

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.
- The stories have an easy-reading component for the student to practice reading, as well as a background teaching tip.

EXAMPLE LESSONS:

Lesson #1: *Coin Comparison.* Your children may never find a valuable old coin to sell for lots of money. But they can have fun with U.S. coins. Give each pair of children a bag containing a small number of coins (pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters). Ask them to sort the coins into groups and discuss how they know which ones to put where. Then have them look closely at the coins. How are they the same? How are they different? Check out more activities at <https://betterlesson.com/lesson/588187/which-coin-is-which>. Another helpful site with coin games and information is www.usmint.gov/learn/kids.

Lesson #2: *Snake Safari.* Young children are usually inquisitive about every creature they see. Primary teacher Reagan Tunstall found fake plastic snakes at a supermarket and brought them to school to teach her first graders about snakes, syllables, and other things. Find her ideas at <https://www.tunstallsteachingtidbits.com/2013/04/snake-safari.html>.

Lesson #3: *Cookie Math.* Cut butcher paper into the size and shape of a cookie sheet. Draw 12 to 20 round cookies in rows. Add a varied number of "chocolate chips" to each cookie (from one to 12). You will need a pair of dice and some small objects (mini erasers, glass gems, buttons). Have your child roll the dice and cover the cookie that has the corresponding number of chocolate chips. Younger children will learn one-to-one correspondence as they count the dots on the dice and the cookies. They also will learn how to recognize how many dots there are on the dice and the cookies without having to count each one. Older children will be able to review addition facts as they play. Go to <https://funlearningforkids.com/cookie-math-game>.

Lesson #4: *Troll Tales.* First graders are beginning to develop their writing skills for the first time. Have them write a story about Isak Heartstone. Ask questions to get their imaginations working. (What did he like about his first home? How did he feel when he was taken apart? What is it like in his new home? What does his heart do?) The children could construct their narrative by drawing a series of pictures, or they might need to dictate their story to you. Remind them that God has given us His story in writing. He has made us in His own image so that we also may write stories for His glory.

Lesson #5: *Eye Spy!* Make good use of your children's natural curiosity while also helping them learn about the wonder of their eyes. Have them look into a mirror and tell you the parts of their eyes that they can see. Have them look at another person's eyes to compare. Remind them that eyelashes, eyelids, and tears protect their eyes. Tell them how the pupils work. Have them contrast their pupils' size in a dark room and in bright light. Give them some objects (maybe even a housefly!) to look at. Then give them magnifying glasses. What more do they see? Remind them to take care of their eyes and guard what they look at. For as Matthew 6:22 reminds us, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light."

Lesson #6: *Tennis Anyone?* If your driveway or patio is fairly level, you could put up a net for your kids to learn tennis basics. One player serves the tennis or other soft ball over the net with a racquet. The ball may only bounce once on the opposite side before the other player hits the ball back. The ball is out when it does not go over the net (or gets away from the player). Kids must pay attention. They get exercise running and bending too.

Lesson #7: *Icy Experiment.* How did the Arctic fox keep warm on her long journey? Try this activity from <https://www.icanteachmychild.com/how-arctic-animals-stay-warm-in-icy-water/>. You'll need a bucket or large bowl filled with lots of ice. Add some water and allow it to chill. You'll also need latex or vinyl gloves, vegetable shortening, and plastic wrap. Encourage your child to put her hand into the ice water. What is her reaction? Now have her put on a latex glove. Scoop out a big handful of the shortening, and make a fist. Wrap the fist with plastic wrap (to keep the shortening from falling off into the ice water). Now let her return her hand to the icy water. What does she notice? Explain that animals like walruses and seals have a thick layer of fat. It keeps them warm in Arctic waters. God created the Arctic fox with a short, stumpy body and small ears that won't quickly freeze; Thick fur on its body and pads of its feet; a thick layer of fat under its fur; and a blanket-like, bushy tail to cover its body while it sleeps. All these keep it as warm as your child's shortening-covered hand in the ice water.

Lesson #8: *Awesome Scots.* Besides bagpipes, kilts, and Highland Games, Scotland boasts that a few of its countrymen have given the world some interesting inventions. Research these with your kids: the first working television system (John Logie Baird), kaleidoscopes (Sir David Brewster), the basis for the first artificial refrigeration (William Cullen), the pedal bicycle (Kirkpatrick Macmillan), the first patented flushing toilet (Alexander Cumming), and chicken tikka masala (Ali Ahmed Aslam, a Bangladeshi chef in Glasgow).

In addition to the print magazine, use the God's Big WORLD website at:
godsbigworld.wng.org