

Lend a Hand

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE

TREES - ID THAT TREE

What type of trees are around your school? Are they trees that are *indigenous*, or native, to the area, or have they been planted here by landscapers or another group? Take students on a tree ID search. Have them record their observations about the kinds of trees they see and collect leaf samples. They should use the data they collect to identify as many types of trees as possible. Discuss why trees are important. How many resources can your students list that come from trees?



TECHNOLOGY

PUPPY - THE SEEING EYE

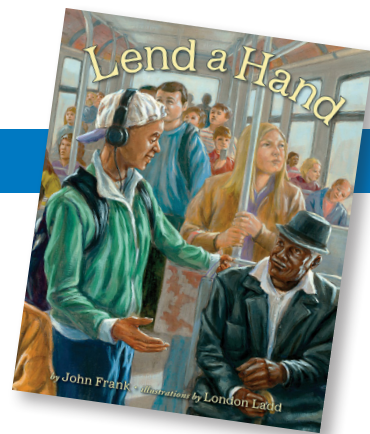
Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4nON4tjOMI for a puppy's view of what it takes to become a seeing eye dog. Explain that there are many types of service animals, not just dogs, that help people with all kinds of disabilities. Have students discuss the differences between a service animal and regular pet. If a student in your class has a service animal, speak with them privately ahead of time to determine the extent to which they wish to participate in this discussion and if they are comfortable sharing their experiences. Go over the appropriate etiquette for interacting with a service animal team (visit <http://pleasedontpetme.com/etiquette.php> for guidance).

ENGINEERING

STREAM - ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS

Have your class become environmental engineers! Explain that environmental engineers address air and water pollution, waste disposal, recycling, and public health issues. Give your students the task of finding areas on the school grounds that could be improved upon in one or more of these categories.

Have small groups of students work together. They should come up with a problem area, a proposed solution for the problem, and an action plan of how to implement their ideas. Ask groups to present their findings to the class.



ART

LETTER - THANK OUR TROOPS

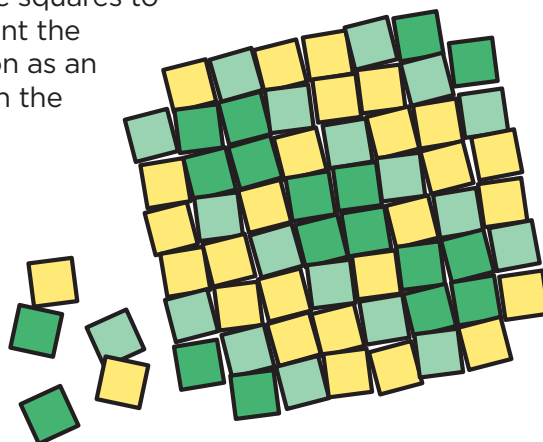
Have students make cards or write letters to thank the members of our military. Go online to www.operationgratitude.com/writeletters for tips on letter writing and a mailing address.

MATH

NO BOUNDS - AN ARRAY OF PATTERNS

Materials: paper squares, crayons, pencils, glue, paper

Have students create their own "quilt" pattern by choosing a multiplication problem to illustrate. For example, if they pick 2×2 , the student will use four squares to design the quilt pattern. Once the design is done, the student should glue the squares to represent the equation as an array on the paper.



Reading Is Fundamental