

for **Daily Discoveries** **February**

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

Copyright © 2005, Teaching & Learning Company

ISBN No. 1-57310-467-1

Printing No. 987654321

Teaching & Learning Company
1204 Buchanan St., P.O. Box 10
Carthage, IL 62321-0010

The purchase of this book entitles teachers to make copies for use in their individual classrooms, only. This book, or any part of it, may not be reproduced in any form for any other purposes without prior written permission from the Teaching & Learning Company. It is strictly prohibited to reproduce any part of this book for an entire school or school district, or for commercial resale.

All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America.

At the time of publication every effort was made to insure the accuracy of the information included in this book. However, we cannot guarantee that agencies and organizations mentioned will continue to operate or maintain these current locations.

Table of Contents

February 1	Robinson Crusoe Day	5
February 2	Groundhog Day	8
February 3	Norman Rockwell's Birthday	17
February 4	Charles Lindbergh's Birthday	20
February 5	Blah Buster Day	32
February 6	Ronald Reagan's Birthday	39
February 7	Laura Ingalls Wilder's Birthday	43
February 8	Futuristic Day	48
February 9	Weather Service Day	53
February 10	Singing Telegram Day	63
February 11	Thomas Edison's Birthday	66
February 12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	74
February 13	Magazine Day	82
February 14	Valentine's Day	88
February 15	Sweets for the Sweet Day	108
February 16	Television News Day	117
February 17	Black History Day	120
February 18	Brotherhood/Sisterhood Day	123
February 19	Copernicus' Birthday	130
February 20	John Glenn Day	138
February 21	Telephone Book Day	146
February 22	George Washington's Birthday	149
February 23	George Frederick Handel's Birthday	155
February 24	Winslow Homer's Birthday	160
February 25	Taxes Day	163
February 26	Levi Strauss' Birthday	167
February 27	Poem in My Pocket Day	169
February 28	Pizza Pizzazz Day	175
February 29	Leap Year Day	185
February	Calendar	192

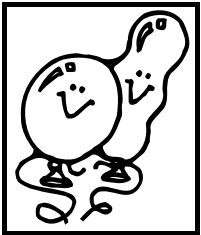


Robinson Crusoe Day

February 1

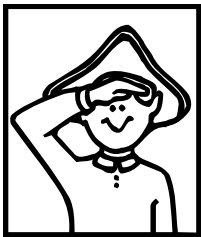


Robinson
Crusoe



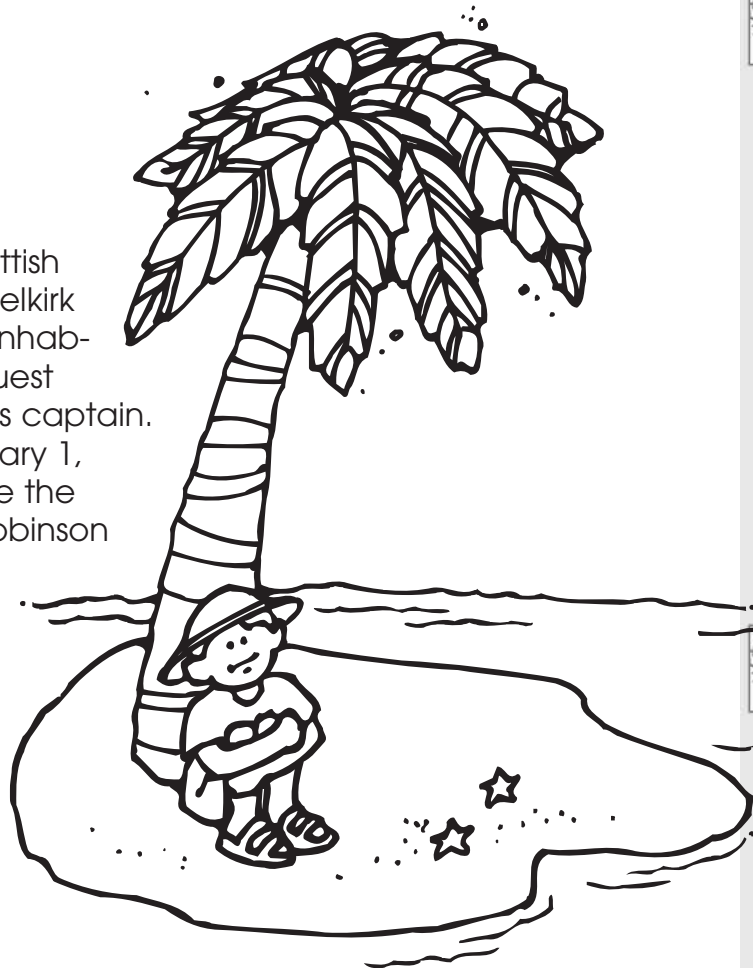
Setting the Stage

- Display island "souvenirs" (seashells, fish, coconuts, palm trees, etc.) around a copy of the book *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe.

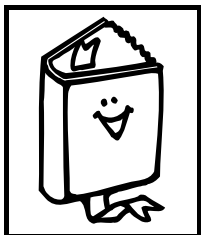


Historical Background

In September 1704, a Scottish sailor named Alexander Selkirk was put ashore on an uninhabited island at his own request after an argument with his captain. He was rescued on February 1, 1709. His adventures were the basis for the legendary Robinson Crusoe.



Robinson
Crusoe

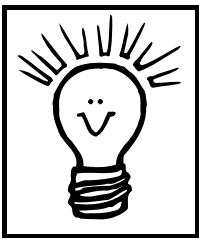


Literary Exploration

The New Robinson Crusoe by Joachim Heinrich Campe
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
Robinson Crusoe: Retold for Today's Children by Anne deGraf
Selkirk's Island by Diana Souhami
Swiss Family Robinson by Johann Wyss

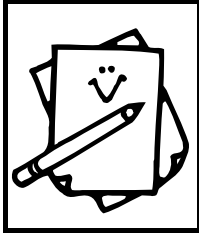


Robinson
Crusoe



Language Experience

- Challenge students to come up with as many adjectives as they can to describe what it would be like to live on a deserted island.



Writing Experience

- Have students write postcards home from Robinson Crusoe's perspective.
- Let students imagine they are all alone on an island. Have them write journal entries to describe how they got there and what happens to them.



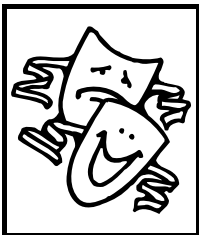
Science/Health Experience

- Challenge students to consider Robinson Crusoe's nutritional needs. What did he find to eat? What kinds of foods were good for him? What did he need that he did not have to stay healthy?



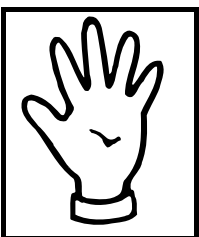
Social Studies Experience

- Have students research life in the early 1700s in Great Britain. What would life as a sailor be like? What things would Robinson Crusoe not have missed that we would miss today? (electricity, running water, etc.)



Music/Dramatic Experience

- Let students pretend they meet another person after being alone on an island for years. How would they act? Let partners act out their feelings.



Physical/Sensory Experience

- What exercise did Robinson Crusoe do to stay fit? Challenge students to create some exercises that would help keep them in shape if they were marooned on a deserted island.



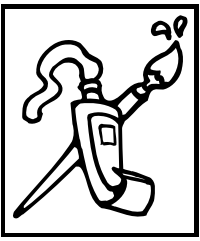
Robinson Crusoe



Robinson Crusoe

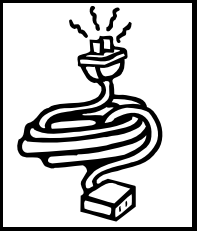


Robinson Crusoe



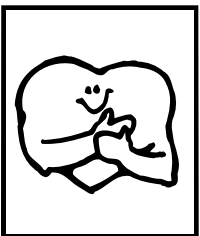
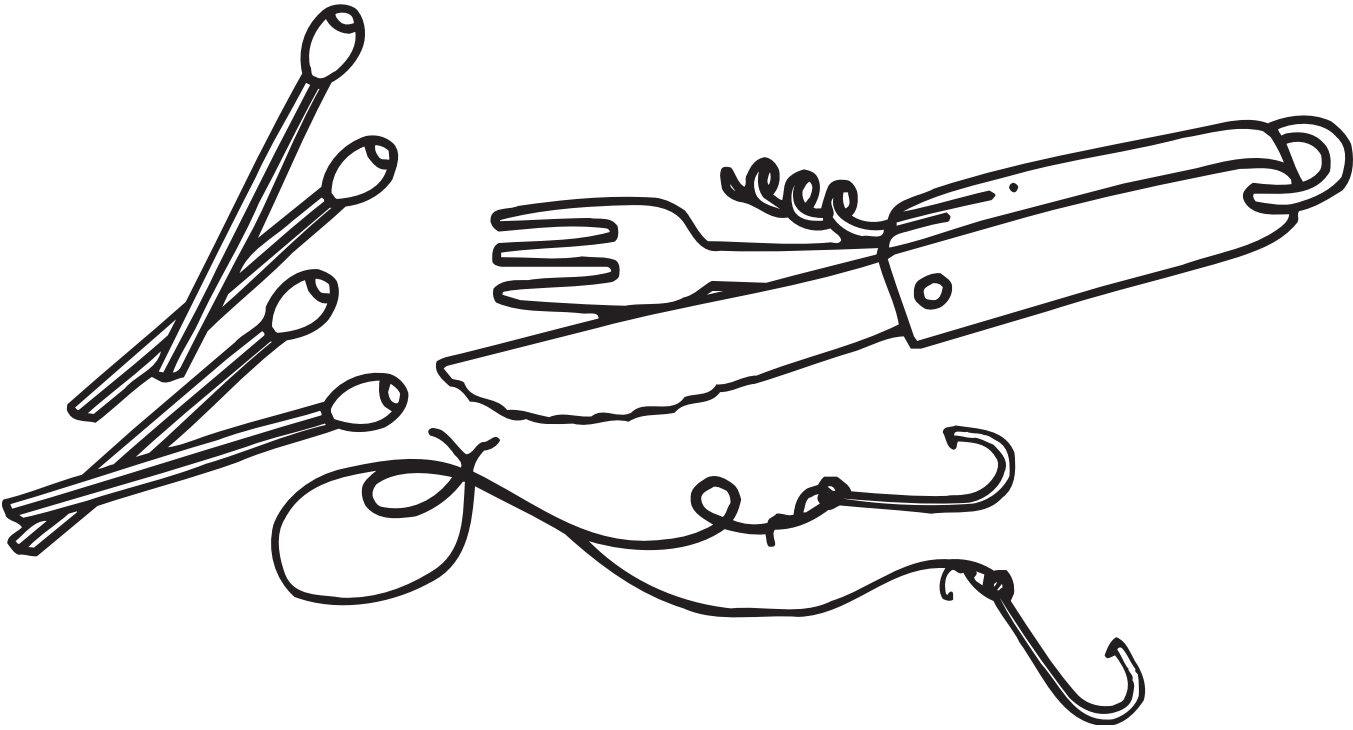
Arts/Crafts Experience

- Let students work together to turn a corner of your classroom into an island. Provide some sand and shells. Construct palm trees by wrapping cardboard tubes with brown crepe paper, then cutting big leaves from green paper and taping them to the trunks. Others may draw a long ocean, sunset scene on mural paper. Let them go to the island corner to read when they finish their work early.



Extension Activities

- Challenge students to bring two items from home that they feel would be absolutely invaluable if they were stranded on a deserted island. The items must be small enough to fit in a suitcase. Have students explain why their items would be indispensable.



Values Education Experience

- Ask students to share why living alone on an island for an extended time would be a difficult adventure. Discuss feelings such as loneliness and fear. Talk about the advantage of having other people around to talk with, do things with and enjoy. But it's also important to be somewhat self-reliant, able to be by ourselves sometimes.



Robinson
Crusoe



Robinson
Crusoe



Robinson
Crusoe