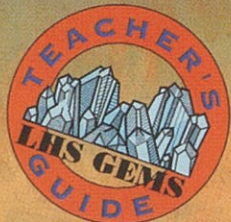
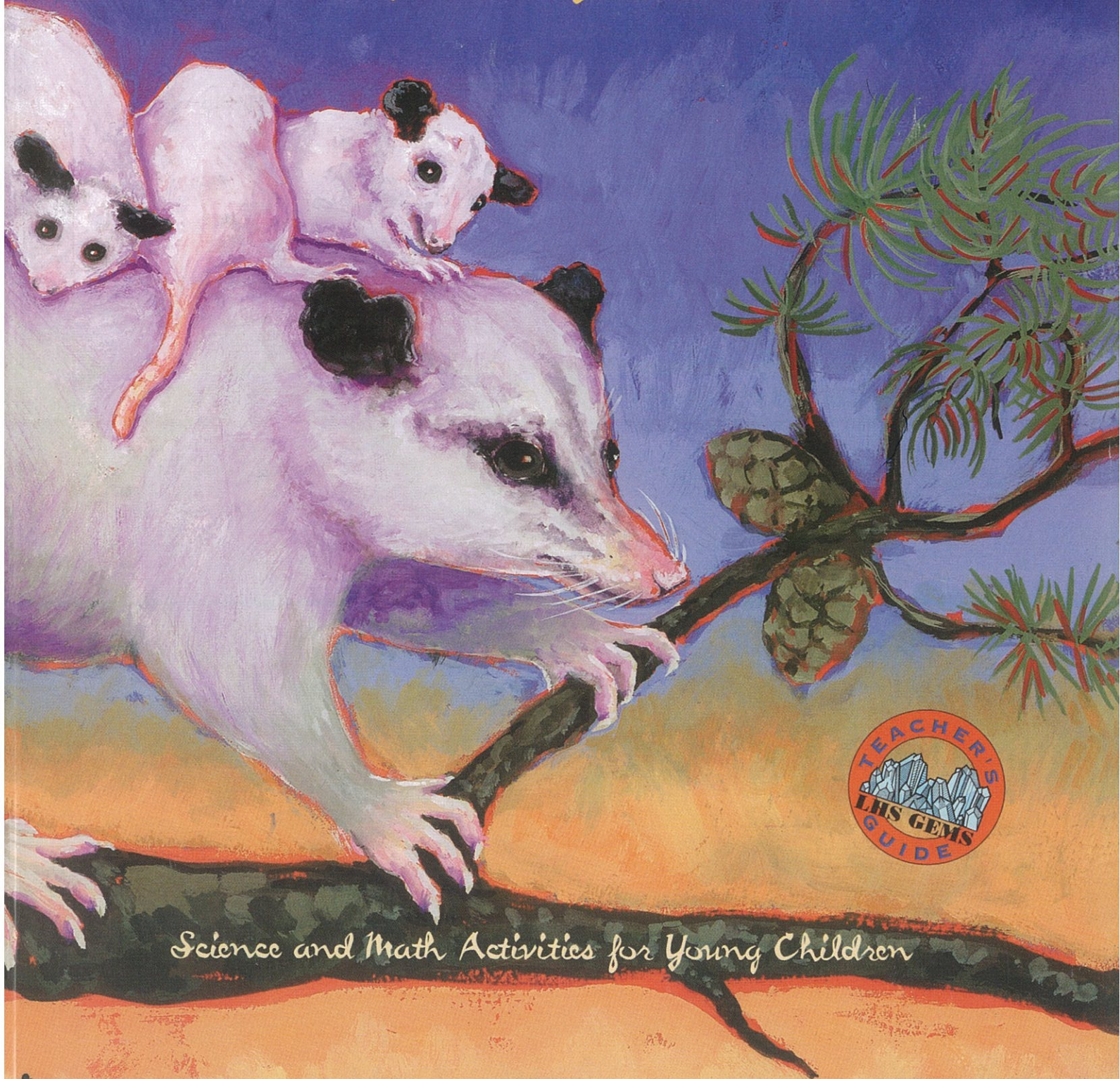


Mother Opossum and Her Babies

PEACHES



Science and Math Activities for Young Children

Activity 1

Session 1

What You Need

For the group

- 1 Mother Opossum poster
(The poster is at the back of the guide.)
- Gray and pink crayons, markers, or paints
- 1 piece of white paper 3" x 18" for making an opossum tail
- Scissors
- 1 piece of tape
- 1 small bowl of dry or canned cat food
(Cat food with a strong odor that the children can smell works best.)
- 5–10 bowls or plates of strong smelling items such as soap, scented candles, toothpaste, fragrant flowers, half a lemon, mint leaves, parsley, garlic, cat food, coffee beans

Optional

- 1 toy opossum
- 5–10 lengths of yarn, each 6–10 feet long
- Journals for each student

Session 2

What You Need

For the whole group

- 1 sharp knife

For each group of six children

- 3 or more small, opaque, plastic containers, such as 8-ounce yogurt containers, with lids
- 3 or more types of food with strong, identifiable smells (such as orange, banana, peanut butter, pickles, tuna fish)

For each child and yourself

- A small serving of each of the foods you select to put in the scent containers
- 1 plate

Optional

- Several crackers (if you serve peanut butter as a snack)

Session 3

What You Need

For the group

- 1 Mother Opossum poster

Session 4

What You Need

For yourself

- 1 Mother Opossum poster
- Enough blocks (such as building blocks) that are the same length to extend the entire length of the Mother Opossum poster
- Enough of another type of common classroom object of the same length (such as popsicle sticks or paper clips) to extend the entire length of the Mother Opossum poster
- 1 recording sheet

For the group

- Common classroom and real-world objects, such as popsicle sticks, paintbrushes, clothespins, toothpicks, plastic animals, or plastic spoons. You need enough of each item to extend the entire length of the Mother Opossum poster. Be sure all objects of the same type are the same length and do not roll easily.
- Baskets or containers to hold the objects

For each child or pair of children

- 1 copy of the Mother Opossum poster (these do not need to be colored)
- 1 marker and pencil for recording
- 1 recording sheet (or journals)
(For Kindergarten and First Grade, use recording sheet on page 29)
(For Preschool, use recording sheet on page 28)

Session 5

What You Need

For the group

- 1 Mother Opossum poster
- 1 container of finger-paint, or poster paint (any color)
- 1 tray
- Enough newspaper to cover the work table

For each child and yourself

- 1 Opossum Front Paw student data sheet (see page 26)
- 1 Opossum Back Paw student data sheet (see page 27)

Activity 2

Session 1

What You Need

For the group

- 1 Newborn Opossums sheet (see page 45)
- 1 pink crayon, or 9" x 11" pink paper
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 roll of masking tape
- 1 hole punch

For each child and yourself

- 1 paper lunch bag
- 1 piece of string, yarn, or elastic (from a fabric store)
long enough to tie around child's waist
(make a longer piece for yourself)
- 1 paper newborn opossum

Session 2

What You Need

For each child and yourself

- 13 pink beans
- 1 Mother Opossum's Pouch sheet (see page 42)
- 1 paper-bag pouch made in Session 1
- 1 pencil or marker
- White glue
- 1 cup

Session 3

What You Need

For the group

- 10 unifix cubes per child, any color
- 5 baskets or more (depending on the number of children in class)

Activity 3

Session 1

What You Need

For the whole group

- 1 Mother Opossum poster
- 1 paper newborn opossum made in Activity 2: Mother Opossum's Pouch
- 1 Young Opossum Pattern (see page 62)
- 1 Young Opossum poster (see page 63)
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 tray
- 1 container of white glue
- Enough newspaper to cover the tray and the work table

For each child and yourself

- 1 4½" x 6" sheet of white construction paper, or a manila folder
- 1 9" white or gray pipe cleaner (for an opossum tail)
- Small pieces of white and/or gray yarn
- 1 paper-bag pouch made in Activity 2: Mother Opossum's Pouch
- 1 black marker
- 1 pink crayon or marker
- 1 paper clip

Session 2

What You Need

For the group

- 1 toy dog or other opossum predator
- 1 toy frog or cricket
- 1 toy worm, or a 2" piece of brown yarn
- 1 nut
- Extra opossum food (toy frogs, crickets, worms, nuts)
- 1 tray
- Enough newspaper to cover the tray and the work table

For each child and yourself

- 1 paper-bag pouch made in Activity 2: Mother Opossum's Pouch
- 1 young opossum made in Session 1

Optional

- 1 pair of scissors

Session 3

What You Need

For the group

- 1 paper young opossum made during Session 1
- Common objects from the classroom that are longer, shorter, and the same length as the paper opossum, such as straws, pencils, markers, books, paintbrushes, stuffed animals, and spoons
- White paper for duplication

For each child

- 1 paper young opossum made in Session 1
- Measurement Hunt at Home letter for parents (see page 57, and there is a tear-out version of the letter at the end of the guide)

Optional

- Human baby doll, approximately life-size, 12"–21" long

Session 4

What You Need

For the whole group

- 1 Mother Opossum poster
- 1 paper newborn opossum made in Activity 2: Mother Opossum's Pouch
- 1 Young Opossum poster
- Paper, drawing and writing materials for each student