

Get ready to discover mathematics all around you this spring!

Just like reading, regular practice with problem solving, computation, and math facts will maintain and strengthen the mathematic gains you have made over the school year.

Enjoy these activities to explore problem solving at home. The goal is for you to have fun thinking and working collaboratively as a family to communicate mathematical ideas.

While you are working ask how the solution was found and why a particular strategy helped you solve the problem.

Literature and websites are also recommended to explore mathematics in new ways.

Keeping a **Math Journal** is a great way for children to log their ideas about Math as well as strategies for arriving at solutions. Here is an example of a journal entry:

April 26,

This spring my family and I plan to go to watch my favorite baseball team play 4 games. I have been asked to calculate the cost of the baseball outings.

I must find the cost for parking, tickets, food and drinks. I began to do my research on the internet and found the following web sites helpful.



Tickets: http://houston.astros.mlb.com/ticketing/index.jsp?c_id=hou



Parking: <http://houston.astros.mlb.com/hou/ballpark/information/index.jsp?content=parking>

Food: <http://houston.astros.ml.com/hou/ballpark/concessions.jsp>



WOW!! What I found out was that there are a lot of factors to think about when going to a professional baseball game. Ticket prices vary depending on where you want to sit, what day of the week you want to go to a game, and if you buy tickets individually or in a group (like a family pack). I also found out that some days Wednesdays have \$1 hotdogs, or some days offer have special promotions such as bobble head figures, fireworks, while some tickets include the price of hot dog and a coke, and on other days kids get to run the bases. How cool is that!!

I think making a chart of the expense will help me to compare the costs. There are so many options but I listed those that would work best for my family.

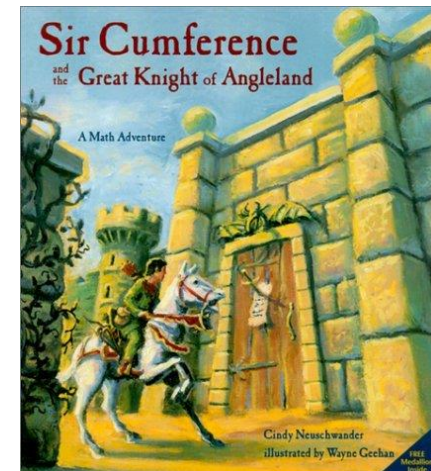
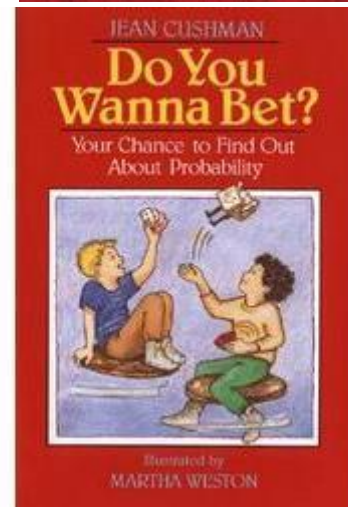
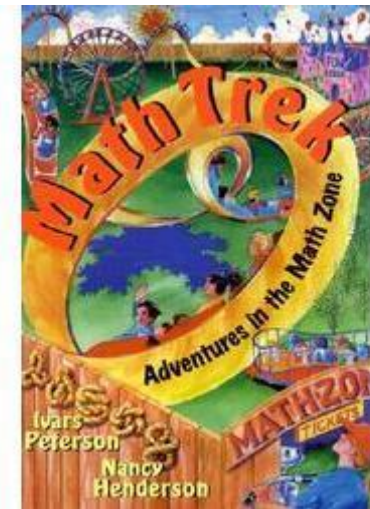
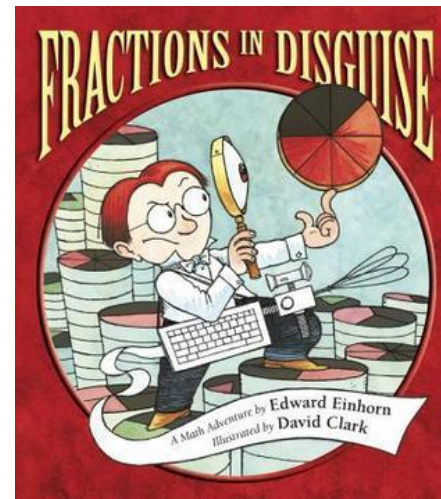
Tickets/Food/Parking	
On select Mon.-Thur. regular season games with a ticket, hot dog, soda, & popcorn for only \$16 per person! Neat-o a ticket, dog, soda and popcorn!!	\$16 per person
The all-inclusive All You Can Eat seats at Minute Maid Park, starting at only \$35 per person! COOL all you can eat food and Tickets!!	\$35 per person
<p>Kroger Family 4-Packs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 View Deck II Tickets - 4 Hot Dogs - 4 Sodas - Lot C Parking Pass <p>Every Sunday is also a Family Sunday presented by Kroger. Kids ages 5-14 can run the bases and you can catch great matchups including the Rangers and Dodgers.</p> <p>I'm thinking this might be the best deal!!!</p> <p>Tickets, dogs, sodas, AND Parking for 4 people!!!!</p> <p>That's \$17.50 per person</p>	<p>\$70 for 4 people</p> <p>Or</p> <p>\$17.50 per person</p>
Coca-Cola Double Play Tuesdays - two View Deck II tickets for only \$22 or two Outfield Deck II Tickets for only \$5!	<p>2 for \$22</p> <p>Or 2 for \$5 😊</p>
Wednesdays	\$1 Hot Dogs

Great Reads All Year Long!



The spring time is great for getting out to a baseball game, an amusement park, or reading about adventures. Each of these books are filled with opportunities for using math.

Check out the sampling of great Math/Literature Connections:



Explore These Fun Family Spring Math Activities

Earth Day Activities



<http://mathwire.com/seasonal/earth.html>

Baseball Math

<http://www.math-play.com/baseball-math.html>

<http://media.emgames.com/emgames/demosite/playdemo.html?activity=M2A073&activitytype=swf>

<http://www.prongo.com/math/>

Fun Websites to Explore all Year Long:

www.funbrain.com

www.aplusmath.com

www.pbskids.org

www.illuminations.nctm.org

Click on **ACTIVITIES**. Click on **K-2** and press **SEARCH**.

Want to explore math and how it related to REAL LIFE?

Math Projects from MathWire.com

These projects help students develop an appreciation for how math is used to represent and solve problems in real-life situations.

- [Research Projects](#): extended investigations with support materials for learning and teaching
- [Internet Project Registry](#) is described as "the original clearinghouse for collaborative projects from across the globe - projects hosted by the Global SchoolNet Foundation, other reputable organizations, and outstanding partner projects conducted by teachers worldwide! Whether you choose to join an existing project or announce one of your own, GSN's Projects Registry promises to save you time!"
 - [Databasing Our Way Across the USA](#) Students may complete a survey online and the data will be used to determine if there is a "typical 5th grade student."
 - [George the Geometric Giant](#) encourages students to use technology (cameras, camcorders, etc.) to "capture various aspects or subjects particular to their community that inspire Mathematical thought. Students then create 4-8 math word problems that relate to what they found." The project for 9-16 year old students.
 - [Great Game Swap II](#) encourages teams of students to develop a mathematical strategy game then swap with a team from a different school.
- [Geometry Learning Units](#) for Elementary School
- [TechnoSpud.com Projects](#) are projects in which students share results online with other classrooms around the world.
 - [Double Stuf Oreo Project](#) is complete but this data collection project could be replicated by students.
 - See [Froot Loops to the Max 2003](#) for interdisciplinary counting and sorting project.
 - See [TechnoSpud.com Projects](#) for more information or to register your class for the project.
- [Step Right Up! Create a Classroom Carnival!](#) A webquest for Grade 4
- [Searching for Solutions:](#) is a Web-based Problem Solving Unit in the form of a webquest.
- [A Fractals Unit for Elementary and Middle School Children](#) is designed to teach younger students about the mathematics behind the pretty pictures of fractals.



Games To Play (You will need a deck of cards)

1. Compare

Remove the face cards from a deck of cards. Remember an Ace is the same as 1. Pass out all of the cards in the deck among all of the players. Each player flips over one card at the same time. The player with the higher number keeps both cards. If the two cards are the same, turn over another card. The player with the higher number keeps all four.

2. Double Compare

Same as above, but turn over two cards each time and find the sum. The one with the larger sum takes the cards.

3. Close to 10

Remove the face cards from a deck of cards. Deal 3 cards to each player. Which two cards brings you closest to 10? Which player is closest to 10? Example: You turn over the cards 5, 4, 3 and your opponent turns over an Ace, 8, and 3. You can make 9 (5 and 4) and your opponent can make 9 (Ace and 8) or 11 (8 and 3). It's a tie since you are both 1 away from 10!

Other games to play:

Checkers, Memory, Chutes and Ladders, jigsaw puzzles, Parcheesi, Fish, Crazy Eights, Candy Land, Blink, Connect Four, Legos, K'Nex.

Check out the PDF: [Making Math More Fun Board Games](#) that contains a variety of board games for different grade levels.