Reading Magazine

Literacy Practice Tests are designed to assist with preparation for NAPLAN

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Year 5  Reading Magazine

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How to play
Chinese Checkers
with two players

OBJECT OF THE GAME
The object of the game is to be the first person to move all your pieces across the checker board from a starting position into a home base.

How to play
Toss a coin to decide who starts.
Take turns to move a single piece of your set. You can move your pieces one at a time, along a line in any direction, as long as there is a hole to move into.
You are allowed to jump over the other player’s piece if there is a hole to move into after that piece, along the same line.
You can also jump over your own pieces.
You can even jump many times in one move as long as there is a hole in which to land after each jump.
It is a good idea to keep two to three pieces together to block the other player. This is because players need a hole to move into after jumping over a piece.
The pieces are never removed from the board.
The first person to get all 10 pieces into their home base wins.
To make the game more challenging, you can play with two sets of pieces.

Getting started
You will need a Chinese Checkers board. This board can be either square or circular and has a playing space in the centre, in the shape of a six-pointed star. Each point of the star is a triangle with ten holes. These triangles are the home bases. In the middle of the board is a hexagon with holes so you can move your pieces across. These holes are set on a grid of lines.

Each player has a set of ten pieces. The sets are different colours so you know which pieces are yours.

Each player chooses an opposing triangle in which to line up their set of pieces. These are your starting positions. You want to move ALL your pieces to your opponent’s starting position. Their starting point is your home base, so the triangles must be opposite.
Did you know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day? This is because your growing body is just like a car. After a long night of sleeping, your fuel tank is running low. When you eat a nutritious breakfast, you are refuelling your body so it is ready for another day.

Come and find out about the different types of food that make up a healthy breakfast and why having breakfast can help you to do well at school.

We are going to whip up some healthy ingredients into these yummy breakfast options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Breakfast Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hot and cold cereal</td>
<td>A choice of porridge or Weet-Bix with milk and dried fruit and nuts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bagel bonanza</td>
<td>A fresh multigrain bagel with your choice of either sliced banana and honey or a hard boiled egg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Brekky smoothie</td>
<td>Low fat milk, yoghurt, your choice of fresh fruit and a little honey blended to perfection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Muffin melt</td>
<td>Toasted cheese and tomato or sultanas and cream cheese on wholemeal muffins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hope you can join us!
Earthworms are very good for helping gardens grow. This is because as they burrow through the soil, they move the air, moisture and nutrients through it. This makes the soil rich and healthy. Plants grow much better in rich and healthy soil.

This project will help you see for yourself just how helpful worms are!

**What you need:**
- an empty 2 litre soft drink container, rinsed out, with the top cut off. You will need an adult to help you to cut off the top.
- a spoon
- 4 cups of soil
- 4 cups of sand
- 6 worms
- half a cup of water
- grass clippings or some fruit or vegetable scraps
- tin foil

**What to do:**
1. Use the spoon to put about 3 cm of soil into the bottle.
2. Add about 1 cm of sand on top of the soil.
3. Repeat using the same amounts of soil and sand until you have three or four layers of each. Make sure that the top layer is soil. The soil should be loose so don’t pack it down.
4. Place some fruit peelings or vegetable scraps on the top. Remember that worms don’t like orange, lemon or lime peelings. They also don’t like onions.
5. Pour in just enough water to make it damp.
6. Gently place the worms on top.
7. Pierce some holes in the foil and use this to cover the top of the bottle.
8. Place your worm farm in a dark, cool place overnight.

**What happens next:**
The next day you should be able to see worm tracks through the clear plastic. The worms will have eaten all the food and mixed up the soil and the sand. When you have finished viewing your worm farm, make sure you tip the contents into the garden to let the worms do their thing!
Plastic shopping bags should be banned because they are bad for our environment.

Each year, an estimated 500 billion plastic bags are made worldwide. That means that 1 million plastic bags are made each minute, but billions of these end up as litter each year. This is a big problem all over the world. Only 1% of bags are recycled.

Plastic bags pollute beaches and kill a lot of sea animals. This is because plastic bags get blown into the ocean and float around. A lot of sea creatures choke and die because they think the bags are food. Each year, thousands of sea turtles choke on plastic bags after mistaking them for jellyfish, which are their favourite food. Seals and dolphins have also been found with their stomachs filled with plastic bags!

Most used plastic bags either end up as litter or in landfills. Because they are durable they do not rot. Scientists believe the bags will take up to 1 000 years to disintegrate. In that time plastic bags separate into smaller toxic particles that poison the soil. Even if we try to burn them, this pollutes the atmosphere.

Plastic bags should be banned because they litter the world, pollute beaches and kill wildlife. They do not biodegrade so we cannot get rid of them. The only solution is to ban them.
One day, Elephant was munching and crunching his way through some delicious leaves when, in his efforts to reach the juiciest morsels, he stepped on Rabbit.

‘Hey Elephant, be careful there, you almost crushed me!’ said Rabbit.

‘Well how on earth can you expect a magnificent creature such as myself to notice you? You are far too insignificant!’ declared Elephant.

Rabbit was furious at being spoken to in such a manner. He was tired of being overlooked by the rest of the animal kingdom. He may not be big, but he was smart and it was about time he showed Elephant he was a force to be reckoned with.

‘Elephant, I challenge you to a tug of war!’ he declared forcefully.

Elephant unwound his trunk from the tree and trumpeted in disbelief. ‘Oh Rabbit’, he sighed. ‘You are ridiculous, I could beat you without raising a sweat. But hey, I could do with a laugh’.

Rabbit’s heart pounding at the thrill of carrying out his plan. He hopped all the way to the river to see Hippo.

‘Hippo, could you please help me? My cow is stuck in the mud and I need a creature who is both strong and powerful to pull her out.’

Hippo was so flattered at being described as strong and powerful that he did not hesitate.

‘Sure, I will help you, Rabbit.’

Rabbit quickly gathered some strong pieces of vine and plaited them together to make a long rope. He returned to Hippo and threw him one end.

‘Here you go, Hippo, take this end and I will go and tie the other end around my cow. When you feel a tug, pull as hard as you can. Don’t stop until the rope goes loose again.’

Hippo nodded determinedly, holding his end of the rope tightly between his enormous teeth.

‘So far, so good,’ chuckled Rabbit to himself as he hopped back to Elephant.

‘Oh, it’s you again’, sighed Elephant.

‘Yes, I am back, ready for our tug of war!’ exclaimed Rabbit. ‘Here is your end of the rope. You might not be able to see me because this rope is very long but when I say “pull”, the war is on! The first one over that log is the loser!’

‘Whatever you say, Rabbit. Now, hurry up, I need to beat you and get back to my lunch,’ replied Elephant patronisingly.
The rabbit hopped away so that he was hidden in the grass but could still be heard.

‘PULL!’ he shouted at the top of his lungs. And so Elephant gave a lazy tug and to his surprise felt a much stronger yank on the other end of the rope.

‘That little Rabbit can not possibly be stronger than me!’ he muttered.

He dug his heels in and pulled. He pulled harder, and harder, and harder but could not gain any more ground.

Centimetre by centimetre he was dragged towards the log, until one last tug by his hidden opponent toppled him over it.

‘Ha ha!’ shouted Rabbit, appearing from the grass. ‘Insignificant, am I?’ he asked triumphantly. Elephant bowed his head in shame while Rabbit bounced off to thank Hippo for all his help.

‘Today is a good day for this little Rabbit,’ he said with satisfaction. ‘It sure is better to be smart than to be big!’
Did you know that the water you drink is as old as the earth is? This is because all the water on earth goes around and around in a cycle.

The sun heats water in the rivers, lakes and oceans and the water rises as vapour into the air. This process is called evaporation. Water also rises as vapour into the air from the leaves of plants. This is called transpiration.

The air high above the earth cools the water vapour and turns it back into liquid, forming clouds. This is called condensation.

When the clouds get too heavy to carry the condensed water, it falls back down to earth as rain, hail or snow. This is called precipitation.

When water falls back to earth as precipitation, it mostly falls into the ocean. This is why only a small amount of the earth’s water is fresh water.

The water that ends up on land runs into the rivers, lakes and oceans where the cycle starts again.