A Place for Children

This article is about Anne Carroll Moore, a woman who helped libraries become more open and fun for children. Moore worked for the New York Public Library System in the early 1900s. At that time, children were not encouraged to use the library. Moore made many changes. She filled bright and colorful rooms with children’s books. She made comfortable places to sit, and she put pictures on the walls. She brought in authors and illustrators to share their stories and pictures with young readers. Children today enjoy using libraries because of the efforts of Anne Carroll Moore.

What do you like most about your school library or other libraries you have visited? What features would you include if you were designing the perfect library? Make a list of those important features.

smART Idea In the exercise above, you listed the features for a perfect library. Draw a plan for that library. Be sure to include the most important features from your list.
The Juvenile Street Cleaning Leagues

This article tells about the Juvenile Street Cleaning Leagues organized by George Waring in the 1890s. George Waring was the Street Cleaning Commissioner of New York City. He organized leagues of children to clean up trash in the city streets as an after-school activity. “Colonel” Waring formed these clubs to teach children the importance of cleanliness and community support. In the early 1900s, thousands of children in New York and many other cities helped keep the cities clean.

The children in the street cleaning leagues helped solve a community problem. Think of a problem in your community that children could help solve. Write a paragraph that might persuade people to improve your school, neighborhood, or town.

smart idea
Create a poster for a community project. Use a special phrase or title to attract people’s attention. Use magazine cutouts or a drawing to finish your poster.
This article is about the large amounts of trash we have in the United States. The average American produces 160 million tons of trash each year. Disposing of that much trash is a major problem. Landfills, the places where trash is dumped, are not the perfect answer. Landfills are filling up, and many of them can’t hold any more trash. Burning trash is not a good solution either—it puts poisonous gases into the air and water. Recycling is one solution that saves energy, trees, and money. Recycling helps keep garbage out of the landfills, too. However, many people do not recycle. It is important for us to learn the reasons for recycling and the many ways we can practice it.

Recycling is one way to reduce trash. What other ways might work? Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper. In your letter, encourage people to recycle, and give other ideas for reducing trash.

Write a radio announcement. In your announcement, ask people to help solve the trash problem. Be creative! Use your words, reasons, and voice to convince people to help. Practice your radio announcement with a friend or relative.
Games of Family, Games of Fun

In this article, we learned that games are an important part of the Makah’s tradition and family heritage. Each family has their own special game that is passed from one generation to the next. Game pieces, such as dice and bones, are also passed from parents to children, and then to grandchildren. A custom of the tribe is that one family’s game can be played by another family only when they are invited to play it. The bone game, shinny, and the beaver-tooth dice game are popular games of the Makah tribe.

What games do you like to play? Fill in the chart to describe the games you like best.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Games I like</th>
<th>Person who taught me the game</th>
<th>People who play the game with me</th>
<th>Where we play the game</th>
<th>What we need to play the game</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do you think makes a game fun for a family to play? Make a list of features your family should consider when they choose a game to play. Remember to choose features the whole family can enjoy.
Passamaquoddy Drum Ceremony

The Passamaquoddi are a Native American tribe from Maine and nearby Canada. This article is about the drum ceremony, an important part of their community life. The ceremony begins with someone carrying an herb, such as sweetgrass, that is burning. The fragrant smoke from the herb is meant to carry away negative feelings. Later in the ceremony, drums are played and sacred songs are sung. At this time, people say prayers and think about their ancestors, the people who lived before them. When the drumming is over, many people feel more loving toward each other and their community. Many young people want to continue or preserve their tribe’s traditions. They are learning drumming methods, traditional songs, and tribal dances from their elders.

The author of the article is a member of the Passamaquoddy tribe. Make a list of the advantages this gave her in writing about the drum ceremony.

What instrument do you play or would you like to play? Draw a picture of the instrument. Write a short description of the instrument, telling why you like it.
Native Americans

Questions and Answers
About the Cherokees

This article describes the life of the Cherokees in the 1500s, before the Europeans came to America. The Cherokees — one of the oldest Native American tribes — lived in the area that is now the southeastern United States. The Cherokee Nation consisted of seven neighboring clans. They made their living by farming and hunting. Cherokee beliefs centered around the sun, which was considered the most powerful force in the universe. The Cherokees celebrated special holidays, including a New Year festival called “The Busk.” One of their favorite sports was a game similar to the modern game of lacrosse. Their lives were changed forever by the arrival of the Europeans in America.

Fill in the chart. List the facts you already knew about the Cherokees. Then list some new facts you learned. In the last column, list any questions you have about the Cherokees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Already knew</th>
<th>Learned from article</th>
<th>Would like to learn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Cherokees celebrated the New Year with a festival called “The Busk.” How do people in your family or community celebrate the New Year? Create an invitation to a New Year’s party or celebration. Use a drawing, poem, photograph, or some other clue on the invitation to let people know what the celebration will include.
China: The Full Month Party

This article explains the Full Month party, a Chinese tradition for celebrating the birth of a baby. The party is held a full month after the baby is born, rather than immediately after the birth. This gives the mother and baby time to rest and build their strength. At the party, friends and relatives welcome the baby. A delicious dinner is served. Chinese families in New York celebrate by giving the baby new clothes and “lucky money.” At the party, the baby may also be bathed and given a haircut. The party is a way of showing how happy and proud the family is that the baby was born.

How do people in your family or community celebrate the birth of a baby? Talk to your parents, grandparents, or another older person about it. Make a list of their traditions or the ways they welcome a new baby into their family.

Pretend that someone you know just had a baby. The mother and baby will be coming home from the hospital soon. Design a banner or sign to welcome them home.
Japan: Something Old, Something New

This article is about the history of bread in Japan. In 1543, Portuguese traders introduced bread, or “pan,” to the people of Japan. At first, pan was not popular there. Over the years, the Japanese changed the recipe by adding more familiar ingredients. Bread then became more popular in Japan. “Anpan,” for example, is a Japanese bun that is made from flour and filled with sweet bean paste. Today, many kinds of bread are sold in bakeries in Japan. Multigrain breads, pizza toast, and other breads that are popular in Europe and America are also popular in Japan.

Make a list of the kinds of bread you would sell if you owned a bakery. Which breads do you think would be the most popular? Why? Which is your favorite?

Write Idea

A variety of ingredients may be added to bread for flavor. Fruit, nuts, cheese, chocolate, and vegetables are just a few examples. Make up a recipe for your own special bread. Include the ingredients and directions for making the bread.
City Games

This article tells about games that were created by children living in New York City in the 1800s and early 1900s. Stickball, a game similar to baseball, was very popular. A stick was used for a bat. The bases were fire hydrants, parked cars, or other objects found on city streets. Stoopball was another popular game. It was played by bouncing a ball off the front steps of a city building. Skelly was played by shooting bottle caps around a board drawn with chalk on the sidewalk. Marbles, hopscotch, and jacks were also played on many city sidewalks and streets.

People like different games for different reasons. Think of two of your favorite games, and fill in this chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Games I like</th>
<th>Team or individual?</th>
<th>Indoor or outdoor?</th>
<th>Ball or no ball?</th>
<th>Active or quiet?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then think of two games you don’t like, and fill in this chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Games I don’t like</th>
<th>Team or individual?</th>
<th>Indoor or outdoor?</th>
<th>Ball or no ball?</th>
<th>Active or quiet?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compare the two charts. What is different about the games you like and the games you don’t like?

**smART Idea** Choose one of the games you like. Write instructions to teach the game to someone else. Include a list of game pieces or other materials used in the game. Make drawings or diagrams to help explain how the game is played.
GROWING UP AT IVY GREEN

This article is about Helen Keller, a girl who could not see, speak, or hear. Helen lost her sight and her hearing during an illness when she was just a baby. When Helen was seven, her parents asked Anne Sullivan to teach her how to communicate. At first, Helen did not understand the sign language Anne tried to teach her. One day, at the water pump, Anne showed Helen the hand signal for “water.” Then she let Helen feel the water. Helen made the connection and began to learn sign language. After that, Helen learned to speak and to read and write in Braille, a special language for the blind. She graduated from college and went on to help other people with disabilities all over the world.

What do you think of Anne Sullivan? Fill in the chart below to describe the role Anne played in Helen Keller’s life.

Anne Sullivan

Two words that tell who Anne was:

Three words that describe Anne:

Two words that tell what Anne did:

Create a similar chart for Helen.

smART idea

Pretend you are interviewing Helen Keller for a TV show. Make a list of questions to ask her. Have someone else pretend to be Helen. Use the questions and answers to teach your audience about Helen’s accomplishments. Perform the interview.
Why Lincoln Grew a Beard

This article tells about the letter Grace Bedell wrote to Abraham Lincoln when she was eleven years old. In her letter, Grace suggested that Mr. Lincoln grow a beard. She thought he would look better and that more people would vote for him if he wore “whiskers.” Lincoln liked her advice but waited until after the election to grow his beard. Shortly after he was elected President, Lincoln traveled by train from Illinois to Washington. He stopped briefly in Grace’s hometown. Wearing his newly grown beard, he asked to meet Grace Bedell. There, in front of hundreds of people, he thanked her for her kind letter. His new image was a popular one—one that was inspired by a young girl’s letter.

Abraham Lincoln liked Grace’s idea, but he waited until he was elected to grow his beard. Why do you think Lincoln decided to wait? What do you think of his decision? Answer these questions in a brief paragraph.

Write Idea

What advice would you give to someone who is running for office? Pretend that you are writing to someone who wants to be President of the United States. In your letter, make suggestions that might help the person win the election.
Fascinating Facts About Einstein

This article gives facts about the life of Albert Einstein, a famous scientist. A surprising fact is that Einstein did not do well in school. He did not enjoy most sports and games, but he loved sailing and playing the violin. He did not use many machines. He barely learned to use a typewriter, and he never drove a car. He loved animals. He lived a simple life and spent a lot of time at work. He was a humble man who did not seek fame, even though he became one of the world’s most famous scientists.

Were you surprised by what you learned about Einstein in the article? What were the three most interesting facts you learned?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facts I learned about Albert Einstein</th>
<th>Why this fact was interesting to me</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Design a cover for a book about Albert Einstein. Create a title and picture for the front. On the back, list a few facts about Einstein. Make the cover as interesting as possible so people will want to buy your book!
The Story of a Daydreamer

This article is about the life of Robert Goddard, the “Father of Modern Rocketry.” Robert was born in 1882, long before the beginnings of our modern space program. As a young boy, he dreamed of traveling in space. He studied science and learned as much as he could about space. He worked hard in college to learn all he could to make his dreams come true. After college, his experiments with rockets attracted the attention of Charles Lindbergh. Mr. Lindbergh convinced a foundation to support Robert’s work. Robert Goddard spent the rest of his life inventing new and better ways to send man to the stars.

For a long time, people laughed at Robert Goddard and called him “Moon Man.” Newspaper articles made fun of his experiments. Write a newspaper article with a different point of view—one that supports Robert’s experiments.

Robert Goddard dreamed of space flight. He died in 1945 before he could see his dreams come true. Write a letter to Robert telling him about the space travel that is possible today.
The Youngest Female Inventor: Jeanie Low

This article is about Jeanie Low. Jeanie is the youngest female to receive a U.S. patent for an invention. She received a patent for the Kiddie Stool she invented. The Kiddie Stool folds onto a cabinet door and allows children to safely reach a sink. Jeanie also invented an alarm that sounds when a bathtub is ready to overflow. Another invention—the arthritis gripper—fits over a doorknob and makes it easier for people to open a door. Jeanie Low has appeared on various television shows to talk about her inventions. She plans to be an archaeologist when she grows up.

Jeanie’s inventions began when she saw a problem and thought of a solution. Look at the example and solution below. Then think of two other problems and possible solutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Jeanie couldn’t reach the sink.</td>
<td>Example: The solution is the Kiddie Stool! The Kiddie Stool lifted her to the level of the sink and did not break.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

smART Idea Describe a problem you know about. Imagine an invention that would solve the problem. Draw a diagram and explain how your invention would work.
Big Chief Mason

This article tells about Garrett Augustus Morgan, the African American inventor of the safety hood. The safety hood was an early version of the gas mask. Morgan called himself “Big Chief Mason” when he demonstrated the safety hood to a crowd in 1914. He used that name to disguise himself as a Native American, because he knew at that time some people would not buy a product invented by an African American. Morgan and his brother later saved the lives of 32 people by using the safety hoods Morgan had invented. Garrett Morgan had two other successful inventions — a hair-straightening cream and a traffic signal.

Garrett Morgan’s traffic signal was an important invention. It helped prevent accidents at busy intersections. Some inventors, like Morgan, help make life safer with their inventions. List several inventions that have made life safer for people. List several inventions that have made life more fun!

Safety Inventions

Fun Inventions

If you were selling Morgan’s safety hood, how would you describe it? Draw a magazine advertisement. In the ad, try to convince fire departments to buy safety hoods for their firefighters.