

McGraw-Hill Science Newsroom™

Kindergarten Activities

Welcome to the Activities

McGraw-Hill Science Newsroom Primary Edition complements the *McGraw-Hill Science 2000* textbook series by offering one interactive activity for each textbook unit.

Each of the activities includes an exploration section that allows children to discover science-based processes at their own pace and an application section that presents an activity based on the exploration section. Children will need about 15 minutes to complete each activity.

The kindergarten activities are:

In the House

Puddle Play

In the Garden

What's the Weather?

Animal Match

Toy Maker

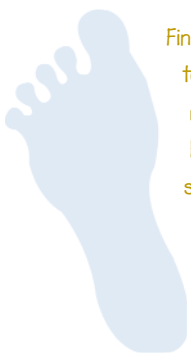
The following information is also provided for each activity:

Objectives defines the topic children will investigate and explains how children can apply their knowledge to another task.

Background Builder consists of words, concepts, and definitions that you can share with the class before they begin an activity.

Hints and Suggestions offers activity-specific notes that may help children successfully complete an activity.

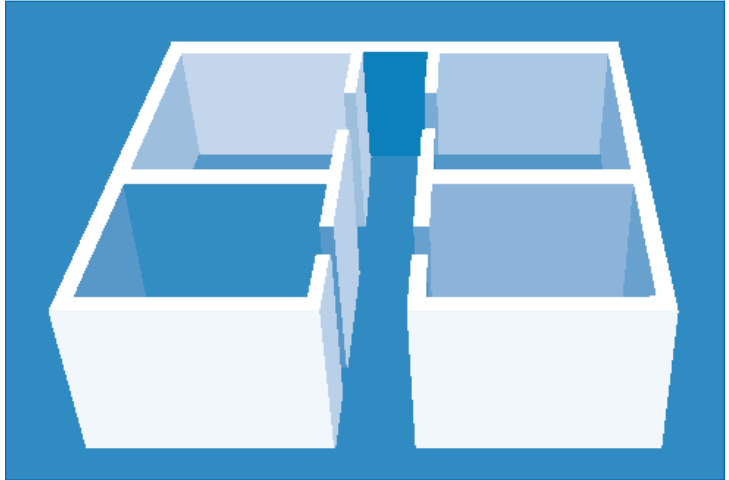
After supplies a supplemental activity that reinforces what children learned. The After activity may be a discussion-starter or a project-starter.



Fingernails and toenails are really hardened skin. They protect fingertips and toes.

In the House

Exploring the Senses



Objectives

Children will:

- investigate how different rooms of a house look and sound
- apply what they learned to identify the rooms from a pet's viewpoint
- complete an assessment worksheet

Unit: Learn About Your World, Topic 2

Background Builder

Review the following information with children:

Humans have five senses. These senses are sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.

Hints and Suggestions

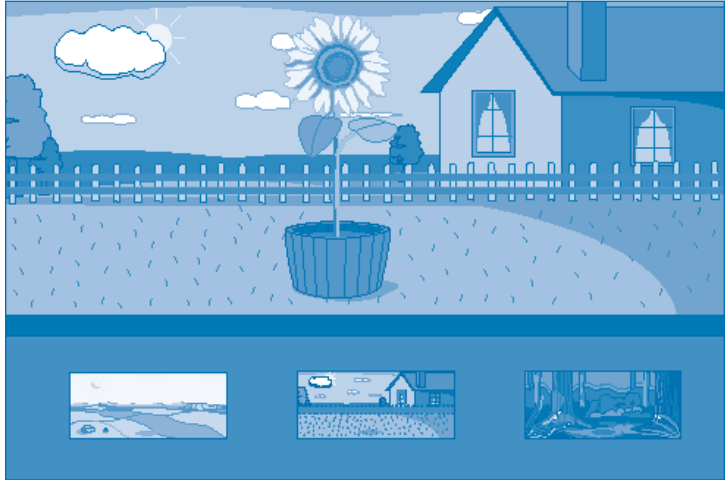
In the Exploration section, children are prompted to explore the next room only after they have heard the sounds of and seen the room they are in. In the Application section, children hear sounds and see a room from a pet's-eye view. Then, children identify the room.

After

Ask children which of their five senses they use the most. *How have you used each sense so far today? In what ways do your senses help you?* You may also want to discuss with children the kinds of pets they have and the fact some animals have stronger senses than humans. For example, cats and dogs have a very strong sense of smell, and dogs have a very strong sense of hearing.

In the Garden

Exploring Plant Growth



Objectives

Children will:

- investigate different environments that plants live in
- apply what they learned to match plants with the environment in which they will thrive
- complete an assessment worksheet

**Unit: Learn About
Plants, Topic 5**

Background Builder

Review the following information with children:

Explain to children that plants are affected by the environment in which they live. Some environments may be hot while others may be cool, and some may be wet while others are dry. Different plants grow best in different environments.

Hints and Suggestions

In the Application section, children place the cactus, hibiscus, and sunflower in the environment in which it will best grow. The plants will wilt if placed incorrectly.

After

Discuss with children that many gardeners like to talk to their plants. Some people even play music for them. *What kind of music would you play for plants? Would you play songs about flowers, sunshine, or rain?* You may want to encourage children to recite or sing their choices for the class.

Animal Match

Exploring Animal Habitats



Objectives

Children will:

- investigate the habitats that animals live in
- apply what they learned to place nine animals in their correct habitats
- complete an assessment worksheet

**Unit: Learn About
Animals, Topic 1**

Background Builder

Review the following information with children:

A habitat is an area or region in which an animal or plant lives or grows.

Habitats include desert, salt water, fresh water, tropical, and arctic environments.

Hints and Suggestions

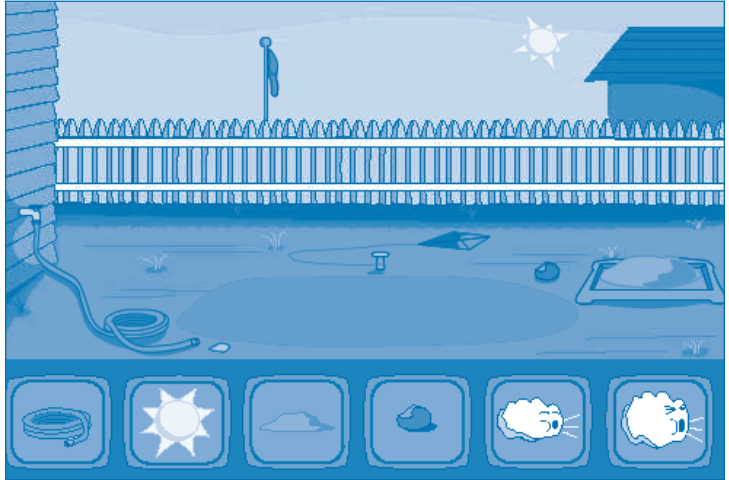
In the Exploration section, animals will peek out when children find where those animals live. There are nine animals.

After

Explain to children that animals in different habitats react differently to seasonal changes. *Where do bears, squirrels, and birds live? How do they prepare for winter?* Many bears hibernate during the winter; which means their bodies slow down and they sleep. Squirrels store nuts in warm weather so that in the winter, when food is hard to find, they are able to eat the nuts they stored. Many birds fly south, where the weather is warmer.

Puddle Play

Exploring Precipitation and Puddles



Objectives

Children will:

- investigate cause and effect by watching how the environment affects puddles
- apply what they learned to determine which cause had an effect on each puddle
- complete an assessment worksheet

Unit: A Home Called Earth, Topic 4

Background Builder

Review the following information with children:

Precipitation is any moisture that falls from the sky.

There are several types of precipitation: rain, freezing rain, hail, sleet, and snow.

Often, when it rains, puddles form. When freezing rain, hail, sleet, or snow falls and then melts, puddles may also form.

Hints and Suggestions

In the Exploration section, children watch how different factors affect a puddle.

In the Application section, children complete a matching game in which they match causes and effects.

After

Explain to children that a birdbath is a bowl that is kept outside for birds to bathe in and drink from. *Why might a bird need a birdbath? What other animals might use puddles? Do you ever jump in puddles and splash around in them? How do these things affect puddles?*

What's the Weather?

Exploring Seasons and Temperatures



Objectives

Children will:

- investigate temperature and precipitation
- investigate the different types of clothing people wear
- apply what they learned to choose an outfit appropriate for the weather
- complete an assessment worksheet

Unit: Weather and Seasons, Topic 5

Background Builder

Review the following information with children:

There are four different seasons on Earth: winter, spring, summer, and fall.

Temperature is the degree of hotness or coldness something has. A thermometer is an instrument used to measure temperature.

Hints and Suggestions

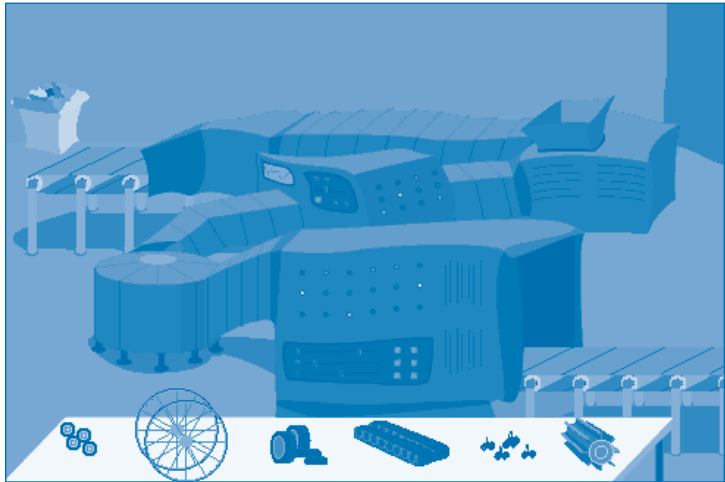
In the Application section, children choose three sets of clothes correctly before they return to the main menu.

After

Explain to children that each season has a different range of temperatures. *What kind of precipitation falls in winter? What kind falls in spring?* Also, ask children which outdoor activities they participate in during warm weather and which they participate in during cool weather. *Can you participate in the same activities all year round? Do you enjoy warmer weather or cooler weather? Why?*

Toy Maker

Exploring Movement and Wheels



Objectives

Children will:

- investigate different wheel sizes on toys
- investigate how wheels are arranged on toys
- apply what they learned to decide which wheels belong on which toys
- complete an assessment worksheet

Unit: Make Things Move, Topic 4

Background Builder

Review the following information with children:

Wheels make vehicles roll. Wheels can also be part of other mechanical devices.

Hints and Suggestions

In the Application section, children click above the boxes and drag the parts to a machine. After the toy emerges from the machine, children choose which wheels it needs.

After

Do any of your toys have wheels on them? What might your bicycle be like without wheels? What about your inline skates and your skateboard? What other toys do you have that would be less fun without wheels? Besides their toys, ask children how they use wheels every day. You may want to ask them how they got to school, or how the food got to the school cafeteria, or how their teachers got to school. How might your life be different without wheels?

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Homing pigeons can find
their way home after
they have been
released
hundreds
of miles
away.



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