

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	3	<b>Logic Grids</b>	
<b>English Activities</b>		Spring Planting. . . . .	53
<b>Word Puzzles #1–10</b> . . . . .	7	Fish 'n Fun. . . . .	54
<b>What's the Rule?</b>		Let's Play Ball! . . . . .	55
Colours . . . . .	17	Birthdays! Birthdays! Birthdays! . . . . .	56
Abbreviations. . . . .	18	Favourite Shoes . . . . .	57
Games . . . . .	19	Pony Rides. . . . .	58
Months. . . . .	20	Plenty of Pie. . . . .	59
<b>Compound Riddles</b> . . . . .	21	Friendly Frogs . . . . .	60
<b>Building Words</b>		<b>Adding Games</b>	
Four-Letter Words . . . . .	24	Add to 6. . . . .	61
Five-Letter Words. . . . .	27	Add to 7. . . . .	62
Six-Letter Words . . . . .	30	Add to 8. . . . .	63
<b>Maths Activities</b>		Add to 9. . . . .	64
<b>Logic Problems</b>		Add to 10. . . . .	65
Back to School. . . . .	31	<b>Money Problems</b>	
Sun, Moon and Stars . . . . .	33	Counting Fives, Tens and Twenties. . . . .	66
A Sea Full of Life. . . . .	35	Coin Combinations #1 . . . . .	68
Let's Go to the Zoo . . . . .	37	Coin Combinations #2 . . . . .	69
Now We're Cooking! . . . . .	39	Coin Manipulatives . . . . .	70
Are We There Yet? . . . . .	41	<b>Shape Recognition</b>	
<b>More Logic Problems</b>		Count the Circles . . . . .	71
Brain Squeezer to 12 . . . . .	43	Count the Squares . . . . .	72
Brain Squeezer to 15 . . . . .	44	Count the Triangles . . . . .	73
Brain Squeezer to 18 . . . . .	45	<b>Numbers and Operations</b>	
Brain Squeezer to 21 . . . . .	46	What's My Sign? #1. . . . .	74
<b>Twelve-Picture Logic</b>		What's My Sign? #2. . . . .	75
Eat Your Fruits and Vegetables. . . . .	47	<b>Manipulatives</b>	
Here, Kitty, Kitty . . . . .	48	Letters . . . . .	76
Going Buggy!. . . . .	49	Numbers. . . . .	77
Which Animal Am I? . . . . .	50	<b>Answer Key</b> . . . . .	78
Which Puppy Is It? . . . . .	51		
Which Flag Am I? . . . . .	52		

# Introduction

*Brain Teasers and Squeezers* is designed to develop logical thinking and reasoning and inference skills in primary-age students. The activities are divided into two main curricular areas - English and maths. The activities in this book can be used in a variety of ways. The following are some suggestions:

## **Whole Class Instruction**

Many of the activities can be easily done with the whole class. Make an overhead transparency of the activity and make a copy for each student in the class. Students can be called on to move pieces around (Logic Problems and More Logic Problems) or to show a solution to a problem as in Building Words. (Many of the activities can be done with just an overhead and no student copies.)

## **Seatwork**

The activities can be assigned as seatwork or made available for students who finish an assignment early. Many of the activities can be laminated, and the student(s) can use an overhead pen to write on the laminated page. The teacher can quickly check the work, 'erase' the page, and then the activity sheet is ready for the next student to use.

## **Advanced Students**

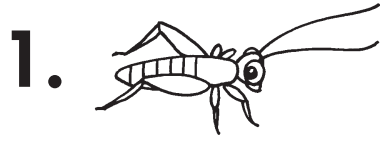
The activities are great to use with the more advanced students in the class. Many of the activities are arranged in order from least difficult to most difficult. Make a checklist for each student in the class, and as each activity is completed, the student can place a tick by his or her name under the specific activity.

## **Homework Assignments**

Many of the activities are appropriate to send home as part of the weekly homework packet.

# Word Puzzle #10

Look at each picture. Read the word that goes with each picture. Write the missing letter in the circle. After all of the circles have been filled in, find the mystery word.



○ r i c k e t



m ○ t h



w o r ○



g r a s s h o ○ p e r



b ○ t t e r f l y



a n ○



b ○ e



l a d y b i ○ d

What is the mystery word? \_\_\_\_\_

Use the mystery word in a sentence.

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# What's the Rule?

Look at the words on the list below. What do they all have in common? Choose words from the Word Bank that meet the rule. Write the words from the Word Bank on the lines.

## Word Bank

orange	house	green
desk	purple	phone
brown	yellow	red
flower	table	tape

1. *pink*

2. *grey*

3. *blue*

4. *black*

5. *white*

6. *gold*

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the rule?

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What is your favourite colour?

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# Compound Riddles

Ten compound words have been separated into two parts: the beginning part of the compound word and the ending part of the compound word. Put the compound words back together again by answering each riddle. Write the completed compound words on the lines.

Beginnings		Endings	
bull	humming	bird	fly
butter	jelly	bird	head
gold	lady	dog	hopper
grass	road	fish	horse
hammer	sea	fish	runner

1. I like to drink nectar. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ + \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

2. I can be a boy even though I have a girl's name.

\_ \_ \_ \_ + \_ \_ \_ \_

3. I have beautiful wings. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ + \_ \_ \_ \_

4. I am a small green insect.

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ + \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

5. I usually live in a tank or pond. \_ \_ \_ \_ + \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

6. I am a type of shark. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ + \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

7. I live in the ocean, but I don't give rides.

\_ \_ \_ + \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

8. I am in a lot of cartoons. \_ \_ \_ \_ + \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

9. I sound like a food but probably don't taste very good!

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ + \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

10. I'm a canine with a large square jaw. \_ \_ \_ \_ + \_ \_ \_ \_

# Building Words

Look at the first word. Take away one letter and rearrange the remaining letters to make a new word. Continue taking away one letter and making a new word until the last word is a two-letter word.

<p><b>Example:</b> <i>star</i></p> <p><u>  r  </u> <u>  a  </u> <u>  t  </u></p> <p><u>  a  </u> <u>  t  </u></p>	<p>1. <i>mate</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>2. <i>sand</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>3. <i>stop</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>4. <i>lamp</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>5. <i>ears</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>6. <i>soap</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>7. <i>taps</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>Mind Challenge!</b></p> <p>How many words can you make using the letters in <i>elevator</i>? Write the words on a separate piece of paper.</p>