

Daily Warm-Ups

CRITICAL THINKING

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Level I

Table of Contents



Introduction *iv*

Language Arts	1–36
Math	37–72
Social Studies	73–108
Science	109–144
Life Skills	145–180
Answer Key	181



The *Daily Warm-Ups series* is a wonderful way to turn extra classroom minutes into valuable learning time. The 180 quick activities—one for each day of the school year—help students practice critical-thinking skills in language arts, math, social studies, science, and life skills. They may be used at the beginning of class to get students into thinking mode, near the end of class to make good use of transitional time, in the middle of class to help students shift gears between lessons—or whenever you have minutes that now go unused. In addition to helping students warm up and focus, they are a natural lead-in to other classroom activities involving critical-thinking skills. As students build their critical-thinking skills, they will be better prepared to tackle standardized tests as well.

Daily Warm-Ups are easy to use. Simply photocopy the day's activity and distribute it. Or make a transparency of the activity and project it on the board. You may want to use the activities for extra credit points or as a check on your students' critical-thinking skills as they are acquired and built over time. Each activity is rated with one to three stars to identify difficulty level:

- * = basic
- ** = intermediate
- *** = advanced

However you choose to use them, *Daily Warm-Ups* are a convenient and useful supplement to your regular class lessons. Make every minute of your class time count!



Daily Warm-Ups: Critical Thinking I

Language Arts

Spell-Wells*

There are a number of sayings people use to remember how to spell certain words. Here is one: *Always remember, your principal is your pal*. Here's another: *A porpoise makes an interesting noise*.

Look at the word list below. Choose four words you might have trouble spelling. Write a sentence or rhyme to help you remember the correct spelling.

absence

deceive

patient

accommodate

doubt

psychology

ascend

extraordinary

pyramid

beauty

government

rhubarb

business

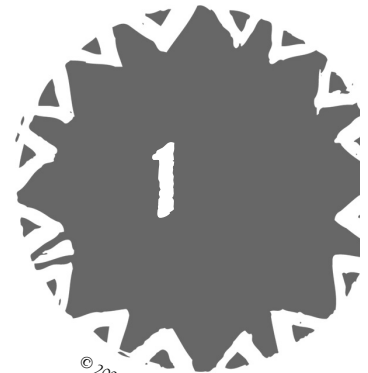
necessary

rhythm

courtesy

parallel

scissors



Language Arts

Plurals*

One cat is spelled *c-a-t*. To make that into two cats, you add an *s* to make *c-a-t-s*. Write all the rules you know for making a word into a plural.



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Language Arts

You for the Defense***

A defense attorney has to present evidence and defend his or her client's character to a jury. Imagine that you are an attorney. Your client is the wolf who huffed and puffed in "The Three Little Pigs." He has been charged with harassing innocent piglets with the intent to harm them. Write a speech to present to the jury. Tell them why they should find your client not guilty.

Note: To harass means "to plague, bother, or worry, especially over a period of time."



Language Arts

You're a Poet and You Know It!***

Poems do not have to rhyme. Write a poem. Choose words for your poem ONLY from the words and word bits below.

a	bend	cavort	endeavor
absent	bird	cherish	face
agony	blank	clouds	fascinating
amazed	blind	contrary	faster
an	bumblebees	dolphin	feathered
and	buzzing	earthworm	flicker
are	canine	-ed	flight

flush	indifferent	one	splattered	voyage
fox	-ing	onyx	stupendous	was
further	is	plod	than	were
gallop	jellybean	prehistoric	that	when
generous	leaves	rise	the	where
gnat	massive	roar	toast	why
gratitude	millions	-s	turquoise	wiggles
harmony	musician	sail	under	wish
heart	mysterious	shatter	underbelly	within
hunger	of	sing	useless	write
in	on	snuffling	valuable	wrong





Math

Find the Errors*

Josie Fizzbottle was in a hurry when she filled in this multiplication table this morning. How many mistakes can you find? Cross them out and write the correct numbers.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	0	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14
3	3	6	9	12	15	20	21
4	4	8	12	16	18	24	35
5	5	10	15	15	25	30	35
6	6	12	15	24	30	36	43
7	7	14	21	27	35	41	49



Math

Hiking Around Lake Makatawee**

The counselors from Camp Muskrat are leading a hike tomorrow. They are not sure how many campers will sign up for the trip.

Fill in this trail mix recipe to make enough for about seven people. Then double the recipe, just in case the counselors need more. Your amounts should include some fractions!

Trail Mix Recipe

___ cup(s) peanuts

___ cup(s) almonds

___ cup(s) raisins

___ cup(s) chocolate chips

Doubled Trail Mix Recipe

___ cup(s) peanuts

___ cup(s) almonds

___ cup(s) raisins

___ cup(s) chocolate chips



Why Did the Chickens Cross the Road?*

Farmer Eggleston's chickens keep wandering across the road to Mrs. Primpo's house. She does not like having chickens in her yard. The farmer wants to prove how much good his flock is doing. He discovers that 4 chickens cross the road to peck at grubs that are destroying the lawn, 5 chickens cross to clean up the birdseed under her feeder, 9 cross to gobble the beetles that are eating her rosebushes, 4 chickens eat grubs and beetles, 6 eat seed and beetles, 3 eat grubs and seed, and 5 eat all three.

Draw a diagram to organize the results. Fill in the blanks for what Farmer Eggleston will tell Mrs. Primpo.

___ of my chickens ___ of my chickens ___ of my chickens
eat grubs. eat birdseed. eat beetles.



Daily Warm-Ups: Critical Thinking I

Math

Suddenly a Sub!**

You arrive at school one day to find the principal at the door of your classroom. He tells you that your teacher, Mr. Goodmath, will not be in today and you must be his substitute. You read the lesson plan for math: Explain to the class why the following numbers are the same.

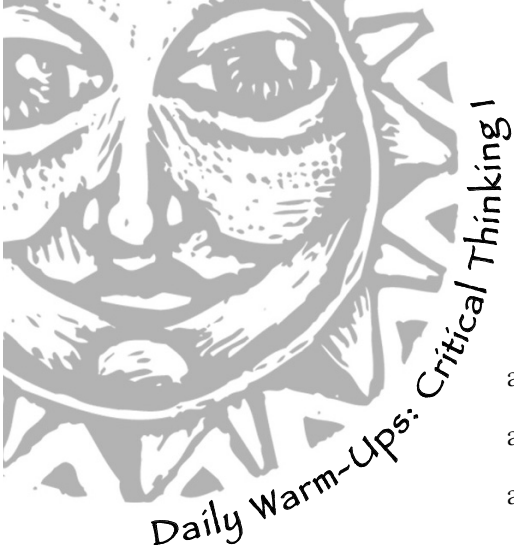
$\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{25}{100}$, .25, 25%

Write at least two ways that you could do this.



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Daily Warm-Ups: Critical Thinking I

Social Studies

Our Government Word Sort**

Sort the words below to show what you know about the three branches of American government. Write each word in the column where it belongs.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| amendment | committee | House | Supreme Court |
| appeal | Congress | judge | vice president |
| attorney general | defense | judicial | White House |
| bill | departments | president | |
| cabinet | district | prosecutor | |
| commander in chief | Environmental Protection Agency | representative | |
| | | senator | |

Executive Branch

Legislative Branch

Judicial Branch



Tell It to the Alien 1*

An alien has traveled to Earth from a planet far, far away. Everything is very different where the alien lives. The alien has never seen money and does not understand what it is or what it is for. Please explain it to the alien!





Social Studies

Perfect Town***

The people of Perfect Town have passed a law: No dogs are allowed anywhere in town, not even if they are kept inside their own homes. Can the town do that, or is the new law illegal? Why do you think so?



Social Studies

One Hundred Years From Now*

Imagine the world as it might be one hundred years from now.

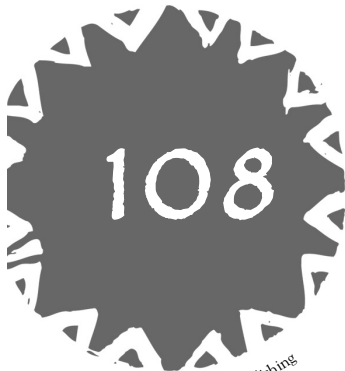
How will people dress?

How will people travel?

How will people communicate?

How will people earn money?

What will their homes look like?



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The Black Box Experiment*

Suppose you are given a black box with an unknown object sealed inside. You are told the object is a familiar one, but you may not open the box to see what is inside. Your job is to figure out what the object is.

1. What kind of information can you get about the object from your senses?

Sight

Hearing

Smell

Touch

Taste

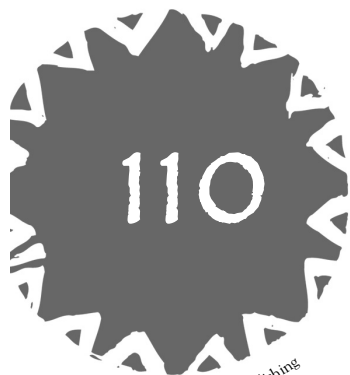
2. What kind of tools may help you determine what the object is?



Feather Mystery**

An **adaptation** is a structure or a behavior that makes it easier for a living thing to survive in its environment. Willow ptarmigans are adapted to their environment. They have white feathers at certain times of the year. At other times, they have reddish-brown plumage. What can you guess about willow ptarmigans from this feather mystery? Answer the questions below.

1. Where do you think willow ptarmigans live?
2. When do the birds change color?
3. How do they change color?
4. Why would the color change help the bird survive?





Science

We Are So Grateful . . .*

Write a tribute to your muscles, blood, bones, teeth, or other specific parts or systems of your body. Be sure to explain why they are so special to you.



Ode to Weather**

Write a poem using at least ten weather words.





Life Skills

Be a Television Star**

Nate Treehugger has been chosen to appear on the children's version of a television survival show. He can bring a small backpack full of whatever items he wants. List the items you think Nate should include in his pack and the possible uses for each of them.



Life Skills

The Ride Home*

Your uncle is very late! He is supposed to pick you up at school. All the school buses have already left, and you are waiting near the front door. A person you do not know drives up in your uncle's car and says your uncle sent him. He is dressed in a suit and looks perfectly friendly and respectable. What should you do?



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Life Skills

Can You Solve It?***

How good a problem-solver are you? Brainstorm at least ten ways to solve the problem below. Twenty would be even better. (They do not all have to be realistic!)

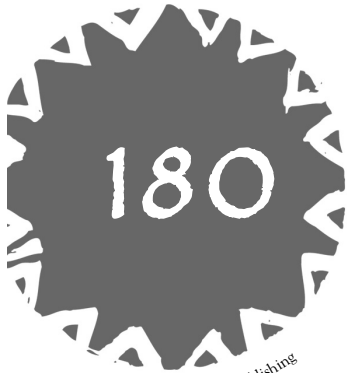
How could you get a skunk out of an empty swimming pool?



Life Skills

Can You Sell This Idea?***

Mei really, really, really wants to go to Disney World this year. Her parents are not so sure. List at least ten things she could say to convince them to go.



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