

FALL

Activities

for Kids

FREE
Homeschool
Unit Study

HowToHomeschoolMyChild.com

Kerry S. Beck, *Fall Activities for Kids {FREE Homeschool Unit Study}*

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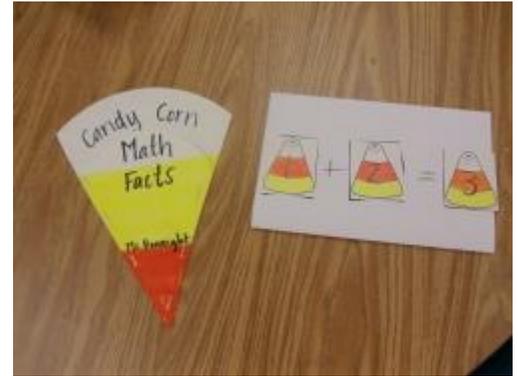
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Math

Candy Corn Math Facts

Use the candy corn template to create paper candy corn pieces. You may choose which way to do this activity.

1. Color each candy corn. Write a number from 1 to 20 on each candy corn piece. Choose a number to be the sum. Let children choose candy corn numbers that add up to that sum. For instance, you might tell them to pull out 12. They should make as many combinations of 12 from their candy corn numbers as possible. (ex: $5+7$, $3+9$, $4+8$, $6+6$ and so on)
2. Each candy corn will be an addition / subtraction family. The white & yellow are the two numbers added together. The orange is the sum of those 2 numbers. Or, you can practice subtraction similarly. Give your child the orange & yellow pieces. They must find the white piece.
3. You may also do this for multiplication & division facts.



Graph Popcorn Flavors

What is our favorite flavor of popcorn?

Plain	Cheese	Caramel
Gage	Allison	Kelly
Faith	Christina	Dago
	Lucas	Coneron
	Nicole	
	Claire	
	Laurenca	
Least favorite	FAVORITE	
of friends	of friends	

This activity is better done as a family or as a group. Buy or make 3 flavors of popcorn. Let each person taste the different flavors. Have everyone choose their favorite. Graph the results. You can make a bar graph or line graph for your results.

Measurement

Make a large sensory bin of deer corn. Include measuring cups & scales. Allow your children time to play and discover more about corn.

Measure a cup of corn. Count how many kernels are in a cup. Weigh the cup of corn.



Estimation

Estimation Station	
How many candy corns?	
Mrs Drake	18
Allison	20
Cameron	2.1
Claire	5
Christina	12
Faith	33
Gage	100,000
Kelly	26
Lawrence	110
Lucas	1000
Nicole	22

There are 66 candy corns

Fill a jar with candy corn. Allow everyone to estimate (educated guess) how many candy corn are in the jar. Record your answers. Count how many are in the jar. Let each child see how far his estimate was from the exact amount.

Divide the candy corn between your kids.

Shapely Scarecrows

Have a variety of squares, rectangles, triangles & circles for each child. Using the pieces, allow each child to make a scarecrow.

When they are finished, have them write down how many circles, squares, rectangles & triangles they used. If you had other shapes, such as octagons, pentagons, ovals, trapezoids, let them list those.

Language Arts

Fall Leaf Flash Cards

Use the leaf template to cut out red, yellow, orange & brown leaves. Use the leaves for any type of flash cards you need. Flash card examples include:

- Capital & Lower case letters
- Vocabulary & definitions
- Math facts
- Spelling words
- Foreign language practice
- Events & the year they occurred
- Anything that requires matching



Using the flash cards, have children name the letters, say beginning sounds, name words that start with those letters, or name the letters that come before and after. The uses for these leaves are endless, and no raking is required!

Draw with me a Scarecrow - Following Directions

Read these directions & let your child make a scarecrow.

Writing

Descriptive sentences about fall...nature walk...leaves...put in paragraph (twss 8)

Describe leaves

Story Writing

Read *Earl the Squirrel*, by Don Freeman.

Using Unit 3 of Teaching Writing: Structure & Style to retell this autumn story.

Science

Plant Indian Corn



Place an ear of Indian corn on a shallow dish of water. Fill dish so that it just covers bottom third of corn - corn should not be submerged. Place in sun or under a lamp and watch it grow! 3rd picture is growth in first two weeks.

A month of growth to the right. When it gets really big I let the children use their scissors to "cut" the grass.



Plant Your Socks

That's right...your socks! Won't your kids be surprised when you tell them what they're going to do.

And what a great activity. If your family is like ours, we have lots of missing socks in our laundry basket. Why not put them to good use?

Take a nature walk with the kids and have them wear an old sock over one shoe. When you get home, have them 'plant' their sock and see what grows!!

I've been told that fall is the best time of year because a lot of plants are shedding their seeds at this time. Sounds like a lot of fun to me!

Leaf Science

It may not be too late to grab a few green leaves from an easily accessible tree (maples are great) and put the stem in a jar with glycerin to preserve and keep them green. As the leaves begin to change color, gather leaves from the same tree and repeat with glycerin.

Read *Autumn*, by Gail Saunder-Smith or *Autumn Across America*, by Seymour Simon. You might simply read the section on leaves.

Let your children narrate back to you why leaves change color.

Compare the various changes & colors. Record your findings. You might keep this in your nature journal and write a descriptive paragraph about your findings...integrating writing with science.

Nature Walk Collage

Take a nature walk and let your kids collect items they find interesting. Use those items to create a unique collage. If you like, frame it and hang on your child's bedroom wall.

Nature Scavenger Hunt (printable)

If you'd rather not collect all the nature items, this activity is for you.

Using the printable, let each child explore nature and look for specific fall items. When they find the item, they can check it off.

Or if you want a little creativity, they can take a photo of that item. When they return home, print all the photos they took and make a collage of their nature discoveries.

Science Photos

Choose a tree nearby. Take a photo of it in summer. Watch it change and take photos once a month. At the end of a year, line up all your photos and talk about the changes. Be sure to label each photo as to month & year.

Seeds

Plant a pinto, pumpkin, corn, or sunflower seed and graph its growth.

Planting Acorns

Take the children on a nature walk and have them collect acorns. When you get back home, have them wrap the acorns in a damp paper towel and put it in your window seal. Re-dampen the towels as needed.

Watch them sprout. You might even let your children plant them outside! This is a neat science idea for the fall!

Acorn Observation



Gather cracked and whole acorns to observe. Look at the acorns without the magnifying glass. Discuss what you see. Then use the magnifying glass & discuss what you find.

Ask what differences they notice between the cracked and whole acorns. Also ask what differences you saw between using and not using the magnifying glass.

Scarecrows

Scarecrows don't have bones, so they need sticks to hold themselves up.

What would happen to us if we didn't have bones? Discuss skeletons and what they do for us.

Art

Crayon Rubbings

After reading a fall book, let your children do leaf rubbings.

Collect fresh fall leaves of various shapes & sizes. Place leaves on table with the vein side up. Cover with thin paper. Holding paper still, use flat side of crayon to lightly rub over the leaf -- the shape "magically" appears!



Photo from Mary Beth

Use a different leaf or just change position of paper and crayon color for another image. Overlap the leaf shapes if you like -- it looks nice! Once children get the hang of it they can all be successful.

Painted Leaf Prints

Collect fresh fall leaves & fall colors of tempera paint.

Have children paint their choice of color on the leaf. After the leaf is painted, move the leaf to a clean spot, painted side up.

Place construction paper on top of the painted leaf. Have the child rub their hands all over the paper, transferring the paint to the paper.

Let child paint and transfer the print as many times as they want on the paper. My 4 year olds enjoy this, but children as young as 3 could also be successful.

Rubbings & Paintings

Rub leaves as described above. Once your kids get the “look” they like, use paint watercolor over the crayon rubbings.



photo by Artsy Miss M

Corn Roll Paintings

Use the feed corn on cob you can buy at the local feed store or vegetable section of your store.

Children roll the corn in paint and then roll it onto paper. The ends of these cobs also make pretty flower prints. Mat & frame if you like.

When you are all done with this project, rinse the corn cobs. Leave them outside your windows for the squirrels.

Edible Fall

Leaf Piles

6 cups cornflakes
1 cup karo sryup
1 cup sugar
1 cup peanut butter.

In a microwave melt the karo, sugar, and peanut butter together. Pour over the cornflakes and place them in piles. Let them cool and dry a little. Then enjoy your leaf piles on your leaf day.

Hay Stacks

1 package chow mein noodles
1 package butterscotch chips

Melt butterscotch chips in microwave according to package directions. Pour over noodles. Combine & scoop into piles. Let set & enjoy!

Fall Leaf Cookies

Buy the Pillsbury slice and bake sugar cookie dough with the orange pumpkin that comes out at Halloween. Roll the dough out and mix. The dough turns into a nice looking color, then use cookie cutter leaves to make the most delicious fall leaves your children have ever seen. Bake according to directions. Enjoy!

Or, use your own sugar cookie recipe. Add orange & yellow food coloring. Roll & cut out leaf shapes.

Or cut out leaf shapes from your sugar cookie recipe. Frost with chocolate frosting, orange frosting, red frosting &/or yellow frosting.

Colorful Popcorn Balls

12 cups popped popcorn (about 1/2 cup of kernels)
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) margarine
one 10 1/2-ounce bag miniature marshmallows
one 3-ounce package of any flavor of gelatin
waxed paper
colorful plastic wrap

curling ribbon
decorative stickers

Pour the popped popcorn into a large bowl. Melt the margarine and the marshmallows in a microwave-safe bowl on high power in a microwave (about two minutes). Add the gelatin; then stir the mixture well.

Pour the mixture over the popcorn, stirring until the popcorn is evenly covered. Allow it to cool slightly.

Wet child's clean hands. Direct him to shape a handful of the mixture into a ball and then set the ball on waxed paper until it cools completely.

Wrap the ball in colorful plastic wrap; then tie the ends with curling ribbon. Have each child decorate his ball with stickers.

Easy Corn Pudding

2 cups fresh corn (Substitute frozen if you like)
3 eggs slightly beaten
2tsp. sugar
2 Tbsp. butter
1 1/2 tsp salt
pinch peper
2 cups milk

Combine corn, sugar, salt & pepper.

Add eggs and mix.

Add butter to milk, heat until butter is melted.

Blend in milk to corn mixture.

Put into baking dish, bake at 325 for 1 hour or until knife comes out clean.

Scarecrow Cones

Top cone with vanilla ice cream. Use shredded wheat or coconut for hair. Add raisins for eyes, candy corn for nose, red hots for mouth

Books & Corresponding Activities

Earl the Squirrel, by Don Freeman

Sebastian's Good Idea, by Jean Callaghan

Sebastian Squirrel works hard to gather acorns for the winter. Can he find time to play as well?

A Squirrel's Tale, by Richard Fowler

This is a FUN book! There is a detachable squirrel on the cover of the book. Each page has slots you can slip him in and out as he travels "through" the pages. The squirrel is looking everywhere for his nuts. He's hungry and can't remember where he hid them!

Squirrels, by Brian Wildsmith

A very GOOD informational book on squirrels. Very age appropriate for preschoolers.

Autumn

by Gail Saunder-Smith

Besides being an early reader, this book has photos and text to describe changes in weather, people, plants & animals in autumn.

Rewrite any page or section in your own words. Use Units 1-2 in Teaching Writing: Structure & Style.

Leaf activity

**internet sites

Mr. Putter & Tabby Ring the Bell

By Cynthia Rylant & Arthur Howard

An early chapter book about fall & the start of school. Kids should enjoy this funny book set in fall.

Bake cupcakes or banana cake

Lionel in the Fall

by Stephen Krensky

Cute story about school, fall & Halloween.

Leaf Activity

Four Friends in Autumn

by Tommie DePaola

Dinner party where Miss Piggy eats all the food before she serves her guests.
Have a special dinner where your kids choose the menu & cook the meal.

Autumn Across America

By Seymour Simon

Simon's photos are gorgeous! Read a page each day and enjoy the photo for that page. Keep a list of the most interesting things your child learns. Write one paragraph about autumn, based on this list. Use Unit 4 from Teaching Writing: Structure & Style.

In November

by Cynthia Rylant

When Autumn Falls

by Kelli Nidey

Autumn characterized by falling leaves, falling players on the football field & falling temperatures

Make a collage of an autumn scene. Use the illustrations in this book as a guide for your collage.

Clifford's Autumn

By Norman Bridwell

Story of Clifford when he was still a puppy.

Useful Resources for Homeschoolers by Kerry Beck

HowToHomeschoolMyChild.com

Approaches to Christian Homeschooling, by Kerry Beck

<http://HowToHomeschoolMyChild.com/approaches>

Raising Leaders, Not Followers, by Kerry Beck

<http://Raising-Leaders.com>

Homeschool Super Heroes (15-20 interviews of homeschool experts)

<http://HomeschoolSuperHeroes.com>

Celebrate Advent, Christmas & Epiphany with Your Family, by Kerry Beck

<http://ChristmasCelebrationIdeas.com>

Star of Bethlehem Bible Study, by Kerry Beck

Christmas Around the World Unit Study, by Kerry Beck

Skies of the Cross Bible Study, by Kerry Beck

Unit Studies & Activity Guides by Kerry Beck

HowToHomeschoolMyChild.com

Apples & Johnny Appleseed Story – Unit Studies & Activity Guides

Oreo Phases of the Moon – Unit Studies & Activity Guides

Bean Plant Experiment Activity for Kids – Unit Studies & Activity Guides

Lucky Charms Graphing & St Patrick's Day – Unit Studies & Activity Guides

Cells Unit Studies & Activity Guide

Olympics Unit Studies & Activity Guides

Jelly Bean School – Unit Studies & Activity Guides

Super Bowl – Unit Studies & Activity Guides

66 Summer Fun Trips

206 Summer Activities for Kids