

# The Valentine Bears



# The Valentine Bears

Book by Eve Bunting

Unit study by Ami Brainerd

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## *SOCIAL STUDIES*

### **Holidays- Valentine's Day**

There are different legends surrounding this holiday, so the exact origin is unknown.

"One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men - his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl -- who may have been his jailor's daughter -- who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France." [Source](#)

Valentine's Day was brought to the United States by British settlers in the 19th century. Esther Howard was the first to mass-produce a Valentine's card (complete with embossed paper lace) around 1850. Later (in the second half of the 20th century), the practice of men giving their sweethearts cards, roses, and chocolate

became popular.

Complete the St. Valentine Legends Interlock Book

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## ***BIBLE***

### **Memory Verses**

Discuss how Mr. and Mrs. Bear showed their love for one another. Discuss ways your student can show love for his family (grandparents, siblings, etc.) and friends.

1 John 4:7-8 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

Use the matchbooks for your memory verses.

Use the "I can be loving" heart accordion to record ways your student can show love for his family and friends.

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## ***LANGUAGE ARTS***

### **Rhyming Words**

Mrs. Bear writes some simple poems for Mr. Bear. Can you student pick out the rhyming words? (blue/too; fine/valentine) Can you and your student think of other words that rhyme with these? (blue, too, zoo, Sue, kazoo, you). You may even want to make a list and see how many words you can think of that rhyme.

### **Poetry Writing**

You may want to read some poetry with your child and discuss what makes a poem different from a story (the use of lines, plot is unnecessary, sound is very important as is word choice, etc.)

Mrs. Bear wrote some simple rhymes for Mr. Bear. Encourage your student to write an original poem. If he has a hard time getting started, you may want to try a

form poem--

Mrs. Bear's "Red berries are red..." poem is based off the traditional and ever-popular

Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
Sugar is sweet,  
And so are you.

Your student can use this format to create his own poem.

First line-- (object) is/are (color)  
Second line-- (object) is/are (color)  
Third line-- (object) is/are (adjective)  
Fourth line-- just make sure the last word rhymes with the color word in the second line

Also, you may want to point out to your student that in the "Roses are red" poem that each line has four syllables. If your student understands what syllables are, encourage him to try to stay consistent with the syllables after the first line is written (so, if he writes a first line with six syllables, he should try write other lines with six syllables as well for this exercise)

Just as a side note about the "Roses are red..." poem that I found interesting-- Most believe that the original source of the poem were the following lines written in 1590 by Sir Edmund Spenser for his epic *The Faerie Queene*:

She bathed with roses red,  
And violets blue  
And all the sweetest flowers  
That in the forest grew.

### **Vocabulary Words**

admired- to have high regard for

fooled- to trick someone

lovely- gracefully or delicately attractive

muttered- to speak softly and unclearly

muzzle- the nose and jaws of an animal

pried- to force out, detach, or open with difficulty  
sleeked- to make smooth and glossy

### **Vocabulary Words: Synonyms**

Synonyms are words with similar or identical meanings that could be used interchangeably. Try using the following synonyms interchangeably in the story:

admired- appreciated  
fooled- tricked  
lovely- beautiful  
muttered- grumbled  
pried- forced  
sleeked- smoothed

Knowing what a synonym is, see if your child can come up with their own synonyms for these words also found in the story (some suggestions appear in parenthesis)

Snug (cozy)  
Remembered (recalled)  
Glad (happy)  
Smiled (grinned)  
Crispy (crunchy)  
Begged (pleaded)  
Safe (secure)

### **Listmaking & Comprehension**

List all the ways Mrs. Bear prepared for Valentine's Day for Mr. Bear. After you finish, list all the ways your family plans to prepare for Valentine's Day.

### **Listmaking- Holidays in Season**

Mrs. Bear says, "Brrr! You'd think they'd put this special day in summer." What holidays are in the summer? Which ones are in spring? Fall? Create a chart with your student listing the four seasons and which holidays are in each season. You can keep this simple for your younger student using well known holidays (Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, etc.) while making it challenging for your older student (possibly even sending him a-re-searching for some answers).

### **Critical Thinking/Discussion Questions**

1. Why was the deer surprised to see Mrs. Bear?
  2. Why did Mrs. Bear have honey put away?
  3. What was Mrs. Bear going to do with the ice cold water?
- 

### ***ART***

#### **Use of Color**

After reading the book (a few times), ask your student what colors are used? Why does your student think the illustrator, Jan Brett, chose these colors for this story? What was she trying to accomplish with her use of color? (emphasizing certain objects). Where would your student have chosen to use color if he was drawing the same pictures? Your student may want to try drawing a picture for Valentine's Day and using only red/yellow for emphasis on certain objects making careful, deliberate choices like artists do.

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### ***APPLIED MATH***

#### **Story Problems**

1. Mrs. Bear sets her alarm clock for four months. How many days are in four months? Estimate 30 days per month and let your student add or multiply to find the answer ( $30+30+30+30=$ ) or ( $30\times 4=$ )
2. Mr. Bear asks Mrs. Bear to let him sleep "just another five weeks"-- how many days are in five weeks? Again, allow your student to add or multiply to find the answer.

#### **Counting**

With your younger student, count the hearts throughout the book.

#### **Calendar**

Using the printable page, create a February calendar. Your student can use it to practice writing numbers and for counting. You can also use it to teach her which day is Valentine's Day.

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## SCIENCE

### Animals in Winter

During the winter, bears retreat to their dens (or caves) and go to sleep for a long time (some sleep for up to six months!) surviving on stored body fat. A bear can be aroused from sleep just like Mr. and Mrs. Bear were. Because they can wake up, they are not considered a hibernating animal even though their heart rate, breathing, and body temperature slow down or drop.

Go along book- *Animals in Winter* by Henrietta Bancroft

Your older student may want to make an Animals in Winter book. Have her list ten or more animals and then send her to work in encyclopedias, on the computer to find out what each one does during the cold winter months. She could draw illustrations or find images for her book.

### Insects

Mrs. Bear gets some "Crispy Critters" ready for Mr. Bear, and Mr. Bear gives Mrs. Bear some chocolate-covered ants as a Valentine's Day treat! Review the characteristics of insects with your students. All insects must have

- Three body parts: a head, thorax, and abdomen
- Six jointed legs
- Two antennae to sense the world around them
- An exoskeleton (skeleton on the outside of the body)

Use the flap book provided to record four characteristics of all insects.

Your student may be interested in ants. Construct the ant lifecycle wheel together. Discuss the four stages of an ant's life.

If your student wants to learn more about ants, check out some library books and help her complete the Five Fast Facts page included in the printables section.

Make some "chocolate covered ants" for your students to eat as a treat this week! You can learn as you make your snack!

### Chocolate-Covered "Ant" Recipe

Dip three large marshmallows in melted chocolate. Attach end-by-end to form the head, thorax, and abdomen. Place on a sheet of wax paper. Insert small pieces of black shoestring licorice into sides of ant for legs and 2 pieces in front of ant for antennae. Let stand about 1 hour (or until it is set). Enjoy!

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### *JUST FOR FUN*

#### **Needlework**

At the end of the book the illustration is outlined with a heart done in needlework. Your student may want to try a simple cross-stitch pattern or some other type of needlework.

#### **Crafts**

Make a Valentine Poster

Make Valentines! Punch holes and lace ribbon through some if you like (just like Mrs. Bear did on her red heart Valentine!).

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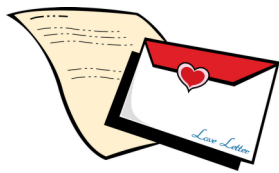
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# Legends



# St. Valentine



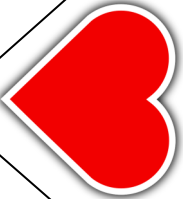
Some say St. Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided single men made better soldiers than those with families, he outlawed marriage for young men.

Valentine, realizing the injustice of this decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages in secret.

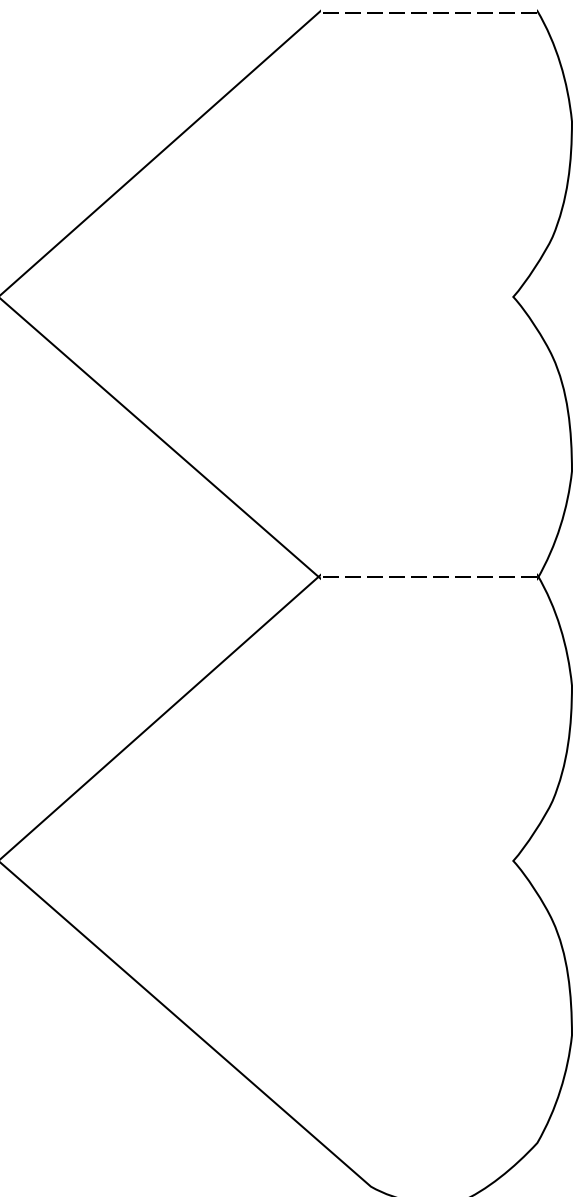
Others believed that St. Valentine actually sent the first valentine greeting. While in prison, it is believed he fell in love with a girl (who may have been the jailer's daughter). Before his death, it is said that he wrote her a letter which he signed "from your Valentine"—an expression still used today.

Do NOT print on cardstock. Cut book out. Fold both sides to the middle so that they interlock. Paste the two legends inside the book.

# I Can Be Loving



Glue to the back  
of the next strip



Cut out each strip as one piece (two strips total). Glue as indicated. Let your student write vocabulary words on the hearts. Fold like an accordion. Tie a ribbon around the heart. The bow should be in the front. Glue the back down in your lapbook. Your student can open/close the book by untying/tying the ribbon.

On each heart piece, record one way to show love to others.

Cut books out. Fold on lines (matchbook style). Write verses inside the matchbooks or cut/paste the verses on the next page.

**I John 4:7-8**



**I John 4:9**



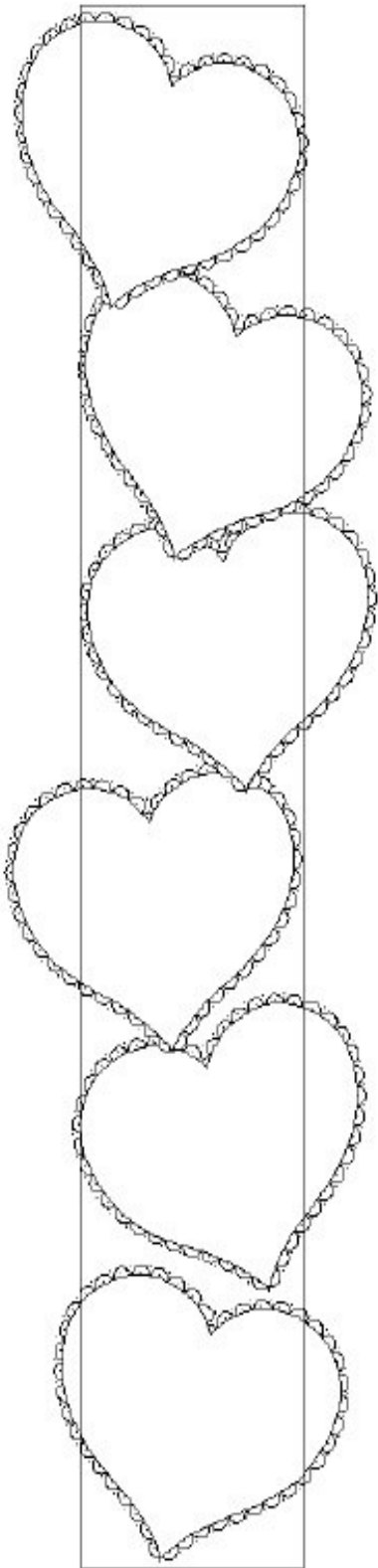
"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

I John 4:7-8

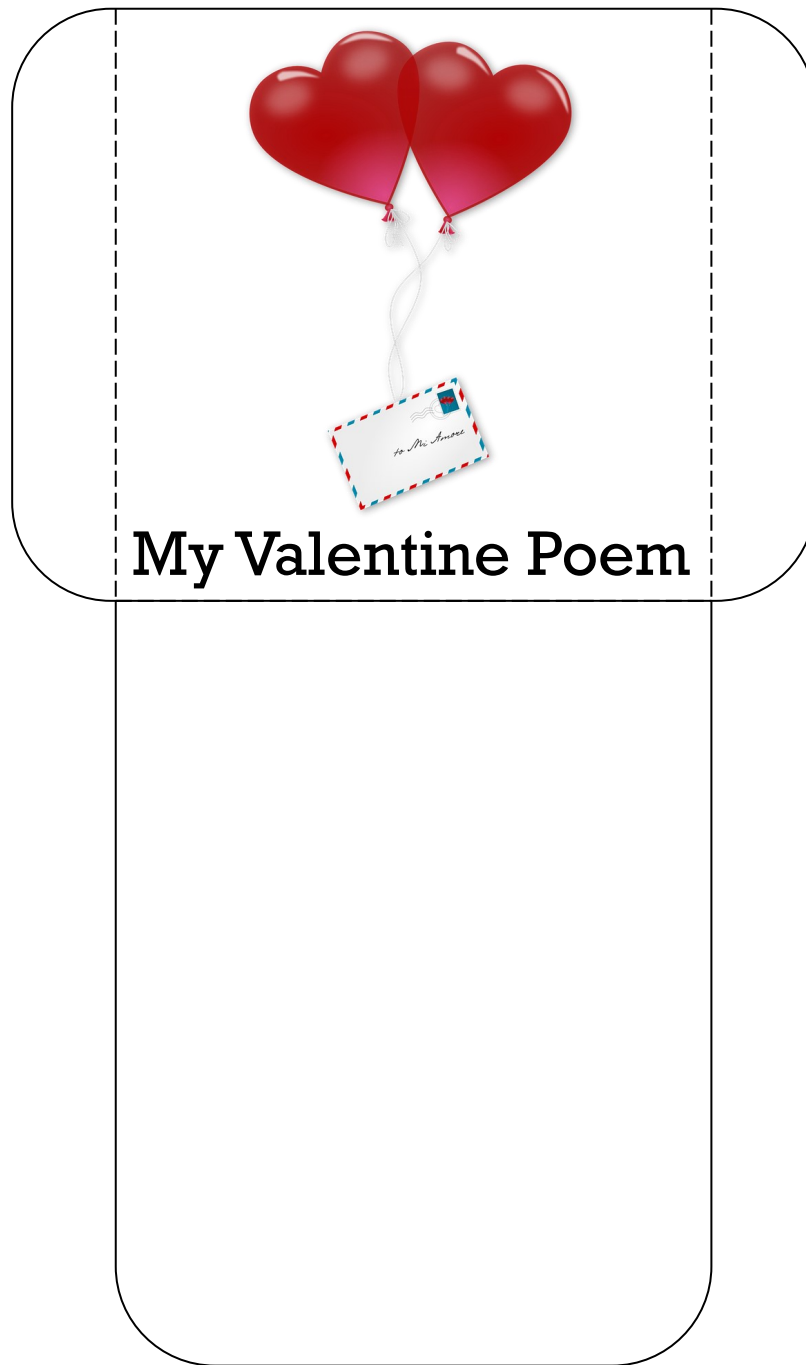
"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

I John 4:9

# My Valentine Poem

[illegible]

Cut out pocket. Fold back flap up and wrap side flaps around the back and glue down. Glue the back of your pocket into your lapbook. Store your student's Valentine poem in the pocket.

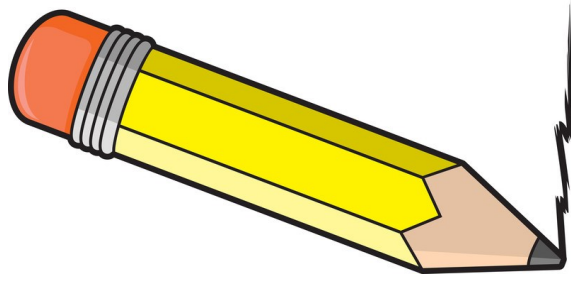


Cut out as one piece. Turn over (words should be face down) on table and fold rectangle up. Unfold. Fold side flaps in. Put a few drops of glue on side flaps and fold rectangle back up. Fold triangle down.



What  
Rhymes  
with  
**BLUE?**

Rhyming  
Words

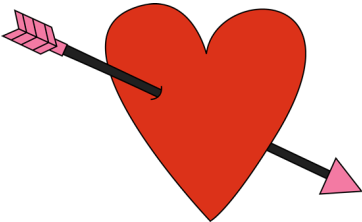
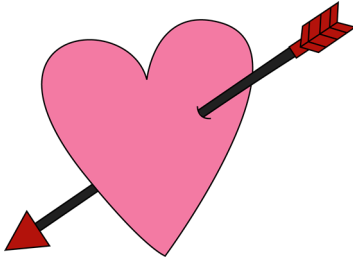


What  
Rhymes  
with  
**FINE?**

Cut out as one piece. Fold in half. Open. Fold ends to the inside. Fold in half again. Write rhyming words inside the book.

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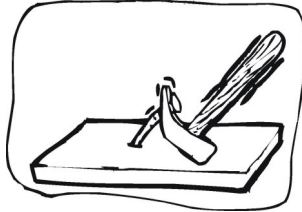
Print on cardstock and cut out as one book. Fold in half on solid black line (center). Re-open. Fold on dotted lines (tucking the flap under the word *synonyms* and the other flap under the back). Cut small black lines to form 12 flaps. On the inside of each flap, let your student write a synonym (or use the words provided on the next page (cut and paste); You may also want to cut/paste the images to help your student remember what the words mean. Fold in half so the word *Synonyms* is on the front and you have one long skinny book.

<b>snug</b>	<div>My Little Book of Synonyms</div> <div></div> <div>a synonym is a word has nearly the same meaning as another word</div> <div></div>	<b>admired</b>
<b>begged</b>		<b>fooled</b>
<b>glad</b>		<b>lovely</b>
<b>smiled</b>		<b>muttered</b>
<b>crispy</b>		<b>pried</b>
<b>safe</b>		<b>sleeked</b>

**grumbled**



**forced**



**smoothed**



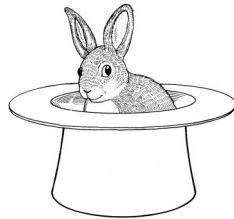
**appreciate**



**beautiful**



**tricked**



**cozy**



**secure**



**happy**



**grinned**



**crunchy**

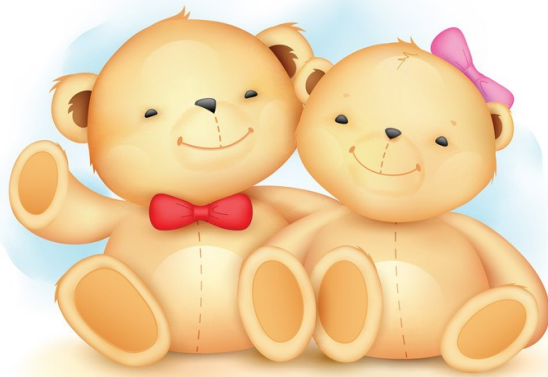


**plead**



# PRINT ON CARDSTOCK

## Mrs. Bear's Preparations



### Directions:

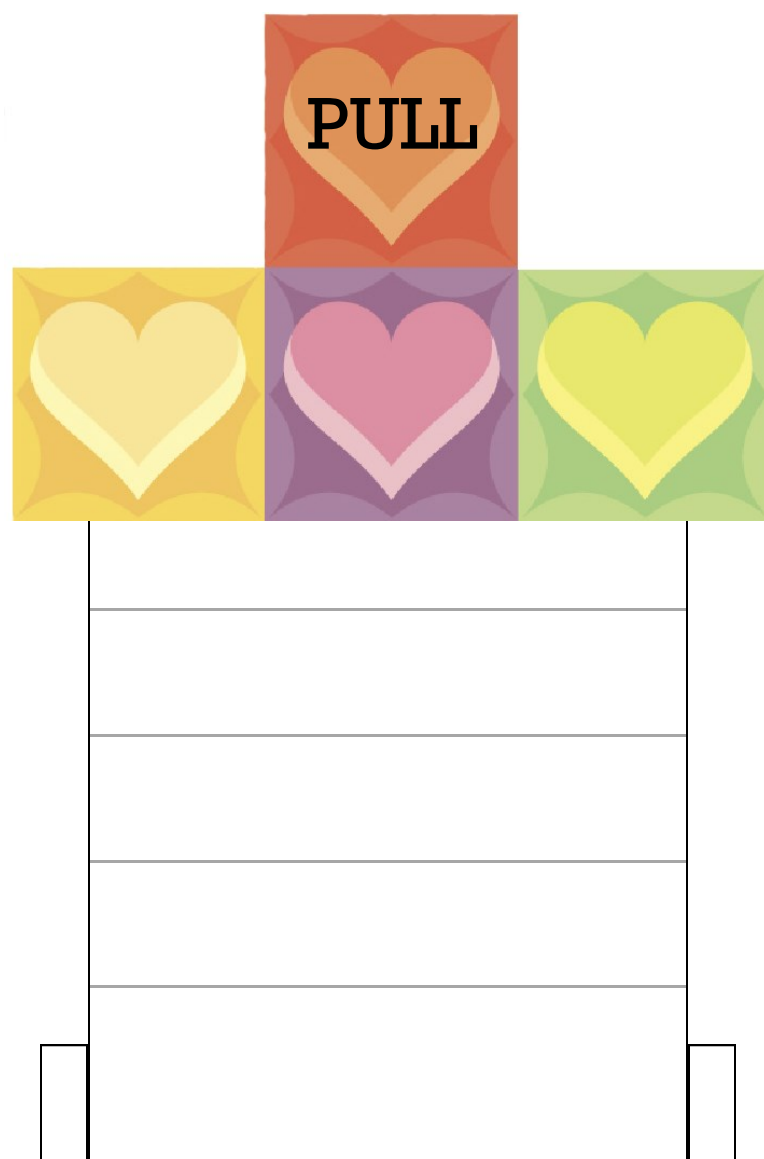
Print this page and next page on cardstock.

Cut out the pull-tab book (next page) as one piece. Use the pink area for your student to list Mrs. Bear's Preparations.

Cut out this pocket piece (below). Cut slit with an exact-o knife. Add a *tiny* bit of glue around the back outside edges (but NOT at the top). Glue down to your lapbook or scrapbook. After the glue is dry, bend the pull-tab piece so that it fits down into the pocket through the slit.

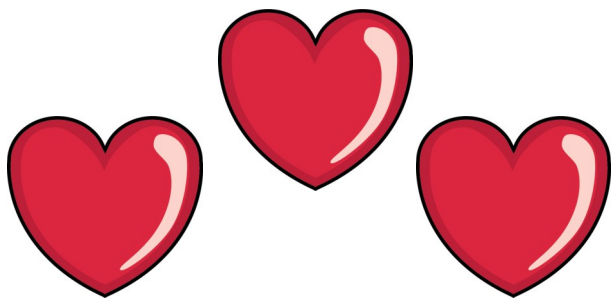
You should be able to pull it up to view Mrs. Bear's Preparations and push it back down for safe keeping.

# PRINT ON CARDSTOCK



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# How Many Hearts?



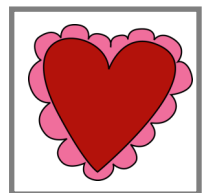
Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half on dotted line. Use with the Math: Counting lesson. Record your student's answer inside the book.



# February \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Write the year in the blank at the top of the calendar. Have your student look at a calendar and complete this calendar with numbers. Which day is Valentine's Day? Paste the heart on the right on Valentine's Day!

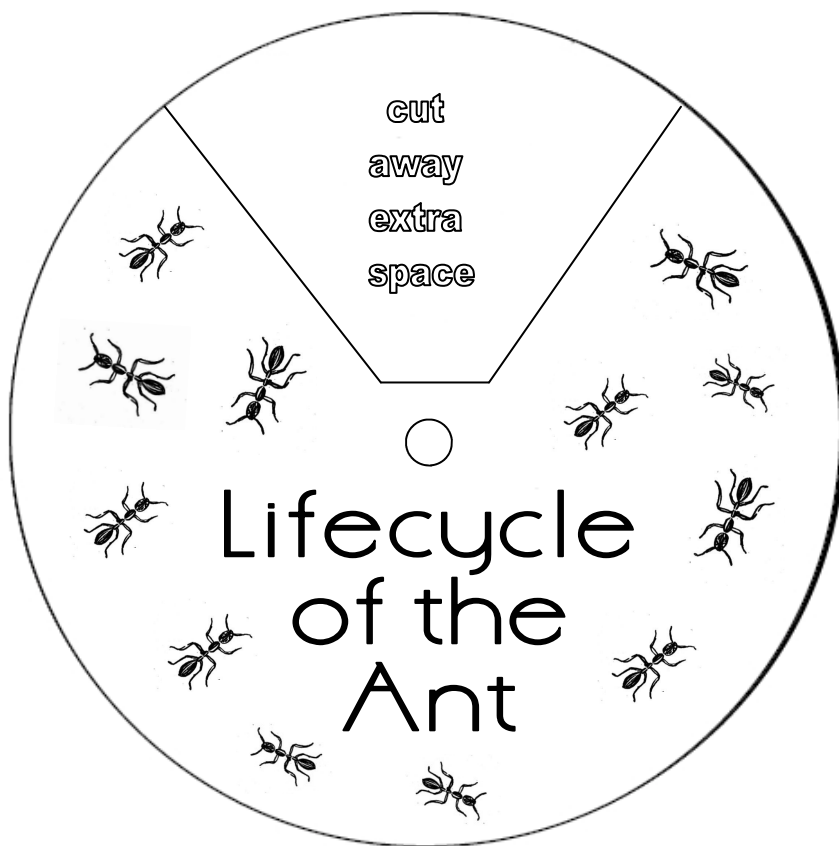


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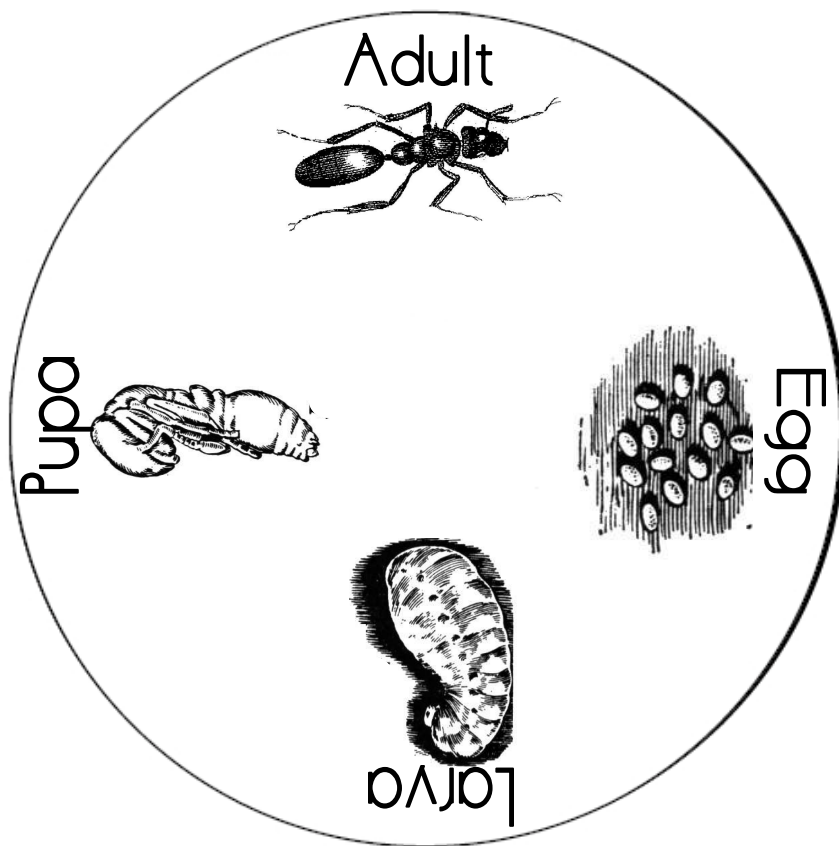
**All Insects . . .**

Cut out book as one piece. Fold dotted lines, making flaps come forward (all should be the front of the book; you can paste the title down). Discuss insects with your student (see science lesson). Record four facts that are true about all insects.



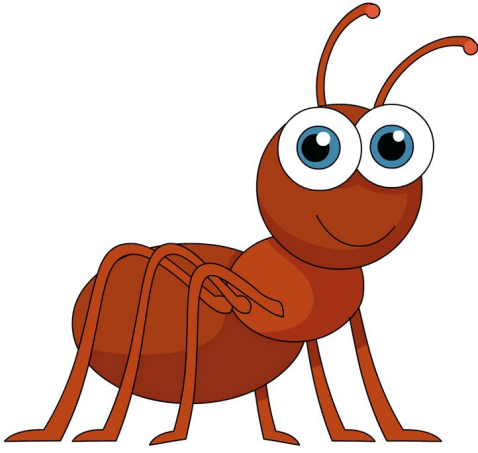
**Directions:**

Cut out wheels. Cut away extra space on first wheel. Match up wheels and attach together using a brass fastener.



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# Five Fast Facts

## ANTS

fact  
one

fact  
two

fact  
three

fact  
four

fact  
five