

Fortunately Unit Study

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Social Studies

Geography: New York and Florida- The boy was in New York, find New York on a map. Learn about the state of New York, Color a map or flag of New York. The party he was invited to was in Florida. Find Florida on a map, Color a map or flag of Florida. Find a route Ned would have to take from New York to Florida to get to the party.

Human Relationships: Disappointment- This story is a good example of how to deal with disappointment. The boy gets disappointed many times as he's attempting to get to the party. When you or your child are disappointed, what are good ways to express that disappointment? Tell your child about a time when you were disappointed, and what you did about it. Remind them of times that they have been disappointed. Disappointments happen in all our lives, but somehow we have to get past them and continue on with our goals.

Counting Your Blessings

This book provides a great opportunity to discuss looking on the bright side of things. Even when things are going wrong, there are still so many reasons to be thankful! Help your student make a list of all of her blessings (three different lined pages are provided, so you can find the one that meets your student's needs.

Traditions: Birthdays

Discuss the different birthday traditions in your own home. Why does your family celebrate birthdays?

*Note: You may **NOT** want to read this to your child especially your young child—it may frighten! However, I think you (as the teacher) may find it interesting. This would also be a good time talk about what you believe regarding luck and the sovereignty of God.*

Have you ever wondered why we put candles on a cake or play games? Who

started birthday parties and why?

Birthday celebrations started for kings in Europe (credit is given to the Germans) when people were very superstitious. Before the rise of Christianity, Pagans used to believe that good and bad spirits appeared when a child was born and that they followed the child throughout their lives. They also believed that it was dangerous for a person to have a change in life, and a birthday was one of those changes. To protect against these spirits and the harm they would cause, friends and family would spend time with the birthday person—they would bring good thoughts and wishes. They believed that bringing gifts would bring even more good cheer to ward off the evil spirits.

Candles on the Cake

The tradition of placing candles on birthday cakes started about 200 years ago in Germany (Germans were known to be excellent candle makers). The candle makers decided that if you could blow out all the candles on your cake in one breath that it meant good luck. (Luck is always a man-made idea-- you may want to discuss this with your student. Who decides what gives us luck or what makes us unlucky?).

What are your cake traditions? Does your student receive a decorated cake for his birthday? Do you put candles on it to represent his age?

The Happy Birthday Song

Mildred and Patty Hill (American sisters) wrote this song in 1893, and it was a huge hit all over the world. It is used in many countries and sang in many languages.

Birthday Cards

This tradition started in England about 100 years ago.

Birthday Games

Two popular games played at birthday parties are “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” and piñata breaking.

Pinning the Tail on the Donkey was based in superstition. When a blindfolded player tries to pin the tail, people likened it to being blindfolded for the upcoming

year—not really knowing what your future would hold. (This would be a good opportunity to talk to your student about Who knows what the future does hold.)

Breaking the piñata is a game that came from Mexico about 300 years ago. It was believed that whoever broke the piñata would receive good luck.

Printables:

Candles on My Cake

Color the cake. Draw the number of candles that will be on your cake this year.

Copywork

Copy the Dr. Seuss quote (from his book about birthdays).

Birthday Traditions Flapbook

My Birthday

Record your date of birth inside the mini-book.

Birthday Traditions at Our House

Make a list of various traditions you have at your house.

Language Arts

Story Pattern- this is a FUN story to imitate as a writer. Have your child write their own Fortunately story. They could narrate it to you, or they could make it in the form of a book complete with illustrations if that interests them.

Alternatively, a student could predict what happens next and continue writing the story.

Vocabulary- the words *fortunately* and *unfortunately* are repeated throughout the story. Does your child know what they mean? Complete shutterflap book.

Prefix- Un- for older students who are reading well, this would be a good time to introduce the concept of the prefix UN. Make a list of all the words you can think

of that start with un-. Your older student may also enjoy finding other prefixes that are frequently used in the English language and making lists for each prefix.

Drama- Fortunately is a fun story to act out. You don't need a lot of characters. One child can be Ned-- any other children could be tigers or sharks (or both).

Party Invitation

Discuss invitations with your student. What would you write on an invitation? What does invitee need to know? (address, date of event, what the event is, who the event is for, etc.). What does R.S.V.P. mean? (It's an acronym for this French phrase, "répondez, s'il vous plait." It means please respond.) You ask guests to R.S.V.P. so you will know how many people to plan for.

Using the type-on-it page, make your own birthday invitation!

Art

Pattern The pictures in this story have a pattern- can your child figure out the pattern? (Black & White/Color)

All the Black and White pictures are "unfortunately" and the color ones are "fortunately"

Why did the author/illustrator choose this pattern?

Chalk- on the page where Ned is flying his airplane, there is a rainbow drawn that looks as though it's drawn in chalk. You can see the texture in the rainbow. Draw some chalk rainbows with your children-- on paper or on the sidewalk outside.

Math

Counting- There are many opportunities for counting in this book: sharks, tigers, clouds, people at the party, etc. Teach your child how to use tally marks and count these various things throughout the book, using the printable provided.

How old is Ned? (trick question- in his imagination at the beginning of the book

the cake has 11 candles, at the end at the party the cake has 13 candles!) If you have some birthday candles, use them as math manipulatives: count the candles, add and subtract with them.

Calendar Skills- Each year we have a birthday. There are 365 days in a year. Does your child know when his birthday is? Count how many days until his birthday. Count the months until his birthday. Count the weeks until his birthday. Consider making a countdown paper chain to represent the number of days until your student's birthday. Let him take one piece off the chain each day.

Learn the names of the months or the names of the days of the week, if your child doesn't know them yet.

Science

Sharks-- Sharks would be an interesting topic for your older student to study on his own. Sharks are not members of the fish family, and they are not mammals, they are in a family of their own. Sharks have cartilage (like your nose and earlobes!) instead of bones. Sharks come in all sizes from 7 inches to 50 feet! Find one species of shark to read more about.

Tigers- Ned was chased by Tigers. You could study more about tigers. Tigers are members of the cat family. They are carnivores (meat eaters). They are primarily nocturnal (come out at night). Adult tigers range from 4-9 feet long!

Materials and information may be used for your own personal and school use.

Material may not be used for resale or shared electronically.

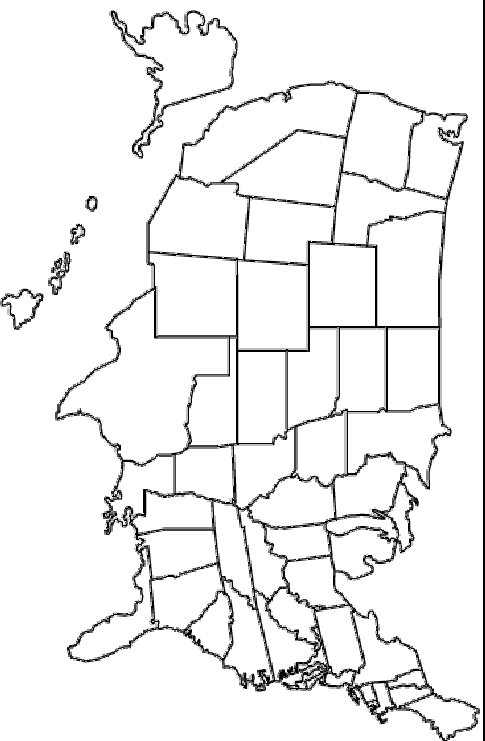
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New York

Where in the
United States
is...



Locate and color in the state.



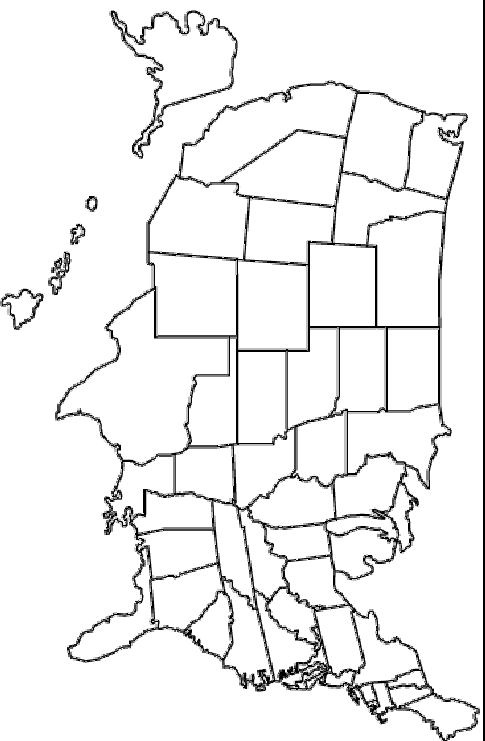
Cut out book as one piece on solid lines. Fold on dotted lines.
Cut out map on solid lines and glue under shutters.

Florida

Where in the
United States
is...



Locate and color in the state.



Cut out book as one piece on solid lines. Fold on dotted lines.
Cut out map on solid lines and glue under shutters.

Count Your Blessings!



Count Your Blessings!



Count Your Blessings!





<p>The tradition of placing candles on birthday cakes started about 200 years ago in Germany . The candle makers decided that if you could blow out all the candles on your cake in one breath that it meant good luck.</p>	<p>The tradition of giving birthday cards started in England about 100 years ago.</p>
<p>Mildred and Patty Hill (American sisters) wrote this song in 1893, and it was a huge hit all over the world. It is used in many countries and sang in many languages.</p>	<p>Two popular games played at birthday parties are “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” and breaking a piñata.</p>

Directions: Cut out flap book as one piece. Fold on dotted line. Open book and cut on solid lines to form four flaps. Paste the birthday tradition explanations under the appropriate flaps.

Candles on My Cake



Cut each book out on solid lines. Fold in half.

Birthday Traditions at Our House



**I
Was
Born
on . . .**

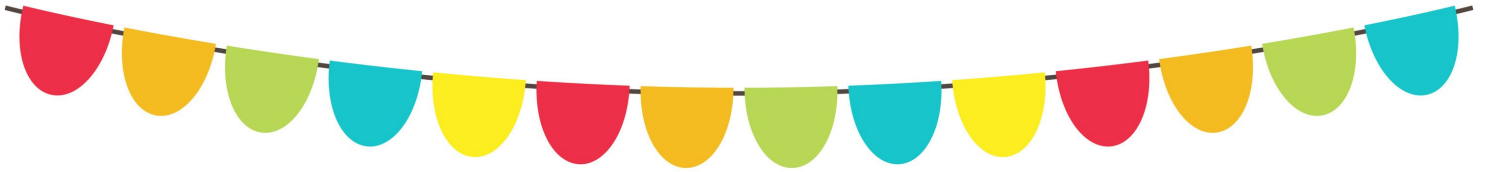


“Today you are you, that is truer than true.
There is no one alive who is Youer than You.”
- Dr. Seuss

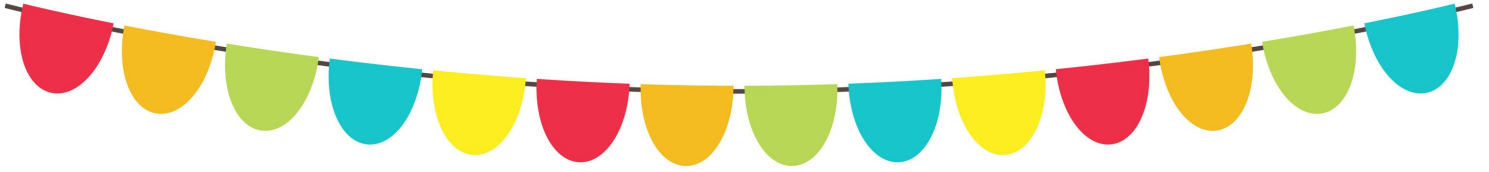


“Today you are You, that is truer than true.
There is no one alive who is Youer than You.”

- Dr. Seuss

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

“Today you are You, that is truer than true.
There is no one alive who is Youer than You.”
- Dr. Seuss



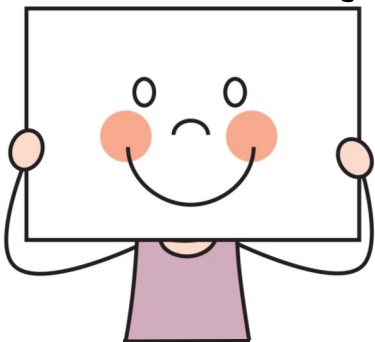
Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dotted midline. There are ten sets of these lines for practice.



Directions: Cut out rectangle as one piece. Fold on dotted lines. You should have a book that opens like the “shutters” on a window. Write definitions for the words under the flaps.

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fortunately



Create a birthday invitation! Type right on this page.
Print it and add it to your lapbook or notebook.



The books on the next two pages are bound books. After you assemble them, use them to record facts about tigers and sharks.

Directions: Cut out top portion as one piece. Cut out long rectangle with an exact-o knife. Cut out bottom portion as one piece. Cut on blue lines. Roll up bottom portion and stick them through the rectangle on the top portion.



Tigers



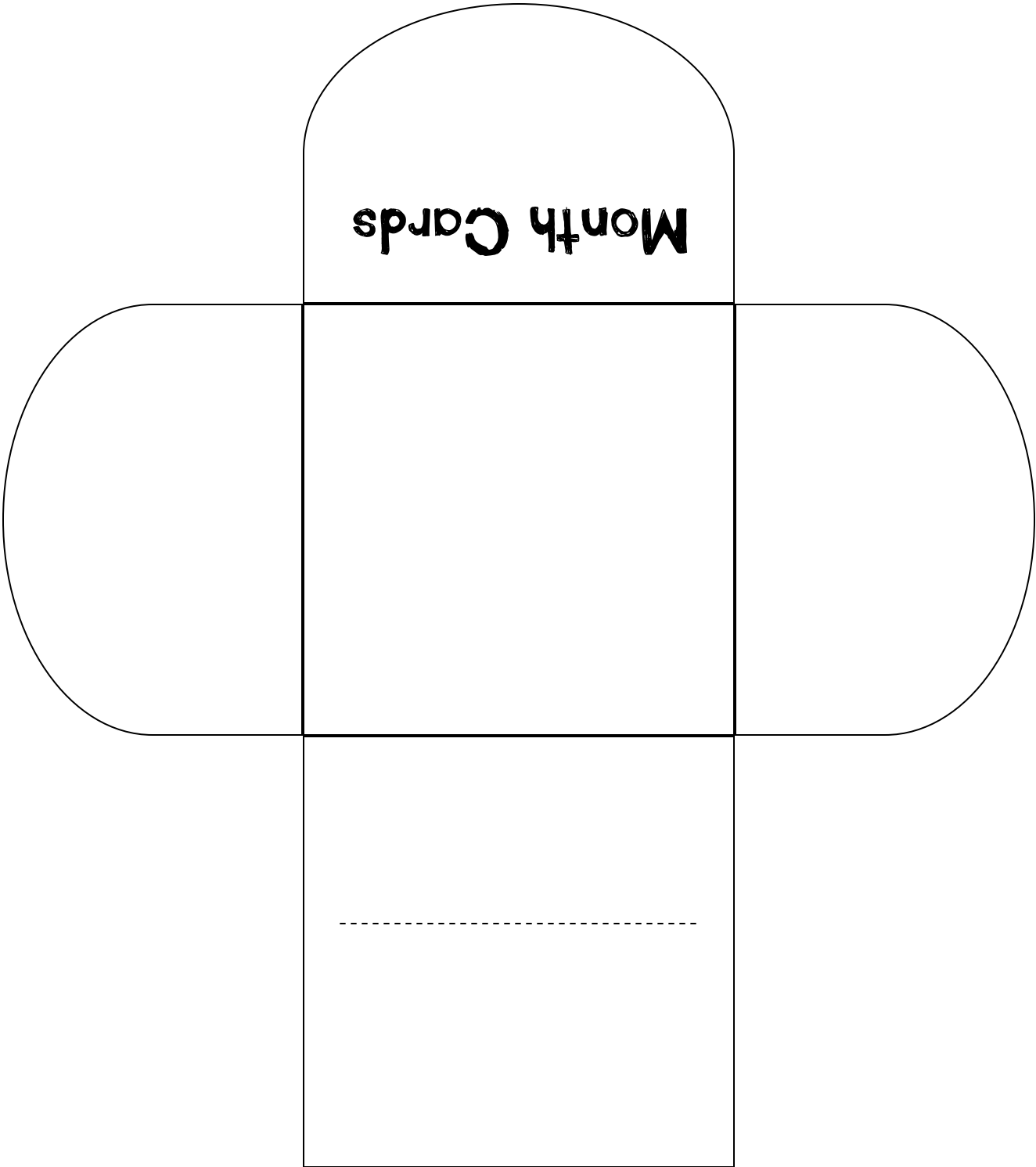
Sharks

Print on cardstock. Cut apart. Print next page and glue to your lapbook. Have your student put the pieces in order on the board found on the next page. Store pieces in pocket.

<p>January</p> An illustration of an hourglass with colorful confetti falling from it. The words "HAPPY NEW YEAR!" are written in a stylized, yellow, blocky font across the hourglass.	<p>February</p> A large, bright pink heart is shown emerging from a yellow envelope. The envelope has a small pink heart on its flap.	<p>March</p> Four green shamrocks are arranged in a cluster, with several green musical notes floating around them.
<p>April</p> Two children are playing with a large green dinosaur toy. One child is pointing at a calendar on the wall that shows the number "1" under the word "APRIL".	<p>May</p> A round cake with white frosting and pink decorations. The word "Mother" is written in pink cursive on the cake, and a pink heart is also visible.	<p>June</p> A man in a suit is holding a card that says "Happy Father's Day" and presenting it to a woman in a yellow shirt. A small red heart is floating above them.
<p>July</p> Two children are sitting on a grassy hill, looking up at a bright yellow firework exploding in the night sky.	<p>August</p> A cartoon boy is holding a very large, triangular slice of watermelon. He is wearing a white shirt and black shorts.	<p>September</p> A tree with a brown trunk and green leaves, with many red apples hanging from the branches.
<p>October</p> Several large orange pumpkins are shown, surrounded by fallen autumn leaves in shades of brown and orange.	<p>November</p> A cartoon turkey is wearing a brown top hat with a black band. It has a pink wattle and orange feet.	<p>December</p> A scene depicting the birth of Jesus in a stable. Mary is holding the baby Jesus, and Joseph is standing nearby. A donkey and a cow are also present.

Print on cardstock. Cut book out as one piece. Cut a slit in the book on the dotted lines with an exact-o knife. Fold sides in. Fold bottom up. Tuck top (“Months Cards”) in to the slit. Use images as desired in your lapbook.

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Counting with Tally Marks

Sharks



Tigers



Clouds



People at the Party



How many days
in one week?

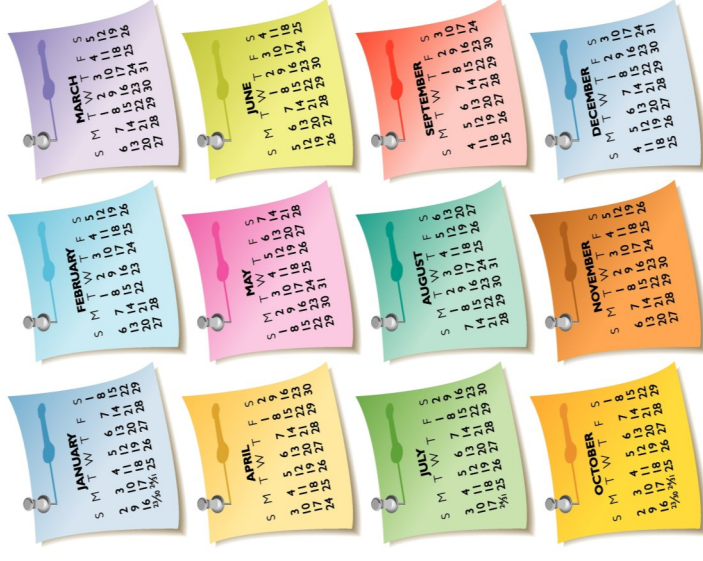
How many days
in one year?

How many weeks
in one year?

How many months
in one year?

How many days
until my birthday?

How Many?



Cut on solid lines. Fold on dotted (like a pamphlet with cover on top).