

Special Ed

THE BIG DARK

37 activities

chapter questions



Special Needs for Special Kids

These novel units are something I created and started using in my classroom. I had students with significant challenges and most were **non-readers**. They were the best thing I ever did, and my students LOVED them.



Table of Contents

Worksheet pages	Activity	Chapter
5	Suggestions for use	
6	Story board	
7	Title and Author	
8-10	Things in the night sky	1
11-12	Things that use electricity	2
13-15	Magnetism	3
16	What is a conspiracy?	4
17	What is rationing?	5
18	How long will the wood last?	6
19-21	Things about fire	7
22-23	Personification	8
24	What does allegiance mean?	9
25	Vote: Who should be in charge	10
26-28	Weather instruments	11
29-31	Diabetes	12
32-34	Ways to send a message	13
35	Reasons people tell a lie	14
36-38	Alternatives to fighting	15
39-40	People you can trust	16
41-43	Things to pack to stay warm	17

Table of Contents

Worksheet pages	Activity	Chapter
44-45	Cross Country Skiing	18
46-47	Things that make you sad	
48-50	Coyotes	
51-52	Ways to rescue someone	
53-54	Breakfast or dinner foods	
55-56	When all hope is gone	20
57	What is looting?	24
58-59	Matching synonyms	25
60-61	Hot or cold drinks	26
62-63	Saying goodbye	27
64-66	Perseverance	28
67-69	Ways to travel in the snow	29
70-71	Sometimes things are not fair	30
72-73	Consequences	31
74-76	Signs of a bully	32
77-79	Bravery	33
80-82	What is a hero?	34
83-84	Famous speeches	35
85-86	What if...	Epilogue
87-89	Other novel units available	
90-91	Terms of Use	

This novel unit has **37** different activities. These activities are NOT comprehension-based. So, even if your students do not pay attention, they can still complete the activity.

What if...

What if there were no  , then we would use .

What if there were no  , then we would use .

What if there was no  then we would use .

What if there were no  , then we would use .

What if there were no  , then we would use .

What if there were no  , then we would .

Place the following in the empty boxes on the previous page.



For example, students think about what they could use if common things no longer worked. There are pictures provided, or students can come up with their own answers.

Suggestions for Use

- I made this unit to go along with the book, *The Big Dark* by Rodman Philbrick.
- The thought is that you would be reading it aloud to your class at a rate of about 1 chapter per day.
- Be sure to give each student their own copy of the story board (pg. 6) to use while reading and discussing the story.
- Benefits of reading out loud, even to classes made up of severely affected students:
 - Teaches students to sit quietly even when there isn't something for them to do. This is such an important life skill. We all have to spend time sitting and listening to someone we are not that interested in at some point.
 - Parents will LOVE you. Not only will they be excited their child is being exposed to age appropriate material, but you are teaching them how to sit quietly, which will hopefully transfer to home as well.
 - Even with your lowest level learners, you will have 1 or 2 that will truly enjoy the story.
- It can be a calming experience to sit and listen to the teacher read in a methodical way. For students who need more structure, place the number of post-it notes in front of him/her that corresponds to the number of pages you intend to read. Remove a post-it as you finish each page. The visual will help lessen their anxiety.
- You will find one or more activities for each chapter. You will still have plenty to choose from and find those that fit best with your students.
- Differentiation:
 - For any activity, you can quickly differentiate for your lower level learners by using a color coding technique.
 - If sorting, outline each sorting category a certain color and then outline the corresponding pictures the same color.
 - Becomes a matching task.
- There are comprehension questions to accompany this unit. There are 5 questions for every 2 chapters with 3 picture answer choices. You will find these (in color and BW) in a separate file.

Suggestions on how I found this activity worked best in my classroom are provided. I typically had 6-8 students with one adult assistant in the room with me.

Color version

The Big Dark Novel Unit for Special Education

By
Christa Joy
Special Needs for Special Kids

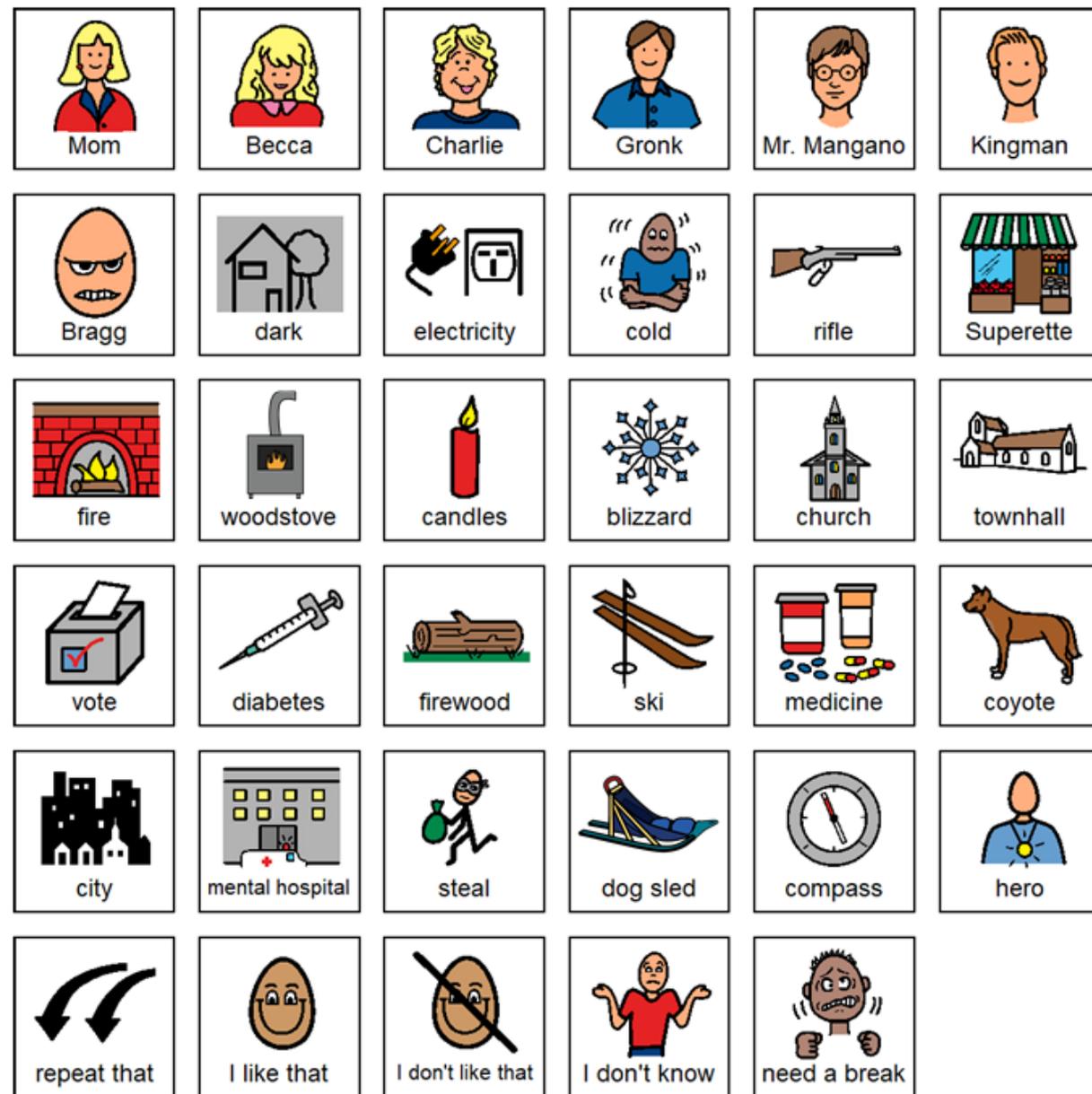


*This entire novel unit
comes in 2 separate files.
One is completely in color
and one is completely in
black and white.*

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

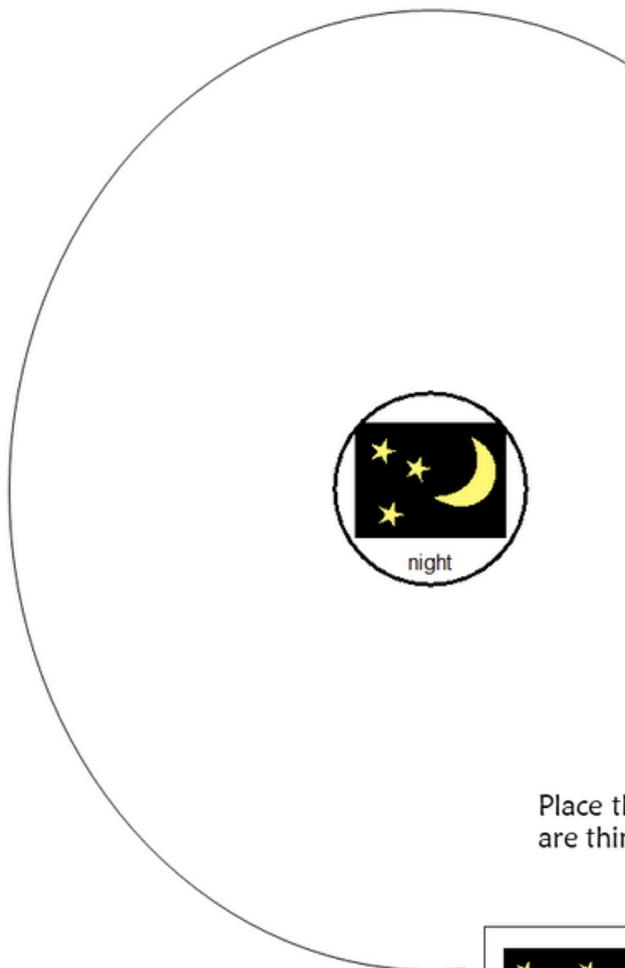
Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

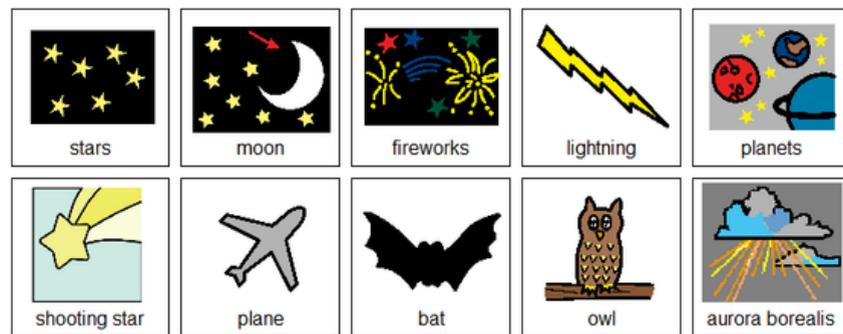


Story Board : ... and for class discussions. Laminate a copy for each student.

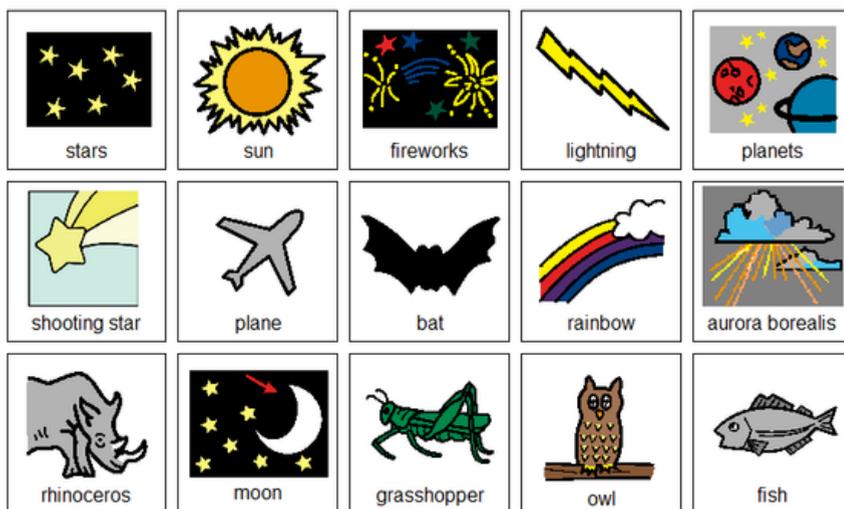
What are some things you might see in the night sky?



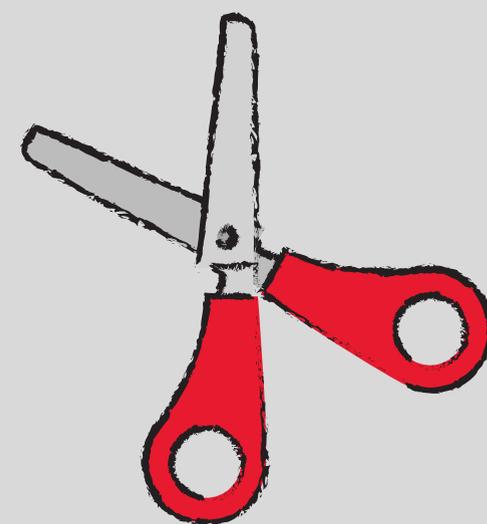
Place the following in the circle map showing some things you might see in the night sky.



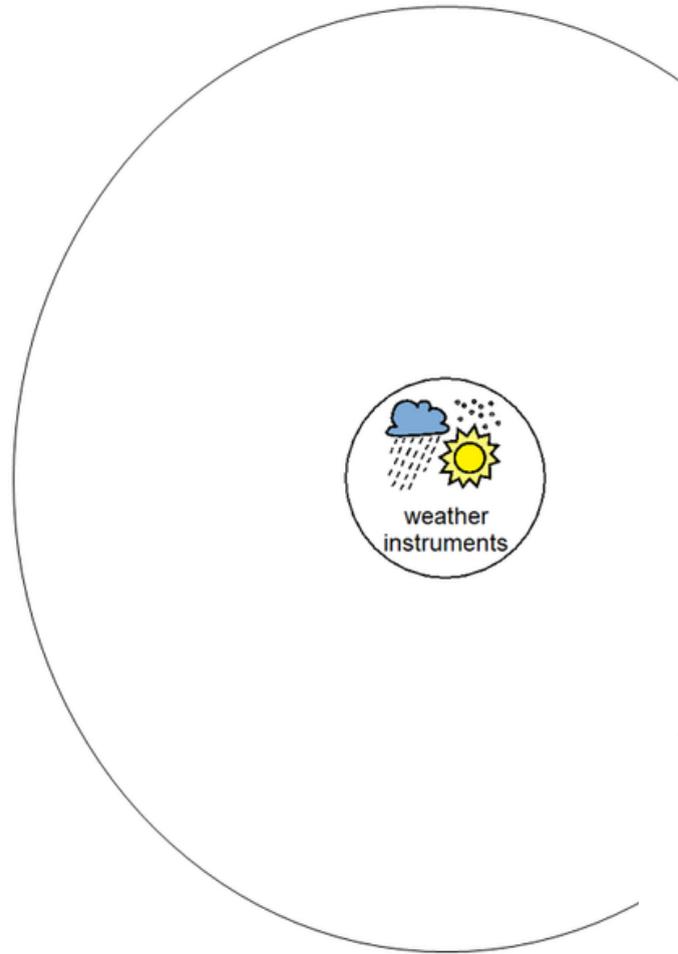
Place the following on the previous page **ONLY IF** they are things you might see in the night sky.



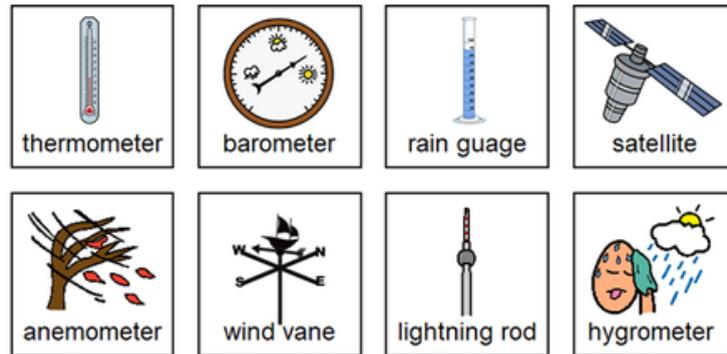
There are circle maps in this unit. Circle maps are a great way for students to see a big idea.



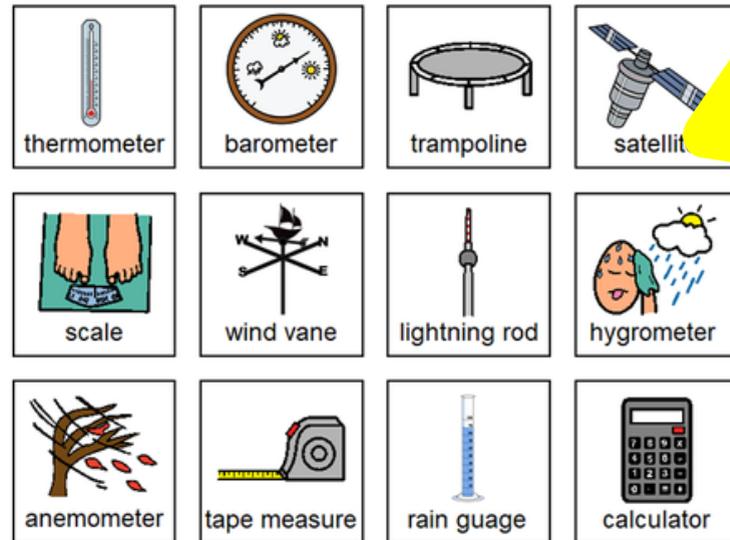
What are some things you use to predict the weather?



Put the following pictures in the circle map about weather instruments.



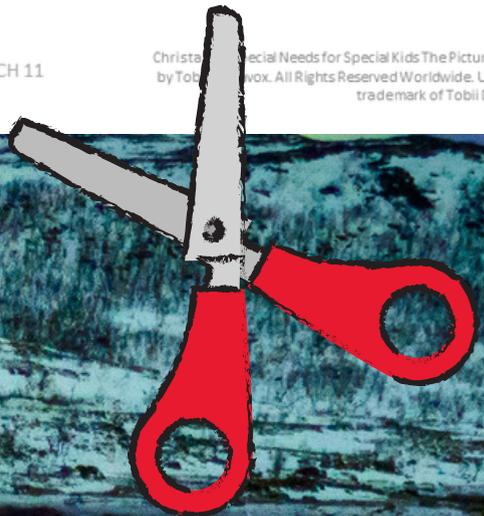
Put the following pictures in the circle **ONLY IF** they are weather instruments.



Each circle map comes with 2 choices:

An errorless option with only correct answers

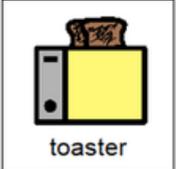
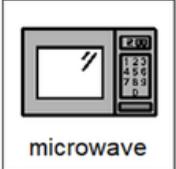
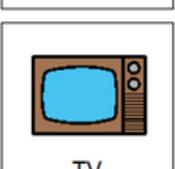
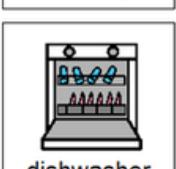
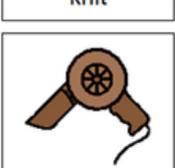
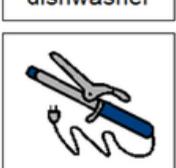
An option that has wrong answers mixed in students will need to set aside.



Everything that uses electricity is no longer working. What are some things you do and don't need electricity for?

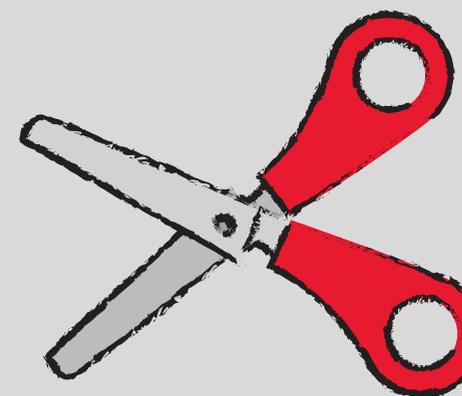


Cut out pictures below and sort into correct column on previous page. If you are not sure, place it on the middle line.

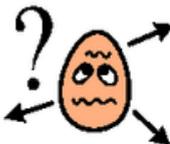
 toaster	 read	 bike	 microwave
 blender	 mixer	 skateboard	 coloring
 Play-Doh	 TV	 knit	 dishwasher
 kite	 Frisbee	 hair dryer	 curling iron

There are sorting activities.

Directions on how to add color coding or a separate differentiated version is included.



If you had to rescue someone who was trapped in the following places, what would you use?

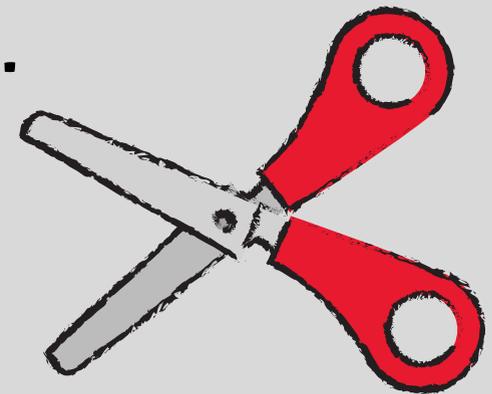
 well	<input type="text"/>	 up a tree	<input type="text"/>
 mountain peak	<input type="text"/>	 pond	<input type="text"/>
 ocean	<input type="text"/>	 apartment fire	<input type="text"/>
 locked door	<input type="text"/>	 I'm lost	<input type="text"/>

Match with the situation on the previous page.

 keys	 map	 rescue helicopter	 fire engine
 speedboat	 rowboat	 rope	 ladder

There are matching activities.

Directions on how to add color coding or a separate differentiated version is included.



Cross Country Skiing

I went skiing through the .

It was outside.

I wore to stay warm.

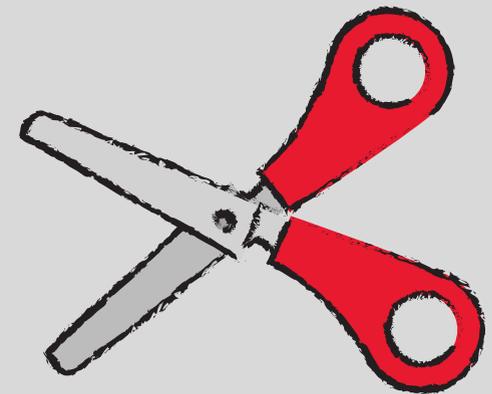
I saw lots of while skiing.

Cross country skiing is .

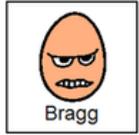
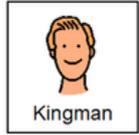
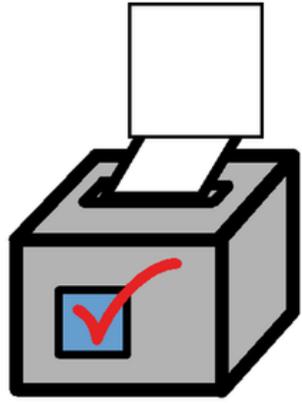


woods	park	field	country	mountains
cold	freezing	snowing	windy	
mittens	scarf	ski outfit	cap	long underwear
birds	rabbits	deer	squirrel	kids
great	fun	exhausting	okay	the best

There are writing prompts. These are errorless activities that allow students to write a story independently.



Time to vote!! Who do you think would be a better leader?



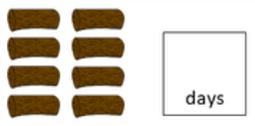
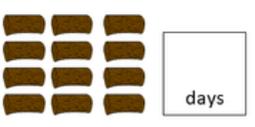
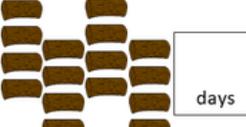
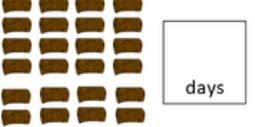
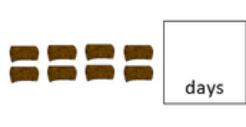
CH 10

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25

Look at pile of wood below. How long will the wood last?

 = 1 day

	days		days
	days		days
	days		days

CH 6

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18

What does allegiance mean?



allegiance

trust love loyal follow rules dedicated

CH 9

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24

Because there are so many activities, you can choose the ones that fit your students the best.

What is a conspiracy?



conspiracy

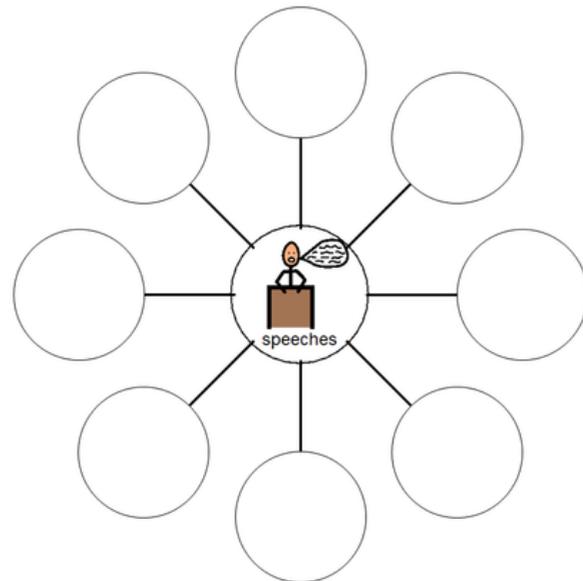
scheme sneaky shady unsure trick you

CH 4

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16

Here are some people who have given some of the most famous speeches in history.



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83

Place the pictures in the empty circles.

Lincoln Washington Martin Luther King Kennedy

Lou Gehrig Churchill Obama Chief Joseph

1. What day was everyone gathered?



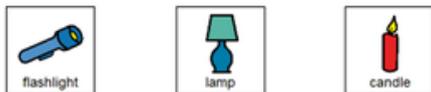
2. What was everyone there to see?



3. What stopped working after the bright light?



4. What was the only light that worked?



5. Did the emergency generators work?



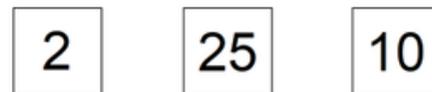
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1. What other job did the school custodian have?



2. How many cans of food will each person be allowed to buy?



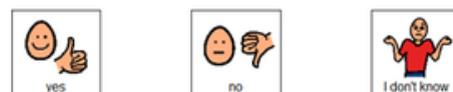
3. What is Charlie's family only source of heat?



4. How will people travel in the deep snow?



5. Had there been any planes in the sky since the bright light?



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This unit does come with comprehension questions. There are questions for every chapter. Each question has 3 picture choices. They are in color and black and white.

Answer key included!!



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

[Click Here to read more!!](#)