

Critical Thinking - Questions and Objectives

	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Beginning School (Pre-School & Pre-K)	Students will explore how numbers, words, and the natural world connect to their daily experiences by thinking about how we use numbers to describe and compare, how books and pictures help us learn and share ideas, and how living things like apples grow and change over time. They'll explore questions such as, "Why is it important to recognize numbers in every day life?" and "What are different ways to put a puzzle together?"	This month's curriculum emphasizes recognizing, comparing, and creating patterns across disciplines, encouraging students to observe relationships, make predictions, and draw connections between ideas. In math, students explore types of patterns, sequencing, and matching through observation and creation. In literacy, students analyze similarities and differences between words, songs, and text types to develop categorization and reasoning skills. In science, students engage in inquiry by observing seasonal changes, making predictions, and testing hypotheses through hands-on exploration, such as investigating pumpkins and weather patterns.	Students will build early critical thinking skills by asking questions, making predictions, and explaining their reasoning. In math, they will explore and create patterns, compare groups to understand more and less, and recognize numbers and quantities in different forms. In literacy, students will recall story events, make predictions about what might happen next, asking questions like, "What do you think will happen at the end and why?" and connect pictures and text to deepen understanding. In science, they will observe changes in motion, temperature, and reflection, and use their observations to explain what is happening and why.	In math, children will investigate how numbers, patterns, and measurements help us describe and organize the world, analyzing data to determine "which has more or less," understanding order, and recognizing how math is used in everyday contexts. In literacy, students will strengthen phonemic awareness and analytical thinking by identifying beginning and ending sounds, generating word examples, and discussing what makes a story engaging or expressive. In science, they will practice curiosity and inquiry by making predictions, observing cause and effect, and describing what they notice during light, shadow, and material investigations.	Through inquiry-based discussions how numbers, literacy, and science, children will investigate how numbers and groupings help us make sense of information, how stories and language convey emotion and truth, and how animals and objects respond to environmental forces. Learners will consider questions such as how biologists use math to measure and describe, what makes a story real or imagined, and how air, movement, and pressure affect the world we experience. Students will explore questions such as, "What makes things move?" and "Why do we group things?" and "How do we know if a story is real?"	In math, students will compare and categorize objects such as coins and number bars, identify numerical patterns, and discuss how order and organization influence counting and problem-solving. In literacy, students will practice identifying beginning sounds, predicting outcomes in stories, and recognizing how authors convey ideas and settings. In science, students will investigate cause and effect in natural phenomena, such as weather and earthquakes, while making observations about textures, sounds, and environmental changes. Together, these activities guide students to think critically about how things connect, change, and relate to one another in their world.	In math, students will compare number patterns and relationships through skip counting and fair sharing to build an understanding of grouping and division. In literacy, students will strengthen comprehension and prediction skills by visualizing story elements, interpreting illustrations, and anticipating character actions. In science, they will observe and describe, what makes a story real or imagined, and how air, movement, and pressure affect the world we experience. Students will explore questions such as, "What makes things move?" and "Why do we group things?" and "How do we know if a story is real?"	In math, they will investigate number patterns and relationships through skip counting and fair sharing to build an understanding of grouping and division. In literacy, students will strengthen comprehension and prediction skills by visualizing story elements, interpreting illustrations, and anticipating character actions. In science, they will observe and describe, what makes a story real or imagined, and how air, movement, and pressure affect the world we experience. Students will explore questions such as, "What makes things move?" and "Why do we group things?" and "How do we know if a story is real?"	Through questioning and observation, children will analyze order and duration in daily routines, compare and construct geometric shapes, reflect on the emotional and personal connections found in shared reading experiences, and investigate the functions and features of flowers and their relationship to pollinators. These inquiries encourage children to observe closely, make connections, and express their understanding through discussion, creativity, and problem-solving. They'll ask questions such as "How do you think each part of a flower helps the flower?"	Children will explore how the world around them connects to familiar concepts and their own experiences through inquiry in math, literacy, and science. They will identify and describe real-world examples of geometric shapes (such as spheres), reflect on communication and connection through letter writing, and investigate the human body's systems and functions to understand how our bodies work and how we can care for them. Questions like, "What would happen if we didn't have any bones?" and "Have you ever noticed any spheres at home or other places?"
Kindergarten	Students will ask and answer questions such as "How do we know how many?" as they use manipulatives to show and compare number amounts. In literacy, they will think critically about language by connecting letter sounds to familiar words and identifying shapes in everyday objects to enhance their illustrations. In science, students will observe, compare, and analyze living things by asking questions like "What do plants and animals need to grow?" and "Why did our plants grow or not grow?"	This month, kindergarten students will engage in critical thinking by exploring how numbers, stories, and inventions help us understand and create within our world. They will ask and answer questions such as: How can I show a number in different ways? What makes a book work the way it does? How can I design and build something that really flies? Through hands-on activities in math, literacy, and science, students will compare quantities, create and label their own stories, and design model airplanes inspired by the Wright Brothers.	This month, kindergarten students will strengthen their critical thinking skills by exploring how numbers, stories, and history connect to problem-solving and perspective-taking. In math, they will determine how to represent and compare quantities using manipulatives. In literacy, they will ask, "What makes a good story?" as they identify a story's beginning, middle, and end and examine how characters solve problems. In social studies, they will consider, How did new settlers affect the Indigenous Peoples of North America? Through these inquiries, students will learn to analyze situations, recognize multiple viewpoints, and understand cause and effect across subjects.	Students will explore how things can be represented, related, and compared. In math, they will investigate different ways to create numbers and explore number relationships. In literacy, students will compare fictional stories by examining characters, settings, and major plot events. In social studies, they will analyze and discuss similarities and differences among winter holiday celebrations around the world, developing an early understanding of global perspectives.	In math, students will compose and explain addition sentences to show how numbers combine to make a whole. In literacy, they will explore sequencing by asking, "Why do tasks need to be done in a certain order?" and "What happens when we do them out of order?" In social studies, students will identify important figures from the Civil Rights Movement, examining the characteristics that made them leaders and connecting those traits to ways we can demonstrate similar qualities in our own lives.	In math, they will compose and explain subtraction sentences and create their own word problems to show understanding of number relationships. In literacy, students will practice distinguishing fact from fiction by asking, "How do we know what is true?" In social studies, they will explore leadership by explaining the role of the president and reflecting on the question, "What would I do if I were the president?"	This month, kindergarten students will engage in critical thinking by exploring how numbers can be created and represented in different ways to understand relationships between quantities. Through literacy, they will recall key facts from stories and demonstrate comprehension by discussing and responding thoughtfully to questions about the text. In science, students will compare the functions of body systems and evaluate which system they believe is the most important and why, supporting their reasoning with evidence from class discussions and observations.	This month, students will engage in critical thinking by exploring how to compare, classify, and create. In math, they will ask, "How can we measure objects in different ways?" and "Which objects are longer, taller, or heavier?" In literacy, students will think creatively as they ask, "What makes a story fantastical?" while developing and dramatizing their own imaginative tales. In science, they will investigate, "How are animals different from one another?" and "What similarities and differences can we find among animals of the same species?"	In math, they will classify objects based on their similarities and differences and explain the reasoning behind their choices. In literacy, students will explore different types of poetry and compose original poems to express their ideas creatively. In science, they will investigate the question, "Why is it important to understand the effects of the sun?" and apply problem-solving skills to design and build a structure that can reduce temperature in a given area.	This month, students will strengthen their critical thinking skills by exploring how to observe, evaluate, and improve their understanding of the world around them. In math, students will identify and collect real-world examples of shapes, asking, "Where do I see these shapes in everyday life?" In literacy, they will learn to revise their own writing by reflecting on, "How can I make my work even better?" In science, students will investigate motion and cause, asking, "How and why do different objects move?" Through these inquiries, students will practice observing carefully, evaluating thoughtfully, and making purposeful improvements to their ideas and work.
1st Grade	This month, students will deepen their understanding of how thinking, questioning, and reasoning help them make sense of the world around them. In mathematics, they will explore what it means to add numbers, identify patterns and rules in addition, and explain how models support their understanding of number stories. In literacy, students will consider how clear handwriting, spacing, and phonics strengthen communication between writers and readers, and will compare complete sentences with fragments. In science, they will think like scientists as they learn how observation and investigation help us understand living and nonliving things, their body structures, and how those parts support survival. In social studies, students will study the geography, climate, and culture of Australia—examining how its history, location, and environment influence the lives of its people today.	This month, first graders will develop critical thinking skills by asking and answering questions that deepen understanding across subjects. In literacy, students will consider how good writers plan and organize ideas before writing, reflect on the importance of editing, and explain why punctuation and capitalization rules help make writing clear and effective. In social studies, students will compare and contrast Australia and North America while analyzing how industries such as farming and tourism shape communities. In science, students will use their senses to make accurate observations and predictions, explore how pumpkins are used in different cultures, and distinguish between facts and misconceptions about bats. They will evaluate the statement "Bats are pests to be destroyed" using evidence and explain what humans can learn from these animals.	In math, students are analyzing why strategies such as Count On, Number Line, and Near-Doubles are effective and explaining the logic behind the commutative property and the problem-solving process. In literacy, students are distinguishing between facts and opinions, applying structured writing processes, and explaining how different types of informational writing serve unique purposes. In science, they are evaluating examples of biomimicry, how human inventions are inspired by nature, and comparing traits between parents and offspring to understand heredity. In social studies, students are considering the importance of the Amazon Rainforest and proposing ways humans can protect endangered ecosystems and animals.	In math, students will compare and evaluate different subtraction strategies, such as Counting Back, using a Number Line, and the Make 10 strategy, explaining how these methods are similar and when each is most effective. In literacy, students will identify number relationships to determine whether sets of numbers can form a Fact Family and demonstrate how understanding related facts supports problem-solving with missing addends. In literacy, students will apply the full writing process, planning, drafting, editing, and finalizing to create an informational piece on a topic of personal interest, demonstrating organization and clarity of thought. In science, students will investigate the properties of sound and matter by asking and answering questions such as: What are the states of matter? What causes sound, and how do vibrations create differences in pitch and volume? They will design and modify simple instruments to demonstrate their understanding of sound waves, pitch, and volume, and trace the pathway of sound from its source to the ear.	This month, first graders will deepen their critical thinking by exploring how patterns, organization, and comparison help us make sense of the world around us. In Math, students will use base-ten blocks to model numbers 11–20 and explain what "place value" means. They'll investigate how patterns on a hundred chart can help with adding and subtracting 1s and 10s, and practice comparing numbers using greater than, less than, and equal to symbols. In Literacy, students will think critically about how writing changes depending on purpose, comparing a personal narrative to an informational piece, and apply planning tools like the Circle Map to organize ideas and write a complete narrative with a clear beginning, middle, and end. In Science, students will explore light and sound by asking questions such as, Can we see in the dark? They'll compare how sound and light travel, identify and classify natural and artificial sources of light, and investigate how light interacts with transparent, translucent, and opaque materials to draw meaningful conclusions.	This month, first graders will deepen their understanding of how and why things work in math, literacy, and science. In math, students will explore place value reasoning by asking, "Why is it important to add the ones place first when adding two-digit numbers?" and "What tells us that regrouping will be needed?" They will also examine how regrouping changes numbers and how to interpret blank spaces in multi-digit addition and subtraction. In literacy, students will apply critical thinking to writing by transferring what they've learned about personal narratives to create original, imaginative stories that show understanding of sequence and detail. In science, students will investigate light and its properties, asking questions such as "What is a rainbow?" and "How do shadows form?" while experimenting with reflection, refraction, and eye protection.	This month, first graders will develop their critical thinking skills by asking and answering questions that help them make sense of data, opinions, and the world around them. In math, students will design and analyze surveys, organize results in tally charts and bar graphs, and consider questions such as, "How are pictographs and bar graphs similar and how are they different?" and "Why might a graph be more useful than a list of data?" In writing, students will learn to distinguish between facts and opinions, exploring "Why is it important to provide reasons for one's opinion?" and "What can we provide to support that something is factual?" In science, students will apply reasoning skills to understand Earth's place in the universe by observing and describing patterns of day, night, and seasons, and explaining how Earth's position in relation to the sun affects these patterns.	First graders explore how shapes, writing, and the solar system connect to problem solving and reasoning. In math, students will use precise geometric vocabulary to describe and compare 2-D shapes, explain how shapes can combine to form new designs, and reason about how whole shapes can be divided into equal parts. In literacy, they will expand their thinking by transforming opinion writing into persuasive writing, learning how to support ideas with clear reasons. In science, students will investigate and model the structure of the solar system, exploring questions such as, "Why does the moon have craters?" and "How does gravity keep the planets in orbit?" Through observation, modeling, and explanation, students will apply evidence-based reasoning to better understand the world.	First graders will question how we measure and compare the world around us, express creativity through language, and reflect on scientific innovation. In math, students will reason about measurement, asking questions such as "How can we compare objects of different lengths?" and "Why is 30 minutes called 'half past the hour'?" as they apply skip counting and time-telling strategies. In literacy, students will analyze and create various forms of poetry, considering questions like "Does poetry have to rhyme?" and "What makes each type of poem unique?" In science, students will evaluate historical milestones in space exploration, discussing "Should animals be sent to space?" and "Why was the race to space important?" Through these inquiries, students will practice comparing, evaluating, and justifying ideas across disciplines.	Students will explore how shapes, language, and scientific understanding connect to the world around them. In math, students will identify, describe, and model three-dimensional shapes such as cubes, rectangular prisms, cones, and cylinders using precise vocabulary and real-world examples. In science, students will apply their learning creatively by designing a model or project that demonstrates key concepts from their studies, with special recognition for projects that integrate ideas from multiple units. Through these experiences, students will practice observation, comparison, and synthesis core skills that strengthen reasoning and problem-solving across all subjects.

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	Second graders are developing their critical thinking skills by asking and answering questions that help them analyze, reason, and explain their thinking across subject areas. In math, students are learning to justify their problem-solving strategies by asking, "Why did I choose this method?" and "Does this solution make sense given what the problem is asking?" In literacy, students are thinking critically before reading by making predictions, interpreting clues from titles, and distinguishing between realistic and fictional stories. In science, students are investigating how the structure of seeds affects their function, evaluating how different seeds disperse through wind, water, or animals. Together, these experiences encourage students to think deeply, make connections, and communicate their reasoning clearly.	Students are asking questions, making comparisons, and analyzing information across subjects. In math, students engage in real-world problem solving through a "3 Act Math Task," asking: "What do you notice? What do you wonder? What information do we have or still need, and how can we find it?" In literacy, students think deeply about characters in <i>Night of the Spadefoot Toads</i>, exploring how Ben and Ryan are alike and different, how Ben's demeanor changes in different settings, and whether they agree with his choices. In social studies, students apply critical thinking to understand processes by investigating how certain foods are made from farm to table. Through these discussions, students learn to question, compare, and reason to build a deeper understanding of the world.	This month, second graders are deepening their critical thinking skills by asking how and why questions. In math, students are exploring number patterns and regrouping by asking, "How can you represent a number using only tens blocks, and what patterns do you notice?" and "When adding, how do you know when to regroup?" In literacy, students are analyzing characters more deeply by considering, "Why did that character react that way?" and "What motivated the character to do what they did?" In science, students are developing curiosity about materials and environmental impact through questions such as, "Why is the melting point of certain materials important?" and "Why did companies begin using plastic instead of wood to make toys, and what effect does that have on our environment?"	In math, students are learning to analyze subtraction problems by asking, "When subtracting, how do you know when to regroup?" In literacy, students are deepening comprehension through discussion and reflection as they summarize chapters from <i>Christmas in Camelot</i>, predict what might happen next, and consider how they would respond in a character's situation. In science, students are engaging in inquiry-based learning by designing maps from school to home, deciding which features and landmarks would best guide someone to their destination. Together, these experiences help students deepen understanding and strengthen their ability to think critically and creatively.	In math, students are exploring how to make decisions based on data, justify their choice of operations when solving problems, and consider multiple ways to reach a solution. In literacy, they are practicing how to distinguish between facts and opinions in stories, share their perspectives about story elements such as endings, and connect texts to real-life experiences. In social studies, students are applying spatial reasoning by designing maps from school to home, deciding which features and landmarks would best guide someone to their destination. Together, these experiences help students deepen understanding and strengthen their ability to think critically and creatively.	In math, students are examining patterns in computation by asking, "How is adding and subtracting three-digit numbers similar to adding and subtracting two-digit numbers?" and "How can breaking apart numbers make addition and subtraction easier?" In literacy, they are thinking creatively and analytically by considering "What if Ribey wasn't found by Henry at the end of the book?" as they write alternative endings to extend their understanding of story structure and character motivation. In social studies, students are developing spatial awareness and perspective-taking by creating maps from school to home, asking, "How does the map show important locations to include so that others could successfully navigate their route. Together, these inquiries encourage students to reason, imagine, and problem-solve as they make meaningful connections in their learning.	This month, second graders will engage in critical thinking by asking questions that help them analyze, compare, and design. In math, students will explore how shapes can be categorized by asking: How can you classify triangles and quadrilaterals? Are all squares also rectangles? Is a circle a polygon—why or why not? In literacy and social studies, students will examine Native American folktales and traditions to understand deeper meanings and cultural lessons, asking: What life lessons can be learned from these stories? Why did Native Americans build their homes in specific ways or live differently across regions? Why might these stories have been shared with children in their tribes? Finally, through a STEM design challenge, students will apply creative problem-solving as they construct leprechaun traps, considering what materials work best, why their trap might succeed, and how to anticipate Lucky's clever escapes.	This month, second graders will deepen their understanding of how people, stories, and numbers connect to problem-solving and life lessons. In math, students will explore real-world applications of time by comparing travel scenarios across time zones and analyzing how adding and subtracting time is similar to working with whole numbers. In literacy, they will reflect on the moral lessons found in Native American folk tales, considering what values or wisdom these stories are meant to teach. In social studies, students will explore how geography, environment, and resources influenced the way different Native American tribes lived, what they ate, wore, and built, and why storytelling played such an important role in teaching lessons and preserving culture.	In math, students will use pictures, numbers, and words to explain why fractions with larger denominators represent smaller parts and will compare fractions through multiple representations. In literacy, they will analyze perspective by interviewing story characters and rewriting scenes from another point of view. In science, students will evaluate reasons for and against human space exploration, compare and contrast plans, investigate the causes of lunar craters, and explain why Venus's atmosphere is described as a "greenhouse." Together, these inquiries will encourage students to reason, question, and support their ideas with evidence.	In math, students are examining why multiplying length and width determines the area of a square or rectangle, helping them connect operations to geometric reasoning. In literacy, they are identifying cause and effect relationships in stories, tracing how one event leads to another, such as beginning with "Freddy entered 'Next Door'..." and following the sequence through to the end of the book. In science, students are engaging in inquiry about space exploration and planetary science considering questions like Why might humans want or not want to compete outer space? and What makes one planet similar to or different from another?
2nd Grade	This month, third graders will deepen their analytical and organizational thinking across subjects. In math, students will explore how numbers can be expressed, ordered, and compared to show relationships and patterns. In literacy, they will examine how texts are structured, defend the main ideas using evidence, and learn to organize their own writing for clarity and impact. In social studies, students will compare and contrast the diverse regions of the United States and Oregon, recognizing how geography influences culture and community.	In math, students will investigate how place value helps them add larger numbers and how addition and subtraction are related. In literacy, they will analyze texts to determine genre, identify the author's purpose, and develop persuasive writing by using reasoning and evidence. In social studies, students will compare Oregon to other states and evaluate the importance and relevance of research findings to support their learning. Together, these inquiries encourage students to think analytically, make meaningful connections, and apply their understanding in multiple contexts.	In math, they will investigate what multiplication means and how it can be used to solve real-world problems. In literacy, students will learn from texts, identifying key details and ideas to form opinions and answer the question, "What do I want to connect to others off?" In science, they will analyze and represent data through visual displays to describe weather patterns and defend conclusions about the importance of water by asking, "What evidence can I use to draw conclusions about the weather?"	This month, third graders will deepen their analytical and reflective thinking by exploring relationships, meaning, and natural patterns. In math, students will examine how addition and subtraction are connected and develop an understanding of what division represents. In literacy, they will evaluate the underlying meaning in texts, revise their own writing to convey tone and expression, and consider the question, "How does the author want this story to sound?" In science, students will investigate the characteristics and movement of water, asking, "How does water recycle itself?" Together, these inquiries encourage students to make connections, interpret meaning, and think critically about the world around them.	This month, third graders will explore how recognizing patterns supports understanding and fluency in multiplication and division, while evaluating which strategies most effectively build these skills. In literacy, students will apply their knowledge of plot to design original storylines and reflect on the question, "What makes a story captivating?" In social studies, students will examine the relationships between producers and consumers, consider how profit influences markets, and connect these ideas to the understanding of Oregon's economy. Through these inquiries, students will strengthen their ability to analyze relationships, apply learned concepts, and think critically across subjects.	In math, students will examine how multiplication and division facts with smaller numbers can be applied to larger numbers and how patterns in multiplication can help group and relate numbers. In literacy, they will use textual evidence to draw conclusions about characters and reflect on the development, applying these insights to write captivating and well-structured stories. In social studies, students will analyze how personal financial decisions influence the broader economy, asking, "How do I impact the economy?" Finally, in science, they will test theories of force, investigate the characteristics of magnets, and engineer simple magnetic devices to apply their understanding in creative, hands-on ways.	In math, students will consider how fractions represent numbers and their parts and why measurement is an essential tool in everyday life. In literacy, they will use textual evidence to draw conclusions, conduct research to synthesize information, and reflect on what they've learned from their writing. In science, students will form and test hypotheses about conductors and insulators while exploring the relationship between electricity and magnetism. Across all subjects, students will be challenged to question, analyze, and apply their learning through purposeful inquiry and reflection.	This month, third grade students will deepen their analytical thinking by exploring how and why we measure and interpret data in everyday life. In literacy, they will examine themes and lessons within literature, and comparing and contrasting story elements and adaptations across texts. In social studies, students will apply critical reasoning to research and explain key aspects of life in the 1850s, drawing comparisons between pioneer life and the modern day to understand how and why life has changed over time.	Third graders will deepen their critical thinking skills by exploring how to analyze and interpret information across subjects. In math, students will examine how useful information can be obtained from data and investigate how perimeter and area are related yet solve real-world problems. In literacy, they will compare and contrast story elements with other texts, real-world observations, and personal experiences, asking themselves, "How can I make a story more relevant to myself?" In science, students will construct evidence-based arguments to explain how and why some animals form groups that help their members survive. Through these inquiries, students will strengthen their ability to reason, make connections, and support their ideas with evidence.	This month, third graders will engage in deeper inquiry across subjects by exploring how geometric shapes can be applied to solve real-world problems in math, how favorite story elements can be incorporated into their own writing in literacy, and how evidence supports scientific explanations about trails and environmental influences in science. Through these investigations, students will strengthen their ability to use reasoning, evidence, and creativity to connect learning across disciplines.
3rd Grade	This month, fourth grade students are developing their critical thinking skills by exploring how systems and evidence help us make sense of the world. In math, students are asking, "How does place value help represent the value of numbers?" as they deepen their understanding of numerical relationships. In literacy, they are learning to use text evidence to describe characters, settings, and events to strengthen comprehension and analysis. In social studies, students are expanding their global awareness by identifying continents, oceans, and landmarks while learning to interpret topographic features through Topo Quest activities.	This month, fourth-grade students will deepen their critical thinking skills by exploring how strategies, context, and connections enhance understanding across subjects. In math, students will analyze and apply a variety of strategies to accurately add and subtract multi-digit numbers. In literacy, they will examine how word choice and phrasing shape meaning within a text. In social studies, students will investigate the unique qualities of Oregon's physical regions and consider how the state's settlement history has influenced the diversity of its present-day culture. Through these inquiries, students will practice reasoning, making connections, and drawing conclusions that demonstrate thoughtful understanding.	This month, fourth-grade students will explore patterns, relationships, and cause-and-effect connections across subjects. In math, students will investigate how multiplication and division are related and how they can clearly communicate and represent multiplication through different models and strategies. In literacy, they will compare and contrast characters to understand how similarities and differences shape a story's development and themes. In science, students will explore how the brain controls the body and why muscles, such as the biceps, move and change shape during activity. Together, these inquiries encourage students to think analytically, make meaningful connections, and explain their reasoning with evidence.	In math, students will investigate how to multiply by a two-digit number and how division affects numbers as they apply problem-solving strategies to real-world contexts. In literacy, students will examine which text clues help determine an author's point of view, test their own awareness of perspective and purpose in writing. In social studies, students will ask, Can I interpret and recreate physical and political maps? as they develop spatial reasoning and map-reading skills. Together, these questions guide students to think critically, make meaningful connections, and strengthen their understanding with clarity and purpose.	In math, students will continue applying strategies for dividing by one-digit numbers and identifying patterns to solve problems efficiently. In literacy, they will deepen comprehension through <i>Runaway Ralph</i> and Time for Kids articles, focusing on vocabulary, predicting, and inferring skills. Writing instruction will emphasize how to create suspense, craft strong story endings, and develop cohesive plots while applying persuasive writing techniques. In science, students will examine the circulatory and urinary systems by asking: How do these systems work? What are the functions of these systems, and how can we take care of them? In social studies, they will explore, How do geography and landmarks shape the identity of South America? Throughout each subject, students will think critically about how systems mathematically, literary, biological, and geographic connect and influence one another.	Students will investigate how perspective, language, and comparison deepen understanding across subjects. In math, students will consider "How can different fractions name the same amount?" as they investigate relationships and equivalence between numbers. In literacy, they will refine their writing through personal narratives and suspense stories while studying prepositions and conjunctions. In science, they will explore word choice through texts such as <i>Eats, Shoots, and Leaves</i> and <i>Twenty-Odd Ducks</i> affect meaning in different parts of speech. In literacy, students will explore the question, "How does learning about other cultures shape our view of the world?" as they compare and contrast global traditions and values. These experiences will help students develop reasoning, creativity, and a broader understanding.	This month, fourth-grade students will engage in critical thinking by exploring how knowledge connects across math, literacy, and science. In math, students will consider "How can I use operations to model real-world fractions?" as they apply problem-solving skills to equivalent fractions. In literacy, students will analyze <i>Runaway Ralph</i> and <i>The Search for Delicious</i> to model main ideas, settings, and points of view, while also developing persuasive writing techniques and understanding how perspective influences storytelling. They will strengthen language skills by studying grammar rules, spelling, and grammar work with verbs and articles. In science, students will investigate "Why are some sounds high and some sounds low?" and "What do people who are blind see?" to better understand how humans perceive the world around them.	In math, they will examine the relationship between decimals and fractions, asking, "How are they related?" In literacy, students will analyze figurative language such as alliteration, similes, and symbolism while expanding vocabulary and conducting research on Asia. Writing projects will focus on persuasive techniques and composing detailed Asia reports. In science, students will investigate how sound and light function by studying the human ear and eye through hands-on Delta Kit experiments and the <i>Human Body Book</i>. In social studies, students will research the three branches of the U.S. government and their responsibilities, linking this understanding to their study of global and civic systems. Throughout the month, the character trait of resourcefulness will guide students as they creatively solve problems and apply knowledge culminating in Earth Day activities that emphasize innovation and care for the environment.	In math, students will consider why measurement conversions are important, how they help solve real-world problems, and why understanding perimeter and area matters. In literacy, through <i>The Search for Delicious</i>, Time for Kids, SRA lessons, and independent reading, students will analyze characters, settings, and themes as they prepare written book reports and presentations that demonstrate comprehension and reflection. In science, students will ask why the same trees don't grow everywhere and how plant adaptations change over time, using this inquiry to encourage reasoning to connect environmental conditions to plant survival. Together, these studies challenge students to think deeply about cause and effect, evidence, and application across disciplines. The character trait of resourcefulness will guide students as they creatively solve problems and apply knowledge culminating in Earth Day activities that emphasize innovation and care for the environment.	This month, fourth-grade students will engage in critical thinking through exploration, analysis, and creative expression across multiple subjects. In math, students will apply geometric concepts to solve problems and recognize patterns in the world around them. In literacy, they will read <i>Time for Kids</i>. Around the World, explore CultureGrams and online resources to answer the question, How can I gather and organize information to create an effective travel brochure? Through poetry, students will examine how language, rhythm, and structure convey meaning. In science, they will investigate local ecosystems by asking, How can I use a dichotomous key to identify trees, and what factors influence the growth of plants? These studies will culminate in the creation of European travel brochures and a celebration of learning during Europe Day at the end of the year.
4th Grade										

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5th Grade	This month, fifth-grade students will engage in critical thinking by exploring how reasoning, evidence, and organization lead to deeper understanding across disciplines. In math, students will investigate why following the order of operations is essential when solving equations and consider real-world situations where using the wrong order could lead to problems. In literacy, they will analyze texts to identify key details, determine main ideas, and explain how those details support comprehension. In science, students will question how scientists uncover Earth's ancient history, examining the types of evidence used to piece together what our planet was like millions of years ago. Through these inquiries, students will strengthen their ability to think logically, interpret evidence, and draw meaningful conclusions.	Fifth graders will examine how precision, perspective, and innovation shape understanding across subjects. In math, students will explore the importance of aligning decimals when adding and subtracting and will predict the potential consequences of not doing so. In literacy, they will analyze what distinguishes a personal narrative from other forms of writing and reflect on how to authentically express their own feelings and experiences. In science, students will investigate the technologies developed by early farmers to support healthy plant and animal growth. Through these inquiries, students will strengthen their ability to reason, connect concepts, and apply knowledge thoughtfully and accurately.	This month, fifth-grade students will strengthen their critical thinking by analyzing patterns and evidence across academic disciplines. In math, students will explore the differences between multiplying whole numbers and decimals, considering how and why number alignment impacts accuracy. In literacy, they will evaluate written summaries by asking, "What information can be added to improve the summary?" and "What important details might be missing?" In science, students will examine evidence from fossils and rock formations found on different continents to draw conclusions about Earth's history. Through these questions, students will practice using observation, reasoning, and reflection to deepen their understanding and communicate their thinking clearly.	In math, students will explore how estimation can be used as a strategy to check the accuracy and reasonableness of division problems. In literacy, they will practice researching and selecting key facts about a topic, then presenting their findings in a way that is both engaging and informative for readers. In social studies, students will reflect on the importance of learning about the diverse holidays celebrated around the world, considering the question: Why is it important to learn about different holidays that are celebrated all around the world? Through these studies, students will develop their ability to evaluate information and make connections.	This month, fifth-grade students will be evaluating solutions, analyzing cause and effect, and explaining complex processes across disciplines. In math, students will consider whether their division solutions make sense in relation to what a problem is asking. In literacy, they will examine how key events in Tuck Everlasting influence the characters and drive the development of the story's plot. In science, students will explore how rocks change over time and identify the processes involved in the rock cycle. Through these focused inquiries, students will practice reasoning, justification, and explanation to demonstrate a deeper understanding of their learning.	Fifth graders will engage in applying reasoning and evidence-based thinking across subjects. In math, students will deepen their understanding of adding and subtracting fractions by explaining their process to others and considering how these skills apply to real-world contexts such as cooking and baking. In literacy, they will strengthen their analytical reading skills by identifying and evaluating the supportive text evidence that supports their reasoning. In science, students will investigate how to determine whether a resource is renewable or nonrenewable and why certain natural resources are only found in specific regions of the Earth. Through these inquiries, students will develop analytical thinking skills that promote curiosity, logic, and thoughtful problem-solving.	This month, fifth-grade students will strengthen their ability to question, reason, and make evidence-based conclusions. In math, students will explore why multiplying two fractions can sometimes produce a smaller product, deepening their conceptual understanding of numerical relationships. In literacy, they will analyze character actions and plot development to make informed predictions about what might happen next, using textual clues to support their reasoning. In science, students will investigate how to determine whether a resource is renewable or nonrenewable and why certain natural resources are only found in specific regions of the Earth. Through these inquiries, students will develop analytical thinking skills that promote curiosity, logic, and thoughtful problem-solving.	In math, students will explore how converting units of measurement allows for more accurate comparisons between different quantities. In literacy, they will reflect on how inspiration from the world around them through nature, experiences, and emotions can be transformed into meaningful poetry. In social studies, students will research and synthesize information to create an informative book about the Ancient Hebrews, explaining how their beliefs and practices have influenced modern religion. Through these investigations, students will practice inquiry, interpretation, and creative expression to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the world around them.	In math, students will explore the question, "Why are we multiplying when finding volume?" and will apply this understanding by designing a zoo animal exhibit to help them determine the volume of composite figures. In literacy, students will learn to gather reliable facts and evidence to support an opinion, using evidence to clearly explain and strengthen their stance. In science, students will investigate technologies that help mitigate the risks of earthquakes and volcanoes and will think critically about innovative ways humans could further reduce these natural hazards. Together, these inquiries foster analytical thinking, problem-solving, and the thoughtful application of knowledge to real-world challenges.	Fifth graders will be analyzing patterns, perspectives, and character traits. In math, students will explore how the properties of shapes such as sides and angles help us classify and understand geometric relationships. In literacy, they will practice summarizing key events without revealing spoilers while analyzing how characters evolve and what influences their growth. In social studies, students will examine Greek mythology, asking why myths often feature flawed characters and how these human qualities make the stories relevant to modern life. They will ask questions such as, "Why do you think Greek myths often include characters with flaws, like jealousy or pride? How does this make the stories more relatable to us today?"
6th-8th History	This month, middle school historians will engage in critical inquiry to connect past civilizations and events to enduring global questions. Sixth graders will examine how Roman homes reflected the social structures and religious beliefs of ancient Rome, considering what architecture reveals about values and daily life. Seventh graders will explore the concept of religious freedom, asking whether true freedom of belief exists across different times and cultures. Eighth graders will analyze America's expansion abroad, debating whether such actions were justified and evaluating whether military strength ultimately promotes war or peace. Through these essential questions, students will practice evaluating evidence, forming reasoned arguments, and drawing connections between historical and contemporary issues.	Middle schoolers will explore a critical analysis of power, progress, and conflict across civilizations and eras. Sixth-grade students are evaluating the political and social structures of ancient Rome to determine whether it was more successful as a republic or as an empire. Seventh-grade students are exploring the Enlightenment and the Age of Revolution by asking, "How did reason lead to revolution?" and "Was the American Revolution avoidable?" Eighth-grade students are examining the far-reaching effects of global conflict by considering, "How does total war affect society?" How did technology change the way war was fought? and Can peace lead to war? Across all grades, students are developing their ability to question historical events, interpret cause and effect, and draw evidence-based conclusions about the complexities of human history.	This month, middle school history students will participate in thoughtful analysis of how societies, individuals, and decisions shape the course of civilization. Sixth graders will explore how Byzantium both preserved and diverged from the legacy of the Western Roman Empire, and identify the most enduring cultural contributions of the empires of West Asia. Seventh graders will consider multiple perspectives from the Revolutionary era, asking how those who lived through the American and French Revolutions might have interpreted the events of their time and whether the French Revolution achieved its aims. Eighth graders will evaluate the experiences that defined the American GI, analyze key decisions made during World War II, and assess the degree of tension and conflict that characterized the Cold War.	This month, middle school history students will practice inquiry-based exploration to deepen their analytical thinking and historical reasoning. Sixth-grade students will examine the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, asking, "How magnificent was Suleiman?" as they evaluate his leadership and legacy through multiple perspectives. Seventh-grade students will develop independent research questions on selected historical themes, strengthening their ability to conduct focused investigation and synthesize evidence to support their conclusions. Eighth-grade students will investigate key issues shaping international diplomacy today, critically evaluating the recent successes and failures of United Nations policies. Across all grade levels, students will practice questioning, analyzing, and interpreting evidence to form well-reasoned historical judgments.	This month in middle school history, students will practice inquiry-based exploration to deepen their analytical thinking and historical reasoning. Sixth-grade students will explore the question, "What unique elements of culture developed during the Heian and feudal periods in Japan?" as they examine how historical context shapes cultural identity. Seventh-grade students will apply research and analytical skills to produce a project such as a paper, exhibit, documentary, performance, or website that demonstrates their understanding of a chosen historical topic. Eighth-grade students will compose position papers that articulate a nation's perspective on a contemporary world issue and propose thoughtful, evidence-based solutions.	Middle school students will learn about culture, conduct research, and develop informed perspectives on global issues. Sixth-grade students will explore the question, "What unique elements of culture developed during the Heian and feudal periods in Japan?" as they examine how historical context shapes cultural identity. Seventh-grade students will apply research and analytical skills to produce a project such as a paper, exhibit, documentary, performance, or website that demonstrates their understanding of a chosen historical topic. Eighth-grade students will compose position papers that articulate a nation's perspective on a contemporary world issue and propose thoughtful, evidence-based solutions.	Middle school historians are engaging in inquiry-based learning that encourages them to think critically about how environment, communication, and human decisions shape societies past and present. Sixth-grade students are examining how geography influenced the culture and development of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations. Seventh graders are exploring the power of words and ideas, asking, "Can words lead to war?" while also comparing life on the homefront to life on the battlefield during times of conflict. Eighth-grade students are applying their analytical skills to build consensus on solutions to modern global issues and to examine the enduring legacy of the people who have called Oregon home since time immemorial. Across all grades, students are developing their ability to reason, debate, and connect historical understanding to the complexities of today's world.	Students will engage in deep inquiry and analysis as they examine pivotal periods of societal change and cultural development. Sixth-grade students will critically evaluate whether Medieval Europe truly represented a "Dark Age," considering both the challenges and advancements of the era. Seventh graders will investigate the outcomes of the Reconstruction period, analyzing its social, political, and economic impacts on the United States. Eighth-grade students will explore how white settlement reshaped Oregon's landscape, society, and cultures, while also examining how Chinese immigrants built communities and connections within the state. Across all grades, students will practice questioning assumptions, interpreting evidence, and drawing informed conclusions about how history shapes the present.	History students will discuss how belief systems, motivations, and resilience shape societies and historical change. Sixth graders will explore the European Renaissance, asking, "In what ways does Europe undergo a 'rebirth' during the Renaissance?" and "How did religion shape the societies of Europe?" Seventh graders will grapple with the provocative questions, "Is greed good?" and "Does change always guarantee progress?" as they analyze the causes and consequences of human ambition throughout history. Eighth graders will focus on "How is resilience key to the Japanese experience in Oregon?" and "How do the people of Corvallis figure into the wider history of Oregon?" Students will develop historical thinking skills by examining evidence, making connections, and evaluating how human choices and values influence the course of history.	This month students make connections between reasoning, social change, and local history. Sixth graders are examining how reason and logic shaped early modern Europeans' evolving views of the world, analyzing the impact of new ideas on culture and progress. Seventh graders are investigating what made nonviolent protest effective during the Civil Rights era and reflecting on the concept of "good trouble" as a catalyst for justice and reform. Eighth graders are applying their analytical and interpretive skills to create a museum exhibit that highlights a thematic element of Corvallis's history, using real artifacts to tell a meaningful historical story. Through these explorations, students are practicing evidence-based reasoning, perspective-taking, and creative synthesis to deepen their understanding of history and its relevance today.
6th-8th English	This month in Middle School English, students will engage in critical analysis of how culture, motivation, and atmosphere shape human behavior and storytelling. Sixth graders will explore the question, "Can cultural differences cause characters to interpret the same event differently?" by examining how perspective influences understanding. Seventh graders will consider, "Is altruism, by itself, a believable character motivation?" as they evaluate the complexity of human intentions in literature. Eighth graders will analyze, "How can the atmosphere of a story influence characters' beliefs and reactions to events?" through close reading and discussion. Across all grades, students will refine their ability to interpret text deeply, question assumptions, and connect character experiences to broader human themes.	Students will be examining how various story elements shape meaning and drive narrative development. Sixth graders will explore the question, "Can the setting of a story do all of the things that a story's antagonist usually does?" as they analyze how place and environment can create conflict and tension. Seventh graders will consider, "How does a character's socioeconomic background influence their expression of strength?" to understand the relationship between circumstance, identity, and resilience. Eighth graders will investigate, "Can the evolution of a dynamic character alter the plot?" and how does this relate to social study how character growth impacts a story's direction and resolution. Across all grades, students will practice critical reading, interpretation, and reasoning to uncover the deeper connections between characters, setting, and plot.	Middle schoolers will discuss how literature and media reflect and influence the human experience. Sixth graders will explore the question, "How can the use of images be used to manipulate a reader's emotions?" as they examine the power of visual storytelling and persuasive techniques. Seventh graders will analyze character development and relationships by considering, "What role does Bod's community play in his life choices as he grows from infant to teenager?" Eighth graders will investigate societal change by asking, "What changes are occurring in the 1920s regarding race and gender roles, and how does this relate to social status?" Across all grade levels, students will practice interpreting deeper meanings, identifying influences, and connecting individual experiences to broader social and historical contexts.	This month, middle school English students will engage in deep interpretation as they explore how language, power, and time influence meaning in literature. Sixth graders will examine how the sounds and rhythms of poetry enhance and shape the meaning of the poet's words. Seventh graders will consider how the possession and use of power reveal the true nature and motivations of a character. Eighth graders will grapple with the question, "Can a person repeat the past?" as they analyze how memory, desire, and change are portrayed in literature. Students will practice critical reading and reflection to uncover how authors use literary elements to express complex human experiences.	Students will have thoughtful discussions centered on choice and community. Sixth graders will explore the question, "Can a person be an individual and still identify themselves by a group to which they belong?" as they examine the balance between personal identity and belonging. Seventh graders will consider, "When should a person try to fix a situation they don't like, and when should they remove themselves from it?" prompting reflection on agency, boundaries, and problem-solving. Eighth graders will analyze, "What are the responsibilities of a leader?" and "What does a healthy community look like?" to develop a deeper understanding of leadership and collective well-being. Students will practice critical thinking by interpreting perspectives, supporting ideas with evidence, and connecting themes to their own experiences and the world around them.	Analyzing power, society, and morality through literature and discussion is the focus this month. Sixth graders will explore the question, "What role do wealth and social status play in happiness and human decency?" as they examine how material success and ethical behavior intersect. Seventh graders will analyze systems of authority by asking, "How important are checks to power, and how can they be enforced?" Eighth graders will investigate civic responsibility and governance through the guiding question, "What does a democracy need to survive?" Together, these inquiries encourage students to think deeply about human nature and the structures that sustain a fair and moral society.	This month, middle school English students are engaging in deep reflection and analysis to strengthen their critical thinking and self-awareness as writers and readers. Sixth graders are exploring the question, "Can experiences have you had that feel important, and why are they important?" as they consider how personal experiences shape identity and expression. Seventh graders are examining, "What makes you you?" and reflecting on how people and experiences influence personal growth and perspective. Eighth graders are analyzing how background knowledge impacts one's interpretation of literature and poetry, recognizing the role of context in literary interpretation. Across all grade levels, students are developing the ability to connect personal insight with textual understanding, fostering empathy and perspective-taking in communication.	English students will reflect on how personal actions, perceptions, and beliefs shape human experience and relationships. Sixth graders will explore how Griffin's treatment of others influences their responses to him, examining cause and effect in character interactions. Seventh graders will question whether a person's reputation accurately reflects their true character, considering how assumptions and social perceptions are formed. Eighth graders will reflect on their own beliefs about life and people, analyzing where those beliefs originate and how they are shaped by experience, culture, and perspective.	Sixth graders will explore The Invisible Man, examining how Griffin's use of power reveals his values and priorities, and will develop their analytical writing through a structured five-paragraph essay. Seventh graders will investigate how authors effectively create and convey symbols within poetry, applying literary elements and explication skills to deepen interpretation. Eighth graders will reflect on their own experiences at Ashbrook, identifying the people and events that have shaped them most and explaining their significance through original personal narratives and speech writing. Across all grade levels, students will practice using evidence, structure, and reflection to express complex ideas with clarity and purpose.	This month in middle school English, students are engaging in critical analysis and creative expression as they explore what defines quality in various forms of communication. Sixth graders will compare storytelling across mediums by asking, "What makes a good movie, and how is that different from what makes a good book?" Seventh graders will examine poetic structure and language to answer, "What makes a poem a good poem?" as they apply their understanding through the creation of original works. Eighth graders will reflect on personal voice and legacy by considering, "What is the last expression you want to make at Ashbrook and why?" They will also be preparing their graduation speech to practice showcasing their public speaking skills.

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