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Activity One

Cricket Research Report



What are Crickets really like? Using the library or a computer, search and find out about crickets.

Step One: Write down all the questions you can think of about crickets.

For example: What do they eat? What do they drink? Where do they live? What eats them?

Step Two: Put your questions into a chart. You may use or copy the chart provided below.

Questions about Cricket Homes	Answers	Questions about Cricket food	Answers
Questions about Cricket Bodies	Answers	Questions about Cricket Families	Answers
Questions about Cricket Music	Answers	Other Interesting Questions	Answers

Step Three: Read about Crickets in a nonfiction book or on the computer. Complete your chart by filling in the answers to each question.

Step Four: Get a large piece of paper for your report. Write a title and put a picture of a cricket on it. Label the parts of the cricket.

Step Five: Write the answers into sentences. Put them on the report paper in their group. Add one picture to match each group.



Activity Two

Music Appreciation Survey

Music is a very important part to this story. There are many kinds of music in the story. Mr. Smedley and the Bellinis like Opera. Tucker mouse likes Latin music. Harry likes Popular music. Chester likes the music of nature. He played Spiritual or Gospel Music and folk music.

The book also has a lot of words about music, like: orchestra, aria, tenor, phrasing... and even some instruments, like violin and piano.

Conduct a survey by asking people questions about what kinds of music they like. Share your results with your class.

Step One: Make a survey form. Write your question on the top of the page (ex. *What kind of music do you like best? What instrument would you like to play?*). Have spaces for the name of the people you will survey going down the left hand side of the page. Across the top of the page list the answers people can choose from.

Example:

What music do you like best?

Name	Rock	Country	Gospel	Other

Step Two: Ask your classmates the question, and keep track of their answers on your form.

Step Three: Make a Bar Graph, Pictograph or Circle Graph to show your results. (Ask your teacher if you need help.)

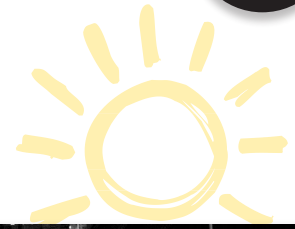
Step Four: Share your results with your class.

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Activity Three

The Big Apple



New York City is a BIG city. There is a lot to see and do there. It is very different from Chester's home in the country. Do some research. Go on the internet and find out about "New York City Tourist Attractions".



Pick one that you would like to visit.

Make a one-page poster to show and include the following:

- a title on the top of your poster
- one sentence to say why you want to visit this place
- a good picture that is at least $\frac{1}{2}$ the page OR draw and color your own picture
- find out the following:
 - what the tourist attraction is called*
 - where is it*
 - how much does it cost*
 - why do people want to visit it*
 - what can you do there*
 - what hours is it open/closed*
- write the answers to the questions neatly on your poster
- write your name on the back, and hand it in.



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Activity Four



Tell a Good Story about Crickets

Folktales are short stories that were told over and over again. Folktales are not really true. They were often fun or interesting. They are stories that usually teach a lesson. Many of the Animals in Folktales are magical or have special talents.

In the book, *The Cricket in Times Square*, Sai Fong tells a folktale about the first cricket. Hsi Shuai was first a man. He only told the truth. He was noble and did the right thing, always. He was turned into the first cricket to stop bad people from killing him.

There are many stories about crickets from different places in the world. Find one of these stories. There is a list below, but you can also ask your librarian to help you find others. Read the story and then tell the class about the story. Tell them the name of the story. Tell them where the story is from. Describe what happens in the story. Finally, explain what you think is the lesson in the folktale.

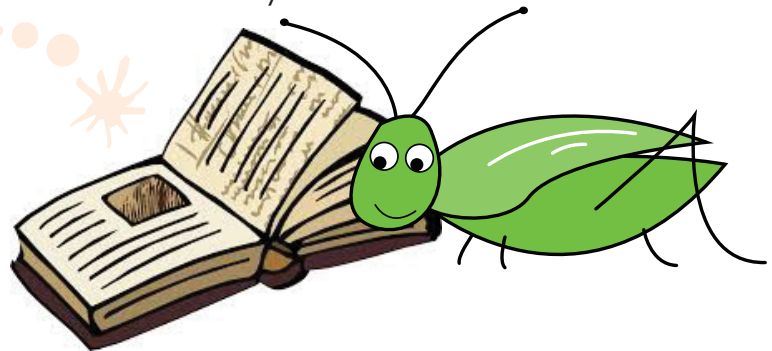
Some Popular Chinese folktales about crickets include:

The Cricket's Cage by Stefan Czernecki - A Chinese Folktale

Cricket Fight found in the book *Favorite Children's Stories from China and Tibet* by Lotta Carswell Hume

The Cricket's Song - A Folktale from Guatemala

Cricket Boy: A Chinese Tale by Feenie Ziner



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Activity Five

City and Country Collage



A collage is a type of art. To make a collage you need lots of pictures and cover every part of a paper with them. You can put them on the paper any way you want. Some collages organize the pictures in groups. Some put the pictures on using the colors to make another picture. Some are just random.

You are going to create a collage to show the difference between living in the city and living in the country. You are going to cover half a page with pictures from a city, and half with pictures from the country.

Think about the city:

What kinds of buildings would you see there?

Types of transportation? Housing?

What do the streets look like?

Think about the country:

What kinds of buildings would you see?

What does the land look like?

Plants and animals?

Housing?

Now, collect as many pictures as you can. You can sometimes find pictures in old magazines. Libraries may have some to discard, or your teacher may have a supply. You can also draw pictures to add to your collage, or print images from the internet.

Organize the pictures in a way that you like, and then glue them onto a blank sheet of paper. Try to make the collage show the difference between life in the country and life in the city.

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Activity Six

Welcome to the USA!



Many people from all over the world move to the United States. Many immigrants came through Staten Island, in New York City. In this story we meet Sai Fong and his friend from China. We also meet the Bellini family who came from Sorrento, Italy.

When people come to a new country, they bring some of the old land with them. Sometimes they wear different clothes, or eat different food, or they listen to different music.

Make a bulletin board display to show where everyone's family is from. You can also include pictures of some of the food, or clothing, or celebrations or music that your family brought with them to the new land.

Put a large World Map on the bulletin board and label the following:

- The city of Sorrento, Italy
- The continent of Europe
- The Mediterranean Sea
- The Atlantic Ocean
- New York City, New York, USA
- The continent of North America
- The Pacific Ocean
- Hong Kong, China
- Yangtse River
- The continent of Asia

Use push pins and string to connect the City of Sorrento to New York. Connect Hong Kong to New York as well. Now, have people in your class add a push pin for where their family comes from. Around the map post pictures of food, music, instruments, clothing styles, and festivals important to their family.