

## sponge activities.txt

Sponges by Gavin Clowes

### Purpose:

To eliminate dead time with self directed activities when a group or individuals have finished their assigned tasks.

### What are they?

Activities related to structure and/or lesson content  
Used to promote continuous student participation  
Used as a follow-up to a lesson  
Enrichment or reinforcement

### Characteristics of Sponges

Easy entry easy exit  
High proportion of success  
Many correct answers  
Conruent to objectives  
Fun  
Short problems  
Easy to monitor

### Wher can you put Them?

At the bottom of the page  
On an OHP/ blackboard  
In a 'Sponge' box  
In a learning centre or bookshelf  
Orally from teacher  
On an audio cassette ( " Mission Impossible")

### Language Arts

- Put in alphabetical order the team names in your classroom
- Correct the grammar in this sentence
- Create word riddles
- Draw illustrations for your favourite book
- Draw pictures to remember a vocabulary word
- How many words can you find in the word...?
- Find 5 new dictionary words to use during the day
- List compound words
- List three types of references and how to use them
- List words that contain the letter sequence...
- List words that start with the letter...
  - Make a story from these 10 words.
- Make a word search using vocabulary words
- Make sentences using word strips
- Make words using letter tiles
- Name characters from all the books we have read this year
- Name words with the prefix "un"
- Rainbow write your spelling words
- Read and write about this poem
- Read word wall words with a buddy
- Summarise a TV show (story, magazine article, book)
- Vocabulary word of the day
- Write a "what if..." journal entry
- Write a commercial to sell broccoli
- Write a letter with grammatical errors for a teammate to correct
- Write all the homophones you can think of
- Write instructions for your favourite hobby/sport/kickball
- Write your teacher, classmate, or family member a thank you note

### Science

- Categorise solids, liquids, gases
- Classify animals as a vertebrate or invertebrate

#### sponge activities.txt

- Compare and contrast plants and animals
- Draw a Mind Map of a subject
- If you could be any animal, which would you be?
- List examples of a mammal, amphibian, bird, reptile
- List the traits of an insect
- List things made of glass (or other substance)
- Use a magazine picture of an animal to create a labeled diagram
- Write a poem about a scientific process or topic
- Write the pathway of blood through the body starting with the right atrium

#### Mathematics

- Colour by number with multiplication facts
- Count the coins
- Count the feet/eyes/posters/ceiling tiles in our classroom
- Create a daily schedule with times
- Create a scale diagram of the classroom
- Create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast shapes
- Find equivalent fractions using fraction pieces
- Find the area of these shapes
- How many kids in our class are wearing white shoes?
- Make a bar graph showing kinds of sleeves we are wearing today
- Make a pattern with attribute blocks
- Match a partner's Tangram creation
- Order of operations
- Play with shapes or manipulatives
- Sequence numbers from greatest to least
- Skip count
- Solve the maths problem of the day
- Solve these three problems from yesterday
- What percent in our class are girls, boys?
- What pictures can you make with these shapes?
- Write multiples of 24
- Time yourself on maths facts

#### Social Studies

- Compare and contrast time periods
- Create a survey for the class to take
- Create a timeline
- Draw a family tree
- Draw a map of the US or world without using any reference
- Draw a map of your route to school
- Draw a picture of a historical event/current event
- Draw a political cartoon
- List attributes of a culture
- List the positive and negatives of an issue
- Make a map to the principal's office and include a compass rose
- Make a poster about...
- Name mountain ranges in our country
- Write a letter to a famous person, government official
- Write a letter to a friend, your teacher, the principal
- Write an editorial/opinion about a topic
- Write the meaning of an upcoming holiday

#### Fun

- Analyse the lyrics to this popular song
- Colour or draw
- Complete a crossword puzzle
- Create a Mad Lib-like story
- Interview a teammate about his/her family
- Interview a teammate about his/her favourites
- Interview a teammate about his/her weekend
- List a to z: beverages, cartoons, cereals, animals, professions, movies
- List favourite foods
- List things all teammates enjoy
- List things made of chocolate
- List things you use everyday
- Play a file folder game

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Across the Curriculum

- Analyse a commercial or advertisement from a magazine
- Create a sculpture
- Create Trivial Pursuit or Jeopardy questions for topic
- List everything you know about...
- Make letters, shapes, numbers with clay
- Quiz a partner using flashcards
- Test review
- What does this quote/sentence mean to you?
- Write a rap about...
- Write about this picture
- Write in your journal the most important thing you learned
- Write what you would like to learn about...
- Character quotes

As quickly as you can, name:

- gems or precious stones
- kinds of flowers
- ministers
- colours
- cities or towns in
- countries of the world
- breeds of dogs
- teachers at this school
- kinds of ice cream
- models of cars
- things made of cloth
- foods that are alphabetical
- counties
- prime
- movie stars
- holidays

Write or tell me:

- names of cartoon characters
- what would you do if you saw an elephant in your back yard?
- ordered pairs of numbers
- three smells you like and why
- about your favorite book
- adjectives that begin with each letter in your name

Play:

- Twenty Questions
- I Spy
- Charades
- Who Am I? (guessing famous people)
- ABC game--First person makes a sentence that uses all "A's", second person gets B, and so on...
- Simon Says
- Quiet Game--Silent water, still water

Make up:

- 5 things you do after school
- three names for rock groups
- a sentence using alliteration
- one sentence using the words

Read:

- a famous quote & discuss its meaning
- tongue twisters

Give them:

- mental maths problems to solve
- time to describe an object they see
- minute mysteries
- logic problems
- flash card relays
- words to spell
- brainteasers
- word puzzles

Explain which explorer you would like to be. why?

Complete an open-ended story or a story-starter.

Look at a picture and write a story about it.

Describe one interesting experience you have had.

Create a picture out of a number.

Count in 2's, 3's, 4's, etc. How far can you go?

Brainstorm lists of words for themes--ex: autumn, space, heroes, winter

Write down one good thing about each of your classmates.

List the continents of the world

Name as many kinds of windstorms as you can.

Take a number. Write it. Now make a face out of it.

Write the names of all the girls in the class.

Write: (a) an abbreviation (b) a Roman numeral (c) a trademark (d) a proper name (biographical) (e) a proper name (geographical)

How many countries and their capitals can you name?

How many football teams can you name?

List as many kinds of flowers as you can.

Turn to your shoulder partner. One of you tell the other about an interesting experience you have had. The listener must be prepared to retell the story to the class.

List all the things in your living room.

Write what you would do if you saw an elephant in your backyard.

Name as many kinds of ice cream you can.

List five parts of the body above the neck that have three letters.

List one manufactured item for each letter of the alphabet.

List as many nouns in the room as you can.

Write the 12 months of the year correctly. Stand up as soon as you are finished.

Make a list of five things you do after school.

Write one kind of food beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

Name as many holidays as you can.

Name as many balls as you can that are used in sports games.

List all the work tools you can think of.

List as many models of cars as you can.

Name all the colours you know.

How many animals can you list that begin with vowels?

List as many kinds of trees as you can.

Name as many countries of the world as you can.

List as many personal pronouns as you can.

List as many kinds of transportation as you can.

How many different kinds of languages can you name?

You have five children. Make up their five names.

Name as many things as you can that are made of cloth.

Name as many things as you can that you can wear on your head.

Name as many movie stars as you can. Tell what movies they were in.

List all the musical instruments that begin with "t".

Name as many television game shows as you can.

Name as many politicians as you can.

Name as many breeds of dogs as you can.

Write the days of the week correctly in order. Stand up when finished.

List all the kinds of sandwiches that you can.

Scramble five spelling words, trade with someone, and unscramble them.

List as many things as you can that make people the same.

List as many kinds of soup as you can.

List all the places you find sand.

List as many breakfast cereals as you can.

Write: (a) an abbreviation, (b) a Roman numeral, (c) a trademark, (d) a proper name (biographical), (e) a proper name (geographical).

How many countries and their capitals can you name?

Turn to your shoulder partner. One of you tell the other about an interesting experience you have had. The listener must be prepared to retell the story to the class.

List all the things in your living room.

Name as many kinds of ice cream as you can.

List five parts of the body above the neck that have three letters.

List one manufactured item for each letter of the alphabet.

List one proper noun for each letter of the alphabet.

Write one kind of food beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

Name as many holidays as you can.

List as many models of cars as you can.

How many parts of an auto can you list?

Name as many countries of the world as you can.

List as many personal pronouns as you can.

List as many kinds of transportation as you can.

Write as many homonyms as you can. Example: past-passed.

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Name as many movie stars (singers, cartoon characters, action figures, famous sports figures) as you can. Name the movies are they in?

Name as many politicians as you can. Name an idea they believe in. Tell what office they hold. Name the political party they represent.

List all the places you find sand.

List as many breakfast cereals as you can.

Make a list of the 10 largest things you know.

Name as many planets as you can.

List all the sports you can think of in X minutes.

List all the foods you can that have sugar in them.

List all the foods you can that have milk in them.

Name as many rock groups as you can that begin with the letters A-F.

Name as many teachers at this school as you can.

Name all the models of Ford (Toyota, Chevrolet, or other name brand) cars you can think of.

Name all of the parts of speech and give an example of each.

Name as many airlines as you can.

Name the different sections of the newspaper.

Name as many islands as you can.

Name all the types of musical instruments you can think of.

Name all the foods you can think of that contain protein.

Name as many kinds of fish as you can.

Name all the words you can that begin with the prefix in

Name as many of the album titles of records by Ricky Martin, Madonna, Selena, the Beatles (update according to current interests of students).

Name all the countries that have the letter "E" in them.

Name as many animals as you can which cause harm to man, either directly or indirectly.

Name five books you've read recently that you really enjoyed.

Name a movie you saw recently that you did not enjoy and tell why.

. Name as many places as you can remember where you and your family have spent vacations.

word of the day - (define, use in a sentence)  
SAT question of the day

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Write: (a) an abbreviation, (b) a Roman numeral, (c) a trademark, (d) a proper name (biographical), (e) a proper name (geographical).

List five parts of the body above the neck that have three letters.

List one proper noun for each letter of the alphabet.

Write one kind of food beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

Name as many holidays as you can.

List as many kinds of transportation as you can.

List 5 things you learned in class yesterday.

Complete this statement..... "If I could have one wish come true, I wish

List all the sports you can think of .

Name the different sections of the newspaper.

Name as many islands as you can.

Name all the types of musical instruments you can think of.

Name as many kinds of fish as you can.

Write 5 sentences describing a book you've read recently that you really enjoyed.

Name a movie you saw recently that you did not enjoy and tell why.

Write what you would do if you saw an elephant in your backyard.

Name as many balls as you can that are used in sports games.

You have five children. Make up their five names.

Name as many things as you can that you can wear on your head.

Scramble five vocabulary words, trade with someone, and unscramble them.

List as many things as you can that make people the same.

List things made of chocolate How many words can you find in the word .....  
Count our ceiling squares. If each one is 1 sq. ft, how many total square feet is our ceiling? what time is it ? Count the coins shown on the overhead (on your desk, in you pocket). Solve these three problems from yesterday. Name as many states as you can on the map. Summarize a TV show (story, magazine article, book) words that start with the letter (I, Fr, T) Make word search using vocabulary words. How many kids in our class are wearing white shoes? List three types of references and how to use them. Find the area of these shapes. Matrix problem solving Mazes KWL charts Alphabetize your team names Matching states to capitals Put these numbers from greatest to least. what if questions for journal entries Word picture puzzles Color by number with multiplication facts Tangrams How do you play the rhythm you see on the board? what pictures can you make with these shapes? Make a story from these 10 words. Test review Write a commercial for broccoli Color Draw Journals Make a poster word games Analyze a commercial or advertisement from a magazine Name mountain ranges in our country Name words with the prefix "un" Do a venn diagram and compare and contrast shapes Name characters from all the books we have read this year. write about this picture. Compound words. List things you use everyday Write a letter to a friend, famous person, your teacher. Traits of an insect Order of operations Things made of glass Skip count Mad Libs Make letters, shapes, numbers with clay Math problem of the day Vocabulary word of the day (Cognitive Content Dictionary) Make a pattern with attribute blocks Rainbow write your spelling words Draw illustrations for your favorite book Making words Making sentences Write your teacher a thank you note. Read word wall words with a buddy. File folder game Write the principal. what % in our class is girls, boys? Take this quote...what does it mean to you? How many feet in our classroom? Time yourself on math facts. Crossword puzzle write and perform a 4 bar song using only the notes F, G, A, Bb Is it a vertebrate or invertebrate? Correct the grammar in this sentence. Read this poem silently. Read the lyrics to this song. write all the homophones you can think of. what are the rules of kickball? Tell a secret and pass the secret around the room. Has it changed? write multiples of 24 Find equivalent fractions using fraction pieces Story wheels Animals with four legs? write today's date. what time did you get up? what time will it be 27 minutes from now? List beverages. Make a bar graph showing kind so sleeves we are wearing today. write the pathway of blood through the body starting with the right atrium. If you could be any animal, which would you be? Draw that animal Character quotes Label diagrams Make a map to the principals office. Include a compass rose. In a dictionary, find 5 new words to use during the day.

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