



*AMC Montessori Summer 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 right now 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.



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Exploration Education™

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

Science Activity Submitted by John

“Static Charge!”

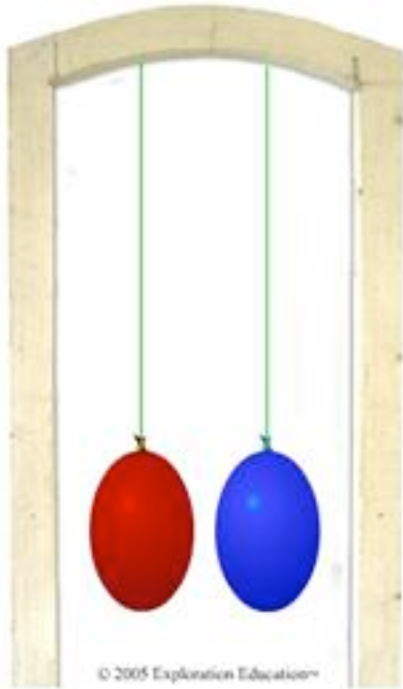
This simple and effective activity about static electricity is for children six and up. Caution: Choking hazard – keep balloons out of reach of children five and under.

Materials needed:

- Two balloons
- Two Strings

Instructions:

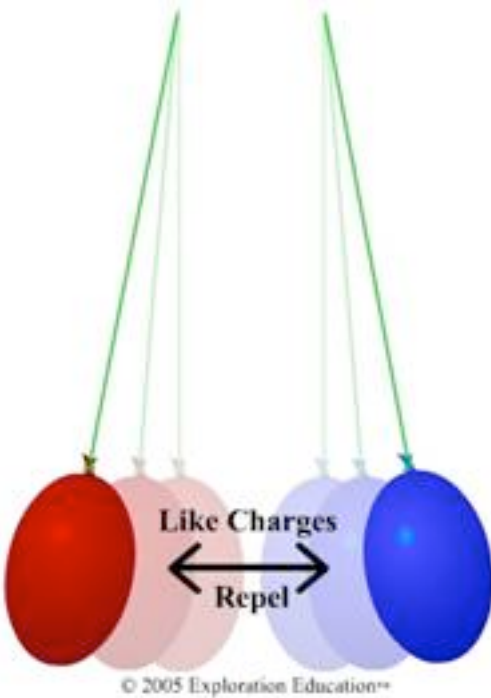
1. Tie one three foot long piece of string onto the end of each balloon.
2. Tape the top of the strings to a door jam.



3. Rub one balloon across the top of your head twenty times in one direction. Repeat this with the second balloon.



4. With the balloons hanging next to each other, gently let go. They will push each other away.



Why does this happen?

It's all because of static electricity. Static electricity is a force that is created when objects lose or gain electrons. When you rub the balloon across the top of your head, it picks up electrons from your hair and becomes negatively charged. The balloon is now attracted to positively charged objects so that it can “get rid” of the extra electrons. Conversely, the balloon repels other negatively charged objects (like the other balloon) because it does not want any more electrons.

Natural occurring static electricity

Lightning is probably the most dramatic natural form of static electricity. When the water droplets in a cloud swirl around in the air, they can gain electrons making the cloud negatively charged. The cloud then tries to send its extra electrons to a positively charged object; this could be another cloud or the ground. The "zap" you sometimes get when you walk across a carpet and touch a doorknob, or the crackle you sometimes hear when you comb your hair are also examples of static electricity.

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



Nation Relation

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Website: <http://www.winid.com/nationrelation>

Games Submitted by Joan McGivney

Nation Relation® GEOGRAPHY GUESSING GAME

(Best for older children who can read)

Materials needed: Removable self-stick notes
Stories from Nation Relation or
other geography world facts information

Write down either an animal, a landmark, a food or a nation name on the self-stick note. Do not show it to anyone. Find a partner. Place the removable self-stick note on the back of your partner without letting him see what is written on it.

Ask questions that can be answered “yes” or “no”. You and your partner should take turns trying to guess what the word is on each back.

Example:

Sam: Is it a food?

Pedro: No

Sam: Is it an animal?

Pedro: Yes

Sam: Is it from Asia?

Pedro: No

Sam: Is it from Africa?

Pedro: Yes

Sam: Is it the camel?

Pedro: No

Sam: Is it the okapi?

Pedro: Yes!

Keep in mind that during the first couple of times that you play this you may not be sure about the facts of where an animal or landmark it. Allow students to read over the stories before they choose their words to they can become familiar with the continents and the nations.

Nation Relation® GEOGRAPHY CATCH

Materials Needed: Foam ball (an “earth ball” would be especially appropriate)
Stories from Nation Relation or other geography resource aid

Three variations:

1. Stand in a circle with at least 3 others. The first person tosses the ball to another and calls out a nation name. The person receiving the ball repeats the same nation and calls out a different nation name as he throw the ball to another person. This continues until all have a turn and are tired of playing it.

2. For a more advanced version, use the same ball tossing (as in No. 1) but instead of using a nation name, the person throwing the ball calls out a special landmark or land feature or geographic region that identifies a nation (*it would be beneficial to have the students read through the stories and find several words ahead of time that he can plan to use. Examples: Taj Mahal --- INDIA, Bolshoi Ballet --- RUSSIA; Great Wall --- CHINA*) The person receiving the ball must be able to name the nation. If he can't, he is out of the circle (game). The rest of the people in the game are the judges and determine if the answer is correct. Do not use vague words such as ‘elephant’ because many nations have these. The winner is the person remaining in the circle.

Another easier version of Number 2 would be for the first person to call out a nation name as he tosses the ball to another. The person receiving the ball must name something from that nation (it is acceptable to name something that is not in the stories as long as it is correct. The stories provide a starting point for those who do not know about the world.)

Example:

Tory (tossing the ball to Kate): Egypt
Kate (catching the ball) : Sahara desert
(tossing the ball to Emma): United States
Emma (catching the ball): Statue of Liberty
(tossing the ball to Drew : Brazil
Drew (catching the ball): rainforest



About Nation Relation

SPECIAL OFFER: We really want children to learn about the world and our world's people. The only way we can give peace a chance is to start with our children and teach them understanding and tolerance of others. Nation Relation (award-winning memory game/educational tool) is now available in a **more economical way - in a zip lock bag** (with a Nation Relation label)

You can order the **directions and stories in Spanish** at no additional charge. \$11 ***Order forms are located on the website.*** Note: Nation Relation is also available in the original plastic box for \$13.)

Website: <http://winid.com/nationrelation>

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Hello Wood Products

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

Recipe Submitted by Mary

Onion Pie

Needed:

One pie crust - store bought OK
Food processor with thin slicing blade
Large skillet
Spatula for stirring onions

Filling:

3 large sweet onions
1 large tbs butter
1 tsp flour
Salt and pepper
2 eggs
1 c whipping cream

Use the food processor to shave the onions very fine. Fry onions with butter in a large skillet on very low heat, stirring occasionally. Plan on this taking at least one hour. The onions will reduce to 1/3 or less and be very soft when done. Slight browning of onions is OK. Add flour and stir well, adding salt and pepper to taste. Beat the eggs until light and mix with cream; fold into the onions until mixed. Pour into the crust and bake 30 minutes or until brown and puffy at 400 F

Serve immediately

Can be made ahead and stores very well in the refrigerator.

Serves 4

Yum-m-m-m



About Hello Wood

Hello Wood Products announces two exciting new productions Visit our web <http://www.hellowood.com> and click on new products.

1. The Montessori Teaching clock is truly an innovative new product. Incorporated into teaching time is a practical life lesson, bead bars, and fraction circles, all taught with 3 period lessons. Developed by a teacher trainer at CMTE, this is a must have for teaching time in your classroom.
2. The Fraction Ruler Lesson and Metric Ruler lesson is a great addition to the mathematics curriculum. These rulers are designed to teach the use of reading fractions with a ruler with an eye for increasing difficulty. See these and other new products at the Hello Web site.



Kimbo

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

Activities for Celebrating "America Through Song" by Elaine Murphy

These activities are excerpts from the guide written by Dr. Kathryn A. Short, for Kimbo's new CD release: "Songs About America," Celebrating America Through Song.

Blow Ye Winds - a sea chantey about whaling ships and clipper ships from the late 1700's into the 1800's.

Show children pictures of whaling and clipper ships.

Gather children around the perimeter of a parachute, instructing them to hold onto the edge. Have children walk around in a circle while singing the lyrics (if you do not have the recording, this can still be good, imaginative play set to any music.) On the chorus (or on cue), stop and face the center while gently shaking the parachute up and down to symbolize the blowing wind on the water.

Paddle Wheeler - Students recognize that there are various kinds of transportation used in different time periods. In this case, the song is about a paddle wheeler that was used to ply the Mississippi back in the early 1900's.

Show a picture of a paddle wheeler, perhaps the most famous of all, The Delta Queen!

Using a map, locate the cities of Baton Rouge and New Orleans, and follow the path of the Mississippi.

Erie Canal - Boats traveled the Erie Canal in New York State, beginning in 1825. This marvel of engineering and human labor opened up the American frontier and made westward expansion inevitable. The song was written in 1913 as a protest to the coming of the mechanized barge, which would replace the mule.

This familiar, old favorite song, can be acted out. Have children divide into two groups to simulate the canal, and face each other. Another group become the barges, and travel through. On the chorus, "Low bridge, everybody down," the canal partners join hands to form a bridge, so the "barges" have to duck down to travel through.

Wabash Cannonball - The first Wabash Cannonball was a mythological train, dreamed up by a hobo in the 1880's. The song about this imaginary train became so popular that the Wabash system in the Midwest named its express run the Wabash Cannonball. It ran between Detroit and St. Louis.

Everyone can sing the song while the children line up to simulate a train. The first child can wear an engineer's cap, and the teacher can blow a train whistle for

sound effects. Pretend to go to some of the places mentioned in the song, e.g., Atlantic and Pacific oceans, New York, St. Louis, Minnesota, and Chicago, woodlands and more.



About Kimbo

For information on purchasing this very special recording, "Songs About America," Celebrating America Through Song, please call Kimbo Educational, 800-631-2187.

Several of the songs on this recording have a transportation theme, providing a unique way of reflecting America's history. Children will also learn about geography from the lyrics and the activities.

Visit <http://www.kimboed.com> to discover the other fine products available through Kimbo Educational.



Stillsonworks

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

Summer is here and Alan Stillson, the author of *Middle School Word Puzzles*, invites you to find some foods that you might eat this summer. These are wraparound word puzzles and you have to find the starting letter and the reading direction (it may be left and it may be right). For example, UNAEPT becomes PEANUT if you start with P, read to the left, and wrap around to the T. Enjoy:

1. ETSKA
2. TELECUT
3. ZTERPLE
4. TOPOTA

1. DALAMRAME
2. PLEPINEAP
3. NARGALO
4. YIRETIKA
5. CARONIMA
6. RICELICO

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

STEAK
LETTUCE
PRETZEL
POTATO

MARMALADE
PINEAPPLE
GRANOLA
TERIYAKI
MACARONI
LICORICE



About Stillsonworks

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>



Shari and Jerry

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

Activity Submitted by Shari

Body Sounds

Children love to make noise and exploring sounds that they can make with their bodies is a great way to introduce rhythms. Ask the children to think about what kinds of sounds they can make using a yawn, sneeze, cough, hiccup, snore, giggle, for example. Ask them for more ideas.

- Ask them to show how each sound makes their bodies move.
- Ask each student to perform one.
- You can also ask them to choose one sound and repeat it over and over.
- They can mix and match, choosing two sounds and create a rhythm.
- Ask them to walk around the class with their body sound. Can they use parts of the
classroom to embellish their sound? (blackboard, floor, desk, etc.)

Contrasting Elements

Slow

- swaying gently
- Pretend to be a snail/turtle
bumblebee
- Pretend to walk on the moon (slow motion)
• ship
- Pretend to walk through glue or peanut butter

Soft

- Floating
- Tiptoeing
- Patting the floor or body with hands gently
- Pretend to be invisible

Fast

- Running lightly
- Pretend to be a
- Pretend to be a rocket
- Skip

Loud

- Stamping
- Marching
- Slapping the floor
- Moving like a Dinosaur



About Shari and Jerry

Shari and Jerry Tallon are International Children's Recording Artists, Producers of Winning Resources, Music Educators and Performers.

"The Early Years Collection No.1" gives teachers and parents a simple and effective way to stimulate the child's development for 6 years and under:

- Simple Action Songs
- Sing-a-longs
- Story Songs
- Songs for Special Needs
- Soft and Soothing Music with Nature Sounds
- Plus Lyrics, instructions and developmental benefits with 2 CD's and 52 page book.

This CD helps children to develop in all of the domains:

- physical
- mental
- emotional
- social
- cognitive
- language

More Developmental Benefits:

- The language arts, speaking, listening, reading, and writing are enhanced through music and movement.
- Because singing is speech set to music, children's oral language development is also enhanced.
- Children practice listening and auditory skills like discrimination and memory when learning the words to new songs or attending to music's repetition, rhyme, and rhythm.
- Music is intimately connected to a young child's emerging literacy. - The patterns heard in music prepare the child for the patterning that underlies math and reading.

\$29.95 US

\$34.95 Canadian

Find out about our other resources,
"Simple Songs For Circle Time - Pres-Gr 1,
The Dinosaur Rock Play - K-8,
Dances & Action Songs - Pres -Grade 3,
Jump and Learn

Visit <http://www.shariandjerry.com>

End of Part 3

Read the other parts of this creative hands-on lesson planning newsletter by visiting

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

Looking for additional hands-on lessons? Don't forget to read the companion newsletters. Just visit

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

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

and

Visit <http://www.amonco.org/> for additional lesson planning information.