



SHELL
EDUCATION

Conquering First Grade

GRADE

1

Reading

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

Writing

Certificate of Achievement



Publishing Credits

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Family Letter	4
Suggested Family Activities.....	5

Unit 1

Language Arts	7–12
Mathematics	13–16
Social Studies	17
Science.....	18
Critical Thinking.....	19
Game	20
Extension Activities	21

Unit 2

Language Arts	22–27
Mathematics	28–31
Social Studies	32
Science.....	33
Critical Thinking.....	34
Game	35
Extension Activities	36

Unit 3

Language Arts	37–42
Mathematics	43–46
Social Studies	47
Science.....	48
Critical Thinking.....	49
Game	50
Extension Activities	51

Unit 4

Language Arts	52–57
Mathematics	58–61
Social Studies	62
Science.....	63
Critical Thinking.....	64
Game	65
Extension Activities	66

Unit 5

Language Arts	67–72
Mathematics	73–76
Social Studies	77
Science.....	78
Critical Thinking.....	79
Game	80
Extension Activities	81

Unit 6

Language Arts	82–87
Mathematics	88–91
Social Studies	92
Science.....	93
Critical Thinking.....	94
Game	95
Extension Activities.....	96

Unit 7

Language Arts	97–102
Mathematics	103–106
Social Studies	107
Science.....	108
Critical Thinking.....	109
Game	110
Extension Activities.....	111

Unit 8

Language Arts	112–117
Mathematics	118–121
Social Studies	122
Science.....	123
Critical Thinking.....	124
Game	125
Extension Activities.....	126

Unit 9

Language Arts	127–132
Mathematics	133–136
Social Studies	137
Science.....	138
Critical Thinking.....	139
Game	140
Extension Activities.....	141

Unit 10

Language Arts	142–147
Mathematics	148–151
Social Studies	152
Science.....	153
Critical Thinking.....	154
Game	155
Extension Activities.....	156

Appendix

Answer Key	157
Skills and Standards in This Book ...	165
Certificate of Achievement.....	168

Dear Family,

Welcome to *Conquering First Grade*. First grade will be an exciting and challenging year for your child. This book is designed to supplement the concepts your child is learning in first grade and to strengthen the connection between home and school. The activities in this book are based on today's standards and provide practice in reading, word study, language, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science. It also features fun, yet challenging, critical-thinking activities and games. In addition to the activity sheets in this book, the end of each section also provides engaging extension activities.

Your child should complete one unit per month, including the extension activities. This will allow your child to think about grade-level concepts over a longer period of time. This also ensures that the book can be completed in one school year.

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

- Set aside specific times each week to work on the activities.
- Have your child complete one or two activities each time, rather than an entire unit at one time.
- Keep all practice sessions with your child 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 the time learning with your child during first grade. Summer will be here before you know it!

Sincerely,

The Shell Education Staff

Suggested Family Activities

You can extend your child's learning by taking fun family field trips. A wide variety of experiences helps expand and develop a child's vocabulary. Field trips also provide greater context and meaning to his or her learning in school.

A Trip to a Museum

Your first stop should be the gift shop. Have your child pick five postcards of artifacts or paintings in the museum. Then, as you visit the museum, your child should be on the lookout for the five items he or she chose. It's an individual scavenger hunt! If he or she finds all five, you can celebrate the accomplishment!

A Trip to a National Park

The National Park Service has a great program called Junior Rangers. If you go to a local park, check in with the rangers at the visitors center to see what tasks your child can complete to earn a Junior Ranger patch and/or certificate. Your child can also go to the WebRangers site (www.nps.gov/webangers/) and check out a vacation spot, play games, and earn virtual rewards!

A Trip to a Zoo

Before your trip, create a Zoo Bingo card. Include various characteristics that your child should look for (for example, a warm-blooded animal, an animal with feathers, an animal from Africa, etc.). Bring the Zoo Bingo card and a small clipboard with you. Have your child write or draw the name of one animal that fits each category. An animal should only be used for one category/box. When he or she gets bingo, celebrate the accomplishment!

A Trip to a Library

Help your child discover new books. First, ask your child what his or her favorite type of story is. For example: *Do you like funny stories or adventure stories better?* Choose three books that fit the topic or interest that your child selected. Read the story aloud with your child. As you read, ask your child to explain how the pictures match the text.

A Trip to a Farmers' Market

Farmers' markets are great places to learn about different fruits and vegetables. Ask your child to help you find the colors of the rainbow. At each fruit or vegetable stand, ask your child to locate one color from the rainbow. Then, explain what the fruit or vegetable is and the different types of recipes it can be used in. For example, a red tomato can be used for ketchup, pizza, pasta sauce, etc.

Suggested Family Activities *(cont.)*

By discussing the activities in this book, you can enhance your child's learning. But it doesn't have to stop there. The suggestions below provide even more ideas on how to support your child's education.

General Skills

- Make sure your child gets plenty of exercise. Children need about 60 minutes of physical activity each day. You may want to have your child sign up for a sport. Or you can do fun things as a family, such as swimming, riding bicycles, or hiking.
- It's also important for children to get plenty of sleep. Children this age need between 9–11 hours of sleep each night. Establish a nightly bedtime routine that involves relaxing activities such as a warm shower or bath or reading a story.

Reading Skills

- Help build your child's comprehension skills by asking questions about what they've read. For example, you could ask why he or she thinks a character has done something, or you could ask what he or she thinks will happen next.
- Encourage your child to reread his or her favorite books, stories, or poems. Rereading will help your child read more quickly and accurately.

Writing Skills

- Have your child keep a daily diary/journal about activities he or she is doing during time off from school. He or she can draw pictures or write words or sentences.
- Ask your child to help you write in everyday situations. You can have him or her help you write a grocery list or write a thank-you note.

Mathematics Skills

- Ask your child to compare different objects' sizes. For example, have your child put his or her toys in order from biggest to smallest or ask your child which of two objects is smaller or bigger, etc.
- Encourage your child to practice telling time. If you are going to a movie, a special event, or even an appointment, ask your child to help you figure out what time you should leave. For example: *If the movie begins at 3:30 p.m. and it takes 15 minutes to get there, what time should we leave?* Be sure to point to the clock hands to support your child.

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