

Thunder Cake

Book by Patricia Polacco

Unit study by Carrie Piper and Ginger A.

Printables by Ami

Language Arts

Sequence

After listening to the story, the student will retell the story, and place the picture cards in order. When you are finished using the cards, you can use them to make a mini-book about ordinal numbers (see math lesson). We used the cards every day for sequencing review and did the math lesson on our final day.

Vocabulary Development

Notice the special words in the story. Students should practice using these words.

Babushka

Russia

samovar

Identify Position and Spatial Words

Review the positional and spatial words in the story:

out

top

close

closer

up

above

under

into

down

here

near

Tell the student simple commands using these terms. Create a “Simon Says” type of game for the student to play.

Note- Does he understand that the green book can be above the red book, but below the blue book?

BIG WORDS!

This story has multiple words that are IN ALL CAPS. Ask your student why the author chose to do this. She wants to reader to read these words loudly. Review exclamation points, too, and discuss how we should read words and phrases that are followed by an exclamation point.

Ask you student to practice reading the BIG WORDS in the story.

Onomatopoeia

Give the student a simple definition (words that sound like what they are). Make a list of these sound words from *Thunder Cake*.

Roared

Zip

Barooooom

Boom ba boom

Crackle

Ka-boom

Ka-bang

Rumbled

Crashed

Ask the student to think of other words.

Examples:

Sizzle

Plop

Pop

Meow

Plunk

Complete the Weather Sounds page by adding onomatopoetic weather words. Add it to your notebook.

Adjectives: Describing Words

Practice writing by mimicking one of Polacco's sentences:

The air was hot, heavy, and damp.

Ask your student, "How many words did Patricia Polacco use to describe the air?" (Three.) Let's try the same thing. Look around the room and chose an object. Can you think of three words to describe the object?

Complete the Adjectives: Words That Describe page for your notebook.

Building Words — (reading and spelling practice)

Using Scrabble Tiles, alphabet stamps, magnetic tiles, or another manipulative of your choice, build the words! After your student has built the words a few times, see if she recognizes them in the story. Let her read them to you.

Math Skills

Counting

The student will count from one to ten, and from ten to one. Count from one to ten, then one to nine, one to eight, etc. Be sure to make the booming thunder sounds each time.

Ordinal Numbers

The student will tell the order of ingredients for Thunder Cake using the words first, second, third, etc. Practice using ordinal numbers throughout the day. *Who woke up first this morning? This is our third book to read today.* Is your copy of *Thunder Cake* a first or second edition?

Add the completed Gathering Ingredients book to your notebook.

Geometry

You will need two pieces of white card stock, two to four rubber stamps (small shapes work best), and an ink pad. The student will study repeating patterns and random placement.

Study closely the fabrics in the story. Show the student examples of repeating patterns and randomly placed designs. Look around your home to find more repeating patterns and randomly placed designs. Create an example of each.

Random Placement

Allow the student to rubber stamp designs anywhere on the paper: upside down, sideways, etc. Label this picture “random placement” (handwriting connection).

Repeating Patterns

Show the student how to create a repeating pattern. The student will create a repeating pattern of his own design. Label this picture “repeating pattern” (handwriting connection).

Add your student’s work to her notebook.

Analysis

Compare the two pattern pictures.

1. Which is most pleasing to you?
2. What other patterns could you create?
3. Which is more common in nature? Random designs or repeating patterns.

Social Studies Skills

History

Help the student to create a simple family tree. Include snapshots or drawings of each family member listed on the family tree. Discuss how other cultures have special ways to say mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, etc.

Geography

Read Patricia Polacco’s notes about the story (at the front of the book). Does your student know where Michigan is? Russia?

Locate Michigan on a map of the United States. Do you know the name and location of your home state? On which continent is the United States located?

Locate Russia on a world map. On what continent is Russia located? What language do you speak? What language (other than English) does Babushka speak?

Life Skills

Cracking an Egg

Show the student how to crack and separate an egg. Let the student assist in making a Thunder Cake!

Setting the Table

Set the table for tea time, the student will assist you. Purchase a small bouquet of flowers for the student to arrange. Have your student place a tablecloth evenly on the table. Use real china (Children appreciate beautiful things and will be very careful). Encourage your student in the art of polite conversation.

Add the completed place setting page to your notebook.

Science Skills

The Water Cycle

The water cycle is the process all water on earth goes through as it changes from ground water to water vapor sometimes to ice then to liquid water (rain) again. This can be an abstract concept for some children so here is an experiment you can use to illustrate the concepts.

Experiment

Supplies

Skillet

Water

Oven Mitts

Pan of Ice Cubes

Procedure

1. Pour water into the skillet and heat it. Have your student watch as the heated water turns into steam and disappears.
2. Using oven mitts, hold the pan of ice cubes about six inches above the steaming water and tell your student to watch the bottom of the pie pan.

Questions for Observation

1. Why is the water heated?
2. What happens to the steam?
3. What part of the water cycle do the ice cubes represent?
4. Why do drops of water fall back into the skillet?

Explanation

The water in the skillet is heated because it is heat from the sun that causes water to evaporate. Water evaporates in the form of water vapor. As the vapor rises, it cools off along with the air around it. Eventually the air cools off so much that it can no longer hold the water vapor. At this point the water vapor changes or condenses into water droplets. In this demonstration the pan of ice cubes is used to quickly cool the water vapor and the air. In nature, the water droplets that form on the bottom of the pan would be seen as clouds. As the droplets continue to gather moisture, they increase in weight. Eventually they become so heavy that they fall back to the skillet (earth) as precipitation. Then the cycle begins again.

Water collected in the pan (or a river, lake, stream, ocean, etc.): **collection**

Water vapor rising: **evaporation**

Water vapor changing into droplets: **condensation**

Water falling back to the skillet (earth): **precipitation**

Identifying Animals

Identify the animals pictured in this story.

What do we get from chickens? How many ways can you think of to cook eggs?

What is the name for a female chicken? What about a male chicken? What about a baby chicken?

What do we get from dairy cows? What can we make from milk? How many types of cheese can you name? What is the name for a female cow? What is the name for a male cow? What is the name for a baby cow?

Something to Ponder [cultural appreciation]

In some countries outside the U.S.A., goat milk is commonly used. Some people prefer the taste of goat milk. This isn't "gross" or "wrong" Goat's milk is also used

to make cheese. People from different cultures often eat different types of food. There are no yucky foods, just cultural preferences.

Art Skills

China Patterns

Field Trip time! Go to a department store that has a wide selection of china. Observe the beautiful designs and patterns. Learn the name of a few patterns such as *Real Old Willow* by Royal Doulton and *Grand Terrace* by Noritake. Look at the place settings on display. Choose your favorite pattern. Take a picture of it in your mind.

Recreate the china pattern from the store.

Teacher preparation: cut the following shapes from poster board- tea cup, saucer, dinner plate, salad plate. The student will paint the chosen china pattern using watercolor pencils. How well did the student remember the pattern?

Bible

Discuss fears with your student. What different things scare the little girl? What fears does your student have? How does the little girl show her bravery? In what ways is your student brave?

The little girl in Thunder Cake is frightened of the thunder at first but learns to be brave. We do not need to be afraid because Jesus has promised to never leave or forsake us. Discuss times when children are afraid and how to overcome those fears. Learn this verse; say it when you are frightened.

You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah. Psalm 32:7 NKJV

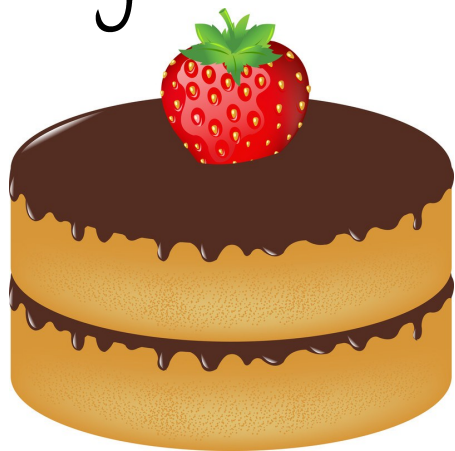
Materials and information on this website may be used for your own personal and school use. **Material may not be shared electronically or be used for resale.**

© Homeschool Share

Story Sequencing and Ordinal Numbers

Directions: Cut out pages. Have your student put them in order (1st-7th). Stack together with cover on top and staple at the top of the book. Have your student paste the ingredients to the appropriate pages (in the order that they were gathered in the story).

Gathering Ingredients

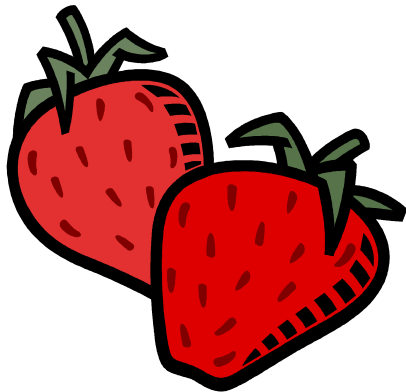
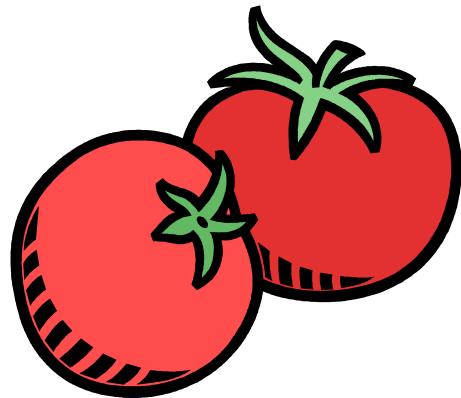
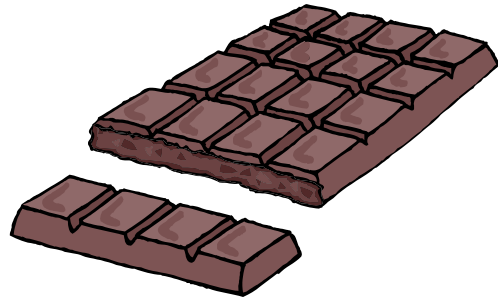


1st

2nd

3rd

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 4th | 5th |
| 6th | 7th |





Weather Sounds



Learning About Onomatopoeia

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |



Adjectives

Words That Describe

The _____ was

1.

2.

3.

The _____ was

1.

2.

3.

The _____ was

1.

2.

3.

The _____ was

1.

2.

3.



c

a

k

e



r

a

i

n



m

i

l

k

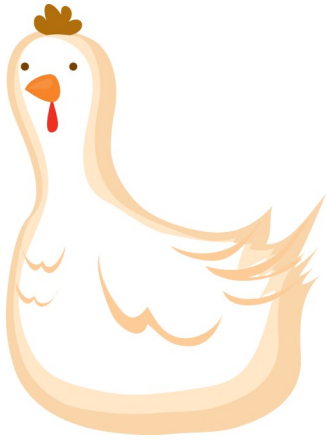


e

g

g

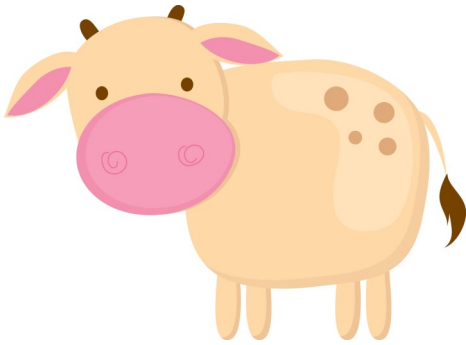
s



h

e

n



c

o

w



o

v

e

n



t

i

m

e

My Weather Journal

Today is

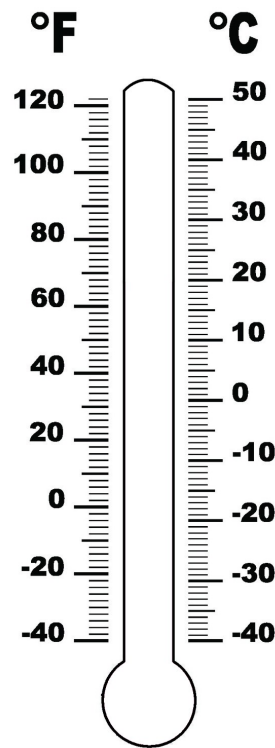
Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

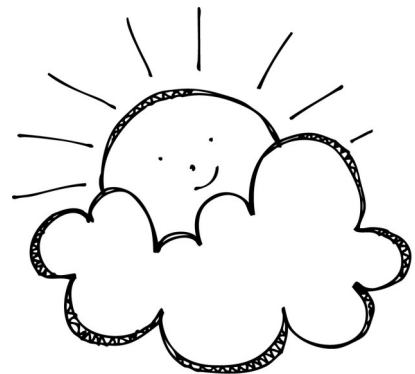
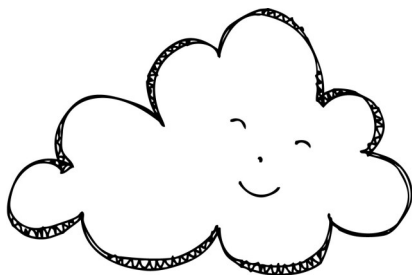
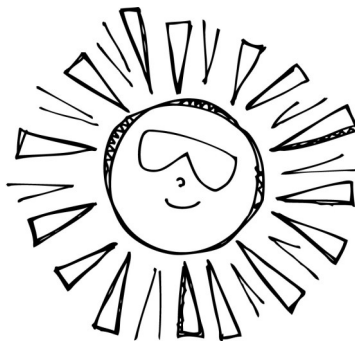
Friday



Check the thermometer outside to see what the temperature is.

Color the temperature on this thermometer.

Color the picture that represents the weather today.

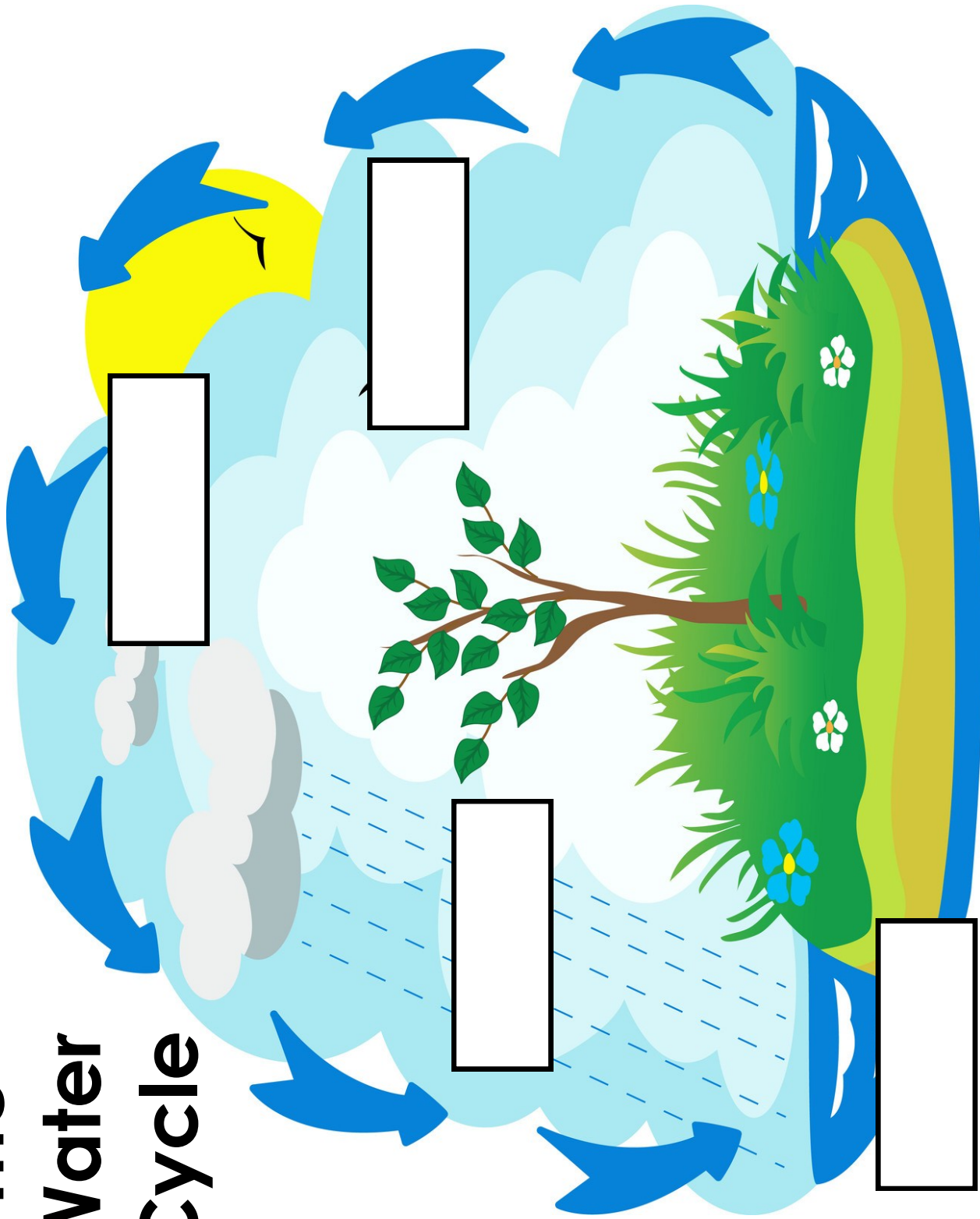


The Water Cycle

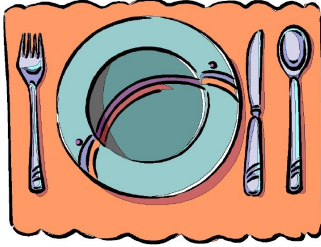
Directions: Discuss the water cycle lesson with your student. Use diagram on next page to explain how the cycle works. After your student is familiar with the big words and the process, have him cut and paste the words below to their proper places on the water cycle diagram.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Precipitation | Collection |
| Evaporation | Condensation |

The Water Cycle



A Proper Place Setting



Directions: Cut out the silverware and plate. Glue them in their proper order on the placemat (next page).

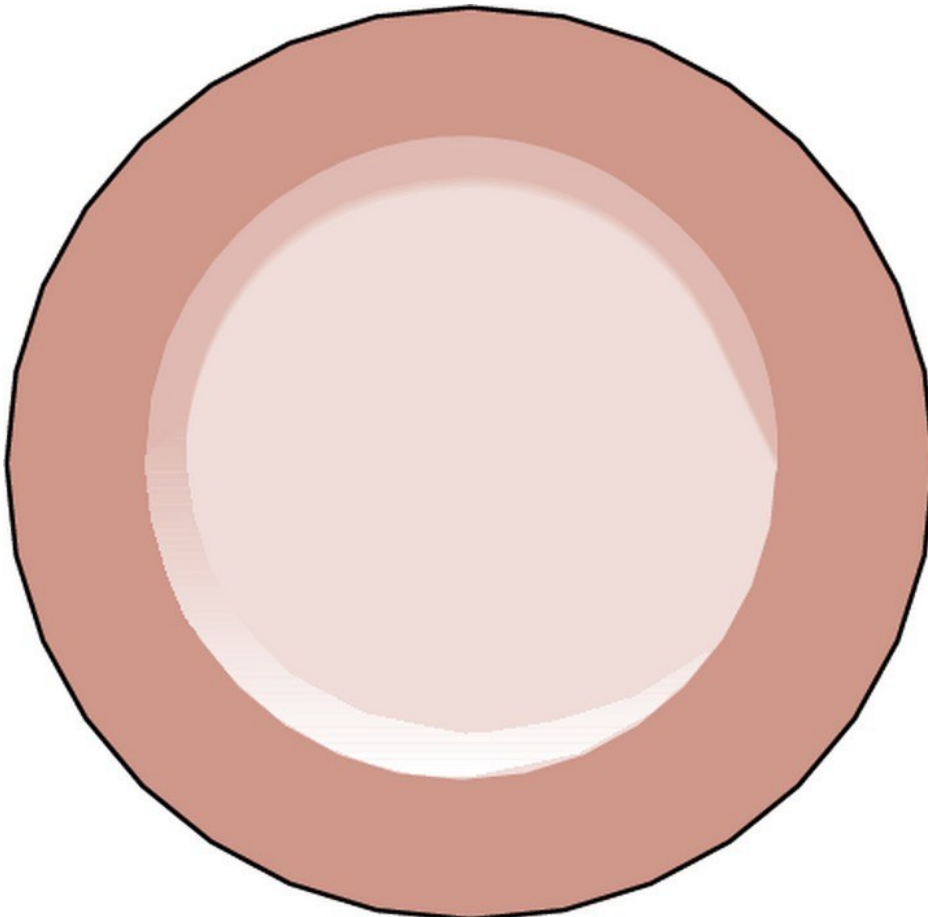
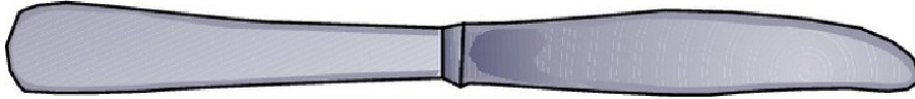
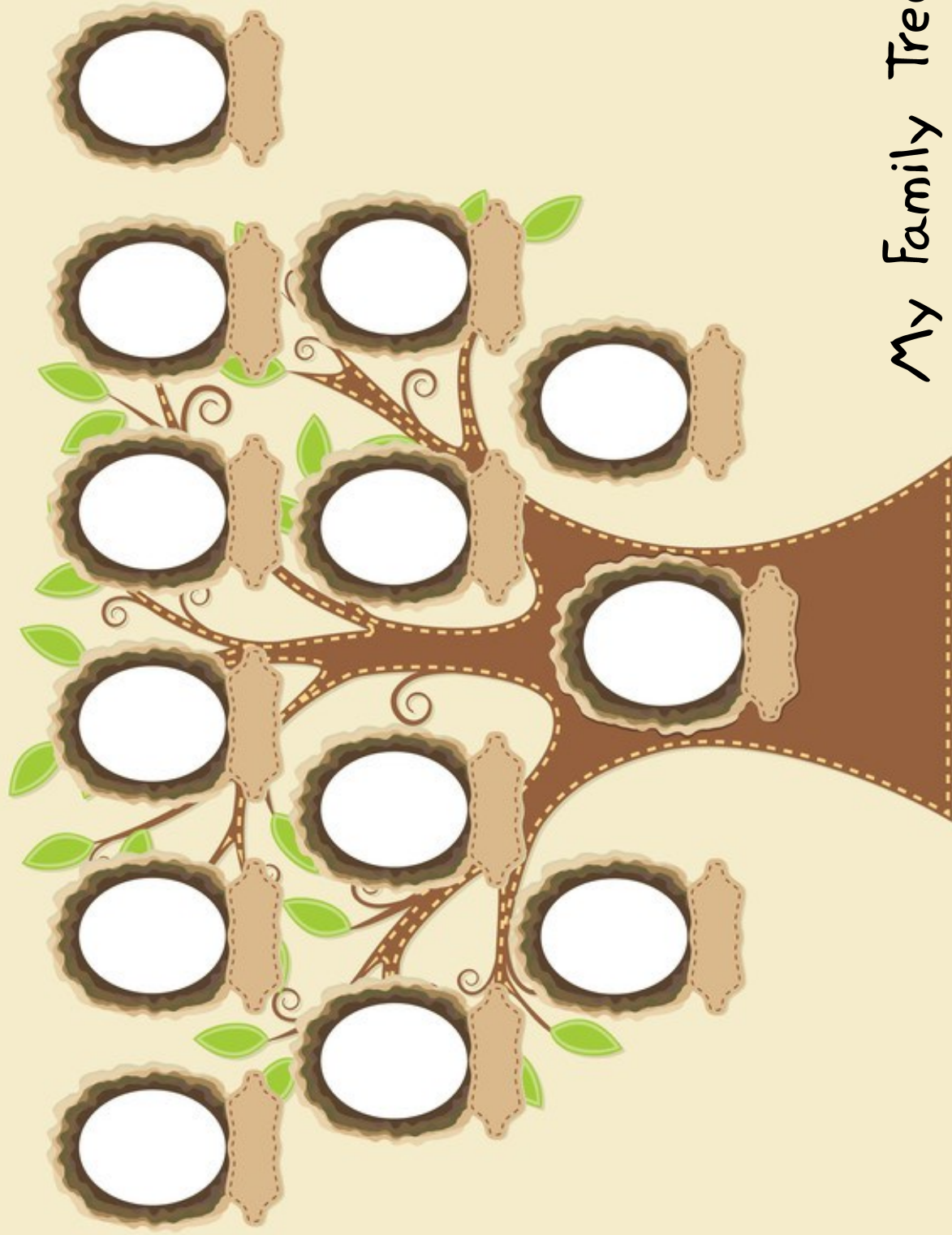


Table Setting





My Family Tree

Geography Lesson: Michigan and Russia

Directions: Cut books out. Fold on lines (matchbook style)

Where is Michigan?

Where is Russia?



Directions: Look at some large maps with your student. Discuss the continents and show him Asia. Point out Russia. Now show him North America, the United States, and Michigan. Can he trace a line on the map or globe of how far Babushka traveled to come to the United States? Color Michigan and Russia on the maps below and paste them in to the matchbooks on the previous page.

