# Literacy Activities

## Grade 2, Week 5

Academic Vocabulary, Cause & Effect, Problem/Solution

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The Answer Key for this week's lessons can be found at:

**Printable Answer Key**

hand2mind-link.com/L2-AK-W5
Read the passage below. Then, write a definition for each bold word.

The heart is a very important organ. It pumps blood all through the body. Just like you can flex your arm muscles, the heart can flex, too. When the heart flexes, it pumps blood all through the body. First, half of the heart **expands** and fills with blood. Then, the other half of the heart **contracts** and gets smaller. This pushes the blood out of the heart.

Your **heart rate** is how fast your heart is beating. You can find your own heart rate. First, you need to find your **pulse**. Lightly pressing on the wrist is a good way to do this. If you find the right spot, you will feel a flutter, like the beat of a tiny drum. Count the beats for 1 minute to find your heart rate.

The heart is a **muscle**. Just like your other muscles, it can get stronger. Exercises such as skipping and running make the heart beat faster and harder. A strong heart will stay healthy for life.

1. **Organ**: pumps blood all through the body
2. **Expands**: gets bigger
3. **Contracts**: gets smaller
4. **Heart rate**: how fast your heart is beating
5. **Pulse**: you can use it to find your own heart rate
6. **Muscle**: it can get stronger and will help you stay healthy
Machines are tools that make work easier. A **lever** is a simple machine. It helps to lift or move a heavy thing. People, and even some animals, use levers all the time. A lever can be made by resting a stick on a rock. It is a lot easier to push down than to lift up. A lever lets us lift something UP by pushing DOWN. Take a look at this diagram:

![Diagram of a lever]

You may have seen a lever at the playground. Seesaws work best when the load is about even on both sides. What happens if one person hops off while their side is down? How could kids lift an adult? Try experimenting with this lever the next time you go to the park!
Day 1 (continued)

1. The diagram shows how a ____________ works.
2. The ____________ is the thing you want to move.
3. Even some ____________ have learned to use levers.
4. A ____________ is a lever you might see on a playground.
5. A lever lets us lift something up by pushing ____________.
6. A lever is a type of ____________.
7. In this diagram, a person ____________ down to work the lever.
8. You can make a lever using a stick and a ____________ as the fulcrum.
9. When you push down on a lever, you apply ____________.
10. The lever turns around a point called the ____________.
11. In this diagram, the load will ____________.
12. Seesaws work best when the load on each side is ____________.

Answer Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>animals</th>
<th>go up</th>
<th>even</th>
<th>rock</th>
<th>seesaw</th>
<th>fulcrum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>down</td>
<td>force</td>
<td>machine</td>
<td>load</td>
<td>pushes</td>
<td>lever</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choose the word in the Answer Key that best completes each sentence.

1. People use ______________ to find their place on the planet.

2. An ______________ is a piece of land that is surrounded by water.

3. Laws ______________ are made to keep people safe and happy.

4. A ______________ is land that rises sharply from the land around it.

5. The continents are surrounded by bodies of salty water called oceans ______________.

6. In the United States of America everyone has the right ______________ to freedom of speech.

7. Cities ______________ are made up of neighborhoods and have their own governments.

8. Countries ______________ have their own governments and contain many cities and towns.

9. ______________ are things that can be bought and sold.

10. ______________ are bodies of fresh water surrounded by land.

11. A ______________ is a form of transportation.

12. In America, you must be 18 years old to vote ______________.

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**Answer Key**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vote</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>oceans</th>
<th>train</th>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Lakes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>right</td>
<td>island</td>
<td>Laws</td>
<td>Goods</td>
<td>mountain</td>
<td>maps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Day 2 (continued)

Read the definitions in the Glossary. Then, use the Answer Key to complete the sentences and match each word to its definition.

GLOSSARY

continent any of the world’s 5 great land masses
ocean a large body of salt water
river a stream of fresh water that flows to the ocean
mountain land that is much higher than the land around it
valley a low area of land usually between mountains
equator an invisible line around the middle of the earth
desert a place that is hot and dry for most of the year
North Pole northernmost place on the globe

1. You can find fresh water in a _______________________.

2. Asia and Africa are _______________________.

3. A ________________________ usually forms between two mountains.

4. If you like hot, dry weather, go to a _______________________.

5. The ________________________ is at the top of the globe.

6. There is an invisible line around the Earth called the ________________________.

Answer Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>valley</th>
<th>river</th>
<th>equator</th>
<th>North Pole</th>
<th>desert</th>
<th>continents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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Facts About Water.

All living things need water. It gathers in clouds and falls as rain. It collects in puddles, lakes, and oceans.

Water is made of tiny parts called atoms. Atoms are the smallest parts of elements. Water has 2 hydrogen (H) atoms plus 1 oxygen (O) atom.

Water can have three forms, or states. It can be a solid, a liquid, or a gas. Solid water is called ice. Liquid water changes to ice when it gets very cold and freezes. Warming ice will cause it to melt. This means it turns back into a liquid. If liquid water gets hot enough, it will turn into water vapor, which is a gas. Water changes to vapor when it boils.
Day 3 (continued)

1. Liquid water becomes solid when it **freezes**.
2. Water turns into vapor when it **boils**.
3. Water exists in three **states**, or forms.
4. Water contains two atoms of **hydrogen**.
5. Ice turns into liquid when it **melts**.
6. **Puddles** are places where water collects.
7. Water has **three** forms, or states.
8. Water in gas form is called **water vapor**.
9. All **living** things need water.
10. Water gathers in **clouds** and then falls as rain.
11. Water contains one **oxygen** atom.
12. **Ice** is solid water.

---

**Answer Key**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>water vapor</th>
<th>Ice</th>
<th>living</th>
<th>melts</th>
<th>clouds</th>
<th>three</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Puddles</td>
<td>boils</td>
<td>oxygen</td>
<td>states</td>
<td>hydrogen</td>
<td>freezes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The U.S. flag is called the Stars and Stripes.

It has 13 red and white stripes. These stand for the 13 original **colonies**.

The **flag** has 50 stars. These stand for the 50 states. The first flag had just 13 stars, 1 for each colony.

The flag stands for **freedom**. People like to celebrate the flag. There is even a **special** song about the flag.

The flag has its own **holiday** called Flag Day. It is on June 14th.

1. **colonies**: made up of people who leave their country to start in a new land

2. **flag**: represents a country

3. **freedom**: free from being restrained

4. **special**: something unique and different

5. **holiday**: a day to celebrate and not work
Day 4

Draw a line from each cause to its effect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is snowing.</td>
<td>My stomach is very full.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I ate 5 cookies after dinner.</td>
<td>The plant grows tall and strong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I studied for my test for 10 hours.</td>
<td>I was late for the birthday party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheetal tends to her plant every day.</td>
<td>Lux wags his tail out of happiness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic was terrible.</td>
<td>I got an A on my test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are a lot of people at the beach.</td>
<td>I get to the park faster than if I walked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We bought Lux a new dog toy.</td>
<td>I am cold and shivering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I ride my bike to the park.</td>
<td>We couldn’t find a spot to put down our towels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Day 4 (continued)

Write a cause for each situation by completing the sentence.

Answers will vary.

1. I cried all night long because ________________________________________.
2. Brent and Will played video games for 4 hours because ________________________.
3. The branches fell off the tree because ________________________________________.
4. I spent all day in my room because ________________________________________.
5. Maria had a very bad sunburn because ________________________________________.

Write an effect for each situation by completing the sentence.

1. I was so excited because I was the first one to cross the finish line in the race.
2. I was tired waking up because I couldn’t sleep last night.
3. Sasha was great at playing the piano because Sasha practiced every day.
4. Everyone went outside because the sun finally came out.
5. We took our dog inside because the cat ran across the yard.
Write a solution that matches each problem by completing the sentence.

Answers will vary.

1. I forgot my textbook at home, so
   I shared with my friend.

2. The path to the beach was covered with a fallen branch, so
   we worked together and moved it.

3. The cat was stuck in the tree, so
   the fireman used a ladder to rescue it.

4. There was no place for Eric to sit, so
   he stood in the back of the room.

5. There were only 4 slices of pizza left for 8 people, so
   they cut those slices in half.

Write a problem that matches each solution by completing the sentence.

1. We wanted to help out our parents
   so we raked all of the leaves into a pile.

2. It was a chilly night
   so Max ran home to grab his sweater.

3. I couldn't read the words
   so I went to the doctor to have an eye exam.

4. I wanted a higher grade
   so I did all of the extra credit assignments.

5. My friend got a grass stain
   so I went to the store and bought a new shirt for Tony.
Day 5 (continued)

Create a short story that has a problem and a solution.
First, define the problem and the solution. Then, write your story.
Answers will vary.

Problem: There were not enough kids that wanted to play on the soccer team.

Solution: Bonnie asked her classmates if they wanted to play soccer. She organized a sign-up sheet at school and found enough people to play.

Story: Bonnie loved playing soccer. The coach told her that there were not enough students who wanted to play. Bonnie was sad she wouldn’t be on the field this year, but she thought of a plan. She printed a sign-up sheet and posted it in the cafeteria. She was surprised at how many classmates wanted to play. 30 people signed up for soccer! The coach said there would be a soccer season this year after all.