



Homework Menu #8

name: _____ date: _____

Directions: For For homework this month you will be working on and completing projects of your choice. Below is a list of projects that you may choose from. If you have an idea of your own which is not listed, check with Russ for permission to try it. As you complete each project you will have a chance to share it with your classmates. Some projects may take more time than others to finish. To keep track of the time you spend on your homework projects, you and your parents will complete a Homework Time Sheet that is to be turned in each Friday. When you finish one project, begin working on your next project as soon as you can. All projects will be due no later than the nearest Friday to the end of the month. At that time a new menu will be given out.

Focus of the Month: Spring

Skills included: Research; analysis; interpreting/infering; descriptive, expository, and poetic writing; artistic representation; oral presentation; communication; scientific observation.

Project Menu:

□ Find an appropriate spot, then plant and care for some spring flowers. As they grow, keep track of their height on a regular basis. Write this information down and graph it at the end of the month. Some flowers will do best if you start them indoors, transplanting them to an outdoor flower bed at a later time. Bonus idea: at the same time you measure the height of your flower, record the air temperature. Do you think temperature has anything to do with plant growth?



□ Choose a park or other public place that you think needs a little "Spring Cleaning." With the help of your parents, get permission from the Park Department or other agency/land owner to clean it up. Perhaps you will focus on picking up litter, maybe planting some flowers, or doing a little weeding. Take some before and after pictures to place on a poster. Include a written description of your project including why you chose it. Bonus idea: organize some other people to help you do some spring cleaning for a larger park or area.

□ Poetry is a way to paint pictures of our feelings using words. Spring is a time when the earth is in many ways renewed, birds return from their wanderings, flowers bloom, and trees spread their branches. Find a place outdoors to visit several times. Just sit there quietly and observe everything around you (be sure to use all of your senses doing this). Think about how this place makes you feel and then write a poem that expresses your feelings. Use the things you observed as a part of your poem that will help the reader paint a picture of what you are writing about. Be prepared to share your poem (or poems if you have written more than one) with the rest of the class. Bonus idea: create a PowerPoint style presentation that uses pictures to go with the words of your poem.

□ One of the signs that spring has arrived is when birds begin showing up, back from their migration south. Watch the birds that frequent your yard. Find out which ones stayed all winter and which ones come back for the summer. If you notice a new type of bird, one that you hadn't seen previously, write down the date you saw it and type of bird it is. Make a chart with illustrations showing the different types of birds you observed, categorized into those that migrate and those that don't. You will need to use a bird identification book to help you with this.



□ Spring is a time of planting on farms all over the world. With the help of your parents, plant a small vegetable garden. Take pictures of the process and draw a map showing where you planted which vegetables. As your plants begin to grow, take pictures and measure their progress. Note: be sure to plant vegetables whose planting time matches the start of your garden. Place your map and pictures on a poster, labeling them. You will use this poster to help you share your project with the class.

□ Find a forest or other area of natural vegetation that you can visit several times during the month. Observe what plants are growing there and what they look like. Make and label color sketches of these plants, identifying them by name and the date you sketched them. Return to these same plants each time you visit, drawing them in ways that show how they change as the season progresses. Put all of these labeled sketches into a book organized chronologically to share with your class.

□ Other: _____

Expectations: It is expected that chosen projects will be finished completely, neatly, and in a timely manner. It is also expected that students will gain a depth of understanding about their project's topic upon completion. Further, while students are encouraged to work on one project at a time, it is entirely possible for students to complete any number of projects in the timeframe given. Students should also remember to keep homework interesting by challenging themselves to learn as much as possible and to do the best work they can.

Important: These projects will likely require mutual involvement of students and their parents. They also cannot be completed in one short evening prior to the due date. Each student will have to use their time wisely, doing a little bit at a time until a project is complete. Use the Project Planning Form to help you successfully complete your project on time.

