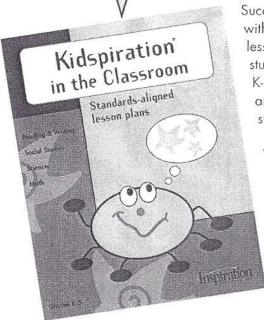
Excerpts from Kidspiration® in the Classroom



Successfully integrate Kidspiration 2 into the curriculum with Kidspiration in the Classroom. 32 standards-aligned lesson plans in reading and writing, science, social studies and math are specifically designed for grades K-2 and grades 3-5. Each easy-to-use lesson includes an overview, learning objectives, preparation and step-by-step lesson plan.

This preview of Kidspiration in the Classroom contains:

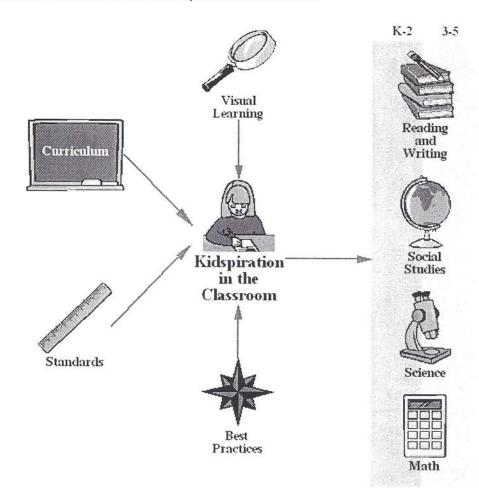
- Introduction to lesson plan book
- Actual table of contents
- Four complete standards-based lesson plans
- Ordering information

About Kidspiration® in the Classroom

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Organization

The main sections of *Kidspiration's in The Classroom* reflect the four major curriculum areas: Reading and Writing, Social Studies, Science and Math. Within each section, lessons are designated grades K-2 or 3-5. You may find it helpful to review lessons from grade levels outside your area; many lessons can easily be modified for other content and classrooms. Additional sections at the end of the book offer further resources for curriculum development and enrichment.



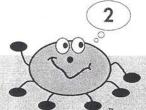
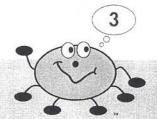


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Writing for an Audience



Overview

Students write at a level somewhat lower than their reading level, so younger children are a perfect audience for their compositions. In this lesson, students plan and write a report on a subject that interests younger students and share it with them.



Standards

- Students use a variety of strategies to identify topics to investigate.
- Students use a variety of print and non-print sources to gather information.
- · Students use strategies to gather and record research information.
- · Students use strategies to write for different audiences.



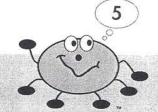
Preparation

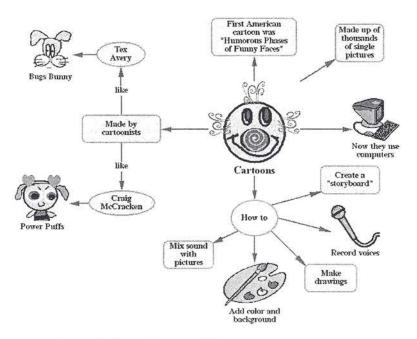
- Arrange for a primary class to partner with your students. Make sure there is sufficient age
 range between the groups. For example, partner a third grade class with kindergartners rather
 than a second grade class.
- **2.** Ask the partner teacher to have his or her students brainstorm topics they want to know more about.



Lesson

- 1. Inform students they will be writing reports for children at the primary level. Have students select a topic to explore from among those brainstormed by the primary grade audience.
- **2.** Tell students to identify at least eight facts about their topic and take notes on their findings. Assist students as they use the library or Internet to research.
- 3. Have students open the More—Five Facts activity. Discuss what makes one fact more important than another and what facts their will understand. Tell students to identify five good facts from their research notes and enter them into the appropriate symbols. Encourage them to add subtopics as necessary.





- 4. Have students switch to Writing View to add further detail.
 - First American cartoon was "Humorous Phases of Funny Faces"
 This was a black and white movie of a guy's hand drawing funny faces.
 - Made up of thousands of single pictures
 When they show all these pictures one after the other, it looks like the pictures are moving.
 - Now they use computers
 They use the computer to copy the same picture over and over so they don't have to draw it more than once. Now even kids can make cartoons on a computer.
- 5. Discuss the reading level of the target audience with students. Ask students to make sure they are using clear, simple vocabulary, and suggest dividing longer sentences into shorter ones. Have students use the Listen tool to check for awkward construction or other problems they may have missed when reading silently.
- 6. Before students publish their report, remind them the diagram in Picture View will serve as the illustration for their report. Encourage them to return to Picture View to add symbols. If necessary, have them rearrange their diagram for clarity.
- From Writing View, have students click the Publish button to finalize their report in a word processor.
- **8.** If possible, take your class to visit the partner classroom and share their reports with small groups interested in their topics. Encourage them to ask their audience for comments, questions and other feedback.

Family Cultures

Overview

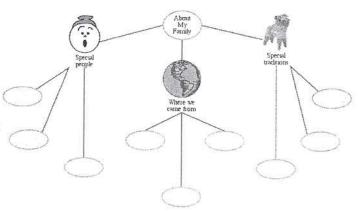
Defining similarities among people helps build a sense of community. It is equally important to identify the differences that make us individuals. In this activity, students diagram information about their families, then explore comparisons with other students' families.

Standards

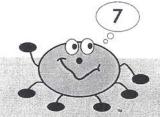
- · Students understand similarities and differences among people.
- · Students explore family or cultural heritage through stories, songs and celebrations.
- Students know how people share family beliefs and values (for example, oral traditions, literature, songs, art, religion, community celebrations, mementos, food and language).

Preparation

- 1. Download the About My
 Family activity or refer to the
 How To section, page 102, to
 create your own version. Note:
 You may wish to adapt this
 lesson to accommodate children
 with non-traditional families or
 living situations.
- 2. Open the About My Family activity and switch to Writing View. Print the activity and provide copies to students. For homework, ask them to share the activity with their parents or caregivers and record answers to the listed questions.



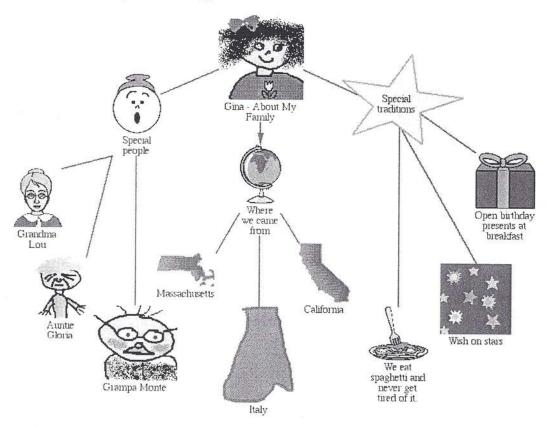
- About My Family
 We are talking about families and what makes them special. Please help your child branstorm some ideas here. You may wish to use pictures as well as word;
 - Special people
 Who are some special or memorable people in your family?
 - Where we came from
 What chiferent states, regions or countries did your family come from?
 - Special trachtors
 What are some special trachtons in your family? For example, food celebrations or stones?



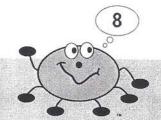


Lesson

- Open the About My Family activity. Tell students about your family and demonstrate
 how to use the activity by entering your information into the appropriate symbols. Use
 the Symbol Maker tool at least once to create a symbol, and check for understanding.
 If your students are emerging writers, show them how to use the Record command to
 add information.
- Have students open the About My Family activity. Ask them to consult their homework as they record information about their family. Circulate among students to check for understanding and offer suggestions.



3. Check student diagrams and look for a category that would offer a good opportunity for comparison. Use this category as the basis of a class discussion on similarities and differences.



Birds of Our School



Overview

Central to the study of ecology is the understanding that living things interact with each other and their habitat. In this lesson, students use Kidspiration* to create a web site on the common birds found in the habitats surrounding their school.



Standards

- · Students understand that living organisms depend on one another and on their environment for survival.
- · Students know that scientific investigations require careful and systematic observation.



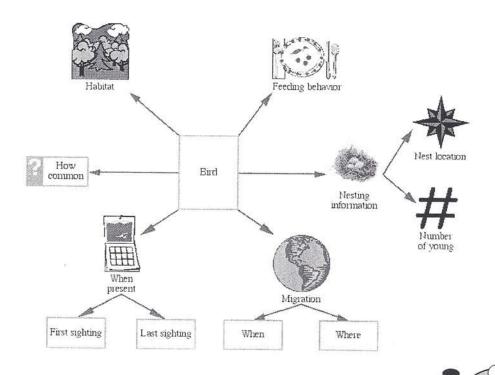
Materials needed

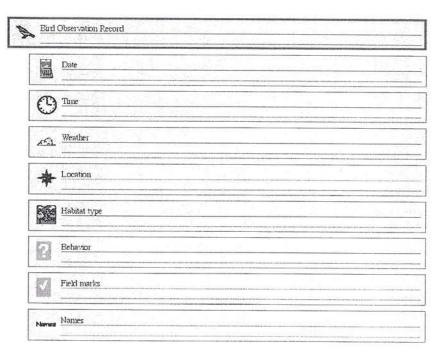
- · One pair of binoculars for each team
- · One copy of a bird identification book for each team



Preparation

1. Download the Bird Observation Record activity and Bird Facts activity or refer to the How To section, page 102, to create your own versions.





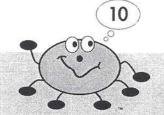
- Gather informational material on local birds, such as species check lists, and compile a
 list of Internet sites on bird biology and identification such as the USGS Patuxent Bird
 Identification InfoCenter found at www.usgs.gov.
- Contact local organizations interested in bird conservation, such as the Audubon Society, and arrange for a volunteer to give a presentation to your students.



Lesson

- 1. Tell students they will be creating a guide to the birds that frequent the habitats of their school.
- 2. Have the volunteer give a presentation to your students on the common local birds, bird watching techniques and the use of bird identification books. Ask the presenter to survey the campus with students and help them identify good locations for bird observation.
- **3.** Instruct students to form teams and familiarize themselves with common local birds by consulting the identification manuals and informational material you gathered.

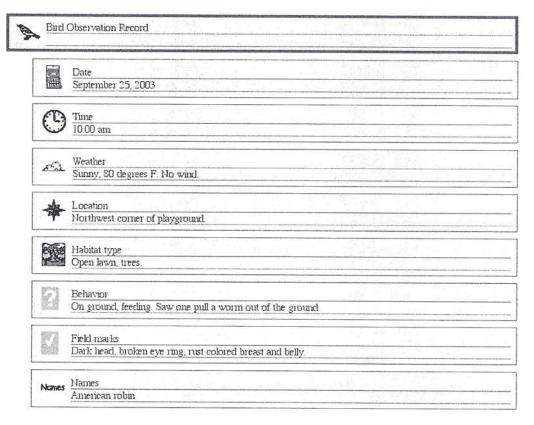
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Birds of Our School

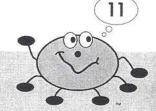
continued

- **4.** Assign each team one of the observation locations on campus. Instruct them to open the Bird Observation Record and print a copy for use in the field.
- **5.** Direct teams to observe birds at their assigned location once a week for twenty minutes and record the results of their observations in the Bird Observation Record activity.

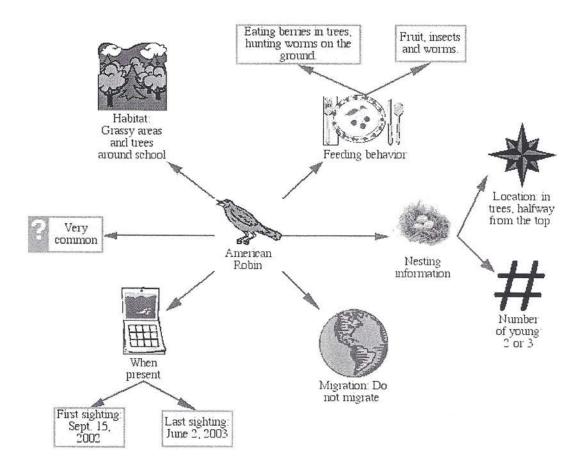


- **6.** Have teams conduct observations for the entire school year, switching locations every two weeks.
- 7. Towards the end of the school year, instruct teams to use print and Internet materials to further research one of the species they observed. Tell them to open the Bird Facts activity and use it to record their findings. Remind teams to include an image of their bird in the diagram.

Continued next page



- **8.** Have teams share their diagrams with the class. Invite students to offer constructive suggestions for improvement.
- 9. Tell teams to revise their diagrams based on feedback.
- 10. Ask teams to use the Export command to export their diagrams as HTML files to serve as the basis for a Birds of Our School web site. Use an HTML authoring program to create a home page to link student diagrams and finalize the web site.



Visualizing Story Problems



Overview

Understanding the relationships between variables in story problems is a crucial step to mathematical understanding. In this lesson, students use Kidspiration* to visualize these relationships and develop computational strategies.



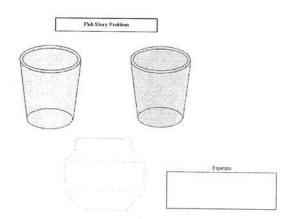
Standards

- Students solve problems that arise in mathematics and in other contexts.
- Students understand various meanings of addition and subtraction of whole numbers and the relationship between the two operations.
- Students develop and use strategies for whole number computations with a focus on addition and subtraction.

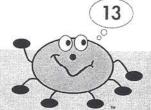


Preparation

- Download the Fish Story Problem activity or refer to the How To section, page 102, to create your own version.
- 2. Create several story problems ranging in difficulty from easy to challenging using similar creatures. For example, using tropical fish, you might craft the following problems:
 - Jason purchased three gold fish and three striped fish. He pours each group of fish into his fish bowl. How many fish does he have in the bowl?



- Wendy has five gold fish in her fish bowl and puts two into a cup to give to her friend. How many fish are left?
- Tameeka has two gold fish in her fish bowl. If each fish has five fins, what is the total number of fins in the bowl?



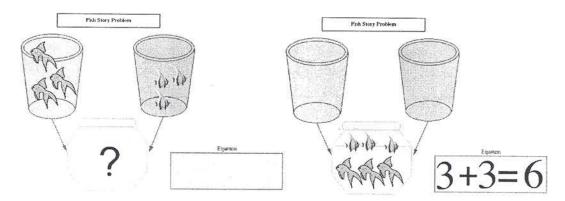


Open the Fish Story Problem activity and present a sample story problem to students.
 Ask them how they could use the activity to show the information given in the problem.
 Model their suggestions as a diagram. Have students suggest how they might visualize possible solutions and modify the diagram accordingly.

Jason purchased three gold fish and three striped fish. He pours each group of fish into his fish bowl. How many fish does he have in the bowl?

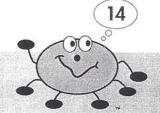
Problem diagrammed

Solution diagrammed



- 2. Have students form teams of two, and ask them to open the Fish Story Problem activity. Read teams the least difficult story problem, and instruct them to use the activity to picture the information in the story problem by dragging symbols into appropriate SuperGrouper* categories. Have teams print a copy of their diagram.
- **3.** Instruct teams to modify the diagram to represent a visual solution to the problem and an arithmetic expression of the solution by dragging symbols into appropriate SuperGrouper categories. Have them print a copy of their solution.
- **4.** Ask teams to share their printed diagrams with at least two other teams. Different teams will have different ways of representing the problem and its solution. Encourage students to discuss the reasons for their representations.

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Visualizing Story Problems

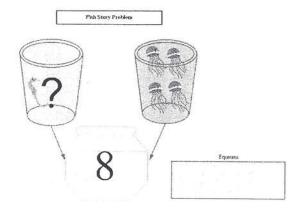
5. Continue this process with the rest of the problems you created. Encourage students to modify the diagram by adding and deleting symbols and SuperGrouper categories as needed.

Wendy has five gold fish in her fish bowl and puts two into a cup to give to her friend. How many fish are left?

Problem diagrammed Fish Story Problem France Solution diagrammed France Solution diagrammed

- **6.** Have each team use the Fish Story Problem activity to create a problem to share with the class.
- **7.** Tell teams to drag symbols or numbers into the appropriate SuperGrouper categories to represent the information in their problem.

Jaden can have eight sea creatures in his fish bowl. If he adds four jellyfish, what is the most number of sea horses he can add to the fish bowl?



- **8.** Ask students to print a copy of their story problem for you to review. Allow teams to revise their diagrams as needed.
- **9.** Have teams present their problems to the class. Encourage students to ask questions about the problems.
- Select several student-created problems and ask teams to diagram solutions using the Fish Story Problem activity.
- 11. Ask teams to share their solutions with the rest of the class.



Extension

Create story problem sets using other creatures. For example:

- Emily sees six robins sitting on her front fence. If two of them fly away, how many are left?
- Bill's pet guinea pig, Louie, eats three carrots a day. If Bill puts nine carrots in Louie's cage, how many days will they last?
- There are five squirrel families living in the park. If each mother squirrel has three babies in the spring, how many baby squirrels are in the park?

