



February is Black History Month

February was designated Black History Month by Carter G. Woodson in 1926. He was the son of former slaves and dedicated his life to ensuring that black history was reported accurately.



Facts About Famous African-Americans

- On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama was inaugurated as our 44th president.
- Dr. Daniel Dale Williams performed the first successful open heart surgery in 1893.
- Charles Henry Turner was the first researcher to prove that insects can hear.
- Sarah E. Goode became the first African-American woman to receive a patent. It was for a space-saving bed that folded up into a cabinet.
- Benjamin Banneker made the first striking clock created entirely in America. He carved each part individually from wood.
- Althea Gibson was the first African-American to play in and win Wimbledon and the United States national tennis championship. Arthur Ashe was the first African-American male to win the US Open, Australian Open, and Wimbledon.
- Lonnie G. Johnson invented the Super Soaker in 1988 under the original name Power Drencher.
- George Crum invented the potato chip in 1853.
- The hinged-door mailbox that closed to protect mail was invented by Phillip B. Downing.
- Maya Angelou, a renowned author, playwright, and actress, set a record as the first African-American to have a nonfiction paperback book stay on the New York Times Bestsellers list for more than 2 years.

Books to Share:

Our People by Angela Shelf Medearis
I Am African American by Ruth Turk
Corrows by Camille Yarbrough

Valentine's Day – February 14, 2009

Match the Hearts

Cut heart shapes from construction paper. Cut each shape in half using different cuts, such as straight, zigzag, or curvy. On each heart half, draw a matching shape or numeral. Give each child a construction paper heart half. Encourage them to name the shapes or numerals on their halves. Next, play music and have each child look for another child who has the matching half of the construction paper heart. Stop the music and have the pairs name their shapes or numerals. Repeat several times, giving each child a different heart half each time.



Scents of Winter

Match the Hearts

Materials and Preparations

- Objects that have scents associated with winter (cinnamon sticks, hot chocolate, peppermint, pine needles, cloves, orange, vanilla, lemon, etc.)
- Picture cards of the objects listed above (take a photo of each object; glue each photo to an index card)
- Small, empty unscented-tissue boxes with bottoms removed



Learning Experiences:

- Cover each object with a tissue box.
- Let children smell inside the tissue boxes and guess what is hidden.
- After everyone has had a turn, allow children to explore each object and smell it again.
- Introduce words like scent and fragrance to children.
- Help children match each scent with the picture card.

Home Extension: Send the picture cards home to parents for them to play the game with their child. Encourage parents to ask their child which scents remind the child of winter. Are there particular items around their home that the child likes to smell? Parents can show the child the actual objects as they talk about each scent.



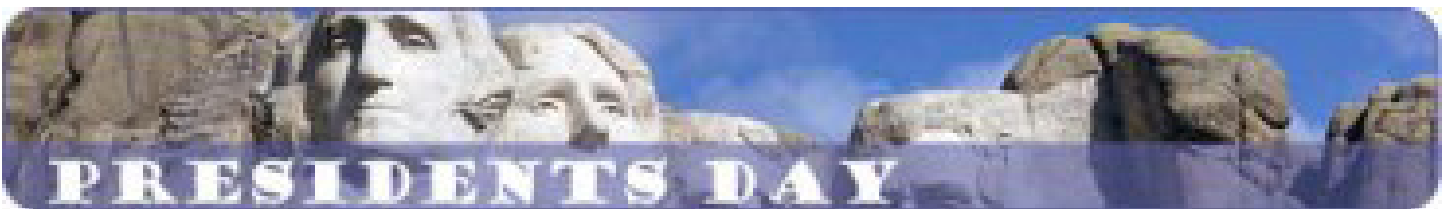
Graph Coin Tosses

Materials and Preparations

- Pennies
- Coding dots
- Posterboard (cut a 6" by 22" strip of posterboard and divide it into two 3" columns. At the top of one column, attach a penny head-side up, and at the top of the other column, attach a penny tail-side up).

Learning Experience

Show the picture of President Lincoln on a penny to interested children. Invite each child to toss the penny and add a coding dot to the graph to indicate whether the penny lands heads-up or tails-up. The children may want to make predictions as to which column will have more coding dots after everyone tosses. After tossing, encourage children to help count the coding dots to determine which column has the most.



Presidents Day – February 16, 2009

On Presidents Day, we honor and remember all the presidents of our country. Show pictures of several former presidents and assist the children in naming them. Help the children understand that the president is the leader of our country. Ask the children if they might like to be president when they grow up. Encourage the children to share their ideas about being a president. Explore some of the following facts about presidents with children:

- The people in our country choose a president every four years.
- The president's wife is called the First Lady.
- The president and his family live in a big house called the White House. The White House is located in Washington, D.C.
- The president works in an office called the *Oval Office*.