



Summer Blast

Getting Ready for
Fourth Grade

Reading
Math
Writing

Art
Puzzles
and more!



Welcome to Summer Blast!

Dear Family,

Welcome to *Summer Blast: Getting Ready for Fourth Grade*. Fourth grade will be an exciting and challenging year for your child. There will be plenty of new learning opportunities, including more complex books to read and more work with fractions and decimals! Interesting new topics in science and social studies will help keep your child engaged in the lessons to come at school.

Summer Blast was designed to help solidify the concepts your child learned in third grade and to help your child prepare for the year ahead. The activities are based on today's standards and provide practice with essential skills for the upcoming grade level. Keeping reading, writing, and mathematics skills sharp while your child is on break from school will help his or her fourth-grade year get off to a great start. This book will help you BLAST through summer learning loss!

Keep these tips in mind as you work with your child this summer:

- ◆ Set aside a specific time each day to work on the activities.
- ◆ Have your child complete one or two pages each time he or she works, rather than an entire week's worth of activity pages at one time.
- ◆ Keep all practice sessions positive and constructive. If the mood becomes tense or you and your child get frustrated, set the book aside and find another time to practice.
- ◆ Help your child with instructions, if necessary. If your child is having difficulty understanding what to do, work through some of the problems together.
- ◆ Encourage your child to do his or her best work and compliment the effort that goes into learning.

Enjoy spending time with your child during his or her vacation from school, and be sure to help him or her prepare for the next school year. Fourth grade will be here before you know it!

What Does Your Rising Fourth Grader Need to Know?

- 1 Write different types of paragraphs with topic sentences, supporting details, and closing sentences.
- 2 Analyze multiple types of texts.
- 3 Use reading strategies to understand complex texts.
- 4 Add, subtract, and compare fractions and decimals.
- 5 Multiply multi-digit numbers by two-digit numbers.
- 6 Use long division for dividing a multi-digit number by a one-digit number.
- 7 A general overview of themes in life, earth, and physical science.
- 8 Use data to answer questions about objects and organisms.
- 9 Your state's history, including major events.
- 10 American Indian tribes that lived in your state.



Things to Do as a Family

General Skills

- ◆ Make sure your child gets plenty of exercise. Children need about 60 minutes of physical activity each day. The summer months are the perfect time to go swimming, ride bicycles, or play outdoor team sports.
- ◆ Help your child become organized and responsible. Have places for your child to keep important things. Take time to set up a schedule together. Use a timer to keep track of time spent on different activities.

Reading Skills

- ◆ Set a reading time for the entire family at least once every other day. You can read aloud or read silently. Help your child choose books that are at comfortable reading levels and that are interesting to him or her.
- ◆ After reading, ask your child to orally summarize what he or she has just read.

Writing Skills

- ◆ Set up a writing spot for your child. Have all of his or her writing materials in one special place. Having a designated area to write will help your child see writing as an important activity.
- ◆ Encourage your child to keep a journal or diary. Have him or her spend 10 minutes each day writing an entry about the day, feelings, things to remember, likes or dislikes, and so on.

Mathematics Skills

- ◆ Use fun foods that are easy to divide to practice fractions. Ask questions such as, *If there are 16 slices of pizza and together we eat 4 slices, what fraction of the pizza did we eat?*
- ◆ Have your child estimate measurements while out in the community. For example: *This menu is about 8 inches wide. About how wide do you think the table is?*

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Week 1

This week, blast through summer learning loss by:

- ◆ using adjectives to describe new ice cream flavors
- ◆ responding to an article about a spy
- ◆ writing a character description
- ◆ creating a wanted poster
- ◆ solving triple-digit addition problems
- ◆ writing fractions
- ◆ solving word problems with equations
- ◆ using clues to order planets
- ◆ using speed to solve multiplication problems



Three Scoops, Please!

Directions: You are creating three new ice cream flavors, and you must assign names to each of them. Write a description for each new flavor using adjectives, sensory words, and figurative language. Illustrate your triple-scoop ice cream cone to accurately represent your three new flavors.

Flavor #1

Description: _____

Flavor #2

Description: _____

Flavor #3

Description: _____

Illustration



To Spy or Not to Spy?

Directions: Read the text. Then, answer the questions.

The White Mouse

Have you ever thought about being a spy? Nancy Wake had not planned to be a spy. She lived in France during World War II. France was under the control of Germany. Nancy and her husband were very rich. They used their money to help airmen escape. Nancy wanted to help more. She was very good at disguises. And she was very hard to catch. Her name became the White Mouse.

Things got worse in France. Nancy had to escape to Spain. She was caught during one try. But she was let go. She tried again and got to Great Britain. She worked as a nurse. She was really getting ready to parachute back into France. She wanted to help organize people and fight against the Germans. She even led raids against the Germans.

Nancy was thrilled when the war ended. Then, she learned about her husband. He had stayed in France. He was captured and killed. He paid the ultimate price for helping the French people.



1 Why does Nancy Wake become a spy?


- ☐ (A) She wants to fight the Germans.
- ☐ (B) She likes wearing disguises.
- ☐ (C) She lives in France.

2 Why do you think the title is “The White Mouse”?

- ☐ (A) because Nancy likes mice
- ☐ (B) because Nancy is hard to catch
- ☐ (C) because spies are called by animal names

Traits and Feelings

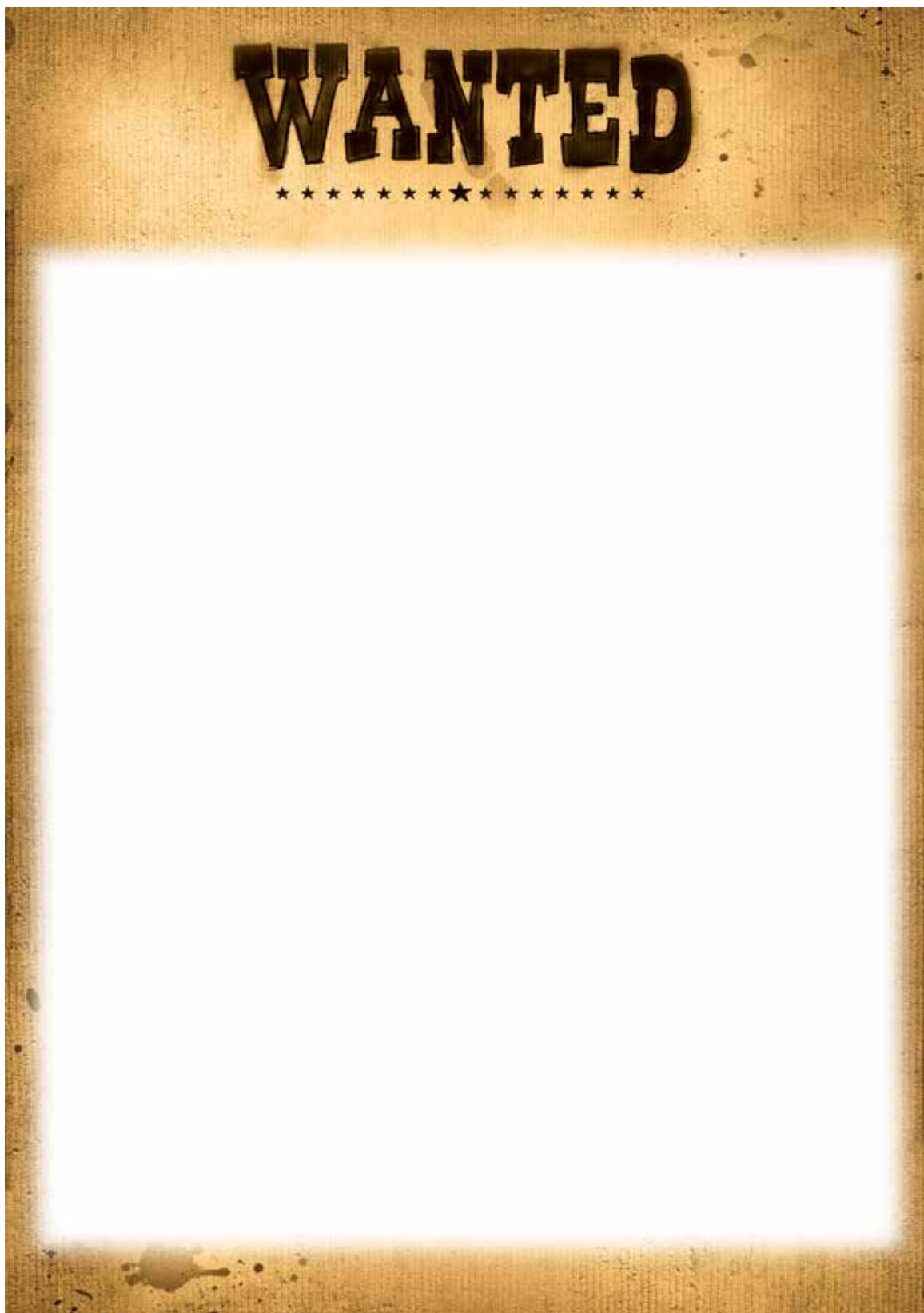
Directions: Imagine you are writing a story about a spy. On the inside of the head, write five words that describe your character. On the outside of the head, write five words that describe feelings your character has.



Challenge: Write a summary sentence about your character using at least one detail listed inside the head and one detail listed outside the head.

Perfect Sibling Wanted!

Directions: Create a Wanted poster for the perfect brother or sister. Be sure to list the qualities you want in this perfect sibling.



Adding Big Numbers

Directions: Solve the problems. Regroup as needed.

It's easy to add big numbers. Add the ones place first, then the tens place, and finally the hundreds place.

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ 367 \\ + 457 \\ \hline 824 \end{array}$$



1

$$\begin{array}{r} 325 \\ + 197 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

2

$$\begin{array}{r} 391 \\ + 259 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

3

$$\begin{array}{r} 119 \\ + 149 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

4

$$\begin{array}{r} 725 \\ + 177 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

5

$$\begin{array}{r} 713 \\ + 266 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

6

$$\begin{array}{r} 122 \\ + 88 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Fraction Wall

Directions: Write the fraction for each brick. The first one has been done for you.

$\frac{1}{2}$				

Using Operations to Solve Word Problems

Directions: Read the word problems. Write equations and draw pictures to show your answers.

- 1 Phoebe has to walk 8 blocks to school. Tony has to walk 2 times as many blocks. How many blocks does Tony walk to school?

Equation: _____

Draw a picture.

- 2 José scored 6 goals during the soccer game. He scored 2 times as many goals as Felix. How many goals did Felix score?

Equation: _____

Draw a picture.

Order of the Planets

Directions: Use the clues to discover the order of three of the planets in our solar system. Mark an X in the chart below to show each planet's relation to one another.

Clues

- 1 In relation to the sun, this ringed planet is farther than Venus but in front of Neptune.
- 2 In our solar system, Neptune is the farthest planet away from the sun.
- 3 If you were traveling toward the sun, it would be a shorter trip to start on Venus than it would be to start on Jupiter.

	1st in relation to the sun	2nd in relation to the sun	3rd in relation to the sun
Venus			
Jupiter			
Neptune			

Name That Product!

Number of Players

2–6

Materials

- ◆ deck of cards
- ◆ paper
- ◆ pencil
- ◆ one-minute timer
- ◆ calculator



Directions

- 1 Remove the jacks, queens, and kings from the deck of cards.
- 2 Each card is worth the number printed on it. Aces equal the number 1.
- 3 Shuffle the cards and place them facedown in a pile.
- 4 One player hands each player two cards facedown. **Note:** Players cannot look at the cards until the game begins.
- 5 The same player who distributed the cards says, “Game on!”
- 6 All players turn over their two cards and multiply both the numbers. The first player to announce the product of his or her two numbers wins that round.
- 7 Continue until all the cards in the deck have been used.
- 8 Then, shuffle the deck and play again!

Challenge: To make the game more challenging, have a player turn over two cards to create a two-digit number and then turn over one card to represent a one-digit number. The first player to announce the product of those two numbers wins that round. Use the calculator to check the answers.