

# Daily Discoveries for July

Thematic Learning Activities for  
**EVERY DAY**



Written by Elizabeth Cole Midgley

Illustrated by Jennette Guymon-King



**Teaching & Learning Company**


1204 Buchanan St., P.O. Box 10

Carthage, IL 62321-0010

# This book belongs to

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Several of the activities in this book involve preparing, tasting and sharing food items. We urge you to be aware of any food allergies or restrictions your students may have and to supervise these activities diligently. All food-related suggestions are identified with this allergy-alert symbol: 

Please note: small food items (candies, raisins, cereal, etc.) can also pose a choking hazard.

Cover art by Jennette Guymon-King

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## Dear Teacher or Parent,

Due to the stimulus of a high-tech world, parents and teachers are often faced with the challenge of how to capture the attention of a child and create an atmosphere of meaningful learning opportunities. Often we search for new ways to meet this challenge and help young people transfer their knowledge, skills and experiences from one area to another. Subjects taught in isolation can leave a feeling of fragmentation. More and more educators are looking for ways to be able to integrate curriculum so that their students can fully understand how things relate to each other.

The Daily Discoveries series has been developed to that end. The premise behind this series has been, in part, the author's educational philosophy: anything can be taught and absorbed by others in a meaningful way, depending upon its presentation.

In this series, each day has been researched around the history of a specific individual or event and has been developed into a celebration or theme with integrated curriculum areas. In this approach to learning students draw from their own experience and understanding of things, to a level of processing new information and skills.

The Daily Discoveries series is an almanac-of-sorts, 12 books (one for each month) that present a thematically based curriculum for grades K-6. The series contains hundreds and hundreds of resources and ideas that can be a natural springboard to learning. These ideas have been used in the classroom and at home, and are fun as well as educationally sound. The activities have been endorsed by professors, teachers, parents and, best of all, by children.

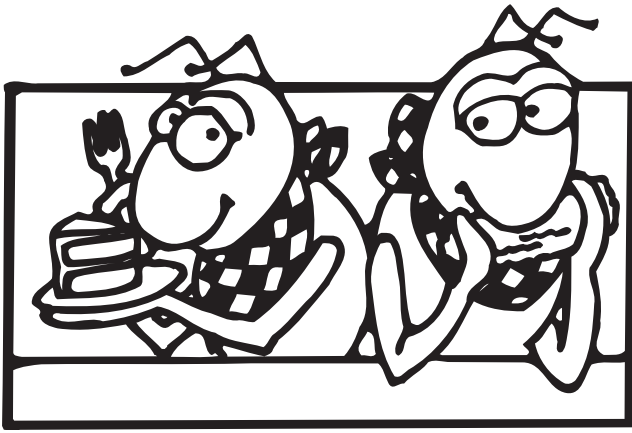
The Daily Discoveries series can be used in the following ways for school or home:

- to develop new skills and reinforce previous learning
- to create a sense of fun and celebration every day
- as tutoring resources
- as enrichment activities that can be used as time allows
- for family fun activities

Sincerely,

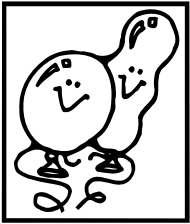


Elizabeth Cole Midgley



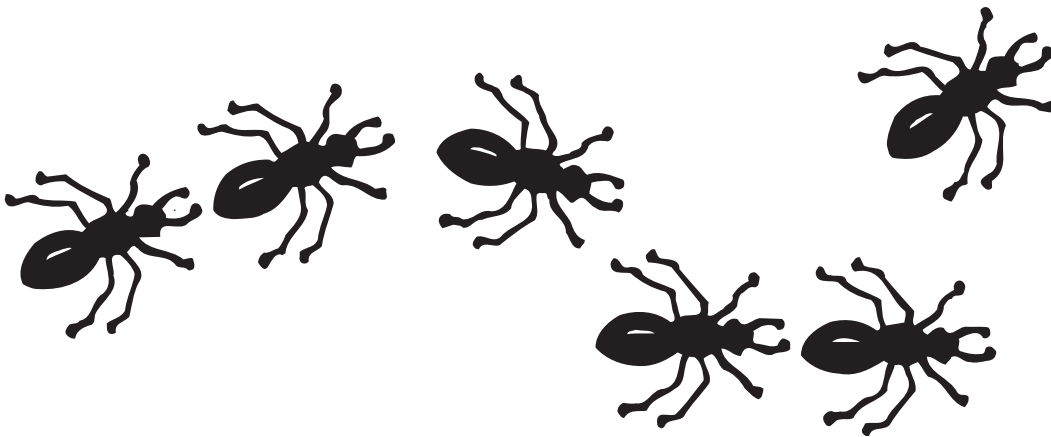
# Picnic Day

July 1



## Setting the Stage

- Display a red-and-white checked picnic tablecloth as a background for this bulletin board idea. Students can draw ants for a border. They can write favorite summer activities (on paper plates) to display against the tablecloth backdrop with the caption: "Summer Can Be a Real Picnic!"
- Purchase tiny plastic black ants at a novelty store and place them on the floor leading into your classroom. You may prefer to copy ants on page 12, cut them out and tape them on the floor and on objects with clear tape.



- Display a picnic basket surrounded by literature about picnics.
- Construct a semantic web with words your students think of when you say the word *picnic*.



Picnic Day



Picnic Day



Picnic Day



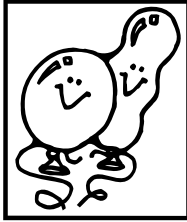
Picnic Day



Picnic Day

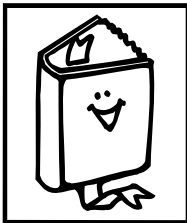
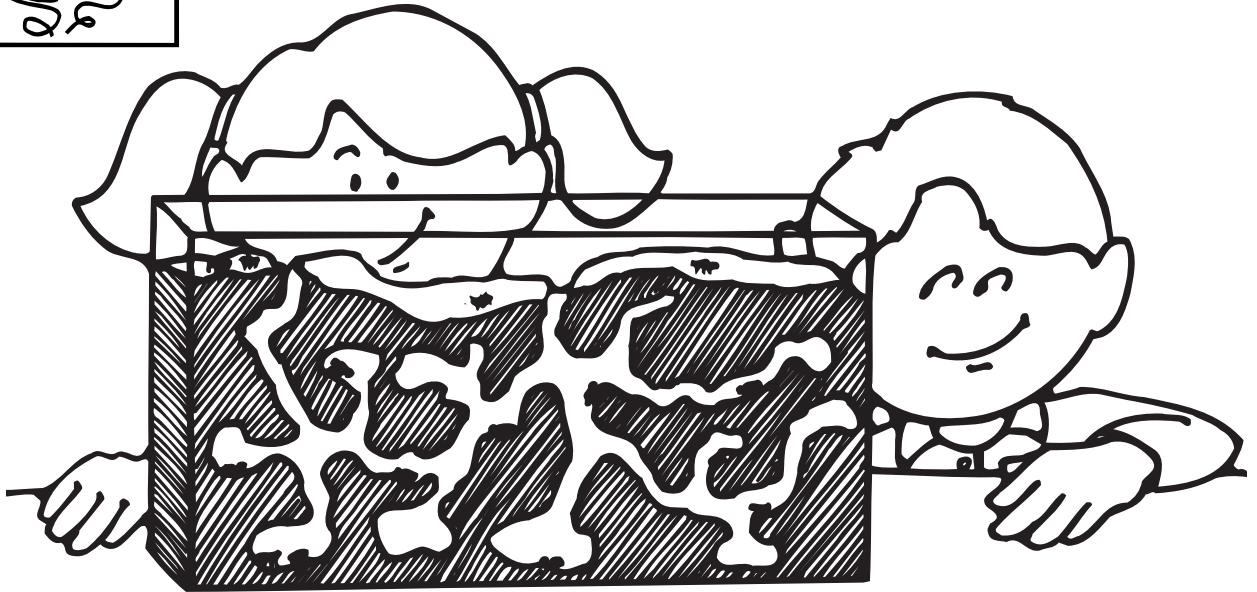


Picnic Day



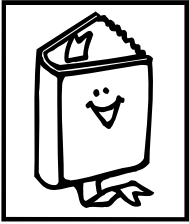
### Setting the Stage continued

- Invite anyone who has an ant colony to bring it to school so your class can observe the ants in action.



### Literary Exploration

- Aardvark's Picnic* by Jon Higham
- Ant* by David Hawcock
- Antics* by Cathi Hepworth
- Ants Are Fun* by Mildred Myrick
- The Bear's Picnic* by Stan Berenstain
- The Bear's Water Picnic* by John Yeoman
- Before the Picnic* by Yoriko Tsutsui
- A Change of Plans* by Alan Benjamin
- Claude Has a Picnic* by Dick Gackenback
- Ernest and Celestine's Picnic* by Gabrielle Vincent
- Grandmother Lucy Goes on a Picnic* by Joyce Wood
- The Greatest Picnic in the World* by Anna Grossnickle Hines
- Having a Picnic* by Sarah Garland
- Helen the Hungry Bear* by Marilyn MacGregor
- How Do Ants Know When You're Having a Picnic?* by Joanne Settel
- July* by James Stevenson
- Little Bunny's Picnic* by Michelle Cartlidge
- Marmalade's Picnic* by Lindy Wheeler
- Mr. Bear's Picnic* by Debi Gliori
- Nicky's Picnic* by Harriet Ziefert
- On a Picnic* by Judy Delton
- Once We Went on a Picnic* by Aileen Fisher
- Picnic* by Emily Arnold McCully
- The Picnic* by Ruth Brown



## Literary Exploration continued

*The Picnic* by Kady Denton

*A Picnic Hurrah!* by Franz Brandenburg

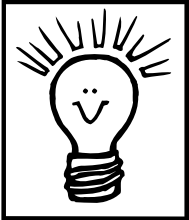
*Picnic Pandemonium* by M. Christina Butler

*Picnic with Piggins* by Jane Yolen

*The Rattlebang Picnic* by Margaret Mahy

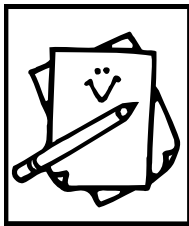
*A Ripping Day for a Picnic* by Keith Duquette

*Two Bad Ants* by Chris Van Allsburg



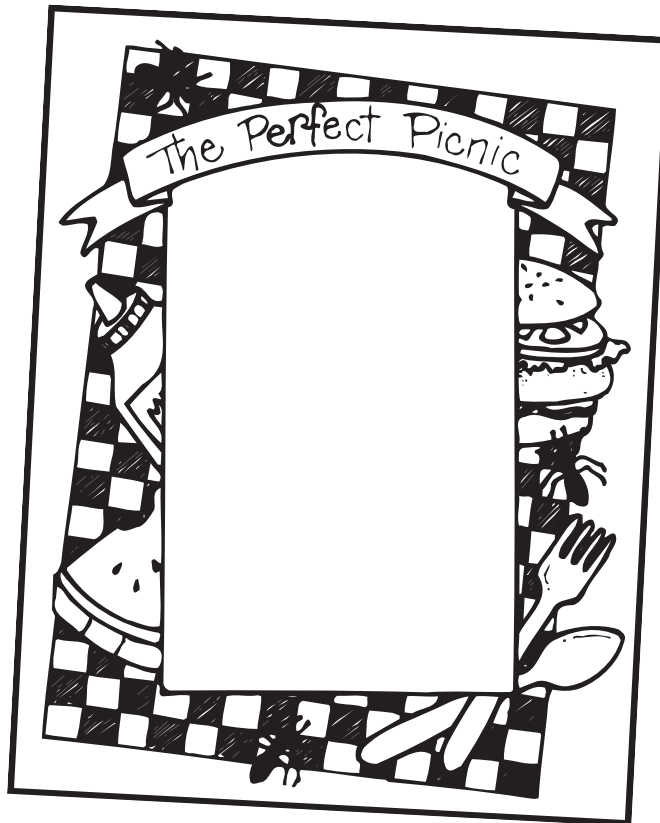
## Language Experience

- Let your students brainstorm words they can think of with the word *ant* in them (*anticipate, plant, slant, participant, etc.*).



## Writing Experience

- Let students write recipes for perfect picnic lunches. See reproducible on page 13.



Picnic Day



Picnic Day



Picnic Day



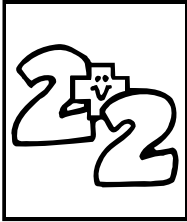
Picnic Day



Picnic Day

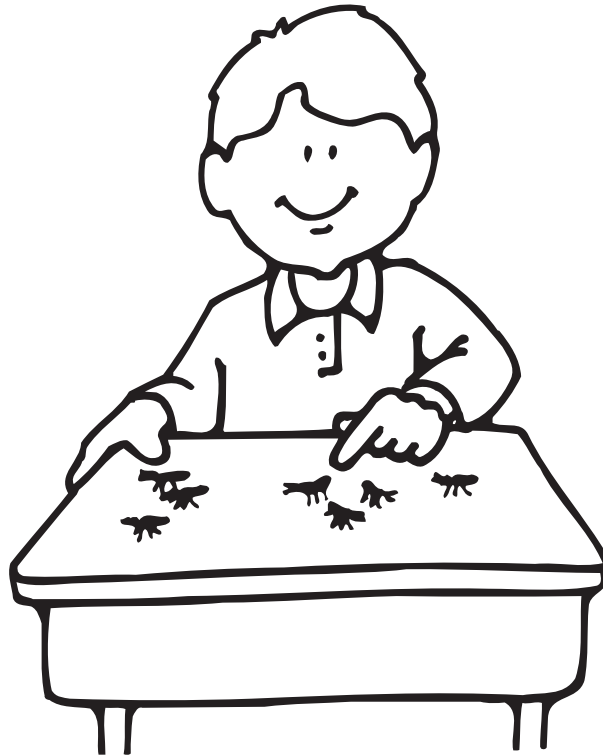


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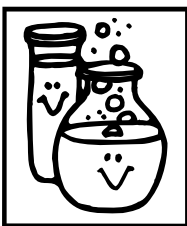


### Math Experience

- Use small plastic ants as math manipulatives for counting, addition and subtraction practice or use the ant patterns on page 12.



- If you are eating at a picnic table, your students might want to measure the area and perimeter of the table.



### Science/Health Experience

- At this time of year as we make plans to celebrate America's independence, we are reminded of the early colonists. Ants also live in colonies and are certainly a part of America! They have been a part of our picnics from the very beginning. Study ants and their habitat.

