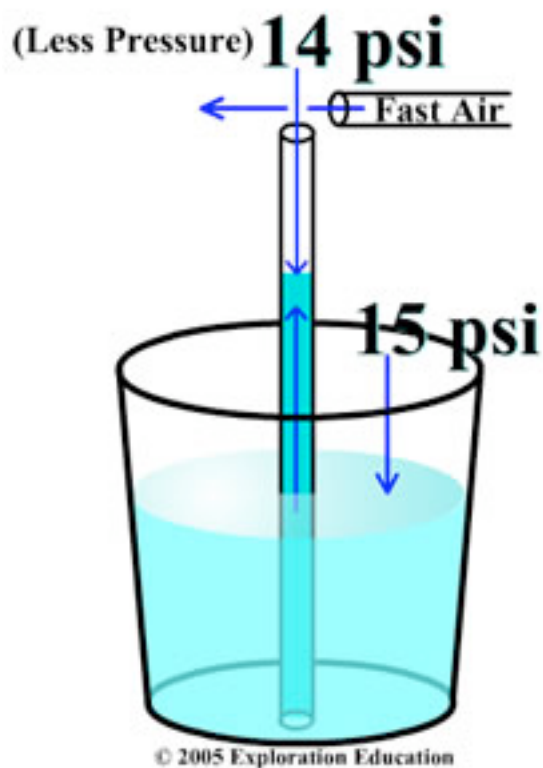
There are two scientific principles at work in this experiment.

1. Air pressure As you may know, air is made up of molecules that are in constant motion. As these molecules push against any object, they exert a force or pressure on that object. At sea level, this pressure is approximately 15 psi (pounds per square inch.) This pressure is pushing down on the water both outside and inside the straw.



2. Bernoulli's principle An 18th century Swiss scientist named Daniel Bernoulli discovered that fast moving air (like the air blowing across the top of the straw) has less pressure than slower moving air. The air pushing down on the water in the cup is 15 psi, but the fast moving air going across the top of the straw is less than that (say 14 psi). The greater pushing force pushing down on the water outside of the straw forces the water higher up on the inside of the straw.





Practical applications of Bernoulli's principle

There are many practical applications of Bernoulli's principle such as the carburetor in a car engine and lift on airplane wings. This principle also helps us understand why certain things happen. For example, in a hurricane, windows blow out away from the house. The reason for this is because the wind just outside the window is moving very fast (very low pressure), and the air inside the house is not moving (higher pressure). Therefore, the high air pressure in the house pushes the windows out.

“The Needle-Proof Balloon”

This simple and effective activity explores the chemistry of balloons and is for children six and up. Visit <http://www.explorationeducation.com/activities/Chemistry/needleBalloon.html> to access this free lesson plan!

About Exploration Education™

As an author and educator, John Grunder helps bring science alive through hands-on, project-based learning. You may visit his site at:

<http://www.explorationeducation.com> for more information and product demos. Phone: 925-324-4504



Barchowsky Fluent Handwriting

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

Make Your Own Illustrated Favorite Foods and Recipes Notebook Submitted by Nan

Make handwriting practice personal! Make it part of your everyday pleasure. If you enjoy good food, try this. Collect recipes. Get a notebook and practice handwriting with a list of your favorite foods, favorite meals. Then fill your notebook with recipes. Illustrate them too!

Here's just one recipe. Visit <http://www.amonco.org/Recipe.pdf> to view this yummy **Peanut Fudge Recipe**. See how you plan extension lesson exercises combining handwriting, cooking and illustrating!!! It's one of many ideas for handwriting practice on the CD in *BFH, a Manual for Fluent Handwriting*. <http://www.bfhhandwriting.com/> today!



About Barchowsky Fluent Handwriting

Barchowsky Fluent Handwriting is easy to teach, easy to learn. No boring workbooks! Printed text guides the user. Lessons and exemplars are on a CD. Users print out pages as presented, or edit them so the student practices writing about their special interests. You can even create custom pages to make learning to write really cool.

Beginners start with fun activities to establish habits of movement that support effective handwriting. They learn one simple alphabet. Then with no changes to the letterforms, they join letters for legible, fast, individual writing. No problematic letter changes to write "cursive!" No retraining of fine motor skills! Adults who, as children, learned to write with this program prove its success. Visit <http://www.bfhhandwriting.com/> for details.



Stillsonworks

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

Alan Stillson, the author of Middle School Word Puzzles, asks:

How well do you and your 8-14 year old know your foods and drinks?

1. K _ _ O N _ _ K _ B _ R

2. _ R _ N N _ S M _ _ H

3. _ R _ N _ H F _ I _ S

4. B _ L _ P _ P P _ _

5. _ E _ O N _ D _

6. P _ M _ G _ A N A _ E

7. _ O _ K C H _ P _

8. J A _ A _ E N _

9. C _ C _ N U _

10. S _ O W P _ A _

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

KLONDIKE BAR

GRANNY SMITH

FRENCH FRIES

BELL PEPPER

LEMONADE

POMEGRANATE

PORK CHOPS

JALAPENO

COCONUT

SNOW PEAS

In honor of two major spring holidays, Alan Stillson, the author of Middle School Word Puzzles, invites you to find these words and expressions that are related to Easter or Passover:

1. R A _ _ _ T
2. _ Y _ D _ E _ _ S
3. _ A S _ E _ _ B _ N N _ T
4. J _ _ _ Y _ _ E _ _ S
5. O _ _ _ O _ _ B O _ _ D _ G _
6. _ A _ K _ T
7. P _ E P _
8. H _ _ _ C R _ _ _ _ _ U N _
9. _ N _ E _ V E N E _ _ B _ _ E _ D
10. N _ _ _ C _ O _ H _ S

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

- RABBIT
- DYED EGGS
- EASTER BONNET
- JELLY BEANS
- OUT OF BONDAGE
- BASKET
- PEEPS
- HOT CROSS BUNS
- UNLEAVENED BREAD
- NEW CLOTHES



About Stillson Works

If you enjoyed these ten puzzles, imagine how much fun it would be to have a thousand of them! You can order Middle School Word Puzzles and Alan Stillson's other seven puzzle books directly from Stillsonworks and get an educator's discount. Just click onto <http://stillsonworks.com>

homeschool.literatureplace.com

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It's Time to Think Outside the Book and Kindle, Too!

Most often a writer of biography portrays the events of an actual person's life as he or she sees it and presents it as an informative and chronological narrative. However biographies vary in the degree of fictionalization and liberties that an author takes. Some writers use only documented facts; whereas other writers may choose to embellish the facts with fiction to create a believable account of a person's life. This fictionalized approach is typical of most biographies, such as *I'm Deborah Sampson: A Soldier in the War of the Revolution* by Patricia Clapp, *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes, and *Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave* by Virginia Hamilton, and many others. As the reader of this type of biography, you visit the lives and the times of others as though you were there viewing the events.

Robert Lawson in *Ben and Me* took fictionalized biography to the *fanciful* level in his account of Benjamin Franklin's life as seen by Amos the mouse, giving the reader another perspective on biography. Russell Friedman's *Lincoln: A Photobiography* conveys new insights into this historical leader with photographs that reveal the degree of his struggle over the issue of slavery and the Civil War. You see the actual events and people through photos as well as words resulting in visual images that add to the text. Now assume the role of a writer of biography, and like Robert Lawson and Russell Friedman, approach your subject in a different way...**think outside the book**. Create a biography of Thomas Jefferson without writing an informative narrative or book format; for example, consider an illustrated timeline, or perhaps a collage. Whatever format or style you decide to use, you must include words, phrases, or sentences, numbers, and pictures or graphics. Your biography should be informative and visually interesting, while highlighting the subject's major accomplishments.

The following lists many accomplishments Thomas Jefferson made during his lifetime. You can see quickly that he was a very remarkable man who started

learning very early in life and never stopped. Study the list and then select 10 ***consecutive accomplishments***. In deciding your start and finish points, choose a sequence of 10 which you think represents Jefferson's accomplishments that contributed most to the founding of our country. Research each accomplishment of your choice to find both its year and its impact. Use the information you collect to create your biography. Make your biography informative and visually appealing. The test of your biography is (1) in what the viewer learns about Thomas Jefferson and how the graphics/pictures help to convey information and (2) how much you gained from producing your biography. ENJOY!

- At 5, Thomas Jefferson began studying under his cousins/tutor.
- At 9, he studied Latin, Greek and French.
- At 14, he studied classical literature and additional languages.
- At 16, he entered the College of William and Mary.
- At 19, he studied Law for 5 years starting under George Wythe.
- At 23, he started his own law practice.
- At 25, he was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses.
- At 31, he wrote the widely circulated "Summary View of the Rights of British America and retired from his law practice.
- At 32, he was a Delegate to the Second Continental Congress.
- At 33, he wrote the Declaration of Independence.
- At 33, he took three years to revise Virginia's legal code and wrote a Public Education bill and a statute for Religious Freedom.
- At 36, he was elected the second Governor of Virginia succeeding Patrick Henry.
- At 40, he served in Congress for two years.
- At 41, he was the American minister to France and negotiated commercial treaties with European nations along with Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.
- At 46, he served as the first Secretary of State under George Washington.
- At 53, he served as Vice President and was elected president of the American Philosophical Society.
- At 55, he drafted the Kentucky Resolutions and became the active head of Republican Party.
- At 57, he was elected the third president of the United States.
- At 60, he obtained the Louisiana Purchase doubling the nation's size.
- At 61, he was elected to a second term as President.
- At 65, he retired to Monticello.
- At 80, he helped President Monroe shape the Monroe Doctrine.

At 81, he almost single-handedly created the University of Virginia and served as its first president.

At 83, he died on the 50th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence along with John Adams.

Created at <http://www.literatureplace.com>



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Start with the Winners: Our Bookfinder Guides are based on a comprehensive and cumulative database that includes award-winning books from numerous awards programs. The results of each state's Children's Choice awards program combined with those of numerous Institution Awards programs provides a unique perspective of award-winning books that includes both children's and adults' choices. Displayed online according to age range, genre, subject and more, the guides are easy to access based on your needs. Each *Bookfinder Guide* includes two components: The **Annotated Booklist** and a **Bookview** for each book which includes the names of awards the book won along with other information to assist you in making the best choice. Beyond just a shopping list, each *Bookfinder Guide*, derived from our database from a variety of perspectives, is designed to inform you. When in doubt, *Start with the Winners* helps you select award-winning books for your young readers. *Available online in March!*

Bookfolio Series: Our Student Activity Guides include numerous instructional choices designed to engage the reader in activities that promote reading, writing, speaking, listening and other related activities. The variety of learning modalities makes it easy to meet most young readers' needs and interests. A sample Bookfolio can be viewed online.

Reading Guide Series: Our Reading Guides support our most popular titles. Each Guide includes chapter-by-chapter questions for students in both a teacher and a student format and also include an ongoing during-the-reading activity with its culminating activity. A sample Reading Guide is available online

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

End of Part 3

