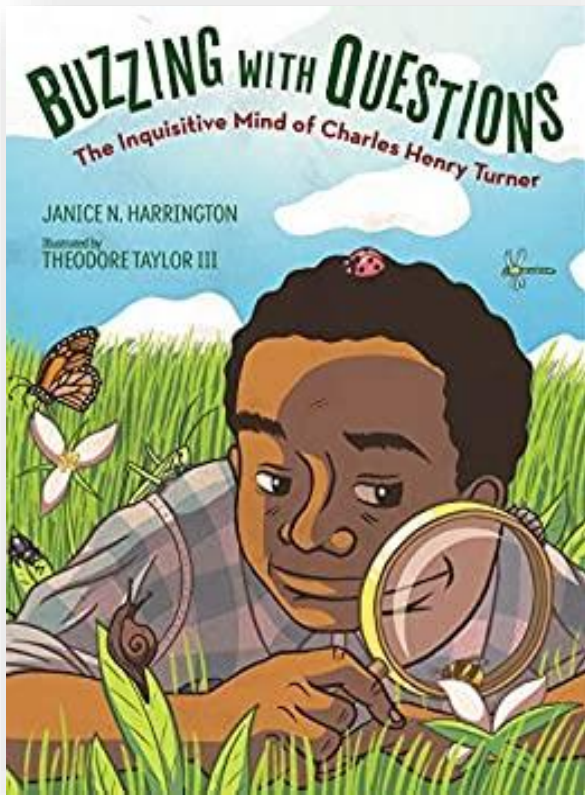


Early Literacy Toolkit: “BUZZING WITH QUESTIONS: The Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner”

Author: Janice N. Harrington Illustrator: Theodore Taylor III



Readers will take a journey through the life of a very curious entomologist Charles Henry Turner. Charles was the first African American entomologist – **a scientist who studies bugs**. This toolkit was created to encourage children to think like scientists.

Vocabulary

Curiosity: the desire to learn or know

Entomologist: a scientist who studies insects

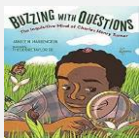
Insects: very small animals with hard coverings over their bodies

Inquisitive: asking and inquiring; eager to learn

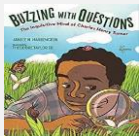
Scientist: a person who studies or has expert knowledge of one or more of the natural or physical sciences



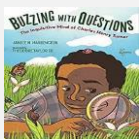
Early Literacy Schedule



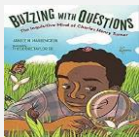
Monday: Let's Play the Question Game Warm-Up Activity, Read Aloud, Egg Carton Art Connection Activity



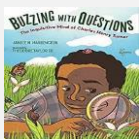
Tuesday: Categories Warm-Up Game, Review Vocabulary, Spider Web Art Connection Activity



Wednesday: Guess Who Warm-Up Game, Review Vocabulary, Butterfly Cooking Connection Activity



Thursday: Name that Book Warm-Up Game, Review Vocabulary, Lego STEM Connection Activity, Outdoor Scavenger Hunt



Friday: Anchor Chart, Review Vocabulary, Ant Hill Cooking Connection Activity

Day One

Warm-Up Activity: Question Game

Rules: Questions is a game that is played by asking questions back and forth for as long as possible, without making any declarative statements. The game begins when the first player asks a question.



Read Aloud Link:

<https://youtu.be/bqP08Fp9IRE>

Connection Activity:

Allow children to create different insects using half of egg cartons, pipe cleaners, and other arts and craft materials.

While Reading:

Ask children to listen for vocabulary of the day. When children hear any of the vocabulary during the reading ask children to clap twice. (Facilitators should not remind children)

Ask children to keep track of the number of insects introduced in the book.

After Reading Question:

How many insects were introduced in the book?

Comprehension Questions:

- How would you describe Charles?
- What were some challenges that Charles faced?
- What was Charles famous for?
- How did Charles help other scientists?



Day Two

Warm-Up Activity: Categories

Rules: Using the provided categories allow children to take turns saying one thing that fits in the group. Children may not hesitate or repeat an answer.

(Categories include insects with wings, insects you may find in the backyard, insects that are red, insects that are black, insects that have stripes or dots, insects that are multicolored).

Review Vocabulary



Materials: paintbrushes, paint, glue, scissors, newspaper, paper plates, string, twist ties

Connection Activity

Spider Web

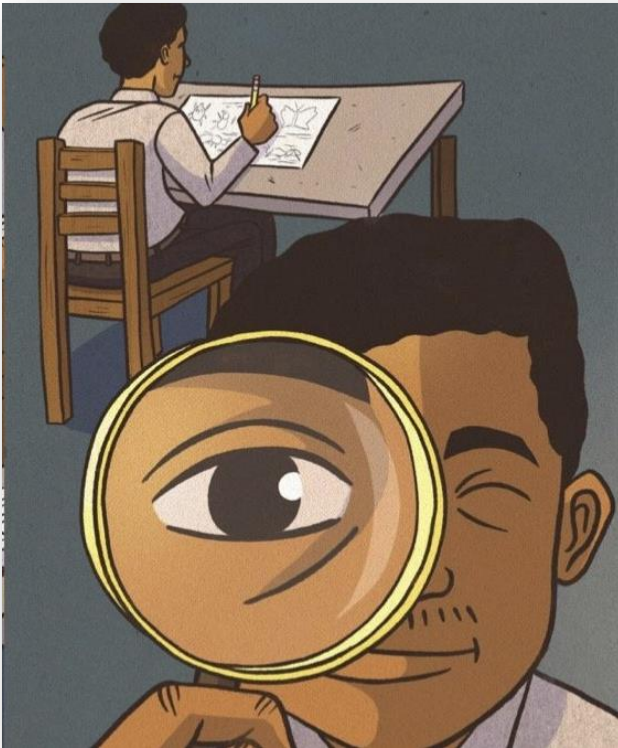
Directions :

1. Glue two plates together and let dry.
2. Cut notches around the outside of the plate to hold the web.
3. Cut two smaller circles out of a plate for your spider.
4. Cover work area with newspaper and paint the web and two spider circles black.
5. Paint yellow eyes on one of the spider circles and let dry.
6. Cut a long piece of string and glue the ends on one side of the notched plate for the web.
7. Drape the string from notch to notch and around the plate.
8. Glue twist ties onto the bottom of the spider body to form eight spider legs (bend them to look like legs).
9. Glue on the second circle so that the legs are sandwiched between circles.
10. Glue one end of a long string to the spider's edge and glue the other end of the string to the front of the paper plate web.
11. Glue more string to the top of the web to hang.

Day Three

Warm-Up Activity: Guess Who

Rules: Allow children to take turns describing an insect while the other children guess which insect they are describing. Children who are describing can only give five clues.



Vocabulary Review: Allow children to take turns producing words that rhyme with the vocabulary words.

Connection Activity

Butterfly Treats

Materials:

celery, cream cheese or peanut butter, small folded pretzels, black licorice.

Directions :

Cut a small piece of celery for the body of the butterfly.

Spread some cream cheese or peanut butter inside of the stalk of celery.

Add 4 small folded pretzels for the butterfly wings.

Add 2 pieces of black licorice for antennae.



Day Four

Warm-Up Activity: Name that book

Rules: Based on the insects provided two children will go head to head to choose the best title for a book.

Children will have 10 seconds to create a book title based on the given insects. The rest of the class will judge and decide which titles are the best.

This game can be played in teams in order to keep score.



STEM Connection Activity: Allow children to build and label insects with LEGOs.

Encourage children to use details such as colors, distinctive marks, wings, etc.

Connection Activity: Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

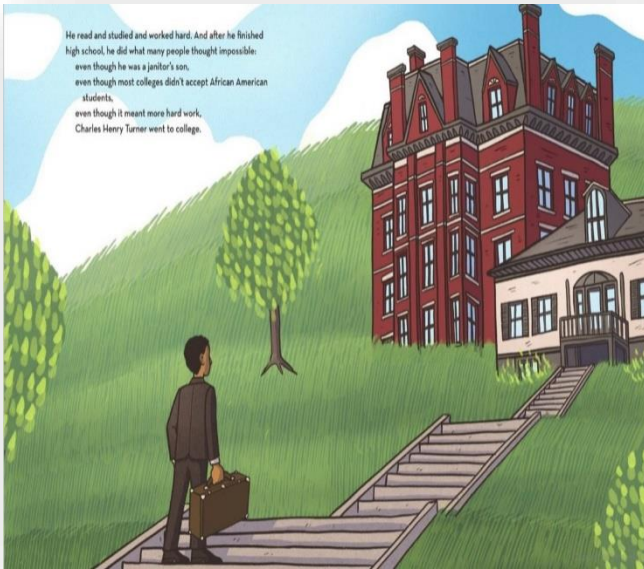
Ant
Beetle
Bumble Bee
Butterfly
Caterpillar
Dragonfly
Firefly
Fly
Garden Snake
Grasshopper
Ladybug
Lanternfly
Moth
Wasp
Worm

Review Vocabulary

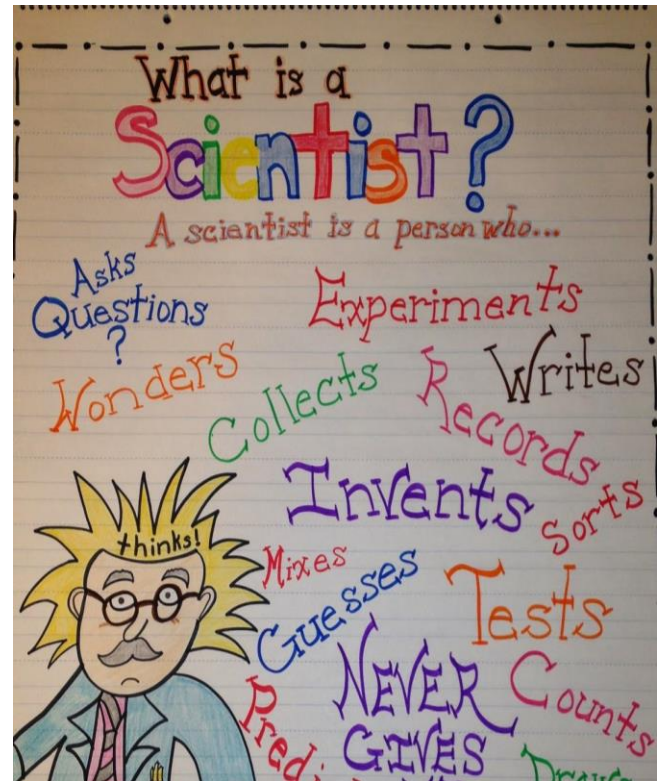
Day Five

Warm-Up Activity: Anchor Chart

Rules: Children will create a “what is a scientist” anchor chart. In a large group or in small groups allow children to complete the sentence: “A scientist is a person who...”



Vocabulary Review: Teacher will think of vocabulary words; children will guess the words. The teacher draws lines on the board that matches the number of letters in the word. Children take turns guessing each letter until the word is solved.



Connection Activity

Children can make an edible ant hills cup. Use a clear cup to see the layers.

1. First, put a layer of chocolate pudding into the cup for the “dirt.”
2. Then, crush up graham crackers in sandwich bags and pour the crumbs into the cups for the anthill “sand”.
3. Last, add chocolate chips or raisins for the “ants.”



Teaching Resources

How to teach kids about bugs

<https://thegrownetwork.com/teach-kids-bugs/>

Insect inspection for Pre-K

<https://learning-center.homesciencetools.com/article/early-elementary-insects-science-lesson/>

Connecting with bugs

<https://greenteacher.com/connecting-with-bugs/>

Benefits of insects and free insect worksheet

<https://thehomeschoolscientist.com/benefits-of-insects/>

The great insect safari for kids

<https://www.yates.com.au/ideas-plans/project-guides-articles/all/the-great-insect-safari-for-kids>

