



OVERVIEW

God gives children a profound sense of wonder about the world and how it works. They are discovering that words are all around them—in books, at the supermarket, and in their homes. They play with language, which is an important step in learning to read. They are beginning to use larger number sets and to understand longer and shorter periods of time. They are ready to expand their world beyond their immediate surroundings. God's Big WORLD exposes early readers to a range of new information, building their personal library of facts and concepts.

EACH SECTION INCLUDES:

- Three stories
- Teaching tips
- Easy-reading words and sentences
- Photo slide show
- Skill-building fun puzzles and activities

RECOMMENDED PACING:

- God's Big WORLD is organized into sets of eight weekly lessons that detach from the magazine as separate four-page lessons.
- Each lesson includes three short stories plus a skill-building activity.
- Each story has an easy-reading component for the student to practice reading aloud, plus an additional paragraph for context and a scriptural nudge, illustrating that God has something to say about every aspect of His creation.

EXAMPLE LESSONS:

Lesson #1: *[Make Your Own Nazca Lines](https://spanishmama.com/nazca-lines-craft-kids/)*. You will need pictures of the Nazca Lines; thick, uneven sand; a flat paintbrush; a watercolor paintbrush; glue; red and brown tempera paint; and cardstock paper. Go to <https://spanishmama.com/nazca-lines-craft-kids/> to find pictures and directions. Mix sand, glue, and paints (one part glue to two parts paint) to make your desert. Spread that mixture all over your cardstock. Before it dries, use the fine, round end of the watercolor brush to etch your design. Make sure the white paper shows through. Let your kids make their own designs too.

.....

Lesson #2: Vertebrates or Invertebrates? Chameleons are intriguing creatures and you could study them in a variety of ways. (Read Eric Carlé's *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* and try activities found at <https://growingbookbybook.com/the-mixed-up-chameleon-activities/>.) Or you could use this creature as an example of a vertebrate (animal with a backbone inside the body) and try this activity from <https://theowlteacher.com/vertebrates-vs-invertebrates/>. "And God said, 'Let the Earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the Earth according to their kinds.' And it was so." (Genesis 1:24)

Lesson #3: Homegrown Gymnastics. Here are some fun ways for your kids to strengthen their bodies (<https://www.gophersport.com/blog/gymnastics-activities-for-beginners/>). Be sure they start out by stretching and then let them begin in pairs to hold some stunt poses, such as holding hands and leaning back until arms are fully extended. Let them balance on their own while walking on floor tape or a jump rope, as if on a balance beam. Move on to tumbling and cartwheels.

Lesson #4: Bugs! Most children are fascinated with bugs—until one stings or flies into an eye! Observing insects together in your backyard or neighborhood park could be the beginning of a fun and educational hobby. Catching lightning bugs in glass jars might be a way to start. A butterfly net will snag butterflies and other large flying insects. The site <https://nerdywithchildren.com/observing-and-collecting-insects-with-kids/> has ideas for what to do if your child wants to keep the bugs she catches. Or purchase an ant farm to help understand Proverbs 6:6: "Go to the ant, O sluggard, consider her ways and be wise."

Lesson #5: Retelling a Story. Does your child have a favorite story (such as *Goodnight Moon*)? Is there a way to retell the story for your child's life today? Talk about it. What would change? What could be left the same? Let your child try his hand at rewriting the story. If that seems too difficult, check out <https://education.yourdictionary.com/education/for-teachers/activities-lesson-plans/50-fun-first-grade-writing-prompts-students-will-love.html> for other writing prompts.

Lesson #6: Explorers All. Do your children know stories of any explorers (Christopher Columbus, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, or Moon walkers Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin)? NASA and the National Park Service partnered together to produce this site: https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/junior_ranger_space_tech_explorer.pdf. Kids might be surprised to learn how technology used in space exploration helps us today.

Lesson #7: *Dutch Children's Games.* Dutch children like potato sack races (zaklopen), marbles, and Pin-the-Tail-on-the-Donkey. They also play spijkerpoepen. For each child playing, you will need one large nail, string, and an empty bottle (preferably all have mouths about the size of old-fashioned milk bottles). Tie each nail with a piece of string. Attach the string to each child's waist so it dangles down behind him. The object is for the child to move his hips and upper legs to lower the nail into the bottle. The first child to succeed is the winner.

.....

Lesson #8: *Flying Cars.* Let your kids design their very own flying machines. Have them draw pictures and write a description of how their invention would work. Or encourage them to make a model. Let them demonstrate their inventions.

.....

**In addition to the print magazine,
you'll find all stories with more pictures
on the God's Big WORLD website at:**

GodsBigWORLD.wng.org