

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
- Videos—each story read aloud and visually enhanced
- 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.
- The stories have an easy-reading component for the student to practice reading, as well as a background teaching tip.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY EXAMPLE LESSONS:

Lesson #1: *Bible Story Puppets.* The Bible is full of stories that your children could act out with puppets that they have created. Choose a story that you have already learned. Or tuck this idea away until you get closer to Easter. Ask your kids to prepare puppets that represent the ten plagues God sent upon Egypt. Let them draw and color their representations on sheets of construction paper and then cut them out. Using wooden skewers and tape, affix each plague to a skewer. Use this poem to help them learn the plagues in order. *Blood and frogs and gnats and flies; death to the cattle and boils on the hides; hail and locust, followed by night; death to the firstborn showed God's might.* Then let your puppeteers have the stage.

Lesson #2: *How Pollination Works.* Teach pollination of flowers with this game from "HoneybeeZZZ." Children will be a flowering fruit tree, a honeybee in search of nectar and pollen, or a fruit. You will need flower headbands for students depicting the fruit trees; antennae headbands for the bees; yellow "pollen" notecards, labeled for each different tree/child; straws for sipping nectar; construction paper cut-outs of the kinds of fruit that are grown on each tree; and a crown for the queen bee. Each fruit tree child will stand in one spot and hold yellow pollen cards and "nectar" straws. As a honeybee swarms around a tree, she will (pretend) to sip nectar and receive a pollen card from the "tree." She will fly to the next tree, give that card away and collect a new pollen card. When the tree gets a new pollen card from a bee, the fruit may stand up next to its tree. This is how pollination works.

Lesson #3: *Learning Some Japanese Words.* Your children would have fun learning some Japanese words as you study Japan. Use the internet to come up with ones you think they might be able to handle. After you think they have mastered between five and ten, play this game ("10 Great Games To Use With Kids In Japan," Gwyneth Jones). Line up two (or more) equally numbered teams by the whiteboard. Whisper or show a word to the last member of each team. Those children whisper the Japanese word to the child in front of them and so on up the line. The child at the front runs to the board and writes the word—or what it is in English—on the board.

Lesson #4: *Make a Mosaic.* There is a mosaics factory in Venice where workers make the mosaic tiles just as they were crafted over 900 years ago. And many of those tiles—enough to cover 1½ American football fields—decorate the renovated St. Mark's Basilica there. Try an easy mosaics activity with the children. Go to <http://www.auntannie.com/FridayFun/PaperMosaic/> to learn how.

Lesson #5: *Host a Bike Parade.* Melissa (mel@sofestive.com) has some suggestions for organizing a Children's Bike Parade for any occasion. Children are asked to decorate a bike, scooter, tricycle, or anything they can ride. If you are adventuresome, serve a pancake breakfast first.

Lesson #6: *Write a Letter.* Some kids are born storywriters. Others are reluctant, to say the least. Learning how to write letters might help to bridge the gap for those with little writing interest. Grandparents are great recipients of whatever their first attempts are. You also might browse book titles about pen pals (<https://kidworldcitizen.org/books-about-pen-pals/>) to get them started.

Lesson #7: *Haikus about Cats.* Writing poetry is also a way to get children to put their thoughts on paper—especially if it has a fun form and doesn't need to rhyme! Haiku was poetry writing invented in Japan. It has three lines containing 5, 7, 5 syllables. Find some cat haiku poems on the internet, like this one by Beth Eaglescliffe: *Awaken wise cat/yawning and stretching your limbs/ready to seek love.*

Lesson #8: *Milk Pudding for a Treat.* Dulce de Leche is a dessert favorite among Brazilian children. And it is easy to prepare. You will need 1 can condensed milk, ½ cup whole milk, 4 eggs, and 1 ⅓ cup sugar. Beat the eggs with a hand mixer. Add milks and blend well. Set aside. In a small saucepan, heat sugar and 1 T. water over medium-high heat. Stir constantly until the sugar caramelizes (turns golden brown). Quickly pour sugar mixture into the bottom of an ovenproof bowl. Pour the custard mixture over the top. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool. Turn onto a platter and chill until ready to serve. Serves 6.

In addition to the print magazine, use the God's Big WORLD website at godsbigworld.wng.org. The video versions of the stories are especially useful for visual and auditory learners and for helpful repetition.