

Wee Folk Art presents...
A Homeschool Companion Guide

Spring Bs - 12 Week Curriculum (Birds, Buds, Butterflies + Bees)



(Preschool-Kindergarten / Ages 4-6)

Please Note: I have developed these curriculum materials to use with my own family. I am not offering any legal advice on homeschooling nor can I guarantee in any way that these materials will meet your state standards for education. It is up to you to be sure your family is working within your state's guidelines. I will try to keep all links/book lists current but obviously use caution when visiting websites and note that book availabilities change all the time. In most cases you should be able to find a suitable replacement.

If you find any major mistakes please let me know via email (michelle@weefolkart.com) but please ignore minor mistakes such as typos. I try... but remember this is a labor of love not a business. One of the best ways to say thank you is to place your Amazon or Better World Book orders by starting on our site. The little gift cards I get help me find great books to share with you!

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Spring Bs Curriculum Overview

(Preschool-Kindergarten / Ages 4-6)

WEEK	Primary Story	Enrichment Book	Activities	Art + Poetry
ONE "V"	Crow and the Pitcher By Stephanie Brown	What Makes a Bird a Bird By Mary Garelick	Clay Bird FT: Take a Bird Walk (don't forget binoculars)	Art: Hunters in the Snow Poem: Robin Redbreast FF: Vetch
TWO "Z"	Ugly Duckling By Anderson/Pinkney	A Nest Full of Eggs By Priscilla Jenkins	Wet Felted Eggs FT: Duck Pond Macaroons	Art: Lack Valley Poem: Robin Redbreast FF: Zinnia
THREE "Q"	The Boy Who Drew Birds By Jacqueline Davies	How do Birds Find Their Way? By Roma Gans	Bird Journal Page FT: Nature Center/Zoo	Art: Oregon Trail Poem: Robin Redbreast FF: Queen of the Meadow
FOUR ABC Review	Whose Garden is it? By Mary Hoberman	How do you know it's Spring By Allan Fowler	Mini Garden Flax & Sunflower Seed Bread	Art: Starry Night Poem: Robin Redbreast
FIVE "X"	Princess and the Pea* By Lauren Child	One Bean Anne Rockwell	Windchime Bean Experiment Week One FT: Visit a Green House	Art: Repast of the Lion Poem: Mary, Mary FF: Yellow Deadnettle
SIX "A"	Rapunzel* By Paul Zelinsky	What Do Roots Do? By Kathleen Kudlinsk	Bean Experiment Week Two 16 Bean Soup FT: Visit a Farm that is Planting	Art: Summer House Poem: Mary, Mary FF: Apple Blossom
SEVEN "I"	Jack and the Beanstalk* By E. Nesbit	From Seed to Plant By Gail Gibbons	Bean Mosaic FT: Visit a Children's Garden	Art: Day and Night Poem: Mary, Mary FF: Iris
EIGHT ABC Review	Peter Rabbit By Beatrix Potter	DK Eye Know PLANT By DK Publishing	Decorate a Flower Pot Garden Salsa	Art: New York Waterfront Poem: Mary, Mary
NINE "U"	Pooh and the Bees By A.A. Milne	Busy, Buzzy, Bees By Karen Wallace	Sign Language FT: Visit a Beekeeper	Art: Edward Hopper Poem: The Caterpillar FF: Vetch
TEN "E"	Bee Tree By Patricia Polacco	Honey Makers By Gail Gibbons	Beeswax Modeling FT: Strawberry Picking Apple Dippers	Art: Red Hills Poem: The Caterpillar FF: Eyebright
ELEVEN "O"	Very Hungry Caterpillar By Eric Carle	From Caterpillar to Butterfly By Deborah Heiligman	Life Cycle Collage Picture FT: Visit or Make a Butterfly House	Art: Mountains and Sea Poem: The Caterpillar FF: Orchis
TWELVE ABC Review	Butterfly House By Eve Bunting	My oh My a Butterfly By Tish Rabe	Tissue Paper Butterflies Lemon Bars	Art: Michigan Ave Poem: The Caterpillar

Additional Books + Supplies

Picture Study: Come Look With Me: Exploring Landscape Art With Children by Gladys Blizzard

Poetry: Flower Fairy Coloring Book & Poems

Manipulatives: Butterfly House, Fairy Garden

Optional: Leap Frog Letter Factory DVD, D'Nealian Handwriting 26 Little Books Lowercase, Explode the Code Books A, B, C, "Games for Math: Playful Ways to Help Your Child Learn Math," "Roots, Shoot, Buckets and Boots" gardening with kids book.

**Please Note: When it comes to the FAIRY TALES... I recommend parents review and choose a version that they feel comfortable sharing with their children. Every family has a different tolerance for the "Grimm" factor in fairy tales.*

Spring Bs

Spring Bs (Birds, Buds, Butterflies and Bees) was developed as a twelve week fall program when my oldest was in kindergarten and my middler in preschool (originally published April 2009). It is the third term of a 3 term year schedule that focuses on the rhythm of the seasons with a special emphasis on holidays and nature. To complete the year you will also need to download Harvest Time (term one) and Winter Wonderland (term two). This program was designed as a gentle way to introduce my children to the world around us. We read, baked, and crafted together. We spent a lot of time outdoors and at our kitchen table completing Nature Studies. It was a wonderful year that we all enjoyed thoroughly. I'm now dusting it off in preparation of using it again with my youngest.

How is this program set up?

Each week includes one fictional story to be read two or three times throughout the week and one corresponding non-fiction book that can be read once. These books will cover all the social studies and science you need at this age. Each week includes one or two activities that correspond with the book theme of the week. One journal page with your child's narration is completed each week. I also encourage you to take a weekly Nature Walk throughout the term. I know when the weather is frigid we can sometimes use encouragement to get outdoors. Bundle up and enjoy the Winter Wonderland. We also add in a picture studies and poem memorization. Keep in mind that the layout is very flexible and you will have to determine when to complete each task. You will find a Weekly Guide within this packet to help you get organized. You can complete the 'assignments' by working two, three or four days a week.

Preschooler

The Flower Fairy Alphabet coloring book & corresponding poems are a lovely way to introduction your preschooler to the alphabet. Please note, the letters are arranged in the order they are presented in the Explode the Code Series for Kindergarten. You can follow that order or just start with A if you would like. Handwriting wise I'm happy if my preschoolers can write their own name (I write my preschooler's name with a yellow marker on lined paper for her to trace) but you can easily add in the D'Nealian Handwriting Little Books, completing one a week if you have a child who would like more instruction. For math we play counting games (counting bears, beans, pennies), use pattern beads and play simple card games like Go Fish, War and Memory (we use a Math Deck - no face cards and Aces are marked as 1s). For math game ideas I recommend the book "Games for Math" by Peggy Kaye. We also practice color and shape recognition. Puzzles are a great too.

Kindergarten

To make this a full curriculum for a kindergartner you will need to add in a math program, I recommend Right Start Math A, and a phonics program, I use the Introduction to Explode the Code Books A, B, C for Kindergarten (and possibly book I). I have scheduled the alphabet in the order they appear in ETC. ETC also has teacher guides if you would like assistance in introducing phonics. I do recommend the Leapstart Letter Factory DVD as well but be careful with the sounds for R and L. On the video the R comes off sounding like ER and the L like UL... be sure to repeat the sounds to your child without the leading vowel. When my kids start showing an interest in reading I start with the Bob books and move onto the Now I'm Reading readers. We use D'Nealian style handwriting books. I have added both the D'Nealian Handwriting Little Books and the Kindergarten book to my Amazon list. "Games for Math" by Peggy Kaye is a great add on.

That's A LOT of Books

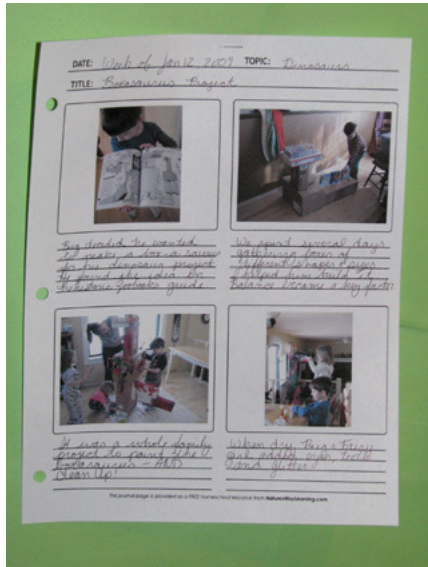
Yes, it is. 24 books a term, 3 terms in a year... gulp! I'm fortunate to have my mother's old preschool library available to me and therefore own most of the listed titles. But do not despair. You don't need to buy them all. I recommend purchasing the Primary Story Books. Those are the books you and your children will want to read again and again. Amazon's 4 for 3 promotion is available on most children's books which helps bring the cost down or try Better World Books to get used books. Then, use your library to fill in the Enrichment Books. If you can't find the exact enrichment book I list at your library that is o.k.. You can make substitutions.

Additional items... Do I really need a Butterfly House?

No. Ha... were you expecting me to say yes? This time around if you have a butterfly house/garden available to you to use for a field trip then that can take the place of having one in your home. With that said though, my children have used our butterfly house many times now and always delight in watching the metamorphosis unfold right before their eyes. As for the fairy garden kit... by all means create your own. The kit is not needed... but I do know that some families appreciate the convenience of the all-in-the-box kits from time to time.

Journal Pages + Narration

Every week you should complete at least one Journal Page with your child (print at least 12 copies). There are several ways you can use these pages but the basic idea is to have your child narrate back to you a summation of the Primary Story you just read. Younger children or children new to narration may need help from you, in which case you can ask them leading questions (What happened first? Who was the main character? What did she want? How did she get it? etc.). You can either write the narration directly on the page (good for young students), write the narration on a separate sheet of paper and have your child copy it to their page (good for older students) or neatly write the narration on the page in yellow marker and then have your child trace the narration. Regardless of how you record the narration, be sure to follow grammar rules. Encourage your child to narrate in complete sentences. Younger children may need coaxing. Remind your child that all sentences start with a capital letter and end with a punctuation mark. Every main word in a title should be capitalized (you do not capitalize little words such as, and, of, the). The second part of the journal page is to have your child draw a picture about the story in the box. You may choose to have your child do this while you read the story or after she completes her narration. I have found that my very active son actually listens better when his hands are engaged in a task but my daughter does better curled up on my lap during the story with time to color after.



Feel free to make extra copies of the journal page to record field trips, science experiments or nature studies. I leave blank copies of the journal pages in my children's coloring area for them to write stories and such on whenever they want. You can find a variety of different journal pages available on WeeFolkArt.com with varying line spacings, number of boxes, etc (COMING SOON).

You may choose to use the journal pages to record some of your child's activities. I will paste a photo of my child completing a craft in the coloring box and add a few notes in the space provided. I then tuck the journal page back into my notebook along with my child's narration and I have a great portfolio of my children's work.

Field Trips

In your activity box you will see some basic Field Trip (FT) ideas. Actively participating in the community is important and children learn a lot from these simple outings. Try not to run other errands while on a field trip. Spend time talking with employees. Have your child ask the employee questions. Being comfortable asking for help is a life skill (talking about stranger safety is important too).

Check with your local 4H groups and DNR for field trip ideas. Our local 4H runs a beautiful children's garden that puts on programs for the kids that usually includes a story and a small project. They also have a wonderful Butterfly House. Most of our Metro Parks have a nature center with information about native wildlife species. It is a good place for us to go to learn about local birds and take wonderful nature hikes. Check with U-Pick farms or orchards in your area to see if they also keep bees. Several of our local farms have bee houses with pexiglass sides so you can observe the bees at work. If you do not have these options nearby, try bringing more wildlife into your own backyard. Keep feeding the birds in the spring and add a humberbird feeder. Plant a garden designed to attract butterflies or buy a butterfly house kit that includes larva. Check the library for kids' gardening books. Although I mention a few... there are many more wonderful books out there filled with great ideas for getting your family excited about gardening. Have fun!



Poetry

Each month you will be memorizing one poem. There are many different ways to do this. Try reading it to your child three times, then have your child repeat the poem as best as they can remember with you. After that, have your child repeat the poem with you three times in a sitting. When they are ready have them try on their own. This is a great activity to work on in the car. You can also use lines from the poems for copy work/handwriting practice. When they have learned the poem have them recite it for someone other than you. Maybe they can call a grandparent. My children love reciting poems that they have learned to friends and family. Recitation is a great beginning to public speaking, a life skill everyone should develop. Don't forget to review past poems as well.

Little Robin Redbreast

Little Robin Redbreast sat
upon a tree,
Up went pussy cat, and down
went he!
Down came Pussy, and away
Robin ran;
Says little Robin Redbreast,
"Catch me if you can!"

Little Robin Redbreast
jumped upon a wall,
Pussy cat jumped after him,
and almost got a fall!
Little Robin chirped and sang,
and what did Pussy say?
Pussy cat said, "Mew," and
Robin flew away.

Mary, Mary Quit Contrary

Mary, Mary
Quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells,
And cockleshells,
And pretty maids all in a row.

The Caterpillar

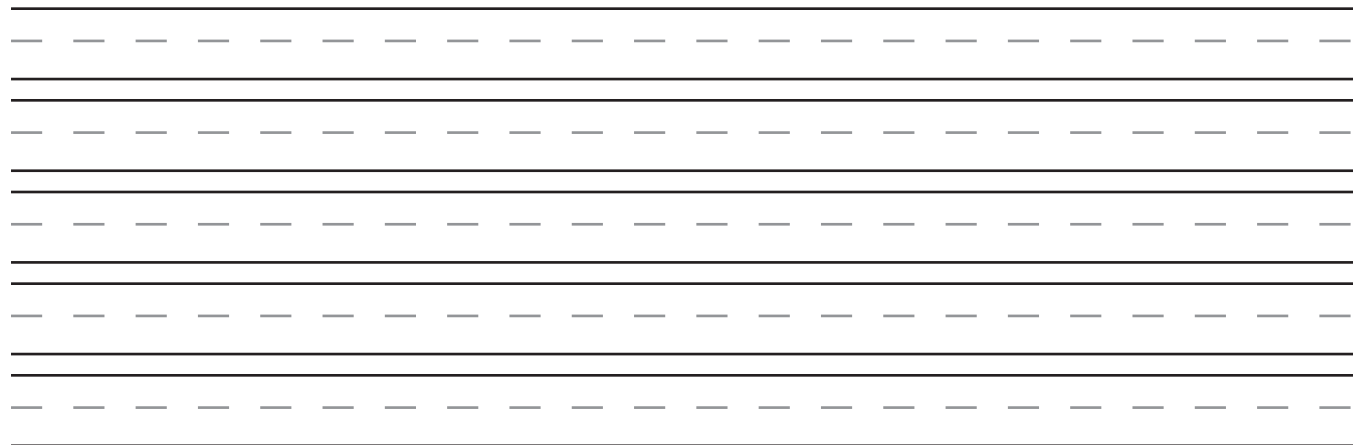
by Christina G. Rossetti

Brown and furry
Caterpillar in a hurry;
Take your walk
To the shady leaf or stalk.

May no toad spy you,
May the little birds pass by you;
Spin and die,
To live again a butterfly.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____



Clay Birds

For this project you will modeling clay (either self hardening or oven bake will work). To make your bird start by crumpling up aluminum foil to make a base shape (saves clay and will allow the piece to dry faster). Size wise, try to make the bird sit comfortably in your child's hand. Cover the base shape with clay. Smooth the clay and then add details with a toothpick (like feather texture). Dry according to the directions that came with your clay. Paint with acrylic paints when dry.

Wet Felted Eggs

Take bits of wool roving or 100% wool yarn and follow our wool marble instructions on Wee Folk Art (<http://weefolkart.com/?q=node/34>)... but try to make more oblong... egg like shapes. Once you have your eggs, use a piece of fabric or silk to create a nest for your bird to sit in with her eggs.



Macaroons

My mom talked a local restaurant owner into sharing this recipe. She had to scale it down though... we didn't need to bake 12 dozen at one time. They kinda look like a bird's nest... prior to dipping them in chocolate... see where I'm going with these. LOL. Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 pound sweetened coconut
- 1-1/2 cups sliced almonds
- 2 cups heavy cream
- semi-sweet chocolate chips
- vegetable oil

DIRECTIONS

In large bowl, mix flour and sugar well (I recommend a whisk) then add coconut, mixing flour throughout add almonds, insure homogenous mixture pour heavy cream over mixture, stir well with a spoon until cream is thoroughly blended.

Spoon mixture, or use an ice cream scoop, onto baking sheet I use parchment paper to line the pan, but foil would also work Pat the cookies slightly to flatten them to ensure even baking. Bake at 350 degrees, turning them after 10 minutes (but every oven varies so you'll know when they are browned. Just don't burn them).

Finish them by dipping them in melted chocolate. Melt semi-sweet chips and a small amount of vegetable oil in the microwave. When melting in the microwave, use 30-45 second increments and stir well. Chocolate will burn if over-heated.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)



Bird Journal Page

You can use the journal page provided or use the book Bird Log Kids by Deanna Brandt. Observe a bird in your yard and sketch it (optionally you can print a coloring page for your bird from... be sure it is a bird that you can observe in your yard). Look it up in your bird guide for more information. Be sure to note size, coloring, and any details your child finds interesting. If you would rather use coloring pages you can download the free Cornell Bird Coloring book to keep track of birds you have seen in your yard or get the Audubon's Birds of America Coloring Book. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/NetCommunity/bbimages/PDFs/ColoringBook.pdf>

Flax + Sunflower Seed Bread

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/3 cups water
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened

- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 1/2 cups bread flour
- 1 1/3 cups whole wheat bread flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup flax seeds
- 1/2 cup sunflower seeds

DIRECTIONS

Place all ingredients (except sunflower seeds) in the pan of the bread machine in the order recommended by the manufacturer. Select basic white cycle; press start. Add the sunflower seeds when the alert sounds during the knead cycle.

Plant a Mini-Garden

Create a mini-garden in a baking dish, planting pot tray or similar. Choose a theme for your garden and make mini-houses, furniture, pathways or other accessories to bring your theme to life. Choose several plants that go along with your theme. There are several Mini-Garden kits available... our local craft stores always seem to have them.

Garden Salsa

INGREDIENTS

- 1 medium green pepper, chopped
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 medium tomato, diced
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, chopped
- 1/4 cup minced fresh cilantro or parsley
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes, drained
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup tomato sauce
- 1/3 cup tomato paste
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- Tortilla chips

DIRECTIONS

In a bowl, combine the first seven ingredients. In another bowl, combine the water, tomato sauce, tomato paste, garlic, lemon juice and pepper; stir into the vegetable mixture. Serve with chips. Refrigerate leftovers.

Wind Chime

This is a new project for us and I do not have step by step instructions yet. We plan to use terra-cotta pots flipped upside down to make our chimes. I have included a link to a Wind Chime kit in our Amazon Book list or you can search online for instructions. We will have instructions available on Wee Folk Art after we complete the project.

Bean Experiment

This is a two week project. You will need a sandwich baggie, white paper towel, permanent marker and 3-4 seeds (I suggest 1 each of a sunflower seed, pea, bean and pumpkin). Fold a couple squares paper towel to fit nicely in the sandwich baggie. Dampen the paper towel so it is wet through but not soggy. Place the seeds in the bottom of the bag, evenly spaced. Label the outside of the bag with the marker. On day one make some observations about the size, shape and color of the seeds. Also make some predictions... which you think will sprout first, which will have the longest stem or longest roots, etc. Be sure to record your observations and prediction on a journal



page. Hang the bag in a visible and somewhat sunny place. The fridge works great for us. Make observations every few days. Be sure to record which seeds sprout on which days. Be sure to keep the paper towel damp. At the end of the two weeks, remove the seedlings from the baggie and make new observations on a new journal page (size, color, etc). You can try planting your seedlings in small pots of dirt now if you would like to continue your observations.

16 Bean Soup

INGREDIENTS

2 cups of mixed beans*
3 quarts water
salt and pepper to taste
hamhocks or ham bone, (you may leave out if you wish this to be a vegetarian meal)
1 green pepper, chopped
1 large onion, chopped
1 cup celery, chopped
1 large can tomatoes
1 T. sugar
1 T. lemon juice
1 clove garlic, chopped

*16 Beans includes (you can use less variety if you would like)

(pinto, dried peas, yellow split peas, green split peas, brown lentils, orange lentils, garbanzos, kidney beans, cranberry beans, mung beans, black turtle beans, green lima beans, white lima beans, great northern beans, navy beans, speckled beans, barley or you can add any other beans. This assortment of beans will provide complete protein should you wish to leave out the meat.)

DIRECTIONS

Bring 2 cups of beans and 3 quarts of water to boil with salt and pepper. Skim and add hamhocks, bone, or whatever. Simmer for 3 hours uncovered.

Add the green pepper, onion, celery, tomatoes, sugar, lemon juice and garlic. Cook an additional half hour or until vegetables are tender. Better if you let this age a day in the refrigerator. With a salad and crusty bread, you have a great meal.

Bean Mosaic

Using some of your extra bean from the 16 bean soup, create a bean mosaic picture on construction paper. White Elmer's glue works well. I like to water it down a bit and put in a bowl for the kids to be able to dip the bean... or use a q-tip to apply the glue. Young children may just like to sort and count the variety of beans.

Decorate a Flower Pot

We made some super cute, patchwork, decopodged pots on Wee Folk Art. The full directions are available here... <http://weefolkart.com/?q=node/320> or you can just paint any pot and let your child choose the flowers to plant in it. These make great gifts.

Sign Language

Bees communicate with a form of sign language... fancy dances. For this week's activity I suggest learning some sign language with your child. You can check out a book on sign language from the library, watch any Signing Time DVD or visit a website with free sign language videos (http://www.aslpro.com/functional_groups.html) to learn some basic sign language with your child. Try to learn several words that you can use throughout the day like Please, Thank You, Share, Drink, Bathroom, Tired, etc. Have your child learn to hand spell her name.



Beeswax Modeling

Beeswax has a unique texture and makes a nice change from play-dough for kids. It can be difficult for young hands to get it started... it helps if it is warmer. I sometimes set out a cup of hot water to dip the wax in to help the kids soften it. I will often work it for awhile before giving it to my youngest. Try making flowers with the beeswax. They will hold their shape and make a pretty addition to your nature table until you want to rework the wax.

Apple Dippers

INGREDIENTS

Apples
Peanut Butter
Honey
Cream Cheese

DIRECTIONS

To make the Apple Dipper Filling: Mix approximately 1/2 a stick (4 oz.) of cream cheese, 1/2 cup of peanut butter and 1/4 cup of honey together.

Core an apple (if you do not have a corer - just slice the apples and serve with dip on the side). Stuff the apples with the filling. Slice the stuffed apples in thick slices. Serve with extra dip.



Life Cycle Collage Picture

Eric Carle creates his illustrations by using collage techniques. Cut or tear tissue paper, catalogs, old cards, etc to create a Butterfly Life Cycle poster. Be sure to show the caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly and egg stages.

Tissue Paper Butterflies

For this project you will need colorful tissue paper and pipe cleaners. I think we have all probably made these at some point in our lives. Take several sheets of tissue and cut them into approximately 8" circles. Pinch the tissue paper sheets together in the middle and wrap with the pipe cleaner. Shape the ends of the pipe cleaner to look like antennae. Hang bunch in your window to bring the spring indoors.

Lemon Bars

INGREDIENTS

1 c. (2 sticks) butter
2 1/4 c. flour
1/2 c. powder sugar
4 eggs
2 c. sugar
1 t. baking powder
6 T. lemon juice
1/4 c. powdered sugar for decoration

DIRECTIONS

1. Prepare a 13 x 9 x 2 inch baking pan. Set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, cream butter, flour, and powder sugar. Press the dough evenly into the bottom of the baking pan.
3. Bake for 20 minutes.
4. Beat eggs until frothy. Then add sugar, baking powder and lemon juice. Beat mixture until it's smooth.
5. Pour egg mixture over crust. Bake 20 - 25 minutes.
6. Let cool, and then dust cookies with powder sugar.
7. Cut into squares to serve.

Weekly Record for _____

MONDAY			
TUESDAY			
WEDNESDAY			
THURSDAY			
FRIDAY			

Resource Planner for _____

Book List				
Title	Author	Subject	Owner	Due/Price
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Project Supply List			
Item	Project	Item	Project
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Field Trips + Enrichment Activities			
Activity/Location	Contact Information	Date	Cost/Paid
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