

**Get ready to discover mathematics all around you this spring!**

**Just like reading, regular practice during the spring season with problem solving, computation, and math facts will maintain and strengthen the mathematic gains you have made throughout the school year.**

**Enjoy these activities to explore problem solving at home. The goal is for you to have fun thinking, working collaboratively and to communicate mathematical ideas.**

**While you are working ask how the solution was found and why a particular strategy helped you solve the problem.**

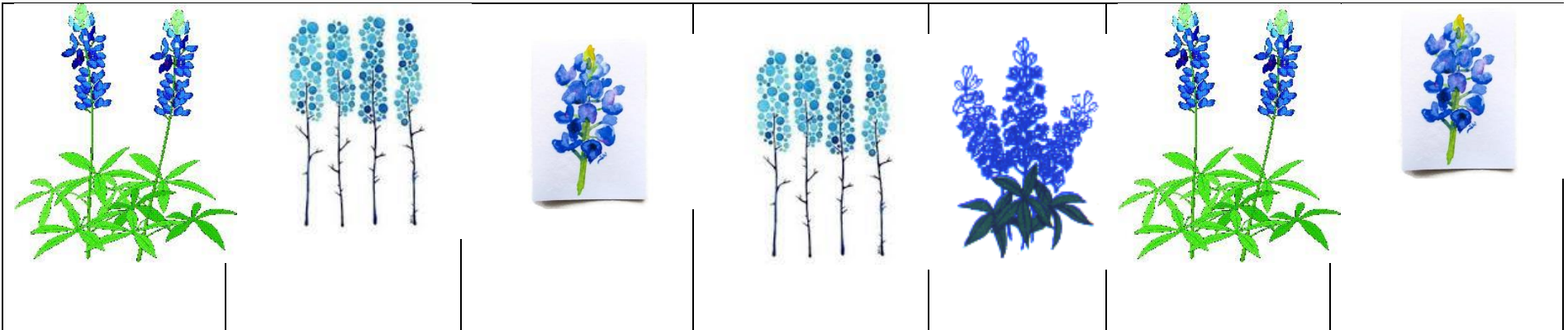
Keeping a Math journal is a great way for children to log their ideas about Math as well as strategies for arriving at solutions. Here is an example of a journal entry:

April 14,

Today I counted all the bluebonnets I saw each day.

Here is a picture of the bluebonnets I saw each day of Spring Break.

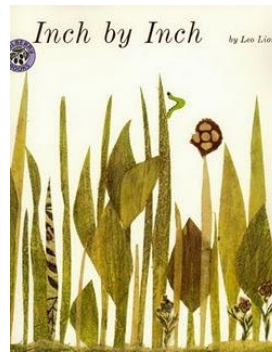
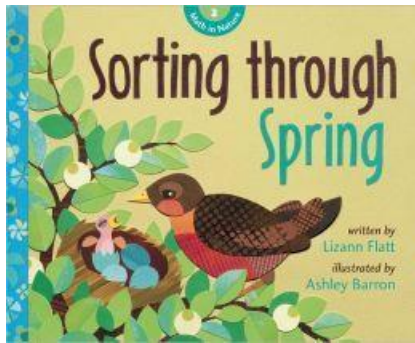
(Draw a picture)



There were  $2 + 4 + 1 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 17$  bluebonnets I saw over the entire Spring Break.

## Cool Math Books to Read Anytime

[Check out the sampling of great Spring Math/Literature Connections](#)



- See The [National Council of Teachers of Mathematics \(NCTM\)'s Grouchy Lessons of Time](#) for suggestions for mathematically extending this book for different age levels.

**Explore these webpages for Math Family Spring Fun**

With spring comes Easter fun. Below are links for dozens of activities to learn with plastic eggs.



## Check out the links below for loads of FUN!!

**Bunny Hop ABC Game** from Fantastic Fun and Learning <http://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/bunny-hop-abc-game.html>

**Egg Water Science** from Little Bins for Little Hands <http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/sink-easter-egg-science-experiment-saturday-science/>

**Easter Egg Lunch Hunt** from Lovely Commotion. Just for Fun!! <http://www.lovelycommotion.com/easter-egg-lunch-hunt/>

**Easter Egg Listening Game** from Little Bins for Little Hands. A math and science connection can be made by recording the time it takes the eggs to travel down the ramp and then compare the times. Which ramp allowed the eggs to travel faster? Slower?  
<http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/plastic-easter-egg-races-exploring-ramps-gravity-motion-saturday-science/>

**Hunting and Ordering Eggs** from Reading Confetti Create more challenging problems by including numbers that are not in sequential order. <http://www.readingconfetti.com/2013/03/10-ways-to-learn-numbers-and-letters.html>

**Easter Egg Memory Match** from Happily Ever Mom. Make this activity more thought-provoking by placing equivalent coins under the eggs. For instance a match could be 2 nickels and 1 dime or 1 nickel and 5 pennies.

**Jelly Bean Math** <http://lh3.ggpht.com/-bDz-FCuOFk8/T1qvbsBaVYI/AAAAAAAAAWk/Fj7z5PFn73w/s1600-h/Jellybean%252520Addition%252520and%252520Subtraction2%25255B2%25255D.jpg>

## The Jelly Bean Tree

In the computer game The Jellybean Tree, students watch as a tree sprouts with different colored jellybeans. Red, orange, yellow, green, and purple jellybeans will appear. Each time the game is played there will be a different total number of jellybeans and a different number of each color of jellybean; always between 25 and 50 total. Users can then “pick” the jellybeans and drag and drop them to their correct places in a bar graph shown on the other side of the screen. They also change the view so that the bar graph can be a pie chart. Finally, the user must answer five questions involving the “jellybean tree.”

The game is accessible on both computer and tablets.

<http://mrnussbaum.com/the-jellybean-tree/>



[Yet More Jelly Bean Math](#) from Mama Miss. This is a great activity to help students with basic facts. Check out the pictures below for step by step instructions.



- Encourage your child to place the jellybeans in the circles to fill in the blanks to complete the problem. That's it!
- **You can optionally reward your child with a jellybean once the problem is completed as well.**
- The AWESOME things about these cards is that you can print them out (see "print here" icon below), laminate them & then you have them ALL.THE.TIME! You can use them later with paperclips, or chocolate chips, or coins, or even have your child practice writing their numbers in the circles with a dry erase crayon! I love the multi-use aspect & I hope you get many uses out of these flashcards I've created too!











## Fun Websites to Explore all Year Long:

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

[www.aplusmath.com](http://www.aplusmath.com)

[www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org)

[www.illuminations.nctm.org](http://www.illuminations.nctm.org)

## Card Games To Play (You will need a deck of cards)

### **Compare**

1. Remove the face cards from a deck of cards. Remember an Ace is the same as 1. Pass out all of the cards in the deck among all of the players. Each player flips over one card at the same time. The player with the higher number keeps both cards. If the two cards are the same, turn over another card. The player with the higher number keeps all four.

### **2. Double Compare**

Same as above, but turn over two cards each time and find the sum. The one with the larger sum takes the cards.

### **3. Close to 10**

Remove the face cards from a deck of cards. Deal 3 cards to each player. Which two cards brings you closest to 10? Which player is closest to 10? Example: You turn over the cards 5, 4, 3 and your opponent turns over an Ace, 8, and 3. You can make 9 (5 and 4) and your opponent can make 9 (Ace and 8) or 11 (8 and 3). It's a tie since you are both 1 away from 10!

### Other games to play:

Checkers, Memory, Chutes and Ladders, jigsaw puzzles, Parcheesi, Fish, Crazy Eights, Candy Land, Blink, Connect Four, Legos, K'Nex.

Check out the PDF: [Making Math More Fun Board Games](#) that contains a variety of board games for different grade levels.