



YAK'S CORNER TEACHER GUIDE

This week we read about school supplies for the new year, books about school and making bookmarks.



Ergonomic Experiment

ACTIVITY: Carrying a backpack that's too heavy now may lead to back problems when you're older. First, figure out about how much stuff you can safely carry by calculating 15 percent of your weight. Add the maximum weight of your backpack to your own weight. Then slowly add items to your backpack, put it on your shoulders and weigh yourself. When you've added enough items to reach the weight of your maximum safe load, take note of what a safe number of items looks like and feels like.

STANDARDS: Students will calculate percentages. Students will investigate and understand the use of weight as a form of measurement.

Paper Caper

When school starts, you'll be hitting the books again. Here are two activities to get you warmed up.

ACTIVITY: Cut out several headlines from your newspaper. (Choose words that are printed in fairly large type.) Cut the headlines into individual words. Then lay out the words out in alphabetical order.

STANDARDS: Students will use various techniques to organize information, including alphabetization. Students will identify elements of a newspaper.

ACTIVITY: Find numbers in stories in your newspaper and cut them out. Then use the numbers to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems.

STANDARD: Students will be able to compute figures using all four basic mathematical operations.

Pencil Problem

ACTIVITY: Now you know that pencil lead isn't really lead after all. But do you know why? Using the library or the Internet, research lead and find out why it would not be a good idea to have real lead in pencils. Then write a few sentences telling what you've discovered.

STANDARDS: Students will investigate and understand the properties of various chemical elements. Students will conduct research using a number of tools.

Loot List

ACTIVITY: Make a list of back-to-school items you'd like to purchase. Divide the items into two lists: one for items you need to have, and one for items that would be nice to have.

STANDARD: Students will use various techniques to organize information, including dividing elements into categories.

EXTRA CREDIT: Using advertisements from your newspaper, prepare a shopping budget for the items on your lists.

STANDARD: Students will learn consumer math skills such as developing a budget.



Writers Log

ACTIVITY: Write a letter to a kindergartner telling the child what to expect at school. Be sure to include some of your favorite aspects of kindergarten and of school in general. (You might want to consider actually sharing this letter with a kindergartner at your school.)

STANDARD: Students will write letters using appropriate form.



YAK'S CORNER ACTIVITY SHEET

www.yakscorner.com

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EXTRA CREDIT: Using advertisements from your newspaper, prepare a shopping budget for the items on your lists.

Back-to-school supplies:	Items I need to have:	Items it would be nice to have:	Advertised price:
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (check one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____

Ergonomic Experiment

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HOW MUCH CAN YOU SAFELY CARRY?

Weigh yourself to determine your body weight in pounds:

My weight is _____ pounds.

Then calculate 15 percent of your weight (by multiplying your body weight by 0.15) to determine the maximum weight of your backpack:

_____ X 0.15 = _____ pounds

Add the maximum weight of your backpack to your body weight:

_____ + _____ = _____ pounds

Your body weight Maximum weight
of backpack

Item #1: _____ Your weight with backpack and item: _____

Item #2: _____ Your weight with backpack and item: _____

Item #3: _____ Your weight with backpack and item: _____

Item #4: _____ Your weight with backpack and item: _____