



First Grade News



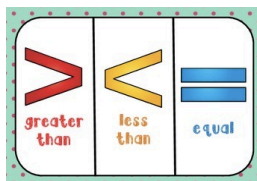
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Math

This week in Math, students began comparing 2 two-digit numbers based on the values of the tens and ones digits.

Students learned the meaning of the symbols $<$ and $>$. Students observed that the larger open space of the symbol faces the greater value. It is important for students to relate each symbol to the language "greater than" or "less than". We then interpreted comparison statements using these symbols and the equal sign.



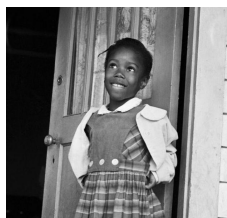
Social Studies

First grade students also learned about the Lunar New Year. Lunar New Year is celebrated in many Asian countries, including China, Vietnam, the Koreas, Singapore, and Malaysia. Though some traditions are shared, others are unique to each country's cultural identity. In China, the new year is called the 'Spring Festival', or "Chinese New Year". Celebrations begin February 10, and last for 15 days and mark the beginning of a new year on the lunar calendar. Traditions for celebrating can include putting up decorations, sharing a meal with family, attending parades, lion dances, and setting off fireworks. Another tradition is to gift red envelopes to friends and family. Inside the envelope is money to symbolize good wishes and luck for the year ahead. In China, this is the year of the Chinese zodiac animal the Dragon.



Social Studies

This week in Social Studies, first grade students learned about Ruby Bridges, who was a first grader herself when she became the first African-American student to desegregate an all-white elementary school. Ruby Bridges stood up against unjust laws and unfair treatment of African-American people.



Foundations

We continued studying blends in Unit 8 of Foundations. This week, we focused on digraph blends. A digraph blend is a digraph blended with another consonant such as n and ch in the word lunch or sh and r in the word shred. Words with digraph blends have four sounds and are marked up in the following way:



b e n ch

This week we learned the trick words over, number, and her.

Science

First graders continued to explore the pattern of night and day, specifically the sun rising in the East and setting in the West. They designed play houses and used flashlights to model and observe this phenomenon.



Reading

First graders learned that when people are really curious and want to learn more about something, they can use all they know about nonfiction reading to learn not only from books, but from the world around them. They also learned that when readers are getting ready to read a few texts on the same topic, they think, 'What looks the same?' 'Different?' and 'What will I learn about this topic from each of these books?' Then they can use everything they know about nonfiction reading to read and learn a lot from each book. Finally, first graders learned that partners can share interesting and super-important parts of books in order to interest their friend in a topic.

★ Save the Date ★

February 14th: Field trip Mr. Popper's Penguins
February 19th-23rd: February Break



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