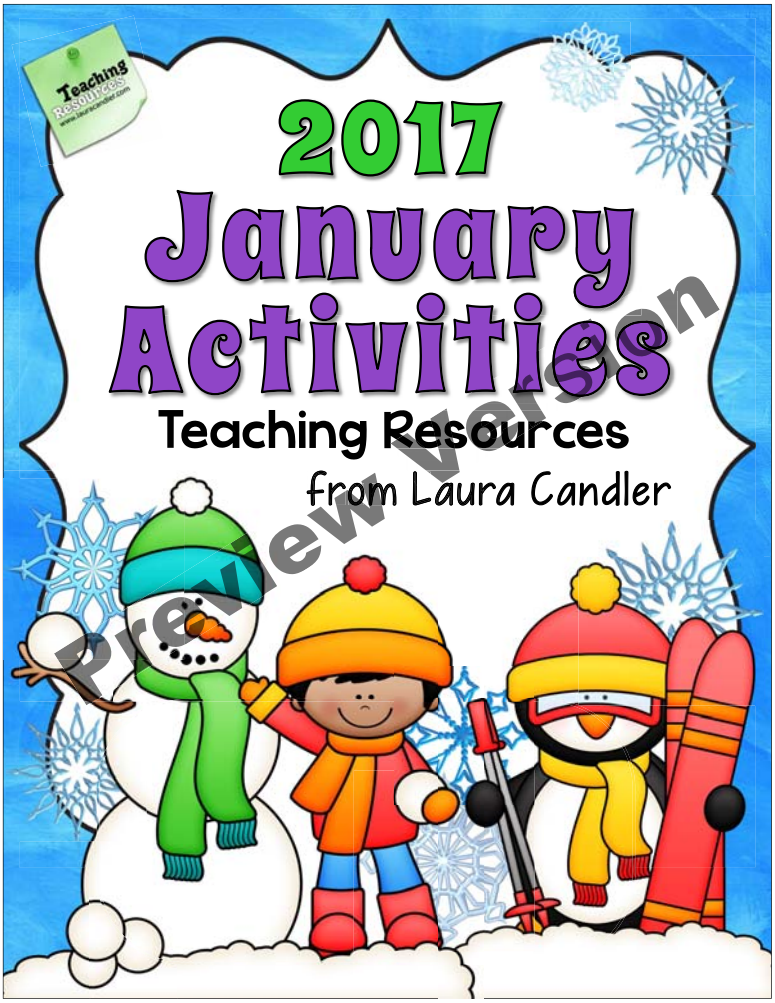
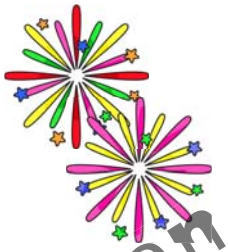


Preview Version

January Activities



from Laura Candler

I hope you enjoy the lessons and printables I have included in the January Activities packet. If you enjoy these activities, be sure to check out my other seasonal packs and my free virtual file cabinet at Teaching Resources (www.lauracandler.com). Happy New Year! ~ Laura Candler

January Activities

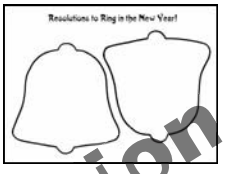
- Resolutions to Ring in the New Year
- Writing Prompt: Goals for 2017
- Happy New Year Word Challenge
- New Year's Reflections Spinner
- Highlights of 2016 and Visions of 2017
- Happy New Year Homework Pass
- Winter Word Sort
- Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Winter Math Puzzlers
- New Year's Math Challenge
- Icy Road Investigation

Preview Version

Overview of Activities for January 2017

Resolutions to Ring in the New Year Bulletin Board Activity

Do your old holiday decorations need to come down in a hurry? If so, here's a quick and easy bulletin board idea. Explain to your students that a "resolution" is simply a goal or something the "resolve" to accomplish during the year. Brainstorm ideas for possible resolutions, and have them choose one idea to focus on for their personal New Year's Resolution. Print out and duplicate the bell patterns in this packet and give each student one pattern. Have each person write his or her resolution at the top of one bell and create a simple illustration at the bottom. Create a giant bell from one of the patterns and place a large digital picture of your class inside the bell. Or create the large bell from aluminum foil to add a little pizzazz! Use the heading "Resolutions to Ring in the New Year" and display the individual bells all around the large bell.



Cooperative Learning Extension for Resolution Bells

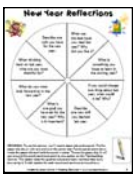
Before placing the bells on the bulletin board, try a cooperative learning strategy with your class called "Mix N Mingle." After students decorate their bells, have them walk around the room and greet each other. Ring a bell or give another signal, and have them quickly and quietly find a partner. Next have them discuss their New Year's Resolutions and how they plan to achieve those goals. Ring the bell again and have them mix around and find a new partner. Repeat several times until students have had an opportunity to share with several classmates. Classbuilders like this work particularly well after students have been away from each other on vacation. They can engage in a little friendly talking to ease their way back into academics. Classbuilders also work well when you have a new student which is likely to happen in January.

"Goals for 2017" Writing Prompt

Before using this writing prompt, help your students brainstorm a list of goals that they might set for themselves in the coming year. Then ask them to select three goals and jot down specific strategies they can use to meet those goals. Demonstrate how to list those details on the 3-column graphic organizer and provide 10 or 15 minutes for planning. Finally, have them write a short, organized essay in response to the writing prompt.

New Year's Teambuilding Spinner

Many of you will be forming new teams when you start back to school this week. It's important to do some type of teambuilding discussion activity when students are first placed together in a team. You can use the New Year Reflections spinner in this packet to have your students think about the old year and look ahead to 2017. The activity is designed for teams of students, and directions can be found on the bottom of the spinner.



Preview Version

New Year's Day Word Challenge

Need a simple activity for the first day back to school? How about the New Year's Word Challenge? You can have students complete this alone, but it's more fun with a partner. Have them cut out the letters of "New Year's Day" and work with a buddy to find as many words as possible from those letters.

Here are the rules I generally use:

- No proper nouns including names of people, places, things, etc.
- All words have to have at least 3 letters.
- You can use words and their plurals if you have enough letters.
- Words must be spelled correctly.
- You can look up the spellings of words in the dictionary, but you can't use the dictionary to hunt for words that you don't even know!

Set a timer and let the kids have about 20 minutes to hunt for words. Then have them switch papers and check to make sure the other pair has followed all the rules. Even though this is a fun activity, it's great for improving spelling. It's amazing how many simple words kids misspell regularly, and this activity makes them more conscious of the spellings of basic words. They begin to notice word families, suffixes, and prefixes in their hunt for new words. By the way, if you like this activity, you'll love **Seek & Spell Challenge**! Visit Corkboard Connections to read about this strategy and download a free sample.

Highlights of 2016 and Visions of 2017

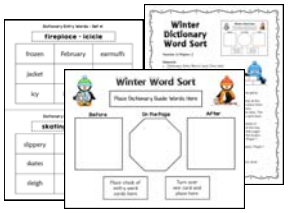
This is a simple activity that can be used in addition to or in place of the ***Resolutions to Ring in the New Year*** lesson. Students draw pictures of their favorite moments of 2016 and their visions of what they want to do or accomplish in 2017.

Happy New Year Homework Pass

Start the year off on a positive note by giving each student a Happy New Year Homework Pass. Let them know the rules for using the pass so there's no confusion later. My students are allowed to use them to turn in work a day late without penalty, but they can't use them to in place of a graded or major assignment. If they choose not to use them, these Homework Passes can also be used to earn privileges such as spending time with our class pet.

Winter Word Sort

This partner activity works great for reviewing dictionary skills. Complete directions are include with this practice game. Before you have your students play the game, be sure you have reviewed how to use guide words to look up entry words in a dictionary. Model the game for the class before allowing them to play it with a partner.



Preview Version

Winter Math Puzzlers

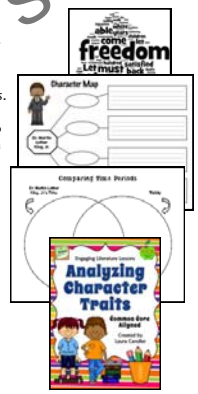
This word problem worksheet has four problems which can be completed one per day or in a single day. When solving the problems, students must show their work in picture or word form. The worksheet can be used with the Daily Math Puzzler program or as an individual assignment.

Answers: #1 - 11 students #2 - 3 ft #3– 9 vans #4 - 7 boxes

New Year's Math Challenge

The New Year's Math Challenge is a single multi-step word problem involving fractions and ratios. Be sure you have covered these topics before assigning this activity page. Students can work individually or with a partner, but they should each have their own copy of the worksheet and respond with their own pictures, symbols, and words. **Answers:** #1 P - 8 students, A - 6 students, F - 10 students #2 - 6:24 or 1:4 #3 - 8:10 or 4:5 (For the ratio problems, accept allowable variations such as 8 to 10 or 8/10)

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a national holiday that falls on the third Monday in January every year. Help your students understand the significance of this holiday by taking time to learn about Dr. King and to listen to his words. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Read aloud ***Martin's Big Words*** by Doreen Rappaport. Then watch a video clip of his "I Have a Dream" speech and ask students to discuss how Martin used "big words" to make a difference when he grew up.
- **Create a Wordle**. Find Dr. Martin Luther King's speech online and copy and paste it into the Create Wordle page at Wordle.net. Wordle arranges the words randomly on the page and the size of each word is dependent on the number of times it's used in the text. The word "freedom" is the largest word because it is the one used most frequently. See example.
- **Create a Character Map of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr**. using the Character Map in this packet. For a complete lesson on the character trait analysis, check out the Analyzing Character Traits mini pack.
- Read aloud **If You Lived in the Time of Martin Luther King** and have students create a Venn diagram comparing Dr. King's era with our times. Students can work in teams to prepare their graphic organizers, and share and discuss as a class. What has changed and what still needs to change?

Icy Road Investigation

Have you ever wondered why salt and sand are spread on the roads when a storm is expected? This simple investigation will help your students understand the science behind the salt and sand. They will use the scientific method to investigate how sand and salt affect ice, including making hypotheses, following procedures, recording results, and drawing conclusions. This activity is a lot of fun and uses inexpensive materials that can be found around the house. Thanks to my daughter Wendy for the professional ice cubes-in-a-bag artwork!

Preview Version

Resolutions to Ring in the New Year!

Preview Version

Teacher _____ Name _____

In January many people set goals for the coming year. What goals would you like to set for yourself for 2017? Name at least 3 goals or things you would like to accomplish and explain how you plan to reach your goals.

As you write your paper, remember to:

- Begin by naming the 3 goals or things you would like to accomplish.
- Be sure to tell **how** you plan to reach your goals. Be specific and explain exactly what you plan to do to accomplish these goals.
- Write in complete paragraphs.
- Check to be sure that you are writing good sentences.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

Use a clean sheet of paper or the space below to plan your essay. Then write your essay on the lined paper provided.

Preview Version

My Goals for 2017

Write one goal at the top of each column. Then under each goal, list details you plan to write about, including the actions you plan to take to accomplish that goal.

Preview Version

Name (s) _____

New Year's Word Challenge

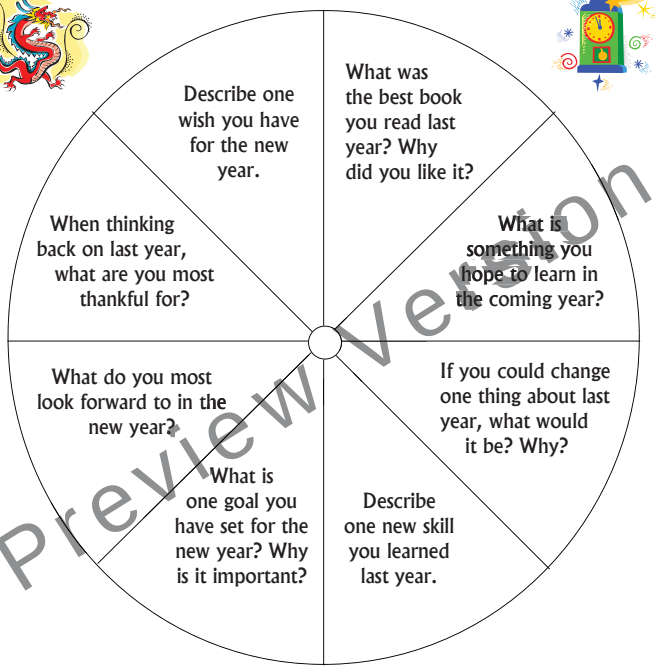
How many words can you find in the letters of "Happy New Year"? Cut out the letters below and use them to help you make words. Work with a partner and take turns finding words and writing them on the lines.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____
26. _____
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____
31. _____
32. _____
33. _____
34. _____
35. _____
36. _____
37. _____
38. _____
39. _____
40. _____
41. _____
42. _____
43. _____
44. _____
45. _____
46. _____
47. _____
48. _____

H	A	P	P	Y	N
E	W	Y	E	A	R

Preview Version

New Year Reflections



Preview Version

Directions: To use the spinner, you'll need a paper clip and a pencil. Put the paper clip down with one end over the center dot. Put the pencil point down inside the paper clip and hold the pencil in place. Thump the paper clip. It will spin around the pencil point and point to one section on the Teambuilding Spinner. The Leader reads the question aloud and team members take turns answering it. Switch Leaders for each round and continue as time allows.

Visions of 2017

Name _____

Highlights of 2016

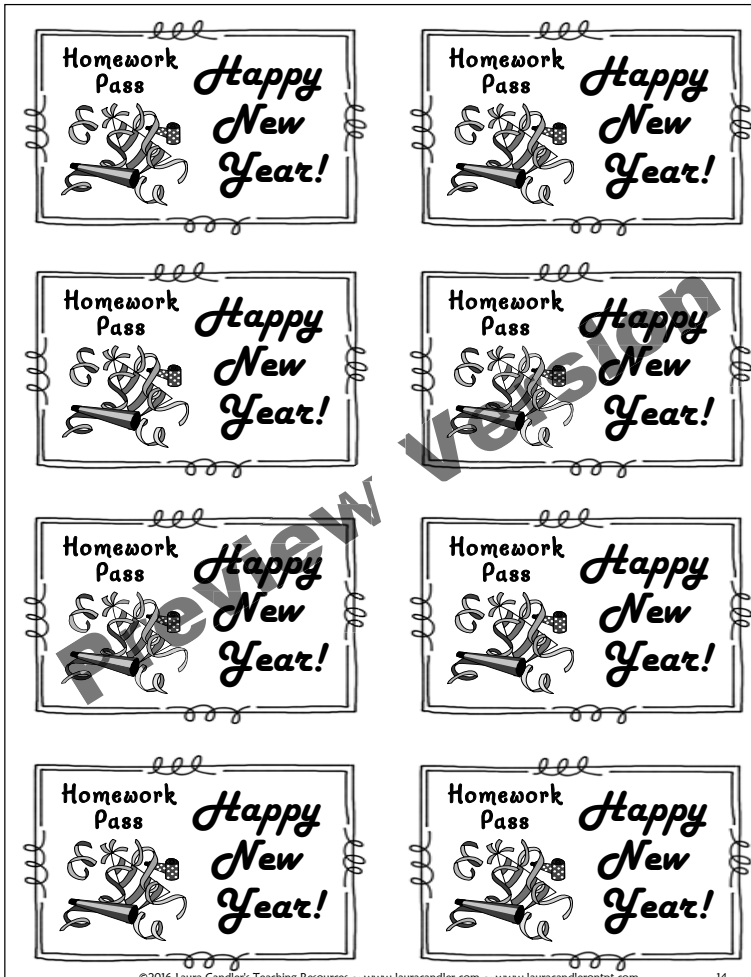
Preview Version

Visions of 2017

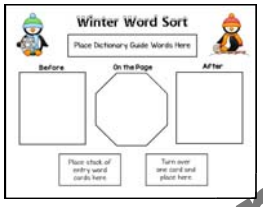
Name _____

Highlights of 2016

Preview Version



Winter Dictionary Word Sort



Number of Players: 2

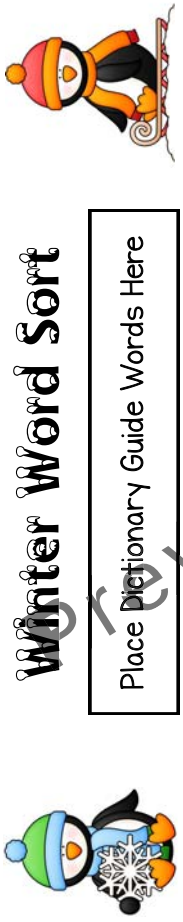
Materials

- Dictionary Entry Word Cards (Two Sets)
- Winter Word Sort Answer Keys
- Winter Word Sort Game board

Directions

1. Cut apart both sets of entry word cards and make sure they don't get mixed together. The *Fireplace - Icicles* words go together for one game, and the *Skating - Snowball* words are for another game.
2. Start with the *Fireplace - Icicle* set. Put the guide word strip at the top of the game board. Shuffle the nine word cards and place them face down in the left box. Place the Answer Key face down.
3. To see who goes first, players draw a word card from the deck. The person with the longest word becomes Player 1. Put the cards back on the bottom of the deck.
4. Player 1 turns one word card face up and thinks about where it would be in a dictionary according to the guide words at the top. Would it come before that page, on that page, or after that page? He or she places the card on the appropriate section of the board.
5. Player 2 gives a thumbs up to show agreement or helps Player 1 figure out the correct placement.
6. Player 2 turns over the next card and places it on the board. Player 1 gives a thumbs up or helps Player 2.
7. Continue to take turns sorting the cards.
8. Check the answer key after all cards are placed.
9. Repeat the activity again with the other set of entry word cards.

Preview Version



Preview Version

Dictionary Entry Words - Set #1

fireplace - icicle

frozen	February	earmuffs
jacket	fire	gloves
icy	iceberg	igloo

Dictionary Entry Words - Set #2

skating - snowball

slippery	skis	scarf
skates	shovel	snowman
sleigh	soup	sweater

Preview Version

Answer Key for Fireplace - Icicle

Before	On	After
February	frozen	jacket
earmuffs	iceberg	icy
fire	gloves	igloo

Answer Key for Skating - Snowball

Before	On	After
shovel	slippery	snowman
skates	skis	sweater
scarf	sleigh	soup

Preview Version

Preview Version

Winter Math Puzzlers

Name _____

Try to solve each problem on your own. Show your work using numbers, pictures, words, or symbols. We will discuss the problems together and correct them in class.

1. The 4th graders played in the snow. There are 66 fourth graders. Half of the 4th graders decided to go sledding, 1/3 of the students decided to have a snowball fight, and the rest of the students decided to build a snowman. How many students built a snowman?

Answer: _____

✓- ✓ ✓+

2. Last year, it snowed 12 inches the first week in December, 1/2 as many inches in January than December, and three times as many inches in February as in January. How many feet did it snow in all?

Answer: _____

✓- ✓ ✓+

3. The 5th graders are going on an ice skating field trip. There are 63 students, 5 teachers, and 12 parents attending. Each van holds 9 passengers. How many vans will be needed to transport everyone on the field trip?

Answer: _____

✓- ✓ ✓+

4. Mrs. Scott is making hot chocolate for her class. She wants each student to have 2 cups of hot chocolate. She has 16 students in her class. Each packet of hot chocolate makes 1/2 cup and they come in boxes of 10 packets. How many boxes of hot chocolate will she need to purchase?

Answer: _____

✓- ✓ ✓+

Preview Version

New Year's Math Challenge

Name _____

Read and Think

Twenty-four students wrote their goals for the new year. One third of them wrote personal goals like doing 10 more pushups or getting on the baseball team. Three twelfths of them wrote goals focused on improving their academic grades. The remaining students wanted to work on improving an aspect of their family life like getting along better with their brother or taking care of the dog.

Solve and Answer

1. How many students wrote each type of goal?
   Personal _____ Academic _____ Family _____
2. What is the ratio of students with academic goals to all students? _____
3. What is the ratio of students with personal goals to students with family goals? _____

Explain

Use the space below to show and/or explain how you found the answers to the questions.

Thanks to Francie Kugelman for the word problem used in this New Year's Math Challenge!

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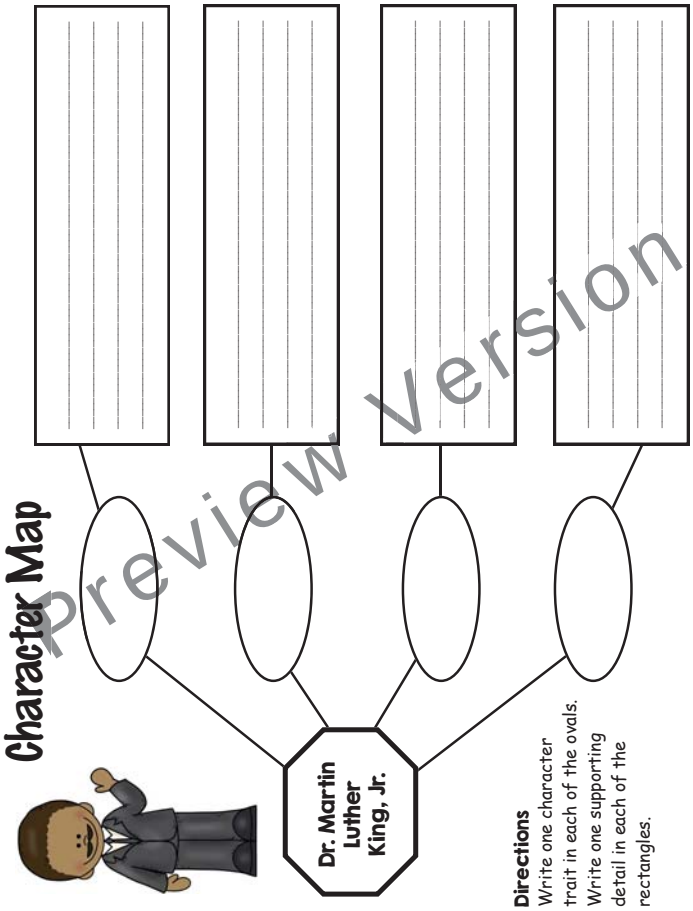
Preview Version

Character Map



Directions
Write one character trait in each of the ovals. Write one supporting detail in each of the rectangles.

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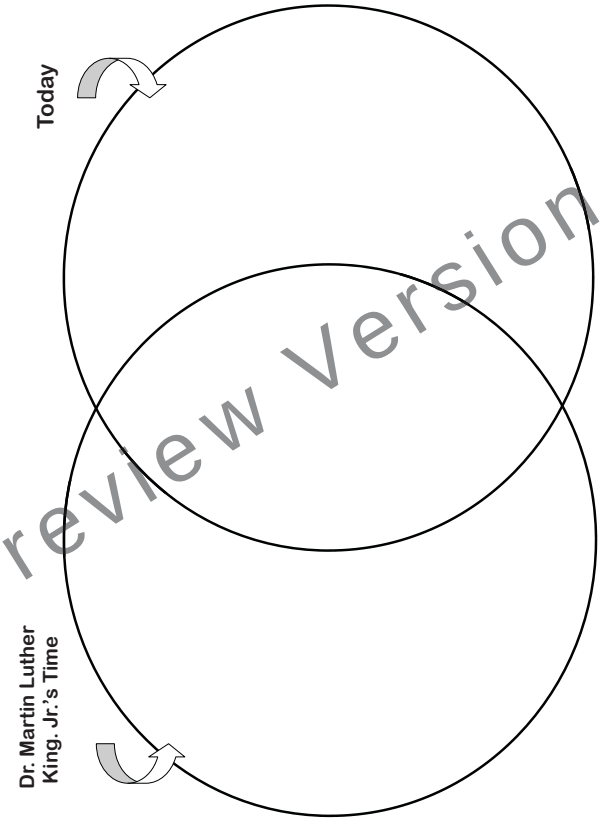
Comparing Time Periods



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Preview Version

Icy Road Investigation

Teacher Directions

Materials Per Pair or Team

- tray or large plate
- 1 cup small ice cubes or crushed ice
- 1 tablespoon table salt
- 1 tablespoon sand
- 3 sandwich-sized Ziptop bags
- 1 3-page Lab Report per person

Introduction

If you live in an area with frequent winter storms, your students will already know that icy roads are often treated with salt and sand, and they may have wondered why. If you live in a warmer climate, you'll need to let students know that ice and snow cause slippery conditions and that roads are treated with salt or sand to make driving safer.

Investigation Directions

1. Divide students into pairs or teams of four. Each pair or team will need a set of materials.
2. Begin by asking students why they think icy roads are treated with sand and salt. Do sand and salt have the same impact on road conditions? Ask them to discuss these questions with their partner or team, and tell them that today's lesson will investigate this topic.
3. Distribute the materials, including one copy of the Lab Report per person.
4. Guide students through the activity. Students are encouraged to talk at appropriate times during the experiment, but they must record their own answers.
5. After time is up, discuss their conclusions with them. The ice with salt should melt the fastest. Sand does not speed up the melting process but just makes the ice gritty. Then discuss the remaining questions. Use the suggestions below to guide your discussion.

Possible Responses to Discussion Questions

1. Salt solution is sprayed on the roads because salt lowers the freezing point of water. This means that water on an unsalted road will freeze at 32° F but the water temperature must drop below 28°F on a salted road before it freezes. Therefore the road will still be safe for driving at temperatures slightly below freezing. Sand does not lower the freezing point. Instead, it increase traction on the road, or the friction between a vehicle's tires and the road surface. This decreases the likelihood of slipping and sliding.

2. The plain ice served as a "control" in the experiment and was used for comparison purposes. Students could compare the affects of salt and sand on ice to a bag of plain ice to see what would happen in normal conditions.
3. The experiment could be improved by controlling as many variables as possible. The amount of ice could be measured more precisely. A thermometer could be placed in each bag to measure differences in temperature. A timer could be used find out exactly how long it took to completely melt the ice in each bag. If time allows, have students repeat the experiment using these ideas to see if they obtain the same results.

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Preview Version

Icy Road Investigation
Lab Report

Name _____
Team/Partner _____
Date _____

Question: How do salt and sand affect ice?

Procedure:
1. Label the empty bags Plain, Salt, and Sand.
2. Divide the cup of ice evenly between the 3 bags so that each bag has 1/3 of a cup of ice.
3. Zip the Plain bag closed and set it aside.
4. Quickly measure 1 tablespoon salt into the salt bag and 1 tablespoon sand into the sand bag and zip them shut. Shake the bags to distribute the salt and ice.
5. Place all 3 bags flat onto to the tray and cover them with a sheet of paper or a paper towel.
6. Before you make any observations, you must write your hypothesis, or prediction, for each bag. Will the ice melt in all 3 bags at the same rate? Will other changes occur? Write your hypothesis for each of the 3 bags on the appropriate area of this lab report.
7. When finished, turn your paper over to signal that you are ready.
8. When everyone on the team is ready, uncover the bags and observe them carefully. If you pick them up, hold them by the zipped part of the bag so your fingers don't melt the ice.
9. Set a timer and observe the bags for 10 minutes. Talk with your partner or team about what you are observing and why these changes might be taking place.
10. As you notice changes in each bag, write your observations on the lab report form.
11. After the 10 minutes are over, discuss your results and write a conclusion on the back page of the lab report form.

Plain Ice

Plain Ice

My Hypothesis _____

Our Observations and Results

Preview Version

Ice and Salt

My Hypothesis _____

Our Observations and Results

Ice & Salt

Ice & Sand

Ice and Sand

My Hypothesis _____

Our Observations and Results

Preview Version

Icy Road Investigation
Lab Report

Investigation Question: How do salt and sand affect ice?

Conclusion:

_____
_____
_____
_____

Additional Discussion and Response Questions

1. Why are salt and sand placed on roads during winter storms?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. What was the purpose of the bag of plain ice in the experiment?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. What could you do to improve this investigation?

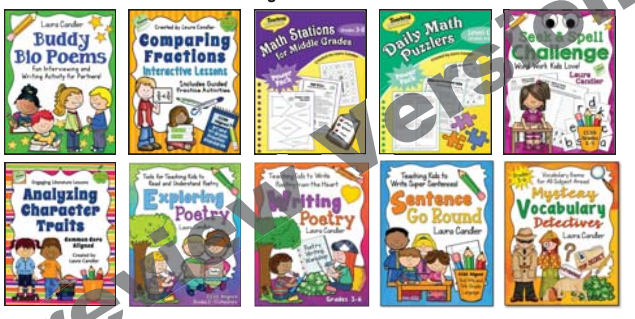
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Preview Version

Other Seasonal Mini Packs

Click each cover below to find the item on TeachersPayTeachers.

More Terrific Teaching Resources from Laura Candler!



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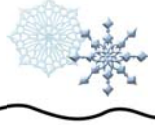

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