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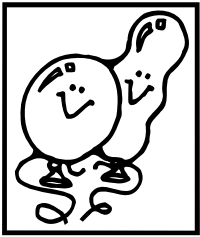
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# Basketball Day

December 1

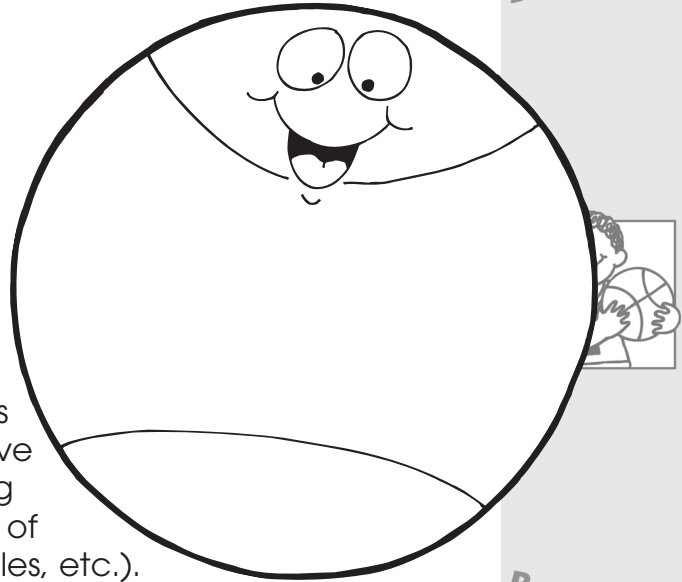


Basketball

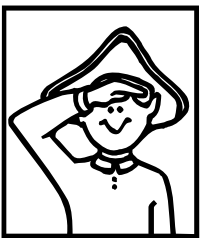


## Setting the Stage

- Set up a bulletin board display of pictures of famous basketball players. Include pictures of your school's basketball team. Use the caption: "We're on the Ball and Making Points!" Place a stack of paper basketballs next to the board. Let students write on the basketballs goals they have accomplished this school year (making straight A's, reading a certain number of books, learning their multiplication tables, etc.). They can add their basketballs to the board. See the pattern on page 12.
- Construct a semantic web with facts your students already know (or would like to know) about the game of basketball.

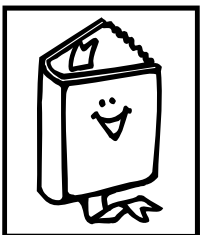


Basketball



## Historical Background

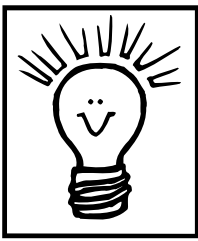
On this day in 1891, James Naismith, a physical education teacher in Springfield, Massachusetts, created a sport that could be played indoors in the winter. He attached peach baskets to two sides of the gym and challenged his students to throw soccer balls into them. The game was called basketball. It has become one of the most popular sports in America, and the world!



## Literary Exploration

*Basketball Buddies* by Jean Marzollo  
*Dikembe Mutombo* by Mark Stewart  
*Friday Nights (The Broadway Ball Players)* by Maureen Holohan  
*Grant Hill* by John Rolfe  
*I Can Be a Basketball Player* by Kathy Henderson  
*Michael Jordan* by Phil Berger  
*Shaquille O'Neal* by Edward Tallman  
*Soup's Hoop* by Robert Newton Peck

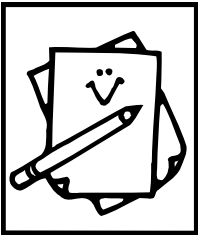
Basketball



## Language Experience

- Let students explain how to play the game of basketball, including the procedures and rules.
- Divide students into two teams and have them debate the pros and cons of playing basketball. What's good about it? (good exercise, teaches teamwork and cooperation) What's bad about it? (only the best players may get to play, takes a lot of time)
- Challenge students to come up with colorful words to describe basketball (not just *exciting*, but *hair-raising*, *heart-stirring*). List the words on the board. Then have students put them in alphabetical order.

Basketball



## Writing Experience

- Challenge students to write poems about the game of basketball. They can choose one of the following kinds of poems:

### Rhyme

At least four lines with the last word in every two lines or every other line rhyming

### Acrostic

An unrhymed poem where the first letter in each line spells out the word *basketball*

### Haiku

Three unrhymed lines with five syllables in the first and third lines and seven syllables in the second line

### Cinquain

An unrhymed poem of five lines:

Line 1: one word that names the subject

Line 2: two words that describe the subject

Line 3: three "ing" verbs that describe actions related to the subject

Line 4: four words that express a feeling about the subject

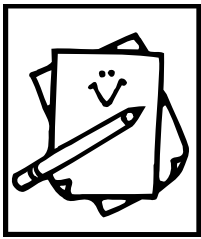
Line 5: one word that describes or renames the subject

Write instructions for the different kinds of poems on the board for students to see as they write.

Basketball

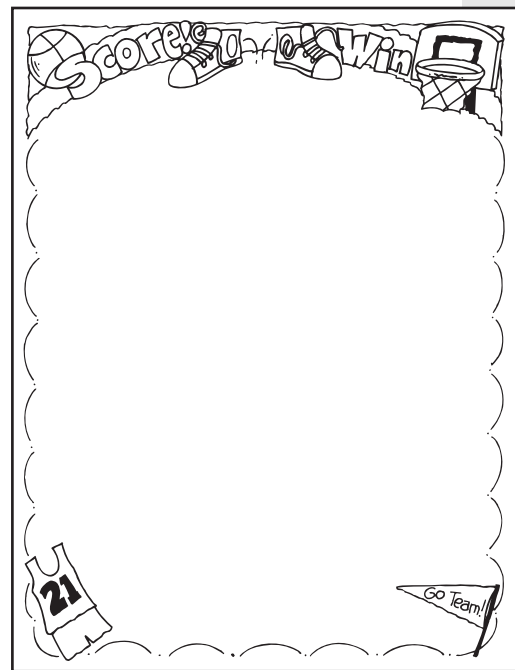


Basketball

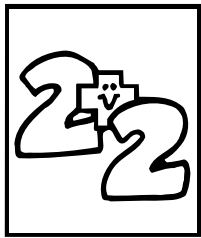


## Writing Experience continued

- Add a little whimsy to the day by having students imagine that they are basketballs. Have them write their feelings during a big game. Is the basketball angry at being bounced and thrown around, excited to be a part of the game, scared about being treated so roughly? When all the papers are completed, let volunteers read theirs aloud with feeling. Students can write their ideas on the pattern on page 13.
- Divide students into small groups. Have them work together to write puppet skits involving basketball players. The characters may be friends or famous professional athletes such as Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, etc. The skit may be of a basketball game in progress, a discussion between players, a TV interview or whatever the group wants to do. Allow time for them to write the script and practice it with puppets they have made. See page 10 for directions for making the puppets they will use to act out the skits.



Basketball



## Math Experience

- Read aloud the following basketball math problems for students to solve:

In the basketball game between South Hill and West View schools, two players scored their personal best for the season. Brian Lane of South Hill scored 18 points. Jake Myers made 23 points. How many more points did Jake score?

At the basketball tournament, the Kennedy Middle School team beat Central by 11 points. Kennedy's final score was 38. How many points did Central have?

Chris Mattson is the top scorer for the year on her Junior High basketball team. She beat another player, who scored 97 points, by 7 points. How many points did Chris score?

Have students share their answers and explain how they solved the problems.

- Challenge each student to write a basketball-related math problem for other students to solve. Then have students exchange problems. Students should solve the problems on another sheet of paper, then exchange problems with someone else. Keep the exchange going until each student has solved five different math problems. Then share answers.

Basketball



Basketball