

Green Eggs and Ham

Adventures in Reading:

Family Literacy Bags from Reading Rockets

Contents:

- Two books – one fiction, one nonfiction or concept book
- Parent information sheet
- Three activity sheets
- Bookmark
- Parent survey

for teachers and librarians



*This Reading Rockets Activity Packet has been designed to support reading activities at home using Dr. Seuss's **Green Eggs and Ham**. We've chosen some related fiction and nonfiction books and created activities to encourage some hands-on fun and learning. The packet has been designed for you to assemble and send home with your kindergarten students. The books and instructions should all fit in a two gallon zip top bag.*

Reading Rockets carefully chose books that are widely available and appealing to young readers. The titles selected should be available in your school library. If the suggested titles are not available, or you prefer another title, please feel free to substitute books related to the theme. You'll find our list of suggested titles included in bookmark format.

The list includes both nonfiction titles about the five senses and fiction books that emphasize concepts such as trying new things. When assembling your **Green Eggs and Ham** Activity packet to send home, simply include a copy of **Green Eggs and Ham** by Dr. Seuss and one of the nonfiction or concept books suggested.

The parent information sheet includes an introductory note that you can personalize, instructions about how to use the packet, and tips for sharing fiction and nonfiction books with children.

The activities were designed to encourage further exploration and learning at home:

- >> The Creativity activity is a hands-on craft project.
- >> The Imagination activity encourages imaginative play, writing, or drawing.
- >> The Get Real activity focuses on real-world experiences a child and parent can have together.

The bookmark lists both the featured title and additional titles.

Putting it all together

Print out copies of the parent information sheet, the activities, the survey, and a master for making bookmarks from your computer. Cut the bookmark page into strips. You may wish to print the activity pages and bookmark on card stock for durability.

Into a two gallon zip top bag, place:

- >> the two books – **Green Eggs and Ham** and one nonfiction or concept book
- >> the parent information sheet
- >> the three activity pages
- >> the bookmark
- >> a survey for parents to complete when they have finished using packet with their child

Send the packet home with your student. Encourage parents to keep the parent information sheet, the activities, and bookmark, and return the books and survey to you by the date you specify.

Let Reading Rockets know what you think of the family activity packets by e-mailing us through our website: www.readingrockets.org/sitecontact. Click on "Family Literacy Bags."

ADVENTURES IN READING!

Welcome

Dear _____

Exploring new ideas and enjoying books with you sends a powerful message to your child: Reading and learning are fun, and happen everywhere—not just at school. This Reading Rockets Activity Packet about **Green Eggs and Ham** was created to help you and your child enjoy reading and learning together.

Start your learning adventure by reading some books with your child about this popular topic. Then explore your senses and try new things with three activities. Enclosed you'll find what you need:

- >> two books to share with your child
- >> three related activities
- >> a bookmark with a list of other books to extend the fun, if you wish,
- >> a short survey to tell me if you enjoyed using the packet

The Instructions page explains how to use the packet.

The bookmark, this parent information sheet, and the activities are yours to keep.

When you've finished with the materials, please return the books and the completed survey to school in your child's backpack. Please return the Reading Rockets Activity Packet by _____ .

I hope you'll enjoy reading and learning together!

Teacher signature

Bring the fun of learning home with a Reading Rockets Activity Packet!



ADVENTURES IN READING!

Instructions

How to use your Reading Rockets Activity Packet

Getting ready

1. Before you read the books to your child, be sure to read them yourself. The first book is ***Green Eggs and Ham*** by Dr. Seuss. This book is fiction — a “make believe” story — but it deals with the real issue of the importance of trying new things. The other book in your bag may be another fiction title that features persistence or trying new things or a nonfiction book — informational and true — about the five senses. Reading the books first will give you the “inside scoop” to the twists and turns of the story, the interesting information inside, and the parts of the books that will appeal most to your child.

2. Next, read the three activities to see which of them you think your child will enjoy most, and which one you have the time and materials on-hand to do right away. Chances are, after you read one (or both) of the books with your child, he or she may want to do an activity right away.

Start the fun

3. When you know you’ll have at least enough time to read and talk about one of the books, grab your child and a book, and dive right in. Start with ***Green Eggs and Ham***. Talk about the cover of the book with your child — can they guess what it is about? Have they ever read a book by Dr. Seuss or a book about food? Read the book to your child. Take time to ask and answer questions, explore the pictures, and wonder what will happen next. Read it again, if your child asks you to. Then, try the other book or one of the activities.

4. When you read a nonfiction book, take a moment to explain to your child the difference between the two types of books. ***Green Eggs and Ham*** told a made-up, make-believe story, but a nonfiction book is filled with facts about the real world. The information in nonfiction books can answer lots of questions.

5. Feel free to pick and choose from the activities, or change them to suit your child’s interests. Read the books again over the next few days and try different activities. Most important: have fun!

When you’re done...

6. Keep the bookmark, the activities, and this page. Complete the survey and return it with the books to your child’s school. Visit a library and look for some of the other books on the bookmark. Make the most of the excitement the books create, and try some hands-on learning or make-believe fun. Exploring new ideas along side you lets your child see you learning — and reading — too, and gives your child personal experiences to support his or her growing knowledge.

Tips for reading fiction books with kids:

- >> *Take your time and talk about the story with your child. Ask your child questions.*
- >> *Explore the pictures with your child.*
- >> *Read with expression. Change your voice or how fast you read to create excitement. Ham it up!*
- >> *You don’t need to read every word. Keeping your child interested is the goal.*

Tips for reading nonfiction books with kids:

- >> *Wonder out loud. As you are reading, or afterward, talk about facts you find interesting or questions you have.*
- >> *Show your child how to use the table of contents, section headings, index, glossary or word list to find the answer to a specific question.*
- >> *Don’t be afraid to jump around, reading pages that especially interest your child. You don’t have to read a nonfiction book straight through.*





food mobile

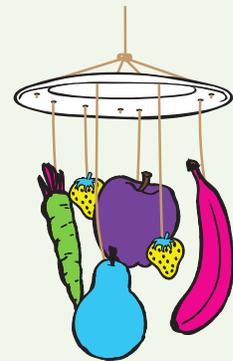
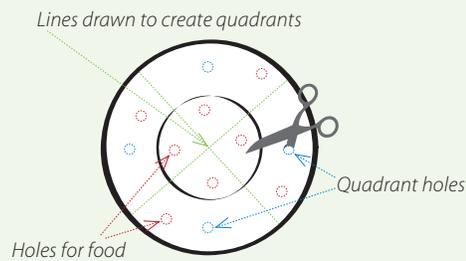
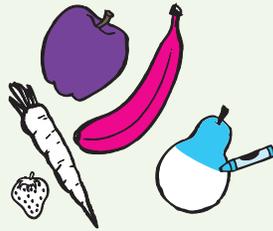
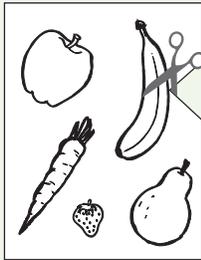
Most colors are pleasing to the eye, but not all are appetizing. Green eggs? Green ham? It's no wonder Sam-I-am's friend was reluctant to try this dish. The colors are all wrong! People like to see foods in colors that they expect. How food looks makes us want to eat it or not. But Dr. Seuss was always trying new things and expanding readers' ideas about how we see the world. It is fun to think about all the colors food comes in and what colors our favorite foods could be.

Make a food mobile that catches the eye and imagination with foods in fabulous new colors. If your favorite color is pink and your favorite snack is a banana, include a pink banana on your mobile. Or pineapples with polka dots or purple pickles!

Materials needed:

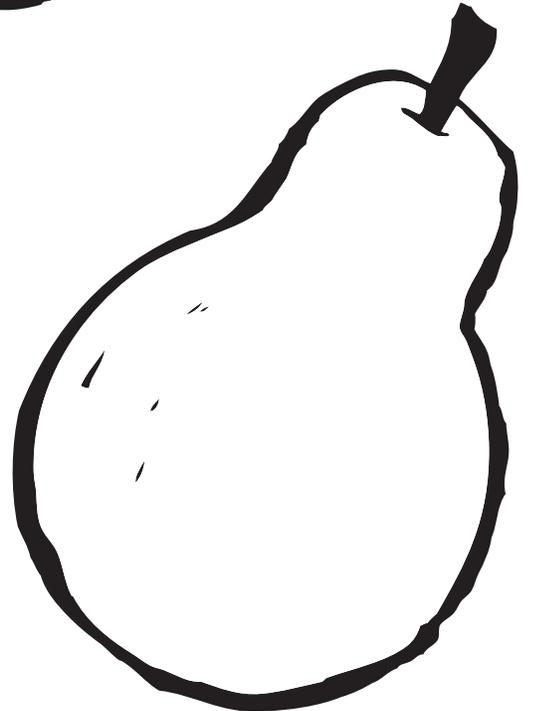
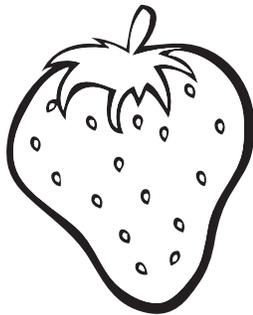
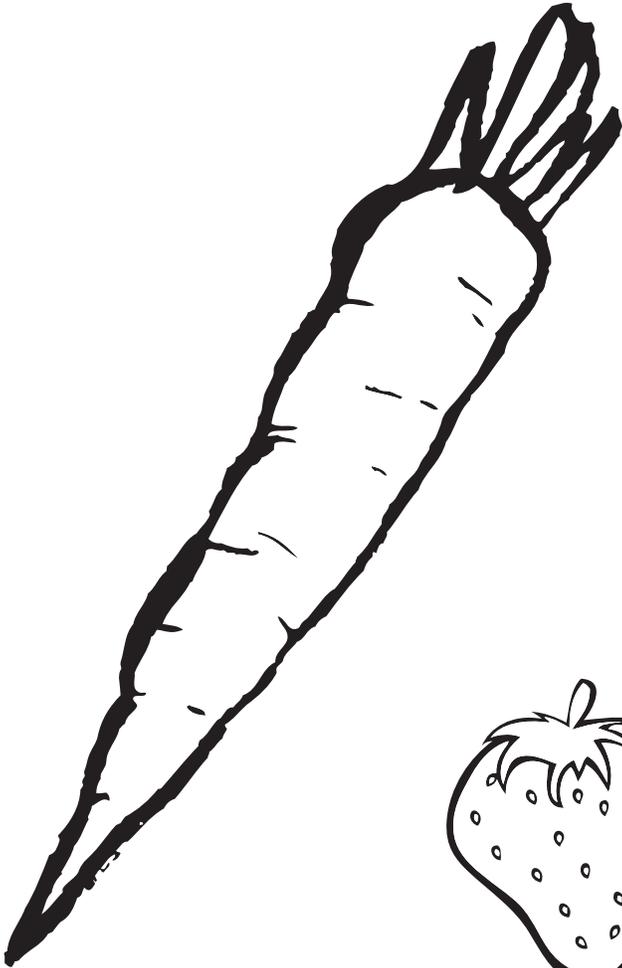
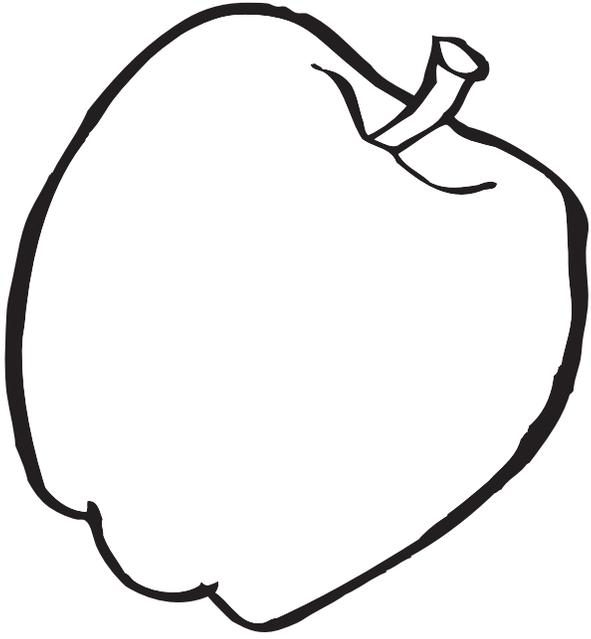
- >> Large heavy-duty paper plate or cardboard cut into a dinner plate-size circle
- >> Pencil
- >> Crayons, colored pencils or paints
- >> Paper
- >> Scissors
- >> Tape
- >> String or yarn

Instructions



- >> Use the shapes provided or draw your own food shapes to color and decorate. You will want to make between five to ten shapes with each shape at least four inches wide.
- >> Cut out your shapes. After you cut them out, color and decorate the other side. (If you like, use the other side to show what your food looks like on the inside. A pink banana might be blue underneath the peel!)
- >> When you are finished decorating, tape a different length of string to each food shape.
- >> Use scissors to make holes in the paper plate (parents only!). Draw a line from top to bottom and a line from right to left to form 4 equal quarters or quadrants. Cut a small hole in each of the quadrants (these holes will be used later for hanging the mobile). Then make additional holes for all of your fruit shapes, spacing the holes so that there are about the same number in each quadrant.
- >> Lace the end of each string on your food shapes through a hole in the plate. Tape the end of the string to the top side of the plate.
- >> To hang your mobile, cut 4 pieces of string and lace each through one of the 4 quadrant holes, then tie the four strings together at the center. Tie a longer string at this knot and hang your mobile!

While your child is working, talk about real food colors. Are all tomatoes red? Has your child ever seen a green zebra tomato? Is all corn yellow? How are blue corn tortillas made? You can also discuss associations between food color and taste. If a food is orange, should you expect it to taste like an orange? What would green eggs and ham taste like?





tasting party

Trying new things can sometimes make your child feel a little anxious or concerned. When you talk with your child about trying new or unusual foods, talk about color, shape, texture, smell, sound, and taste—not about having to like or not like the food.

Talk with your child about the five senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. What senses do you use when you eat? Have a tasting party to use all five senses to solve food mysteries!

Before you start, be sure everyone washes their hands. The kitchen table is probably the best place for these experiments as you'll need access to food and utensils. You'll also need small paper bags and a blindfold.

Sight and Taste

Without your child, cut up foods that look similar. For example, a peeled pear, apple and potato. Present each on three different plates. Have your child taste each, and tell you what he thinks it is. Discuss how they taste. Discuss how the way food looks might affect how it tastes.

Hear, Touch and Taste

Without your child, place different foods into separate paper bags. For example, popcorn, marshmallows, and cereal. Ask your child to shake each bag and guess what is inside. Write his guess on the bags. Then have your child close his eyes, take the foods out of the bag, and guess again by feeling them. You can write these guesses down too. Finally, with eyes still closed, have your child taste the food, and tell you what he thinks it is and how it tastes. Encourage the use of descriptive words like sweet, salty, spicy, plain, sour, bitter, crunchy, smooth or chewy. How many guesses and senses does it take?

Smell and Taste

Without a sense of smell, an animal can't find food. And when humans can't smell—like when they have stuffy noses—food doesn't taste the same. That's because most of flavor is smell. See if your child can identify foods he eats without seeing or smelling them. Without your child, cut up foods with strong, distinctive, but pleasant flavors into small pieces, such as part of an orange section, slice of banana, and a square of chocolate. Have your child close his eyes or wear a blindfold. Then ask him to pinch his nose closed and open wide for a surprise taste. Can he guess what he is eating?

Five Senses

In ***Me and My Senses*** by Joan Sweeney, a girl explains how she uses her all her senses to enjoy her lunch of pizza. Finish your tasting party with pizza or a favorite food and make your own list of what you can see, hear, feel, smell, and taste when you're eating.

Test senses with non food items when you try this guessing game from Arthur and PBS Parents:
www.pbs.org/parents/arthur/activities/acts/use_senses.html

ad words



Sales Talk

Sam-I-am uses persistence to get his friend to try green eggs and ham. In *I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato* by Lauren Child, Charlie uses his imagination to persuade his sister Lola to eat her dinner. And in *Gregory, the Terrible Eater* by Mitchell Sharmat, Gregory's parents seek medical advice to help convince the young goat Gregory that he should eat newspapers and flat tires like other goats. What are some other ways to encourage people to try new things?

Advertising often influences the way we think and the things we try. It is important to talk with your child about how commercial messages can affect thoughts and actions. Imagine that you and your child have started an advertising agency and your first client is Sam-I-am. He wants you to make an advertisement for green eggs and ham. The book, *Green Eggs and Ham*, has made the dish well-known, but not popular. Sam wants people to buy and eat green eggs and ham. What kinds of pictures and words can you put on paper to convince people that this is a delicious food they should try?

For ideas, look in magazines, newspapers or on television for examples of advertising that use catchy phrases, show interesting images or offer incentives. Talk with your child about how the ads make him feel and discuss what they are trying to get him to do or buy. Then take paper and crayons in hand to make your own convincing print advertisement for green eggs and ham.

Variation: If you have a camera or cell phone that takes video, make a commercial for green eggs and ham with your child as the director and star.

Variation: If the concept of advertising is too complex for your child, work with him to write a persuasive letter. Have your child imagine that he is Sam-I-am and rather than following his friend everywhere with a platter, he wrote him a letter about green eggs and ham. It is a little like writing to Santa Claus but instead of convincing Santa you've been good, you have to convince Sam's friend to try green eggs and ham.

If you're looking for more resources to help you talk with your child about advertising, PBS Parents has more at www.pbs.org/parents/childrenandmedia/ads-grade.html.

What's in a name?

Sometimes the way a food is described or even just its name will make us interested in trying it. Lola eats her dinner in *I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato* because she's having orange twiglets from Jupiter, green drops from Greenland, and cloud fluff from Mount Fuji instead of carrots, peas and mashed potatoes. Think of new names could help make green eggs and ham or other foods more appetizing.

Variation: Make it rhyme! Green eggs and ham rhymes with Sam-I-am. Have your child come up with a unique food name that rhymes with his name—black-eyed peas mac-n-cheese for Luis!

GREEN EGGS AND HAM



Featured titles

Fiction

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
Bread and Jam for Frances
by Russell Hoban and Lillian Hoban
Gregory, the Terrible Eater
by Mitchell Sharmat
I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato
by Lauren Child
The Red Lemon by Bob Staake

Nonfiction

Me and My Senses by Joan Sweeney
My Five Senses by Aliki
My Five Senses by Margaret Miller
Explore Your Senses (series)
by Laurence P. Pringle
The Magic School Bus Explores the Senses
by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen

Available in Spanish

Huevos Verdes Con Jamon by Dr. Seuss
Pan y Mermelada Para Francisca
by Russell Hoban and Lillian Hoban
Nunca jamás comeré tomates
by Lauren Child
Mis cinco sentidos by Aliki
Mis cinco sentidos by Margaret Miller
El autobus magico explora los sentidos
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