



OVERVIEW

Moonbeams are aware of the changing seasons and are curious to explore and understand the differences. This emblem focuses on activities associated with summer.

NOTE: While summertime is a good time to complete the emblem, it may be earned whenever is convenient. Anytime is a good time to pretend to go on a picnic, vacation or camping trip!

OBJECTIVES

To earn this emblem, Moonbeams need to complete at least one activity from each section and the included Bible lesson (or another Bible lesson related to a summer theme).



WORD BANK

- Summer
- Camping
- Vacation

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS SUPPORTED BY THE ACTIVITIES

- Play and Creative Activities
- Engagement in Learning Opportunities
- Planning and Decision Making
- Personal Power

GROUP ACTIVITIES

IMAGINATION VACATION

Read a storybook about vacations. Tell the Moonbeams the troop is going to take a pretend vacation, using their imaginations. Ask them to name a place they'd like to go and see how creative they can be.

- What kinds of food will they eat?
- What will the weather be like there?

- What type things will they need to bring along?
- Will they each bring a suitcase or backpack?

Look at a map or atlas. Help the children find your city or town and the vacation destinations they chose.

- How far away are the destinations?
- How will you travel?
- What sites will you see along the way?



ENHANCEMENT IDEAS:

Hang a U.S. map and allow the children to place markers on the map. (Download a U.S. map or purchase an inexpensive one from Wal-Mart or a local pharmacy.)

Set up a travel agent play area. Check with the children's librarian at the community library to inquire whether there are children's travel books that may be checked out and brought to the meeting.

Collect travel brochures from a local travel agent—specifically brochures for destinations that cater to families with young children. The Moonbeams can use the brochures as they plan their vacations.

Log on to your state's tourism's website to learn about kid-friendly events or destinations in your area. Many states offer free materials that can be downloaded or received by mail.

CAMPING OUT

Before class, pack a backpack with things that might be used on a camping trip. Include items such as a flashlight, marshmallows, bug spray, mess kit, compass, binoculars, etc.

Tell the Moonbeams you're going on an imaginary adventure, and they must figure out your destination. Take items out of the backpack one at a time and let the Moonbeams talk about how each might be used. When the children have seen all the items, have them guess what kind of adventure the items would be used for.

Read a storybook about camping.

SEASHORE ALPHABET ANIMALS

Read a story about seashore animals. Ask the Moonbeams to imagine what animal life they might discover at the seashore.

Go through the alphabet. Have the Moonbeams take turns thinking of a seashore animal friend that starts with each letter. For example:

- A – Angelfish
- B – Blue whale
- C – Crab
- D – Dolphin

This will work best with older Moonbeams or in teams with older and younger Moonbeams together. Also, young children may have difficulty distinguishing between species. It'll be helpful to use pictures or a web page with graphics of different animals.

NOTE: If you have a good quality printer, make a set of flash cards to use with this activity. Websites with ocean animals coloring pages, printable crafts, etc.:

www.first-school.ws/theme/animals/cp_ocean.htm

<http://lapbooksbycarisa.homestead.com/OceanAnimalsTotBook.html>

www.seaworld.org/animal-info/animal-bytes/

CRAFTS

PACK YOUR SUITCASE

SUPPLIES:

- File folders
- Tape
- Hole punch
- Twine or ribbon
- Name labels or 3"x 5" index cards
- Travel stickers
- Scissors
- Magazines

Have each of the Moonbeams make a "suitcase" by following these directions:

1. Tape the sides of a file folder closed. Leave the top open.
2. Punch a hole near each edge of the top.

3. Tie a piece of twine or ribbon through each hole to make a handle.
4. Use name label or 3"x 5" index card as a luggage tag. Write name and address on tag.
5. Decorate suitcase with travel stickers, showing where they've traveled in the past.

Have the Moonbeams pick a place where they'd like travel. Ask them what they'll need to pack for the trip. Give them scissors and magazines. Have them cut out pictures of what they'll bring and then "pack" the pictures in their suitcases.

BINOCULARS

SUPPLIES:

- Empty toilet paper rolls
- Plastic wrap
- Rubber bands (small and medium size)
- Hole punch
- Yarn

Have the Moonbeams make binoculars using empty paper rolls.

Give each child 2 squares of 3"x 3" plastic wrap. Adjust size as needed to fit rolls.

Have each child use 2 small rubber bands to secure the wrap to the end of the rolls. Then use a medium rubber band to connect the two rolls together.

Have the children punch holes in the opposite end and attach a yarn strap so the Moonbeams can keep their binoculars handy while camping or exploring the outdoors.



SAND ART

SUPPLIES:

- Sandpaper
- Blue construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

Cut seashore-shaped strips (one per child) from sand paper. Have the children glue sandpaper to a piece of blue construction paper. Give them some of the following items to create a beautiful beach scene.

- Pictures cut from magazines
- Beach-themed stickers
- Small seashells
- Small paper umbrellas
- Foam shapes
- Crayons
- Paper doll cut-out

For free summer paper doll patterns, go to:
www.makingfriends.com/friends/f+summer.htm.

SIDEWALK ART

Children see a sidewalk or driveway as a giant canvas. For an easy craft activity simply provide buckets of clean water and paintbrushes. Go outdoors to let children paint magic masterpieces on concrete.

EASY COFFEE FILTER SEA CREATURES

Find free directions for easy-to-make sea creatures made with coffee filters, watercolor paint and pipe cleaners at:

www.orientaltrading.com/pdf/PT107.pdf.

POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE

SUPPLIES:

- 4"x 6" index cards
- Magazines
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers
- Stickers for stamps

No vacation is complete without sending a postcard to someone back home. Use 4"x 6" index cards to make postcards for family and friends.

Have the children cut out pictures and glue them onto the index cards to show all the awesome things they're doing on their imaginary trip to paradise. Pretend stamps and a trip to a classroom post office will add to the fun.

SONGS & RHYMES

Have a campfire and sing any of the traditional campfire songs you learned at camp. Can't go outside? Build a pretend campfire, using logs and construction paper flames.

WE ARE TAKING A VACATION

(To the tune of "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain")

We're taking a vacation on a train. (Choo, choo!)
We're taking a vacation on a train. (Choo, choo!)
We're taking a vacation,
'Cause we need some relaxation,
We're taking a vacation on a train. (Choo, choo!)

We're taking a vacation in a car. (Honk, honk!)
We're taking a vacation in a car. (Honk, honk!)
We're taking a vacation,
'Cause we need some relaxation,
We're taking a vacation in a car. (Honk, honk!)

We're taking a vacation on a plane. (Zoom, zoom!)
We're taking a vacation on a plane. (Zoom, zoom!)
We're taking a vacation,
'Cause we need some relaxation,
We're taking a vacation on a plane. (Zoom, zoom!)

NOTE: Think of other modes of travel you might use, such as boat, horse, etc.

THE SHARK SONG

Baby Shark, do do, do do da do
Momma Shark... Daddy Shark... etc.

WHEN PETER WALKED UPON THE WATER

When Peter walked upon the water,
When Peter walked upon the sea;
His faith grew weak and Peter found,
Without God's help he would go down,
When Peter walked upon the sea.

GAMES

DRIP, DRIP, DROP

For a fun twist on the familiar "Duck, Duck, Goose" game, use a paper cup filled with a teaspoonful of water. The person who's "It" runs around the circle saying "Drip, Drip..." When "It" says "Drop" and pours the water on someone's head, that person chases "It" around the circle. Play this game outside on a hot day and the children will all want a turn getting wet.



WATER WAR ✱

Children love water balloons. They enjoy throwing them and seeing the cause/effect of the bursting balloons, but may be too sensitive to handle being hit with them. When using water balloons turn the activity into a game that is directed at inanimate objects.

Have the Moonbeams throw water balloons at sharks or other shapes drawn on the sidewalk or make a giant-sized villain (perhaps Goliath) on a sheet or large cardboard box. Fill water balloons and allow the children to go to war.

FISHING POND

If you can't take the Moonbeams out for a real fishing trip, set up a carnival-style fishing pond in your classroom. Moonbeams will enjoy catching things from the ocean. Check your local dollar store for items to use or visit one of these websites to search for fish or sea-themed goodies:

www.orientaltrading.com

www.ssw.com

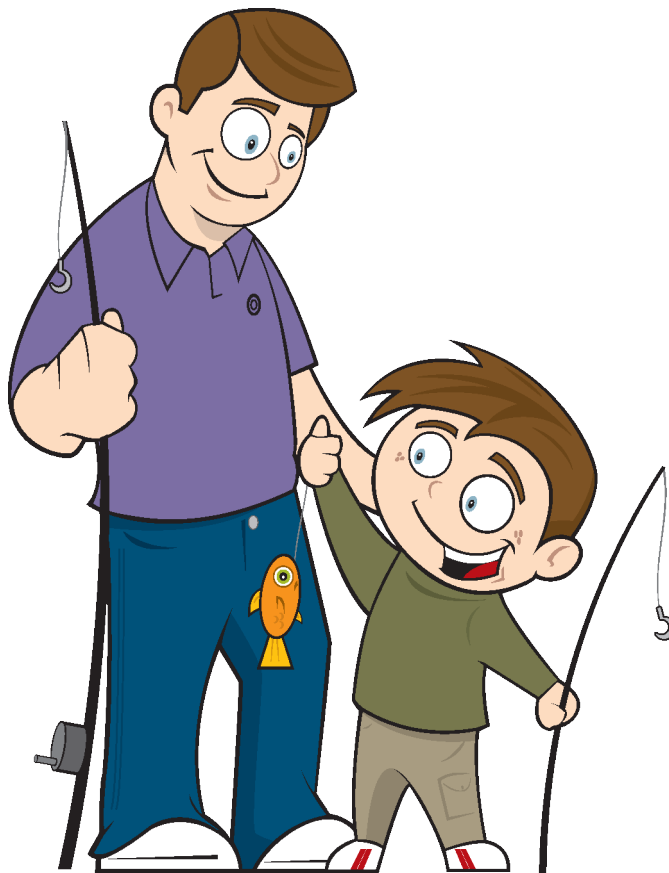
TEDDY BEAR CAMP OUT

Set up a tent in a play area or corner of your classroom. Add camping chairs and other camping gear. Children will enjoy pretending to take their stuffed animals on a camping trip.

SNACKS ✱

There are many possibilities for snacks that go along with this summer theme. Use any of the following:

- Have a Luau and serve fruit-kabobs, barbequed little smokies, etc.



- Fruit salad
- Watermelon
- S'mores made in the microwave
- Goldfish® crackers or pretzels
- Roasted marshmallows
- Gummy Fish or Swedish Fish®
- Ice cream

BIBLE LESSONS

ANT-LESS PICNIC

Find this fun Bible lesson on the Children's Ministry® website: <http://childrensministry.com/articles/ant-less-picnic>.

DOWN BY THE SEA

Use any familiar Bible lesson which features water or the sea. Here are a few ideas you may want to use:

“Creation” (Genesis 1:1)

“Jonah and the Big Fish” (Jonah 1:1-17)

“Jesus Calms the Sea” (Matthew 8:23-27)

“Jesus Walking on Water”
(Matthew 14:22-25)

“The Big Catch” (John 21:1-6)

NOTE: A good resource for this is available at:
<http://ministry-to-children.com/miraculous-catch-preschool-lesson/>.

LEADERS' RESOURCES

BOOKS

A House for a Hermit Crab by Eric Carle

Hot City by Barbara Jossee

The Night Before Summer Vacation
by Natasha Wing

WEBSITES

SUMMER SPLASH

Children's Ministry® has lots of ideas for ways to enhance this activity includes games, food, decorations and Bible lessons. Find these great ideas at: www.childrensministry.com/articles/summer-splash.

SUMMER FUN ON PINTEREST

To find activities, craft ideas and games to use with this emblem, check out: <http://pinterest.com/samoonbeams/summer-fun/>.

