



OKLAHOMA



GOING ON A  
**PAPER HUNT**



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## Think and Read

### The Surprise Package

A package arrived in the mail one day! What could it be, they wondered? Who is it from? Who is it for? The package is for “Carter,” it said in big bold letters. And up in the corner in teeny, tiny print was the name of the sender, “Mrs. Grandma Gayle!”

“Hooray, Hooray,” Carter said with glee. “My very own package, just for me.”

Carter ripped off the tape, popped open the box, and lots of toys came tumbling out. It was a complete zoo, full of all kinds of fun, from little stuffed animals to big giant puffs! There was a tiger, a bear, a reindeer, a cow, some unicorns, an elephant, a dalmatian, a clownfish, a snake, and even a T-Rex. But last to come out was a horse named Boomer, with a helmet of course.

Carter circled the room, threw toys in the air, then ran to tell baby sister the tale. “Let’s sort them, and group them, and make them a home. We can feed them and dress them. We need them to love—let’s give them all names, and make sure they are hugged.”

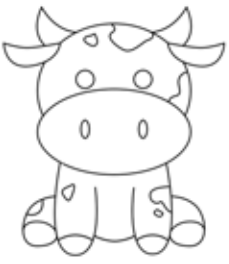

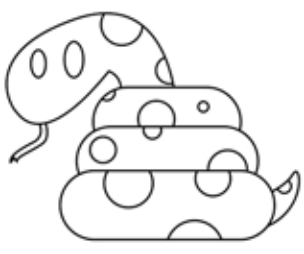






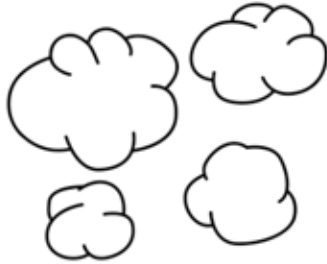


Just then Carter took one final glance in the box. He found a big shiny note that said, “From Grandma to Carter.” He opened it up and read, “Write to me soon, and draw me a picture of all that you do.” So, Carter called Mom and asked for some help, to thank Grandma Gayle for all that she’d done.

**Adjectives** are words that tell us what things look, feel, or even smell like.

**Nouns** are things, people, and places.

Carter did not tell us what the stuffed toys looked like. Let’s make the story better by adding some words that describe the toys. On the next page, write an **adjective** before the **noun** to tell us more about the story.

# Animal Toy Card Sort

 <b>Example: Spotted</b> Cow	 Bear	 Snake	 Dalmatian
 Fish	 Reindeer	 Elephant	 Tiger
 Unicorn	 Puffs	 Dog	 Horse

## Activity

**Materials:**

Animal toy card sort (included)  
Pencil, crayons, colored pencils, or markers  
Scissors  
A partner

**Here are some things you can do with your cards:**

1. Color the toys and make sure you have your adjectives written in the blanks.
2. Cut out the cards on the dotted lines (ask an adult for help if needed).
3. Sort your cards any way you want. Have your partner guess how you sorted them. If they don't guess right, you can tell them.
4. Have your partner sort the cards. Then, you guess how they are sorted.
5. Put your cards in ABC order using the first letter of the **noun**, which is the name of the animal toy. Example: **C**ow
6. Put your cards in ABC order but this time use the first letter of the **adjective** you wrote. Example: **S**potted
7. You can also make two sets of cards and play the "memory game," by finding matching cards.

## Investigate

### Going on a Paper Hunt

In the story, *The Surprise Package*, Carter wants to send a thank-you letter and a drawing to his grandma. You also might want to send a letter and a drawing to someone in your family telling them what you are doing. The first thing you need to do is find just the right type of paper for writing and drawing.

#### **What you will need:**

Paper Hunt Data Table (included)

Pencil and crayons

Different kinds of papers (wax paper, paper towels, cardboard, notebook paper, etc.)

#### **What you will do:**

Make sure to ask your adult if it is OK for you to hunt for paper.

Look for different types of paper. See if you can find wax paper, tissue paper, cardboard, and other kinds of paper.

Take a piece of each type of paper back to your table or activity space.

Now, **write** on each kind of paper with your pencil. Record your results on your **data table**.

Next, **color** on each kind of paper and record your results.

If you want, you can use a marker on each paper and see what happens.

## Investigate

Make a mark in the data table showing how well you were able to write and color on each type of paper:

- Great
- Okay
- Not good

Wax Paper	Paper Grocery Bag	Tissue Paper	Paper Towel
<p>Pencil</p>	<p>Pencil</p>	<p>Pencil</p>	<p>Pencil</p>
<p>Crayon</p>	<p>Crayon</p>	<p>Crayon</p>	<p>Crayon</p>
Cardboard	Toilet Paper	Notebook Paper	Construction Paper
<p>Pencil</p>	<p>Pencil</p>	<p>Pencil</p>	<p>Pencil</p>
<p>Crayon</p>	<p>Crayon</p>	<p>Crayon</p>	<p>Crayon</p>
<p>Pencil</p>	<p>Pencil</p>	<p>Pencil</p>	<p>Pencil</p>
<p>Crayon</p>	<p>Crayon</p>	<p>Crayon</p>	<p>Crayon</p>

## Investigate

### Thinking Questions

Which types of paper or papers were the best to write on with the pencil?

---

How do you know this?

---

Which types of paper were the best to draw on with the crayons?

---

How do you know this?

---

### Let's Write and Draw:

***Pick the two types of paper that were the best: one for writing, and one for the drawing.***

Use the paper that was best for writing. Think of who you want to write a letter to.  
Tell them about some fun things you are doing. In your letter make sure to put:  
The date  
A greeting ("Dear \_\_\_\_\_")  
What you want to say  
A closing ("See you soon," "Goodbye,")  
Your name

Now, use the paper that was best for drawing. Draw and color a picture of you having fun with your toys.

Have your adult help you mail the letter and drawing or hand-deliver them.



## Discover

Did you know that there are over 40 commonly used paper types? When you were doing your paper testing, did you notice that each paper had different **properties**? The word **property** in science means something about a material that we can **measure, see, smell, or feel**. Knowing these properties of paper help people decide which kinds of paper are best for certain things. If you didn't observe all of these things while you were testing, go back and smell, touch, and bend the papers. Did you find out more about your paper types?

### Thinking Questions:

What are the properties of wax paper?

---

What are the properties of paper towels?

---

What are the properties of cardboard?

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## Extend

The paper this lesson is printed on is good for cutting, gluing, writing, and coloring.

**Materials:**

Boomer coloring sheet (included)

scissors

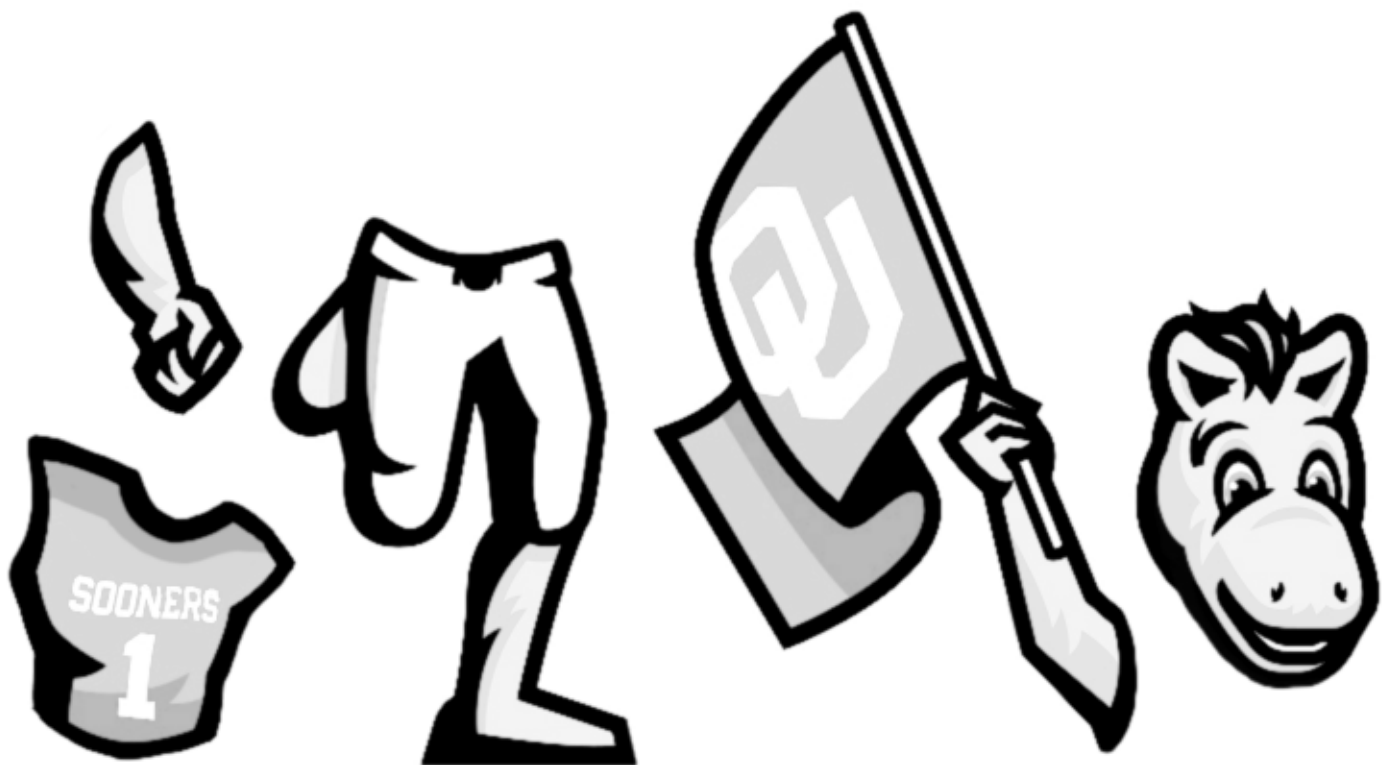
crayons or markers

First, color all the parts of the Boomer, the Oklahoma Sooners mascot.

Then, cut the horse out, and glue it together.

If you want two horses, you can trace the horse on another sheet of paper.

Name your horse and write some adjectives that describe it.



## Parent Guide

Whether your child is just starting to read and write or can already do so, they will enjoy this lesson. It combines elements of science with reading and writing. It begins with a story, *The Surprise Package*, that could very well happen to them.

The Animal Toy Card Sort is based on the items mentioned in the story. Your child will be using **adjectives** to describe the toys found in Carter’s box, which are **nouns**. One of the goals in this lesson is for your child to write (or dictate to you) a personal letter to someone important to them. They will also draw a picture to accompany the letter. This leads us to the “paper hunt” to find the perfect types of paper for writing and drawing.

While your child is involved in the paper hunt, they will be “doing science.” Some of the first science skills your child learns in PreK–2nd grades involve making observations and asking questions. Believe it or not, most children must be taught how to ask a good question—other than “Why?”

After making observations, the next step is putting them to use. Your child will be recording their data in the **Paper Hunt Data Table**. They will then use what they discovered to solve the problem of finding the best types of paper for letter writing and for drawing with crayons.

This guide will **give you some tips to help** facilitate your child’s learning throughout these activities. It can be downloaded and printed so students can utilize the sheets to answer the questions, color, and cut out the animal cards and horse. Your child may need help with all the activities, or they may be able to do them independently after you get them started.

The reading level of the stories is late-2nd to 3rd grade. So, enjoy reading these stories together. This lesson will probably take you a couple of sittings. There are recommendations at the end of the Parent Guide for children’s books about paper and the use of adjectives and nouns. You might want to go on a book hunt too! if you don’t have any of these books, we have also listed a few websites where they can be found.

## Think and Read

**Materials:**

*The Surprise Package* story (included)

Animal Toy Card Sort (included)

Pencil, crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Scissors

A partner

**Adjectives** are words that tell us what things look, feel, or even smell like.

**Nouns** are things, people, and places.

After reading the story, introduce the word **noun**. First and second graders might already know what a noun is. You can go through the story and circle or highlight the nouns or just the ones that are most important to the story. (*There are lots of nouns in this story.*)

Nouns to circle or highlight include **package, Carter, Grandma Gayle, tiger, bear, reindeer, cow, unicorns, elephant, dalmatian, clownfish, snake, T-rex, horse.**

Introduce **adjectives** by looking at the title of the story and noticing that you circled the word **package** because it is a noun. Now, look at the word in front of “**package**” and ask your child, “What kind of package does the title say it is?” They should tell you it is a **surprise** package. Yeah! The word **surprise** describes the package. This is where you tell them that words that describe nouns (people, places, or things) are called adjectives.

It is more important for your child to be able to use adjectives and identify why they are important than to remember the word adjective. For more practice, find the noun “**puffs**” and discuss how the word “**giant**” that comes before it tells us something about the puffs. If your child is doing well with this concept, you can go on to these words: **note, letters, print.**

## Think and Read

You are ready to do the adjective and noun Animal Toy Card Sort activity.

**Don't cut out the cards yet!** First, help your child come up with adjectives to write in the boxes. You can do the writing for them if your child is not writing yet. If they are writing, please do not worry about correct spelling. Most early learners use the letters they know to spell words. This is the beginning of not only writing but reading. After coming up with adjectives to describe each toy, have your child color the toys. *If you want to use the cards to play the memory game later, now is a good time to make an additional copy of their sheet.*

**Now, cut out the cards!** If possible, let your child do the cutting. This is a fine motor skill that young children need to practice. It won't be perfect, but that's okay. You can follow the list of activities provided with the cards or create activities of your own.



## Investigate

### Materials:

Paper Hunt Data Table (included, or you can make your own)

Pencil

Crayons

Different types of paper: wax paper, tissue paper, paper towel, cardboard, toilet paper, notebook paper, paper grocery bag, etc. (If you don't have all these, just use whatever is available.)

**The papers that you find during the paper hunt are going to be used again in the Discover section of the lesson, so don't throw them out.**

### Procedure:

Your child will be looking for and collecting **different kinds** of paper around your house. They should hunt for pieces that are big enough to write and draw on and bring them back to your table or the area where you are doing the activity. They don't have to be full-size sheets; a small square will do. When they have their collection of paper, have them use their pencil and try to write their name on each type. They should record the results on the data table.

Make a mark in the **data table** showing how well they were able to write their name with the pencil on each type of paper:

 Great

 Okay

 Not good

Then, have your child draw on each type of paper using their crayons and rate it in the **data table**:

 Great

 Okay

 Not good

## Investigate

The empty boxes are for other types of paper you might find, such as wrapping paper, wallpaper, crepe paper, construction paper, etc. You and your child can try writing and drawing on as many types of paper as you can find and that interests them.

### Thinking Questions to ask your child:

1. Which types of paper were the best to **write** on with the **pencil**? How do you know this? **These answers will vary but focus your interest on what your child noticed. For example, they might say: It was hard to write on some; There were bumps; The paper tore; The pencil poked a hole in it; The paper moved around.**
2. Which types of paper were the best to **draw** on with the **crayons**? How do you know this? **Possible responses might be: The color would not stay on the paper; You can't see it; It tore the paper; It moved around; The color changed; The color was not bright; It left pieces of the crayon on the paper.**

### Let's Write and Draw:

Have your child pick the two types of paper that were the best: one for writing, and one for the drawing. Talk with them about who they would like to write to and what they would like to tell that person. It doesn't have to be lengthy or perfect. Let them do as much of the writing as they can. Do not fuss over spelling, especially with younger children. With an older child, common words such as *the, it, said, and done* should be spelled correctly; other, less common words can be spelled the way they are sounded out. It is okay for them to ask for help, but don't get bogged down with spelling correctness. Here is a simple letter format:

Date
Dear _____,
Write what you want to say.
See you soon, Write your name

Use the second piece of paper for your child to create a drawing that accompanies the letter.

*FYI: If the paper is bulky or heavy you may need to put two stamps on your letter to mail it.*

## Discover

The word **properties** is a science word that is first introduced in kindergarten. The story asks your child to go back and discover more properties about the papers they collected. You can ask these “thinking questions” about whatever types of paper were found and tested.

### Thinking Questions to ask your child:

1. What are the properties of wax paper? Possible descriptions of properties include: It's waxy; slick; smooth; sticky feeling; You can see through it; It's thin; Water stays on it.
2. What are the properties of paper towels? Possible descriptions of properties include: It has bumps; It's not smooth; It soaks up water; You can't see through it; white; It doesn't tear easy; You can't write on it well.
3. What are the properties of cardboard? Possible descriptions of properties include: It's hard to bend, brown; You can write on it; It's smooth; You can't see through it; It's thick; It has the word Amazon on it. 😊



## **Extend**

***Materials:***

Boomer coloring sheet (included)  
scissors  
crayons or markers

Have your child color and cut out Boomer. If they want two horses, print off two copies or have them trace the horse on another sheet of paper.

They can play with the horse by telling stories about it or even writing a letter about the horse. Just have fun!

For an additional activity, your child might also go back to the original story about Carter and draw what they think Carter's room looked like after he opened the box, then compare it to their own room.

## Resources

### **Favorite books about stuffed animals, writing letters, and paper:**

*Corduroy* by Don Freeman

*Bun Bun Button* by Patricia Polacco

*The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams

*Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator!* by Mo Willems

*The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt

*Can I Be Your Dog?* by Troy Cummings

*Dear Dragon* by Josh Funk

*A Letter to My Teacher* by Deborah Hopkinson

*XO, XO, A Love Story* by Adam Rex

*Now I Am Paper* by Uvi Poznansky

*The Paper Dolls* by Julia Donaldson

*I Am Not A Toilet Paper Roll (Things to Make)* by Carlton Publishing

### **Websites to Explore**

Paper facts for kids

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Paper>

*Smurfit Kappa Video for Children on How Paper is Made*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLyY12NhX3E>

## Sources

Kiddle. (n.d.). *Paper facts for kids*. Retrieved from <https://kids.kiddle.co/Paper>

Smurfit Kappa. (2019, March 7). *Smurfit Kappa – Video for children on how paper is made*. [Video]. YouTube. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLyY12NhX3E>

## Social Media

If you liked this activity, please recommend [LEARN](#)—the K20 Center’s online library of lessons and educational resources—to your local school, your student’s teachers, and other educators you know. You’ll find a searchable database with more resources like this one, along with educational games, instructional strategies, and activities for professional educators.

Want to stay informed about our latest releases? Get updates on our growing list of resources by following us on social media at:



Please share your K20 LEARN success stories by tagging us at #K20LearnAtHome.

## What is the K20 Center?

The K20 Center for Educational and Community Renewal is a statewide education research and development center which promotes innovative learning through school-university-community collaboration. The K20 Center is located on the South Research Campus at the University of Oklahoma.

Learn more: [www.K20Center.ou.edu](http://www.K20Center.ou.edu)



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