



MCM'S Activity Kit & Parent Guide

Included in your kit are the materials and information for the following activities:

1. Health Activity: Fuzzy Germs
2. Art Activity: Coloring upside down like Michelangelo
3. STEM Activity: Marshmallow Engineering Challenge
4. Story Reading and Retelling (Interactive Read Alouds)
5. Favorite Books List for Young Children

What's in your kit?

- Lessons and instructions for Engineering, Literacy, Health and Art activities
- Social emotional wellness activities for children and caregivers
- A stuffed animal (a new friend to help you feel better during these tough times)
- Marshmallows and toothpicks for your Engineering Activity
- Yarn and googly eyes for the Health Activity
- White paper for your Art Activity
- A set of watercolors
- MCM Spring Coloring Sheet
- A list of suggested books to read
- Bookmarks
- Tips for parents on reading with your child at home
- Tips from Mississippi Department of Health on staying healthy and keeping the home healthy
- Work packets from your school district

Instagram/Facebook Moment

We would love to see your finished products!

Please tag us on social media, @mschildsmuseum on Instagram and @MississippiChildrensMuseum on Facebook, using the hashtag #mcmathome. You may also send us an email with any questions or ideas at programs@mcm.ms

Health Activity: Fuzzy Germs

Description:

- Do you know how germs are spread?
- Why do we use tissues when we sneeze or cough?
- Why do we wash our hands before we eat or after we use the restroom?

Set Up:

Gather materials: yarn, fork, scissors, googly eyes, glue:

The Activity:

1. Start by wrapping your yarn around the prongs of the fork.
2. You can either tie the end to one prong, or just hold it with your thumb until you've wrapped it enough that the end stays.
3. Keep wrapping until you have a large puff on the fork.
4. Tie a smaller piece of yarn around the middle of your puff.
5. Carefully slide the yarn off the fork and cut the loops.
6. Fluff out the ends and trim any uneven strands.
7. Be careful not to pull the yarn out of your tie.
8. Use glue to attach the googly eyes.

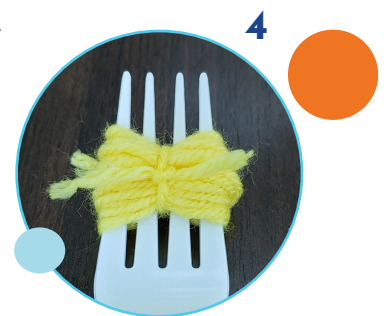
The Lesson:

- It is very easy to spread germs when we cough or sneeze without covering our mouths.
- Hold your little germ flat on your hand and blow lightly.
- How far does he travel?
- How far can you make him travel?
- Now hold a tissue in front of your mouth and blow again.
- How far does your germ travel this time?
- The germs you just made may be cute, but real germs are not!
- We can help prevent the spread of germs by coughing into a tissue or our elbow, using a tissue when we need to sneeze or wipe our noses, and washing our hands often.

Want more?

Find more healthy fun activity pages online at mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome



Art Activity: Coloring Upside Down Like Michelangelo

Vocabulary:

- **Renaissance:** This means “rebirth” in French. During this time, there was a “rebirth” in interest in the arts. People also made scientific discoveries during this time.
- **Sculptor:** This is someone who creates sculptures. Sculptures are works of art that are three dimensional. They are not flat, like when we draw on a piece of paper. Sculptures are usually made from clay, marble, metal, or wood.
- **Scaffolding:** This is used by workers to reach high places. They are usually made from a platform and metal rods. Often they are used by construction workers to reach high areas on buildings.

The Lesson:

- Michelangelo Buonarotti was born in Caprese, Italy on March 6, 1475. He moved to Florence when he was very young. During this time, Florence was in the middle of the Italian Renaissance. Renaissance means “rebirth,” and the culture in Italy during this time was booming! Michelangelo wanted to be an artist, so this was the perfect place for him to grow up. Michelangelo trained hard to become an artist, and soon he was creating sculptures from marble.
- In 1505, Michelangelo returned to Rome, where the Pope asked him to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Even though he considered himself a sculptor, he agreed to paint the ceiling. It took him four years! To paint the ceiling, Michelangelo had to lie on his back on a scaffolding. He painted the whole ceiling upside down! His painting was huge, including nine scenes from the Bible, and over 300 people! No two of these people look alike.
- **Fun fact:** Michelangelo hid a painting of himself in the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel!

Set Up:

Gather materials: paper, tape, paint or crayons:

The Activity:

- Find a table or chair that you can fit underneath, lying on your back.
- Tape your sheet of paper to the bottom of your chair.
- Lying on your back under the chair, try to create a drawing or painting like Michelangelo did!
- Is it hard to paint while you’re lying on your back?
- How is this different from painting sitting upright?

Find more activity pages online at mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home
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STEM Activity: Marshmallow Engineering Challenge

Vocabulary:

- **STEM:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
- **Engineering:** Using science to design and build.

The Lesson:

- During this activity, students will get a chance to explore some of the basic principles of engineering.
- In addition, students will use elements of the design process (ask, imagine, plan, create, improve).
- Engineers use this process regularly to design things we see and use every day!

Set Up:

Gather materials: marshmallows, toothpicks

The Activity:

- Using the marshmallows and toothpicks, encourage children to come up with a design that can be created with the provided supplies.
- Ask them to think through how the design will look.
- Are there enough materials to create it?
- How exactly will it be put together?
- Once their plan is in place, go and begin building.
- After the first design is finished, ask them to analyze their creation.
- Is it structurally sound?
- What improvements can be made?

Want more?

Find more STEM activity pages to experiment at home online at mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome

Story Reading and Retelling

Interactive Read Alouds

The Lesson:

- Retelling stories helps build comprehension, vocabulary, and oral language. Supporting children to retell stories we read to or with them with visual aids and props can be highly beneficial to their reading development.

Interactive Read Alouds:

- **Before you read:**
 - Discuss what the book is about.
 - Connect it to real life experiences your child may have had or other books you've read to him/her.
- **During reading:**
 - Discuss what's happening on each page as you read it.
 - Explain any words that your child may be unfamiliar with.
 - Ask questions to be sure that your child understands what is happening in the story.
- **After reading:**
 - Review what happened in the story (what happened First? Then? Next? Last?).
 - Connect the story to real events.
 - Ask what your child did or didn't like about it.
 - Did he/she have a favorite part?

Retelling with Visual Aids:

- Guide your child through using a "visual map" to draw what happened in the story.
- Assist him/her as needed with summarizing and sequencing events.
- Have him/her explain the events of the story as they draw it.
- Non-Fiction (Informational) Text is a little different. It usually shares information and facts instead of telling a story. Appropriate questions to retell non-fiction text would be: what was the story about, what did we learn in the story, what facts did we read about, what happened when _____ ?

Want more?

Visit mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home for downloadable activities.
Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome

Retelling Map

Beginning

Middle

End

Story Map

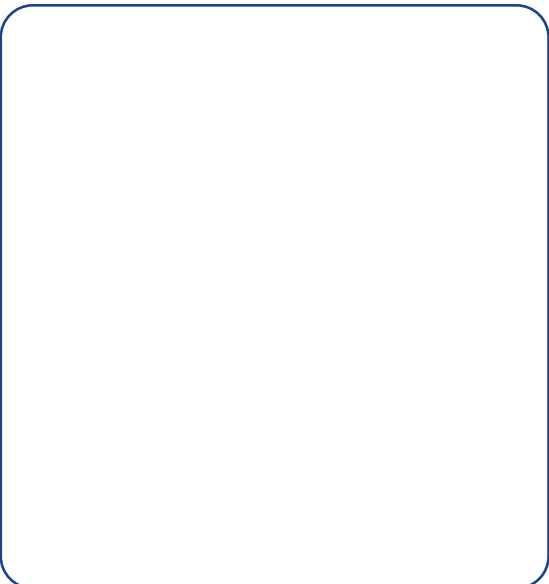
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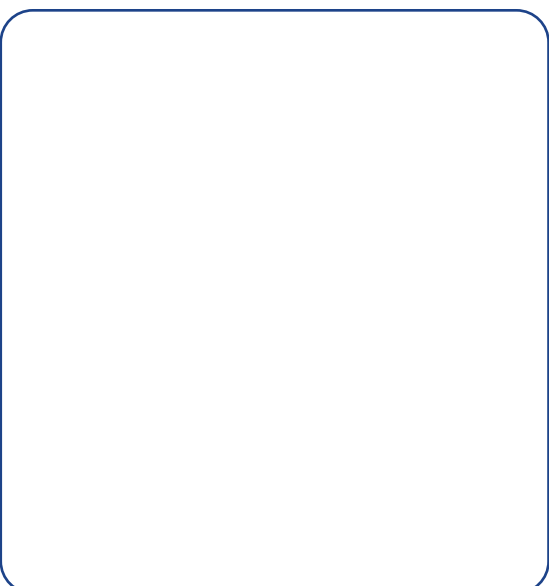
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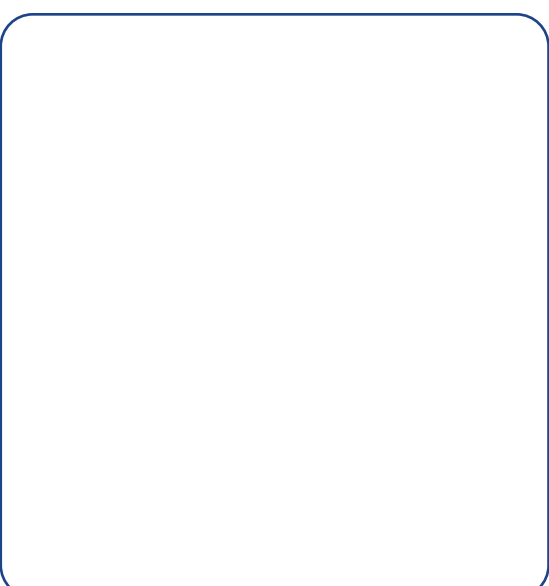
Beginning



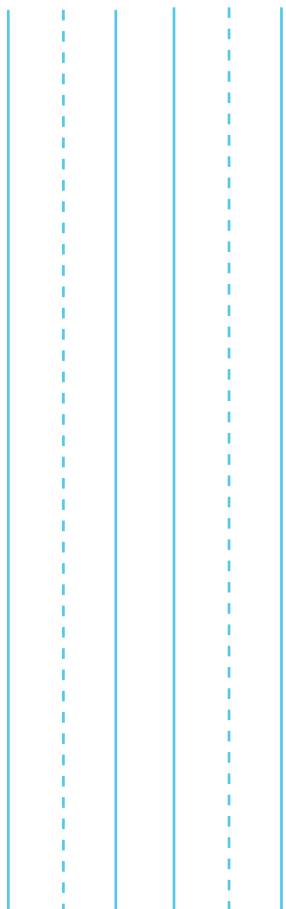
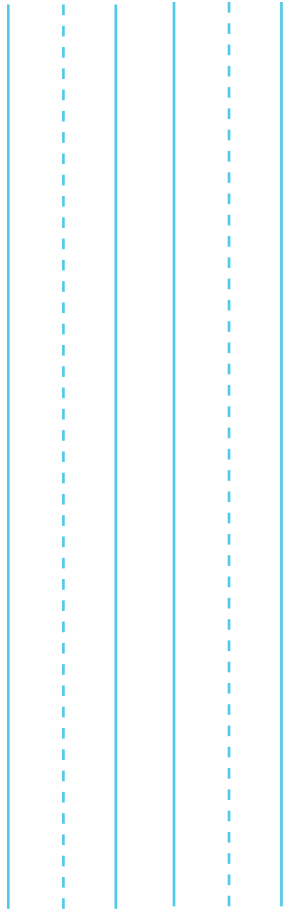
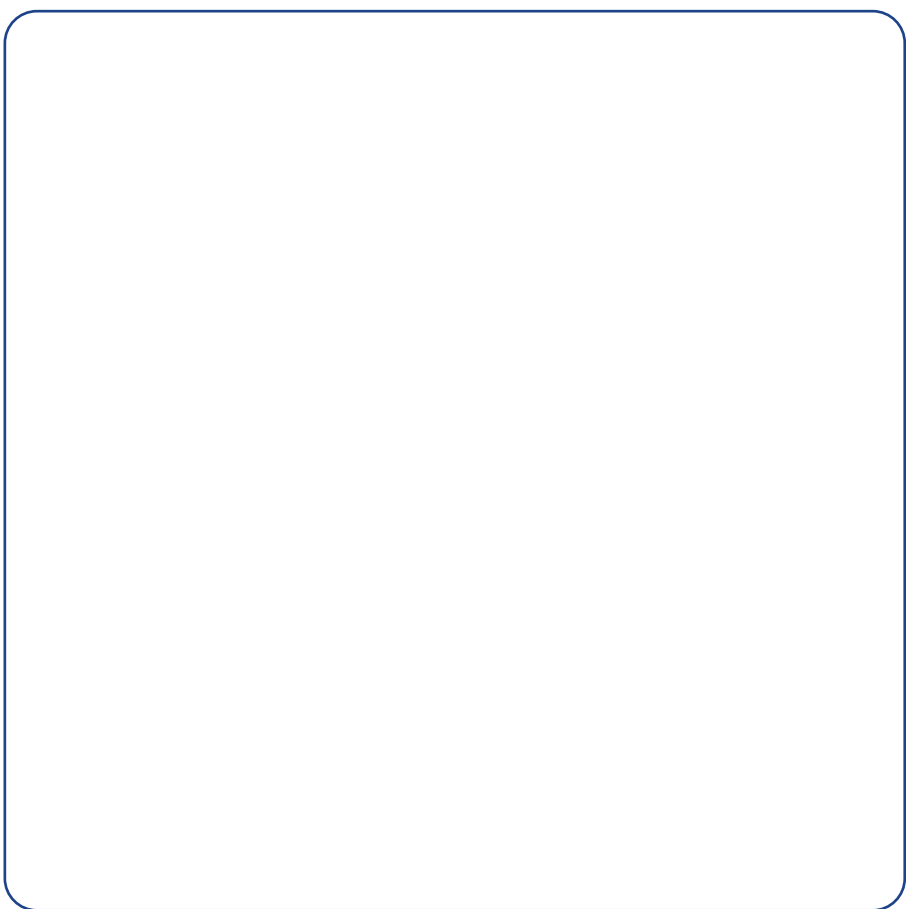
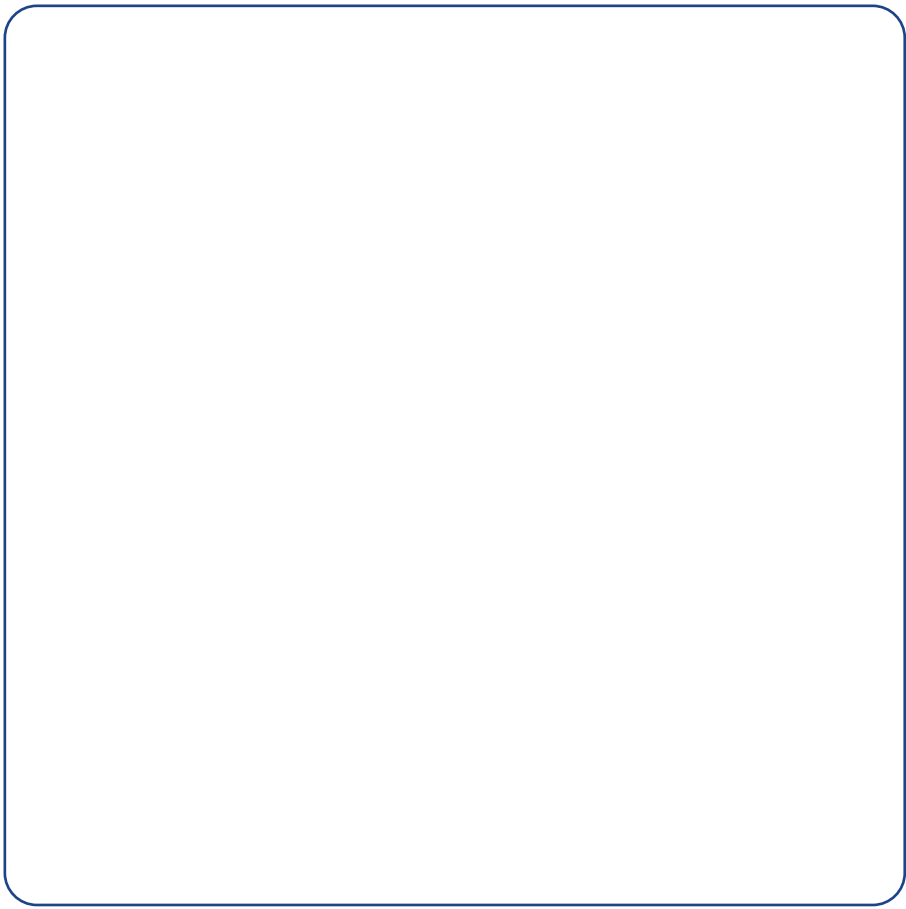
Middle



End



What is the Text About?



Show the Main Idea

Use words and pictures to tell about the main idea.

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome