Gravity pulls everything down to earth. How does it work?

Sea otters reserve plenty of time for play that will bring a smile to anyone’s face.

How many words can you make using the letters in:

FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS
What goes up must come down

On Earth, gravity keeps the air around us (and everything else) from drifting off into space. Gravity pulls on everything – every rock, every grain of sand, every leaf and every person.

Newton’s apple
One day, according to a __________ story, a man named Sir Isaac Newton was ________ under an apple tree. An apple ________ on his head, and he suddenly ________ of the law of gravity.

It is most likely that years of __________ things falling to the ground were what led to the __________ insight he called Newton’s Law of Gravity.

Weight and Gravity
Your weight is determined by the pull of gravity on your body. If you weigh 60 pounds, then the pull of the Earth’s gravity on you is 60 pounds. The weight of a box tells how much gravity pulls on the box.

Whoops! Gravity has made some of the words in this article fall to the ground. Can you find where each word belongs?

Standards link: Earth Science: Students understand forces and know that gravity is not a physical object, but affects physical objects.
When you touch a germ, it clings to your hand. Then when you touch your mouth, eyes or nose, the germ slips into your body. Or if you touch some food, the germ moves onto the food, and when you eat the food, the germ gets inside. When someone sneezes, germs fly into the air. Take a breath near that person, and the germs may get into your lungs. Gross!

What is a rhinovirus? It’s the name of the germ for the common cold!

Just how do germs get inside the human body?

Germs that cause colds and flu are called viruses.

1. When a virus germ gets inside your body, it finds a healthy cell and digs its way inside.
2. Then it begins to multiply. One virus germ becomes two. Two become four. Four become eight.
3. Soon the cell is full of hundreds of virus germs.
4. The germs break out of the healthy cell.
5. Each germ finds another healthy cell and begins multiplying. Soon there are millions of virus germs in your body.

Have you noticed kids and teachers absent from school? Most likely they have come down with a cold or the flu. Colds and the flu are caused by germs.

Find the two identical germs.

Standards link: Health: Students understand how diseases are transmitted.

Use the germ code to find out what you should do if you catch a cold.

Standards link: Health: Students understand the causes and recognize symptoms of common diseases.
Tips for staying well

This cold germ doesn’t want you to know how to stay well and has taken some words out of the tips. Can you find where each one belongs?

1. Wash your ________ frequently using soap and water.

2. Keep some antibacterial hand ________ in your desk to use when you can’t get to a ________ to wash your hands.

3. Stay away from people who are ________ or coughing. Ask them to cover their ________ with tissues when they sneeze or cough so the ________ get thrown away with the_______.

Standards link: Students understand ways to prevent diseases.

Word search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

BREATHE

COVER

SOAP

CELLS

GERMS

TISSUES

COLD

RHINOVIRUS

WARRIORS

COUGHING

SICK

WHITE

COETIHWGLS

SURIVONIHR

TDSURIVTDO

RIGEHMALLI

ERSGSEOURS

VGSRCNMIR

OIOUBRRCAC

CELLESSMKW

CLINGSSOAP

Answers

Weight around the solar system

The moon and the planets all have gravity. The moon has less gravity than Earth. That means you would weigh less on the moon, because less gravity pulls on you. If you weigh 60 pounds on Earth, you would weigh 10 pounds on the moon.

How many pounds would a 60-pound person weigh on each of these planets? Do the math to discover the answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planet</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>8,370 - 8,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venus</td>
<td>8,293 - 8,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mars</td>
<td>8,180 - 8,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jupiter</td>
<td>8,263 - 8,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturn</td>
<td>8,246 - 8,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>8,232 - 8,232</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8,166 - 8,166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Weight around the solar system

Put your hands to the test as you explore the planets of the solar system. For each planet, determine the weight of an object using the formula: weight on Earth divided by the planet’s gravity = weight on that planet.

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Learn more about the solar system and its planets in this interactive match game.

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Learning buddy sign here

I have completed ________ activities with my Learning Buddy.

Learning buddy’s signature Date
Rainbows are beautiful to look at because they are made of many different colors. They have the power to make us feel happy, just by looking at them.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. saw that there were many different colors of people in the world. He believed that these differences could make the world a better place to live. He spent his life helping people live together in peace and equality.

Today we celebrate Martin Luther King’s birthday because of his great work and his important message: that all people are precious and that our differences, like a rainbow, can make the world a better place.

“Our flag is red, white and blue, but our nation is a rainbow — red, yellow, brown, black and white.”

— Jesse Jackson

What’s at the end of the rainbow?

What could be at the end of a rainbow of people? A pot of gold — or something better? Unscramble the letters on the coins to spell something you might find if all people appreciated each others’ differences.
It all starts adding up!

One way to make money is to get a job. But that is not possible for everyone. Oftentimes, kids can’t get jobs because they are too young to work.

But that hasn’t stopped kids around the world from finding clever ways of earning some cash by becoming entrepreneurs. It takes some creativity and patience, but you can be an entrepreneur too!

Think like an entrepreneur

Write out a business idea for each of the problems below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Business Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your neighbors are going on a two week vacation. They have two cats and a large fish tank.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An elderly neighbor has a hard time getting to the store. She also has lots of leaves and weeds in her yard.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You hear neighbors complaining about how much they dislike washing their windows and other weekend chores.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is an entrepreneur

An entrepreneur (pronounced on-treh-preh-noor) is a person who sees a way to earn some money by solving a problem.

For example, lots of kids have learned that thirsty people on hot days will pay for a cold glass of lemonade.

A note to parents

Talk to your child about ways they can earn a little money doing special chores or by gathering items for a yard sale.
**Indoor fun for cold winter days**

If it is too cold to go outside, you can find plenty of fun things to do inside! Here are activities that will keep your kids active and having fun, even if the weather prevents playing outdoors.

**Wall art**
Hang large sheets of paper on a wall to make a giant canvas. Get out crayons, markers or paint and let the creativity flow!

**Indoor hopscotch**
Grab a roll of masking tape or painter’s tape to lay out a hopscotch design on your floor.

**Dance! Dance! Dance!**
Put on some music and dance together. Raise your heart rate, raise your voice to sing and laugh and all the while create memories that will last. Make cellphone videos to share with family and friends that live far away and challenge them to a winter dance competition!

**Mirror madness**
Pair up! Face your partner and have one person be the mirror. The person who is not the mirror takes a pose. The “mirror” tries to match the pose as quickly as possible. Switch roles.

**Help others**
Take some time to help other people. Make cards for people confined indoors and/or veterans. Go through clothes and toys and find ones you can clean and donate.

**Memory book**
Print out your favorite family pictures and start a scrapbook of family memories.

**Memory book**
Look in the library for plays for kids. Have your children decide on a play and then go through the steps to put it on.

They can just select a scene or two and include some friends to join in the fun.

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**Parent Scoop™**
Smart Tips for Smart Parents

**Learning Tip of the Month**

**It All Adds Up**

Pay your child an allowance, in coins. Elementary-aged students need lots of practice counting coins.

If their allowance is a dollar, give it in four quarters one time, ten dimes another time, 20 nickels another.

Then, start to mix it up.

How many different ways can dimes, nickels, pennies and quarters be combined to make a dollar?

Show how many dimes, nickels and pennies can be combined to make a quarter.

Look at the prices of cans of food, have your child count out the number of coins needed to buy a can.

Some people have suggested that we no longer need pennies. Have a dinner table discussion about the pros and cons of eliminating pennies.

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**EDITOR’S PICK**
by Vicki Whiting, Kid Scoop News

**Island of the Blue Dolphins**

By Scott O’Dell • Published by Houghton Mifflin Company

Imagine being left behind on a small island when your family and friends all get into a boat and sail away.

In the Newberry Award-Winning book, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, that is exactly what happens to Karana, an Indian girl who, for many years, lives alone on a Pacific Island. The book is based on the true story of Juana Maria, a Native American left alone for 18 years on San Nicolas Island during the 19th century.

The island is full of natural beauty and animals. Around it, blue dolphins swim, otters play and sea elephants and sea birds abound.

In O’Dell’s beautifully crafted book, Karana keeps herself alive by building shelter, making weapons, finding food and fighting the wild dogs that see her as prey.

Read the book aloud to your children and let O’Dell take you all on an amazing adventure of survival and, at the same time, a tale of natural beauty and personal discovery.
Friendship Maze
Help the rainbow friends meet at the center of the maze.

Play rhyme concentration!
1. Write each of these words on a piece of card stock or index card.
2. Place all 20 cards face down and play the game of Concentration.
3. Take turns and turn over two cards at a time. If the two words don’t rhyme, turn the cards back over.
4. If you find a match, keep those two cards. If your opponent finds a match, they keep the cards.
5. The person who finds the most pairs wins.

Answers

DID YOU KNOW?
Beverly Cleary grew up on a farm in Oregon. The town she lived in was so small it did not have a library which made it difficult for her to learn how to read. By the third grade she had struggled with her reading skills and thought many of the books she had to read in school were boring. She took a librarian’s advice to become a children’s writer when she grew up and write stories children would enjoy reading and characters kids could identify with. Beverly found inspiration for her characters from her real life experiences and would often write while baking bread. She would use the bread’s rising time to write about the beloved characters Ramona Quimby, Beezus and many others. Beverly Cleary received many awards for her books. April 12th is D.E.A.R. Day which means Drop Everything and Read Day, in honor of Beverly Cleary’s birthday.

Please send ideas, suggestions or information to: nie@deseretnews.com

Learning buddy sign here
I have completed ________ activities with my Learning Buddy.

Learning buddy’s signature Date

If you would like to receive FREE copies of Connect 1•2•3 for your classroom, order on the Web at deseretnews.com/nie.

Connect 1•2•3 is a FREE monthly educational section available only to schools through the Deseret News.

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55 N. 300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84101 801-237-2172

Content created for the Deseret News by:

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Sea otters spend a lot of time swimming and hunting for food, but still have plenty of time for play. And watching a sea otter at play brings a smile to nearly anyone’s face.

Sea otters are mammals and need to breathe air. They rest on their backs riding the swells of the sea. To keep from floating away, they wrap themselves in kelp that is growing out of the sea floor.

Standards link: Life Science: Students know that living organisms have distinct structures and body systems that serve specific functions in survival.

My name: ____________________________

**ANIMALS**

**Otters: oodles of fun!**

Sea otters have very little body fat and rely on their fabulous fur to keep them warm in the cold Pacific _________. Their fur is thick — really thick — perhaps the __________ fur in the world. If you were to put a penny on a sea otter, it would __________ about 250,000 hairs. That is more than twice the __________ of hair on your entire head.

Otter fur holds tiny air bubbles, which serve as insulation against the ______________. If a sea otter’s fur gets __________, it won’t hold air as well. These creatures clean themselves often so that their fur can do its job.

**Fabulous fur**

**Draw a line to where each missing word belongs.**

- Fabulous fur
- Sea otters have very little body fat and rely on
- their fabulous fur to keep them warm in the cold Pacific _________. Their fur is thick — really thick — perhaps the __________ fur in the world. If you were to put a penny on a sea otter, it would __________ about 250,000 hairs. That is more than twice the __________ of hair on your entire head.
- Otter fur holds tiny air bubbles, which serve as insulation against the ______________. If a sea otter’s fur gets __________, it won’t hold air as well. These creatures clean themselves often so that their fur can do its job.

- Densest
- Cold
- Dirty
- Cover
- Ocean
- Amount
Food rocks!

Sea otters eat crabs, clams and red sea urchins. Cracking the hard shells of these animals is a challenge, but the sea otter has found a solution. It is one of the few animals to use a tool. A hungry sea otter finds a rock on the sea floor, tucks it beneath a flap of loose skin under a forelimb, grabs a few clams and swims to the surface. Once there, the otter rolls over onto its back and places the rock on its chest. It bangs a clam against the rock until it breaks open then scoops out and eats the morsel of meat.

Puzzler

Otter appetite

Each day, a sea otter eats one-fourth of its own weight in food.

That would be like:

- a 60-pound person eating
  \[5 + 5 + 5 = \boxed{____} \text{ pounds of food in one day.}\]

- a 100-pound person eating
  \[10 + 12 + 3 = \boxed{____} \text{ pounds of food in one day.}\]

To learn about river otters, read the Classroom Connections page in the Weekend Section of today's Deseret News.

Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

```
BMSSLLEWSPL
UOSMALCSAN
BRNYIIFRSO
BSIEFPLEKI
LEHISSLOTCT
ELCGMTOU
SARHIOTRL
PEUTLRIAHO
RSTSESNEDS
```

Circle what should come next in each row.

SWELLS
SOLUTION
BUBBLES
WEIGHT
SMILE
HAIR
ROCKS
Swish, click, swoosh. Swish, click. Click! Click! CLACK! “GOAL!”

These are the lively sounds of a hockey game!

Who were the first people to play hockey? No one knows for sure. But for many hundreds of years, kids have been sliding stones and other objects across ice with sticks and tree branches. Over the years, in different parts of Europe, a variety of games played on ice with sticks and sliding objects were created.

European settlers in Canada developed the game of hockey as we know it today. The first rules of the game were published in a We know how many silly things you can find in this hockey scene?

How many hockey pucks can you find on this page?

Unscramble the answer!

A hockey puck slammed into the article about pucks, scattering the letters a, b and c. Can you put them all back where they belong?

How many silly things can you find in this hockey scene?

Standards link: Physical Education: Understand the role of sport in a diverse world (e.g., the influence of professional sport in society).

Source: Backcheck: Hockey for Kids Library and Archives Canada
Early Christmas library makeover

Kids at Meadowlark Elementary got a Christmas surprise a few hours before the start of holiday break. KSL’s Read Today and High Five teams partnered with the Deseret News and Elements Capital to provide a much needed update. The old library had pale, pastel walls with old, tattered books. The library was shut down and within a week’s time volunteers painted the walls, added new furniture, shelved 10 thousand dollars in new books and made it a fun space for students to have a comfortable and inviting space to read. Thanks to all the generosity and hard work, these students will have a much better experience reading. And teachers know it’s a priceless gift. Where is your favorite spot to read?

Please send ideas, suggestions or information to: nie@deseretnews.com