MCM’S Activity Kit & Parent Guide

Included in your kit are the materials and information for the following activities:

1. Health Activity: Chalk Paint Obstacle Course
2. Art Activity: Painting Like Raphael?
3. STEM Activity: Seeds
4. Alphabet Posters
5. All About Mississippi Activities
6. Walter Anderson Alphabet Project

Instagram/Facebook Moment
We would like to see your finished products!
Please tag us on social media, @mschildsmuseum on Instagram and @MississippiChildrensMuseum on Facebook, using the hashtag #mcmathome.
You may also send us an email with any questions or ideas at programs@mcm.ms
Health Activity: Chalk Paint Obstacle Course

The Lesson:
Even if we can only get outside for a little while each day, there are so many benefits to being in nature! Last week, we talked about the benefits of sleep, and how we need to get sunlight to keep our circadian rhythm on track. Playing outside is a great way to soak up some sun. Also, when we play outside, we play harder than when we play inside! Being outside in nature can improve our moods and make us feel less stressed. The goal for this week is to get outside more.

Set Up:
Gather supplies: corn starch, water, food coloring, containers, paint brushes

The Activity:
• Mix equal parts cornstarch and water in a bowl or cup.
• Add the water slowly until you have a paint-like consistency. You don’t want it to be too thick or too watery.
• Add a few drops of food coloring until you get a bright color. Be careful, because the food coloring will stain clothes and bowls, so wear clothes that can get dirty, and use bowls that can be stained.
• Be sure that your chalk paint is mixed thoroughly!
• Use your paint brush to make an obstacle course outside, following the picture below! You can change any elements of the obstacle course you would like, but try to include a balance, a spin, and some hops!

Want more?
Visit mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home for downloadable activities. Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome
Art Activity: Painting Like Raphael

Vocabulary:
- **Pope**: The pope is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. The pope rules the church similarly to how a king rules a country.
- **Vatican**: Vatican City is in Rome. The city is tiny, less than half a square mile. Vatican City is its own state, and the center of the Roman Catholic Church. This is where the pope and other leaders of the Catholic Church live.

The Lesson:
- Raphael was born in Italy in 1483. His father taught him painting basics when he was a young boy. Raphael studied the works of Da Vinci and Michelangelo, learning their painting techniques as well. He was a friendly person and people liked him.
- In 1508, the Pope asked Raphael to do some paintings in rooms at the Vatican. This is where he painted The School of Athens, which is considered his greatest work.

Set Up:
Gather supplies: canvas squares, watercolors, pencil, crayons

The Activity:
- Lots of very famous artists practice their paintings in miniature before they start working on their larger paintings. Raphael did this, too. Planning small versions of a larger piece is called creating “thumbnails.” Look at how small the fingernail on your thumb is!
- Start by thinking about what you would like to paint or draw. Use the small canvas squares to plan out your paintings. Your thumbnail does not have to be perfect. The point is to make a plan for your work of art.
- After you create a few thumbnails, try making your painting on a full-size sheet of paper.
- Add more details to your larger painting.

Want more?
Visit mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home for downloadable activities. Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome
STEM Activity: Seeds

Vocabulary:
- **STEM**: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
- **Seed**: Plant embryo that will grow into a plant if given the proper balance of light, water, and nutrients.

The Activity:
- By now the seeds you had last week have started to grow!
- Use the worksheet to draw and describe what your seeds looks like over the next few weeks.
- If your paper towel feels dry you can spray some water over it.
- Make sure you are keeping your seeds near a window for sunlight.

Want more?
Find more STEM activity pages to experiment at home online at mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome
# Alphabet Posters

Use this poster to practice your alphabet letters and sounds every day!

Ask your parents for permission and help to hang it somewhere like your refrigerator, the back of your bedroom door, or in your window.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Image</th>
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<td>Aa</td>
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**Vowels:** a e i o u
Alphabet Posters

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SHORT VOWELS

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Alphabet Posters

Use this poster to practice your alphabet letters and sounds every day!
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**Alphabet Posters**

*Use this poster to practice your alphabet letters and sounds every day! Ask your parents for permission and help to hang it somewhere like your refrigerator, the back of your bedroom door, or in your window.*

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**ENDING BLENDS**

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Alphabet Posters

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VOWEL TEAMS & DIPHTHONGS

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Alphabet Posters

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<td>a-e</td>
<td>e-e</td>
<td>i-e</td>
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<tr>
<td>cake</td>
<td>Pete &amp; Steve</td>
<td>bike</td>
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<td>o-e</td>
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<td>note</td>
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Alphabet Posters

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TRICKY SOUNDS

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<th>soft c</th>
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<td>car</td>
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<th>hard g</th>
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<td>gorilla</td>
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<th>long e spelled as y</th>
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<td>baby</td>
<td>sky</td>
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Early Elementary Reading Activity

Read:
• Read *Frog’s Mississippi River Adventure* which is included in your kit.

The Activity:
• Find the vocabulary flash card sheets included in this kit.
• Carefully cut and fold to make flash cards.
• Use these cards to review the vocabulary words that you heard in the story.
• Visual aids and props can be highly beneficial to a child’s reading development.
  Use the cards to prompt discussion about the story.

Want more?
Find more LITERACY activity pages
at mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome
Frog hops across a stream. He sighs, “There’s nothing here to do!”

Grandpa says, “Let’s take a trip. This stream grows big. It’s true!”
Birds fly by, high in the sky.

Now, Frog is a river rider.

They hop on a twig and sing to the stream, "you're growing deeper and wider!"
Frog and Grandpa hop on a log.

They dance past a noisy town.

Frog high-fives a fisherman.

His fish weighs fifty pounds!
Frog and Grandpa board a barge. It's got a lot of coal.

They hop off near some cotton fields. They ride a horse and foal.
They eat grey worms and corn on the cob where the river meets the sea.

Frog says, “I can’t believe this river started small, like me!”
Barge (noun): a boat with a flat bottom that carries freight, usually on a canal or river.

Coal (noun): a dark-colored rock that is burned as fuel.

Cotton (noun): a soft, white material that grows around the seeds of a plant and is used to make fabric.

Fisherman (noun): someone who catches fish.
Sea

Stream

the salt water that covers most of Earth’s surface

a flow of water that is smaller than a river

Frog

Grandpa
The Mighty Mississippi
by Kate Paixão

The Mississippi River is one of the longest rivers in the world. It flows from north to south through the United States.

The Mississippi begins in the northern U.S. state of Minnesota. The river then goes south for more than two thousand miles to the state of Louisiana. There, the mighty Mississippi empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

Native Americans depended on the Mississippi for thousands of years. They were the first people in North America. Someone who is native was born in a place. Native Americans traveled the river by canoe and ate fish that lived in the water. They called the river Misi-zibi, which means “big river.” That is where the river got its name.

Today, boats bring important items up and down the river daily. But it is more than just a highway for boats. The Mississippi is home to all kinds of animals. More than 250 types of fish and at least 50 kinds of mammals live along the river. The Mississippi also supports millions of people. At least fifty cities rely on the river for their daily water supply.

The big river is a very important river!
Upper Elementary Reading Activity

Vocabulary:  
Support: sup*tport

• Definition
(verb)
1. to hold the weight of something. The table is supported by four legs.
2. to help during a time of trouble. She supported me when I was ill.
3. to provide enough for. Parents support their families by working.
(noun)
1. money used to take care of someone’s needs. She gets some support for the children from her parents.

• Advanced Definition
(transitive verb)
1. to bear (a weight or load). The little chairs are not made to support the weight of an adult. These picture hangers can support thirty pounds.
2. to hold up; brace. The solid oak table is supported by four sturdy legs.
3. to sustain or encourage (someone) during periods of stress or affliction. Her family supported her during her time of grief.
4. to provide adequately for. He doesn’t make enough money in that job to support himself. The parents worked hard to support their families.
5. to provide evidence for; corroborate. The testimony of the witness supported the suspect’s story. You need to support your argument with some facts.
6. to agree with, adhere to, or aid (a cause, idea, person, or group). Our group supports animal rights. The governor supported the liberal candidate for president.
(noun)
1. the act or process of supporting, or the condition of being supported. Blue collar support helped him win the election. These beams give strong support to the ceiling.
2. someone or something that gives support. Her daughter was a support to her after her surgery. I bought this cushion as a support for my back.
3. economic maintenance. He relied on his parents’ support during college.
4. the encouragement given to someone during periods of stress or affliction. She looked to her friends for support during her divorce.

• Spanish cognate
soporte: The Spanish word soporte means support.
Upper Elementary Reading Activity (continued)

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. The stem also **supports** the plant so that it stays up straight. Plants can do something really special.
2. The Mississippi also **supports** millions of people. At least fifty cities rely on the river for their daily water supply.
3. They have to wrap the silks around their feet or wrists so that they can **support** their body. It is a big feat!
4. Some rights, such as freedom of speech and the press, **support** democracy. Others, such as the right to a trial by jury, are important for justice.
5. The National Association for Sport and Physical Education does not **support** dodgeball. The group thinks the game should not be played in physical education (PE) classes.
6. Both roadways would hang in the air from thick steel cables, **supported** by two giant steel towers. Construction took five years, employed 12,000 workers, and cost $320 million.
7. Some school officials **support** the policy, hoping that uniforms will encourage students to focus on their work. Opponents, however, say students should be allowed to express themselves through their clothing.
8. The Church, and the artists it **supported**, wanted viewers to concentrate on religious teachings about topics like heaven and hell. They weren’t concerned with making their subjects appear natural or lifelike.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Where does the Mississippi River flow?
   A. through the United States
   B. through only Louisiana
   C. through all of North America

2. What does the second paragraph of the article describe?
   A. the way people today use the Mississippi River
   B. the path of the Mississippi River
   C. the way Native Americans used the Mississippi River

3. Read this sentence from the text. “Native Americans depended on the Mississippi for thousands of years.” What evidence from the text supports this statement?
   A. “They were the first people in North America.”
   B. “They called the river Misi-zibi, which means ‘big river.’”
   C. “Native Americans traveled the river by canoe and ate fish that lived in the water.”
Upper Elementary Reading Activity (continued)

4. Based on the article, what do Native Americans and the people who live near the Mississippi River today have in common?
   A. use of the Mississippi River to get fish for eating
   B. dependence on the Mississippi River in more than one way
   C. building of large cities around the Mississippi River

5. What is the main idea of this article?
   A. Native Americans depended on the Mississippi River for thousands of years.
   B. The Mississippi River has been a very important river for a long time, and still is today.
   C. The Mississippi River is mostly important because it begins in the state of Minnesota.

6. Read these sentences from the text. “The Mississippi also supports millions of people. At least fifty cities rely on the river for their daily water supply.” What does the sentence “The Mississippi also supports millions of people” mean?
   A. The Mississippi is not important to millions of people.
   B. The Mississippi helps millions of people live.
   C. The Mississippi causes trouble for millions of people.

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.
   Native American used the Mississippi River to get food ________ cities used the Mississippi River to get drinking water.
   A. when
   B. after
   C. before

8. How does the Mississippi River help people who want to move important items from place to place?

9. How do some cities today depend on the Mississippi River?

10. How might people today be affected if the Mississippi River suddenly dried up?
Upper Elementary Reading Activity (continued)

Vocabulary Questions:
1. What is a meaning of the word *support*?
   A. a group of workers  
   B. the available things to sell in a store  
   C. provide for

2. What is another meaning of the word *support*?
   A. a stage show  
   B. a news story  
   C. be behind

Please use each answer choice only once.
Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.
3. There was general applause and a few hoots of ________.  
   supportive / support / supporter / supporters / supports / supporting / supported

4. In science, a claim has to be ________ by evidence.  
   supportive / support / supporter / supporters / supports / supporting / supported

5. Some advertisements show that famous people are ________ a product or service.  
   supportive / support / supporter / supporters / supports / supporting / supported

6. The school ________ a love of nature.  
   supportive / support / supporter / supporters / supports / supporting / supported

7. Many ________ came to speak for his cause.  
   supportive / support / supporter / supporters / supports / supporting / supported

8. I was trying to be ________ and protective at the same time.  
   supportive / support / supporter / supporters / supports / supporting / supported

9. She was a ________ of equal rights for all.  
   supportive / support / supporter / supporters / supports / supporting / supported

10. Please write your own sentence using the word *support*.  

11. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word *support* so that you can use it when you write or speak?
Walter Anderson Alphabet Project

About Walter Anderson:
• Mississippi artist who studied all types of art: painting, printmaking, wood carving, ceramics, writing, and much more
• After studying in New York and Europe, he returned to the South and settled in Ocean Springs, MS.
About Walter Anderson:
• Many times a year he would row himself in a boat across the Mississippi River to Horn Island and live off the land for weeks, drawing and painting the landscape around him.
• The Walter Anderson Museum of Art in Ocean Springs is one of a handful of museums in the US dedicated to the work of a single artist.
Walter Anderson’s 7 Motifs of Design:

• There are seven simple motifs that make up all design; these basic designs are familiar and very simple.
• “The Seven Motifs” from Adolfo Best-Maugard’s book, A Method for Creative Design (1926). Walter Anderson was greatly influenced by this book and employed “The Seven Motifs” throughout his career.

1. The first is the Spiral or the very familiar scroll motif, suggested in the whirlpool, or in the rolled shape of such things as the snail’s shell.

2. The second is the simple Circle. We see it in the shape of the sun or in the ripples in the surface of still water into which a stone has been dropped.

3. The third is the Half-Circle, found in the rainbow and in the crescent moon.

4. The fourth is Two Half-Circles in the form of the letter S, like the shape of flame or fire.

5. The fifth is the Wavy Line; we see it in water waves or in the shape of wavy hair.

6. The sixth is the broken Zigzag line; it suggests the outline of the broken peaks of mountains or the lightning.

7. The seventh is nothing but the simple Straight line which gives the position of quiet hanging things, trunks of trees, or the ocean line of the horizon.
Can you find the seven motifs in these Walter Anderson Prints?
Project Directions:
• You can create an “alphabet page” using Anderson’s style as your inspiration.
• Pick a letter of the alphabet!
• Be sure to include all 7 motifs in your design!
• First draw your entire design in pencil—then go over it with sharpie/pen, and color your page neatly using colored pencils, markers, crayons, or paint.
Study some of Walter Anderson’s alphabet art as inspiration for today’s project.

Want more?
Visit mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home for downloadable activities. Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAAtHome
All About Mississippi

A Book About State Symbols

BY: __________
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE!

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