

# Daily Discoveries for **May**

Thematic Learning Activities for  
**EVERY DAY**



Written by Elizabeth Cole Midgley

Illustrated by Jennette Guymon-King



**Teaching & Learning Company**


1204 Buchanan St., P.O. Box 10

Carthage, IL 62321-0010

# This book belongs to

---



Several of the activities in this book involve preparing, tasting and sharing food items. We urge you to be aware of any food allergies or restrictions your students may have and to supervise these activities diligently. All food-related suggestions are identified with this allergy-alert symbol: 

Please note: small food items (candies, raisins, cereal, etc.) can also pose a choking hazard.

Cover art by Jennette Guymon-King

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## Dear Teacher or Parent,

Due to the stimulus of a high-tech world, parents and teachers are often faced with the challenge of how to capture the attention of a child and create an atmosphere of meaningful learning opportunities. Often we search for new ways to meet this challenge and help young people transfer their knowledge, skills and experiences from one area to another. Subjects taught in isolation can leave a feeling of fragmentation. More and more educators are looking for ways to be able to integrate curriculum so that their students can fully understand how things relate to each other.

The Daily Discoveries series has been developed to that end. The premise behind this series has been, in part, the author's educational philosophy: anything can be taught and absorbed by others in a meaningful way, depending upon its presentation.

In this series, each day has been researched around the history of a specific individual or event and has been developed into a celebration or theme with integrated curriculum areas. In this approach to learning students draw from their own experience and understanding of things, to a level of processing new information and skills.

The Daily Discoveries series is an almanac-of-sorts, 12 books (one for each month) that present a thematically based curriculum for grades K-6. The series contains hundreds and hundreds of resources and ideas that can be a natural springboard to learning. These ideas have been used in the classroom and at home, and are fun as well as educationally sound. The activities have been endorsed by professors, teachers, parents and, best of all, by children.

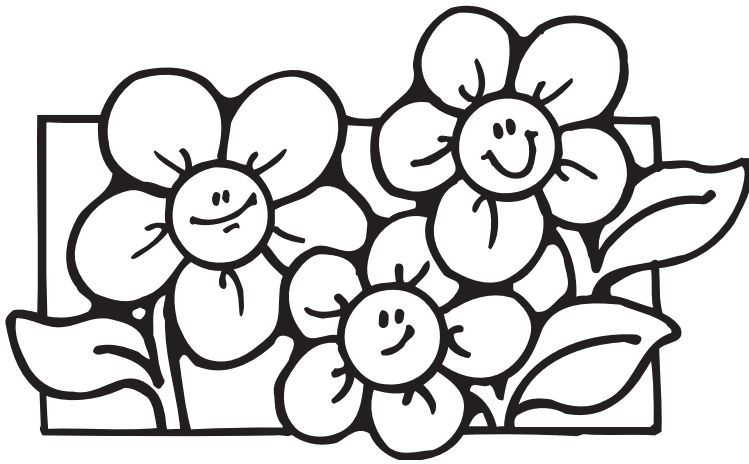
The Daily Discoveries series can be used in the following ways for school or home:

- to develop new skills and reinforce previous learning
- to create a sense of fun and celebration every day
- as tutoring resources
- as enrichment activities that can be used as time allows
- for family fun activities

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Cole Midgley

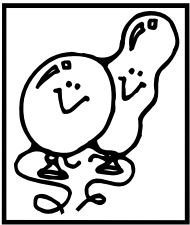


# May Day

May 1



May Day



## Setting the Stage

- Display beautiful student-made flowers next to student work on a bulletin board with the caption: "We're Bloomin' All Over!" Students can cut slits in green construction paper for grass and add all kinds of flowers in various sizes and colors.



May Day



- Create large flower blossom petals and mount them on a bulletin board with a book cover inside each one. Add the caption: "Take Your Pick!"
- Construct a semantic web with facts your students know about flowers, then list together additional things they would like to learn about them.



May Day



May Day



May Day

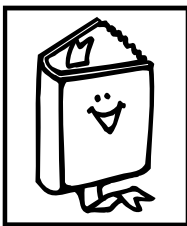


May Day



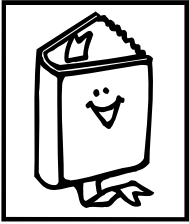
## Historical Background

Traditionally, the first day of May is called, "May Day." Its customs of outdoor parties and festivals date back to ancient Roman celebrations for the arrival of spring and to honor their goddess of flowers, "Flora." They danced around trees until the English began erecting Maypoles to dance around. A King and Queen of May were elected to honor and to add extra excitement to the festivities of the May Day celebrations.



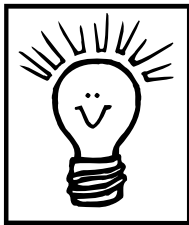
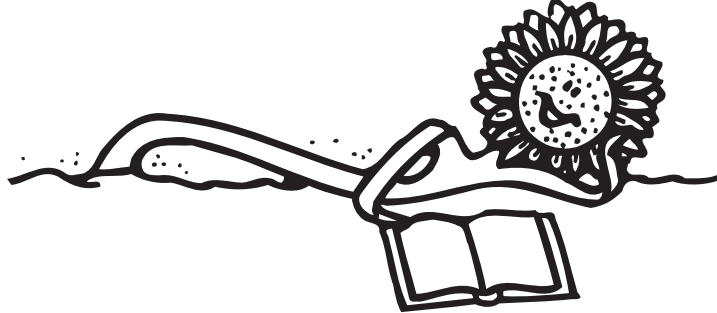
## Literary Exploration

- First Look at Flowers* by Millicent Ellis Selsam
- The Flower* by Mary Louise Downer
- The Flower Alphabet Book* by Jerry Pallotta
- The Flower Faerie* by Franck Asch
- Flower Garden* by Eve Bunting
- A Flower Grows* by Ken Robbins
- A Flower Pot Is Not a Hat* by Martha Moffett
- Flowers, Fruits, Seeds* by Jerome Wexler
- A Garden Is Good* by Lillie D. Chaffin
- The King's Flower* by Mitsumasa Anno
- The Legend of the Bluebonnet* by Tomie dePaola
- The Little Flower King* by Kveta Pacovska
- Little Red Flower* by Paul Tripp
- My Flower Book* by Dorothy Thompson
- Plants That Never Bloom* by Ruth Heller
- The Plant Sitter* by Gene Zion
- Queen of May* by Steven Kroll
- Really Spring* by Gene Zion
- The Reason for a Flower* by Ruth Heller



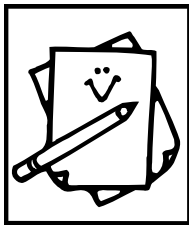
### Literary Exploration continued

*The Rose in My Garden* by Arnold Lobel  
*A Seed, a Flower, a Minute, an Hour* by Joan W. Blos  
*The Seedling Child* by Ruth Bornstein  
*What Shall I Put in the Hole That I Dig?* by Eleanor Thompson  
*Will Spring Be Early or Will Spring Be Late?* by Crockett Johnson  
*You Can't Smell a Flower with Your Ear* by JoAnna Cole



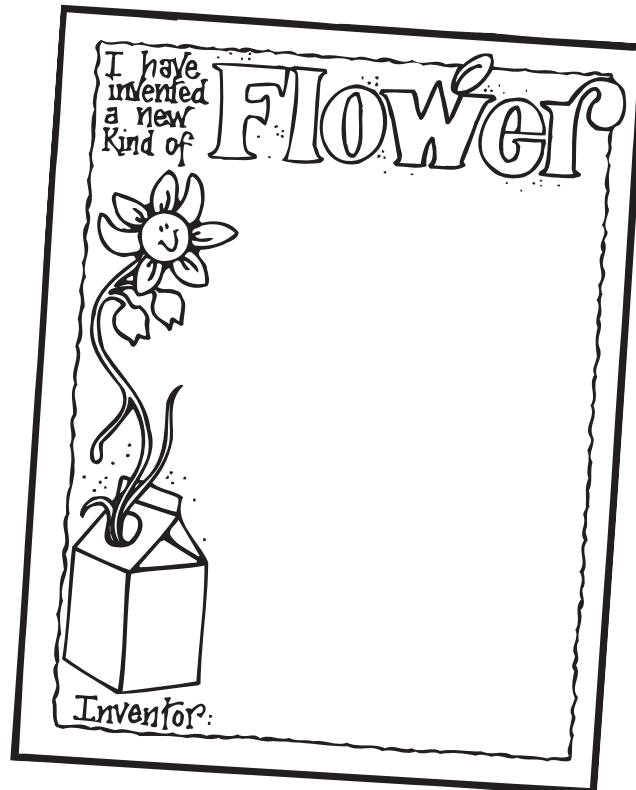
### Language Experience

- Encourage students to think of words that have the “ay” sound as in *May Day*.



### Writing Experience

- Students can invent new kinds of flowers and write about them. Ask them to be sure and use descriptive words and sensory imagery. See reproducible on page 14.



May Day



May Day



May Day



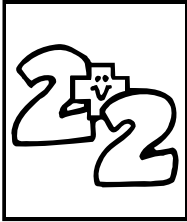
May Day



May Day

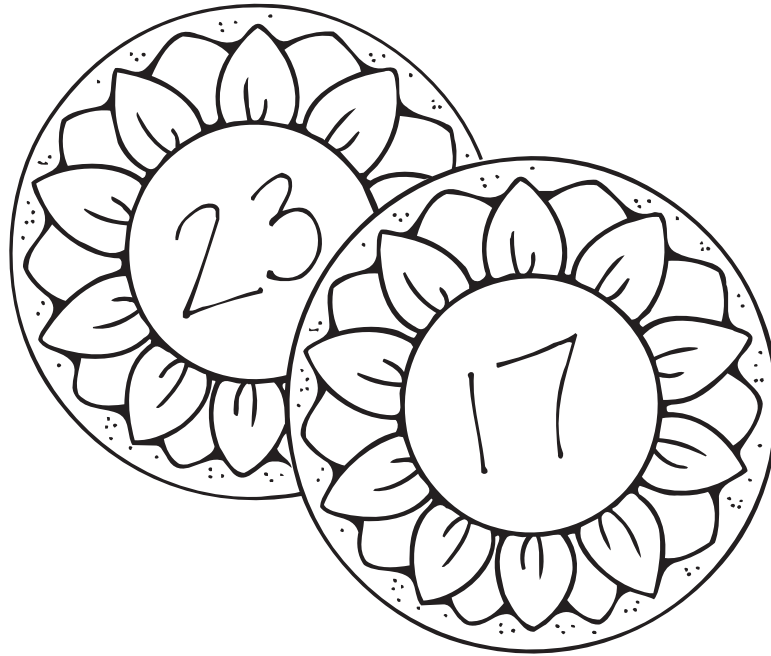


May Day



## Math Experience

- Let each student make a large flower and print a number on it. (Give them a frame of numbers to work with.) As you quiz students on their math facts, the student with the correct answer holds up the correct flower. See patterns on page 15.



- Bring artificial flowers and 10 paper cups or flowerpots. Number them 1-10. Younger students can practice counting the correct number of flowers to put in each container.

