

Flat Stanley Unit Study

based on [the book by Jeff Brown](#)

unit study prepared by Jodi Small
lapbook templates by Ami Brainerd

LESSONS

SOCIAL STUDIES

Occupations

This book has endless opportunities to introduce your student to various occupations.

1. Stanley went to see his doctor after he became flat.

Doctors – When do you see a doctor? What is a doctor’s job? Talk about check-ups. What does your doctor do during a check-up?

Temperature – How is it taken? What does it tell us? Use a thermometer and see what your temperature is now. (Use a mercury filled if possible and learn to read one. Otherwise, digital will work fine.) What is normal? (98.6)

Blood pressure – How is it taken? What does it tell us?

Stethoscope – What is it used for? (Listen to heartbeat and lung function.) If you have access to a stethoscope, practice finding your heartbeat.

Go-along books –

Time to See the Doctor – Heather Maisner

A Day in the Life of a Doctor – Mary Bowman and Claudine G. Wirths

What to Expect When You Go to the Doctor – Heidi Murkoff

2. Stanley’s mom thought Stanley’s clothes would need to be altered by a tailor since he would have to remain flat.

Tailor – What is the job of a tailor? What kinds of measurements do you think one would take for a shirt? Pants? Dress/skirt?

3. In Chapter 2, two policemen wanted to find out if Stanley’s mom needed any help when they saw her holding a string down a grate. Then in Chapter 4, the policemen were there at the museum ready to arrest the art thieves.

Policemen – Why were the policemen walking around the town, in Chapter 2? What was the policemen’s job in Chapter 4? Discuss the different divisions of police in your area (ex. City police, County police, State police) Check out books on the use of K-9 units to help police officers. Ask your child if he/she would like to be a police officer? Why or why not?

Go-along books -

A Day in the Life of a Police Officer – Mary Bowman-Kruhm and Claudine G. Wirths

If You Were a . . . Police Officer – Virginia Schomp

Officer Brown Keeps Neighborhoods Safe – Alice K. Flanagan

Big Mike's Police Car – Leslie McGuire

4. In Chapter 2, Stanley was mailed to his friend in California.

Postal Workers – Discuss the process of the Lambchop family in mailing Stanley to his friend. What happened after he was dropped in the mailbox? Why did Mr. Lambchop say that jet planes were wonderful? Discuss airmail and when it would be used.

Go-along books-

Sending a Letter – Alex Stewart

Postal Workers – Paulette Bourgeois

Out and About at the Post Office – Kitty Shea

Complete lapbook component: Occupations clipboards

Transportation

In Chapter 2, Stanley's dad mailed Stanley to California because it was cheaper than a train or plane ticket. Discuss these methods of transportation.

Train – Trains are faster than automobiles and buses, but slower than airplanes. Discuss different types of engines – steam, coal, diesel. Discuss different kinds of cars – hopper, flatbeds, boxcars, passenger. What is the purpose of a caboose? Who works on a train? Check out a video on trains.

Books –

Puff, Puff, Chugga, Chugga – Christopher Wormell

The Little Engine That Could – Watty Piper

Airplane – Fastest mode of transportation and probably the most expensive.

Discuss the difference between airplanes and jets.

Make paper airplanes and fly them. How many different ways can you fold the paper and still make it fly?

Complete lapbook component: Transportation Venn diagram flap

Social Studies – Use of Encyclopedias

Look at a set of encyclopedias. What is the first thing you notice? Why are they labeled with different letters of the alphabet? Look up something/someone that interests you (or something from this book - kite, train, etc.).

Social Studies – Newspapers

In Chapter 4, Stanley's picture was in the newspaper for helping to capture the art thieves. Look at a recent newspaper. What kinds of things are in a newspaper? News, weather, obituaries, advertisements, classifieds, etc. What is the purpose of a newspaper?

If possible, visit a newspaper printing office. You may even be able to set up a tour.

Complete lapbook component: Parts of a Newspaper

Go-along book –

Extra! Extra!: The Who, What, Where, When, and Why of Newspapers – Linda Granfield

Greek Mythology

In Chapter 4, look at the painting that hung beside Stanley in the art museum.

The strange looking creature is a Centaurs – half man/half horse. They are usually portrayed in Greek mythology with the torso and head of a human, and the body of a horse.

If your student is interested, you may want to take a rabbit trail on any of the following topics: Greek gods, mythical creatures, or the Trojan war.

Human Relationships: Discrimination

In Chapter 5, Stanley's mother says, "It's wrong to dislike people for their shapes. Or their religion, for that matter, or their color of skin."

Discuss discrimination with your student (the treating of some people better than others without any fair or proper reason). Do you agree with Stanley's mother? Is it wrong to dislike people for other reasons (how much money they have, based on whether or not they have a handicap, etc.)?

Human Relationships: Siblings

In Chapter 5, Arthur is concerned about Stanley because he is crying and upset. However, earlier in the book, Arthur was very angry with Stanley because their father made Arthur walk while carrying Stanley. Discuss having so different feelings toward the same person. How do you get along with your brother or sister? Do you care how they feel? Do you hurt when they hurt? Do you get jealous of things they may get to do that you are not allowed?

Go-along Book –

My Brother, My Sister and Me: A First Book at Sibling Rivalry – Pat Thomas

Complete lapbook component: Brother/Sister hotdog book; folding instructions [found here](#)

Geography – California

Study the state of California. Where is it? What is the capital? What ocean is it bordering? Are there mountains? Rivers? Lakes? Desert? Forests? What current events are going on in that state right now? Look at how many miles your house is from California. About how long would it take to get there by car? Plane? Train? Mail? What kind of history can you find out about it? (Ex. California Gold Rush, the origin of the name *California*, etc.)

California was the 31st state in the USA; it was admitted on September 9, 1850.

State Abbreviation - CA

State Capital - Sacramento

Major Industries - agriculture (many, many products), oil, mining, electronics, movie making/entertainment, and tourism

Main Rivers - Sacramento River, Colorado River, San Joaquin River

Bordering Country - Mexico

Bordering Body of Water - Pacific Ocean

State Nickname - The Golden State

State Motto - Eureka (I have found it)

Complete lapbook component: Where Is California?

LANGUAGE ARTS

Vocabulary

enormous - large

altered – change, make smaller or larger (in clothing)

shaft – passage or enclosed space

hasty – quick or hurried

limber – able to bend easily

valuable – worth a high price

fragile – breakable

jostled – bump, push, shove

parcel – package

famous – well-known

rudeness – not nice

gust – sudden blast of wind

cross – angry

gloomy – sad

disguise – costume

sensational – great, awesome, wonderful

civilized - polite

quivery – shaky

Complete lapbook component: vocabulary envelopes

Abbreviations

Discuss the various abbreviations used throughout the story.

Dr. - Doctor

Mr. – Used for any man

Mrs. – Used for a married woman

Also:

Miss – Used for an unmarried woman

Ms. – Used when you are not sure if they are married or not

Complete lapbook component: Abbreviates petal book

Addressing an Envelope

This unit is the perfect opportunity to learn/review how to address an envelope. If

you are participating in a Flat Stanley Project, let your student address his Flat Stanley mailer.

Return address in the upper left hand corner – the address you want the letter returned to in case the main address is undeliverable, usually your own

Main address in the center of the envelope

Use the person's proper name - Mr., Mrs., Miss along with their first and last name.

Then write their street address - house number, street number, apartment number, etc.

Last line write their city, state postal abbreviation and zip code

Other ways to practice include sending a letter or picture to a grandparent, friend or to yourself.

Onomatopoeia

The use of words representing the sound they make. Let your student point out the examples if he is already familiar with this literary device.

Cr-eee-eee-k (Chapter 4)

Pop! Pop! (Chapter 5)

Whooshing (Chapter 5)

Complete lapbook component: Onomatopoeia fan

APPLIED MATH

Measurements

In Chapter 1, the nurse measures Stanley using a ruler to give to the tailor.

Practice measuring items around the house using your ruler. Take an object and see how long, how wide and how thin that item is. See how many items you can find that are as thick as Stanley.

Complete lapbook components: As Tall as Stanley, As Flat as Stanley

Weight

How heavy would something have to be to flatten you? Experiment with a pillow. What can you use to flatten that pillow? What about a marshmallow? If you have a bag of marshmallows, try the following:

Find objects around the house that your student thinks will flatten a marshmallow.

Put one object on each marshmallow.

After 10 minutes, take the objects off the marshmallows and see which one is the most flat.

Weigh each item used to flatten the marshmallows. Which one weighs the most? Which one weighs the least? Did the weight of the object matter?

Complete lapbook component: Marshmallow Experiment accordion

Money

What is the value of a penny? Nickel? Dime? Quarter? Dollar? Practice counting out different amounts of coin. What is the cost of a stamp? Count out that much money. Count out the cost of a stamp using many different combinations of dimes, nickels, pennies, etc. for extra practice.

Complete lapbook component: The Cost of One Stamp shutter

Days of the Week

On Sundays, Mr. Lambchop would take his sons to the museum or roller skating in the park. Learn the days of the week. What do you normally do on Sundays? What about other days of the week? Do you generally go to the library on a specific day of the week? Dance lesson? Swimming?

Telling Time

Stanley had to take a nap in the afternoon so he could stay up late that night and catch the art thieves. Discuss when morning, afternoon, and evening start.

Discuss the use of AM and PM.

Balance

Stanley had to balance on four spikes to pretend he was a picture. How hard do you think that would have been? What if he had only had three spikes? Two spikes? Use a balancing scale to balance objects around your house. Use a

balance beam or block of wood to practice balancing your body. Balance a book on your head.

SCIENCE

Healthy Habits

Stanley's mom made him an egg sandwich to eat on his way to California along with a toothpaste case of milk. In order to stay healthy, we need the proper nourishment.

Proper eating – Name some healthy foods. What about unhealthy foods?

Drinking – We need to drink plenty of water each day. We also need milk each day for our calcium. Juice gives us vitamins also. Soda, however, is full of sugar and caffeine, and is not good for our bodies.

Exercise – Sometimes, Stanley's dad took his sons to the park to roller skate. It is also important to keep our bodies in shape. We were designed to move, not sit all the time. Our muscles need to move.

Proper rest – Stanley had to take a nap in order to stay up late to catch the art thieves. Our bodies need 8 -10 hours each day. When we don't get enough during the night, our bodies will get tired during the day and we may need a nap.

Complete lapbook component: Healthy Habits tab

Go-along books –

The Monster Health Book: A Guide to Eating Healthy, Being Active & Feeling Great in Monsters & Kids – Edward Miller

Oh the Things You Can Do That Are Good For You! – Tish Rabe

Weather

In Chapter 3, the weather was perfect for flying a kite. What kind of weather do you need for kite flying? Discuss different kinds of weather and what each kind of weather is good for.

Go-along books –

Weather Whys: Questions, Facts and Riddles About Weather – Mike Artell

Rain, Wind and Storm – Nicole Baxter

Video – The Magic School Bus Kicks Up a Storm

Clouds

Discuss the different kinds of clouds and what they tell us about the weather.

Cumulus clouds – large fluffy clouds that are easy to see pictures in

Stratus clouds – high clouds

Cirrus clouds – light feathery clouds

Nimbus clouds – rain clouds

How do clouds form? Water vapor condenses when warm and cold air meet. This condensation mixed with dust particles makes a cloud.

Go-along book –

Science Project Ideas About Rain – Robert Gardner

ART

Aerial Views

In Chapter 3, when Stanley was flying like a kite, he saw the park from a different perspective. Study the aerial view and draw your own picture from above. If you have stairs in your house, have your child go to the top and look down and draw what he sees.

Art Museum Visit

If you are close to an art museum, visit it. If not, see if your local library has an art display. You can also [look at paintings online](#)

Music: Violins

If you have music performed by an orchestra, listen and try to identify the instruments. You can probably check something out from your local library. You can also listen to different instruments online.

Framing Pictures

The paintings at the art museum all had their own fancy frames. Draw a picture and frame it yourself using one of the following:

Popsicle sticks

Cardboard box cut to fit around the picture, decorated with painted macaroni, toothpicks, puzzle pieces, or sea shells

Drawing Facial Expressions

Practice drawing faces with the following expressions: happy, sad, surprised, mad.

BIBLE AND CHARACTER

Manners

The Lambchops were in favor of politeness and careful speech.

What does it mean to be polite? Teach the JOY method of politeness.

J – Think what Jesus would want first.

O – Then think of others

Y – Finally, yourself last.

By putting Jesus first, you will be doing what the Bible in teaching. By putting others first, you are being more like Jesus. Then putting yourself last takes away that selfish tendency we humans have.

Complete lapbook component: JOY flap

Go-along books –

Be Polite and Kind – Cheri J. Meiners ISBN 1575421518

How to Speak Politely and Why – Munro Leaf ISBN 0789313529

Introductions

Teach the proper method of introductions. When Stanley was introduced to Mr. Jones in the park, Stanley politely said “How do you do?” Explain that the polite way to meet someone new is with a smile and a handshake. (Sometimes it’s hard for children to meet a stranger. If your child is shy, just a smile will do.) Practice handshakes. Get a firm grip, and proceed with about two pumps of the hands.

Apologizing/Accepting Apologies

Sometimes it’s easy for a child to say “I’m sorry” and not really mean it, just to get off the hook with their parents. Explain that being sorry for something means that you feel bad that you did something wrong and hurt another person. Sometimes

it is necessary to show that you are sorry along with saying the words. Practice giving hugs with your apologies.

Stanley had trouble accepting Arthur's apology when Arthur forgot about him at the park and Stanley got stuck in the tree. Stanley was so mad at him that he would not speak to him that evening.

When we have been hurt by someone, it's hard to forget what they did to us. Explain that when someone apologizes, part of accepting that apology is not holding that sin against them anymore. That includes not bringing it back up the next time they hurt you. "I remember when you..." Explain that when we say we are sorry for a sin we have committed against God and repent of that sin, He forgives us and forgets about that sin, never to remember it again.

Bible Discussion

Jealousy – Arthur was jealous that Stanley could fit under doors and he couldn't.

Gal. 5:19-20

Patience – Mr. Lambchop told his wife to be patient with their boys.

Prov. 14:29, Prov. 15:18

Teasing – In Chapter 5, Stanley was being teased by people around him.

Col. 3:12

You may want to memorize Galatians 5:22-23 this week as you discuss good behaviors/good fruit that is to be seen in the life of a believer.

Use of the Tongue

Mrs. Lambchop told the police officers, "People should think twice before making rude remarks, and then not make them at all." James 3:1-12

Discuss how we can do more listening than talking and how that will get us in less trouble.

Punishment for Wrongs

The art thieves were put into jail because they had done something wrong. Discuss natural consequences of our actions. Also, discuss punishments we, as parents, must give our children when they do wrong. How can children learn from their mistakes? Show how God punishes those that do wrong. An example would be the Israelites wandering the desert for 40 years because of their complaining. Ex. 16, Joshua 5:6

Bible – 10 Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17

Discuss the 10 commandments and what each one means.

JUST FOR FUN

*Stanley was “as flat as a pancake.” Make pancakes and see how flat you can make them!

*Make hot chocolate and cookies to have before bed like the Lambchops did at the end of the book.

*Make a Flat Stanley and mail him, along with a journal to a relative for one week. Have them keep track of everywhere Stanley went with them. Do this a couple of different times.

*If the weather is right, get out and fly a kite!

*Make jewelry

Make a ring using pipe cleaners. Purchase some beads and thread to make a bracelet or necklace.

You might want to use this book as a resource-- [Cool Beaded Jewelry](#) – Pam Scheunemann

Field Trip ideas

Post office

Art museum

Newspaper office tour

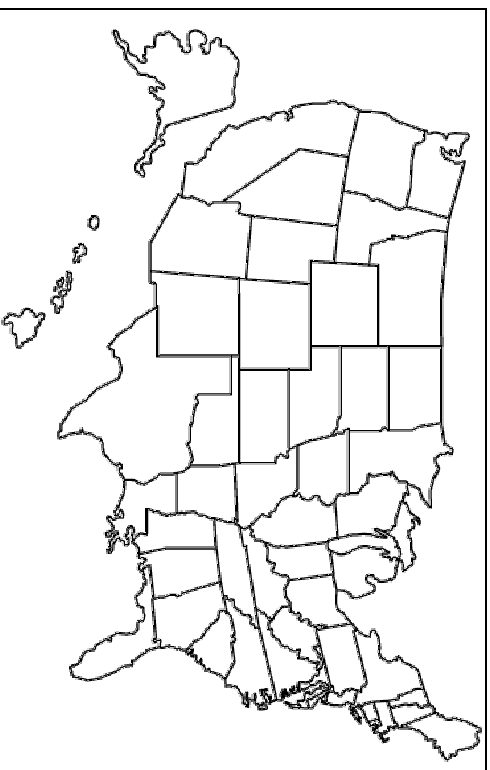
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California

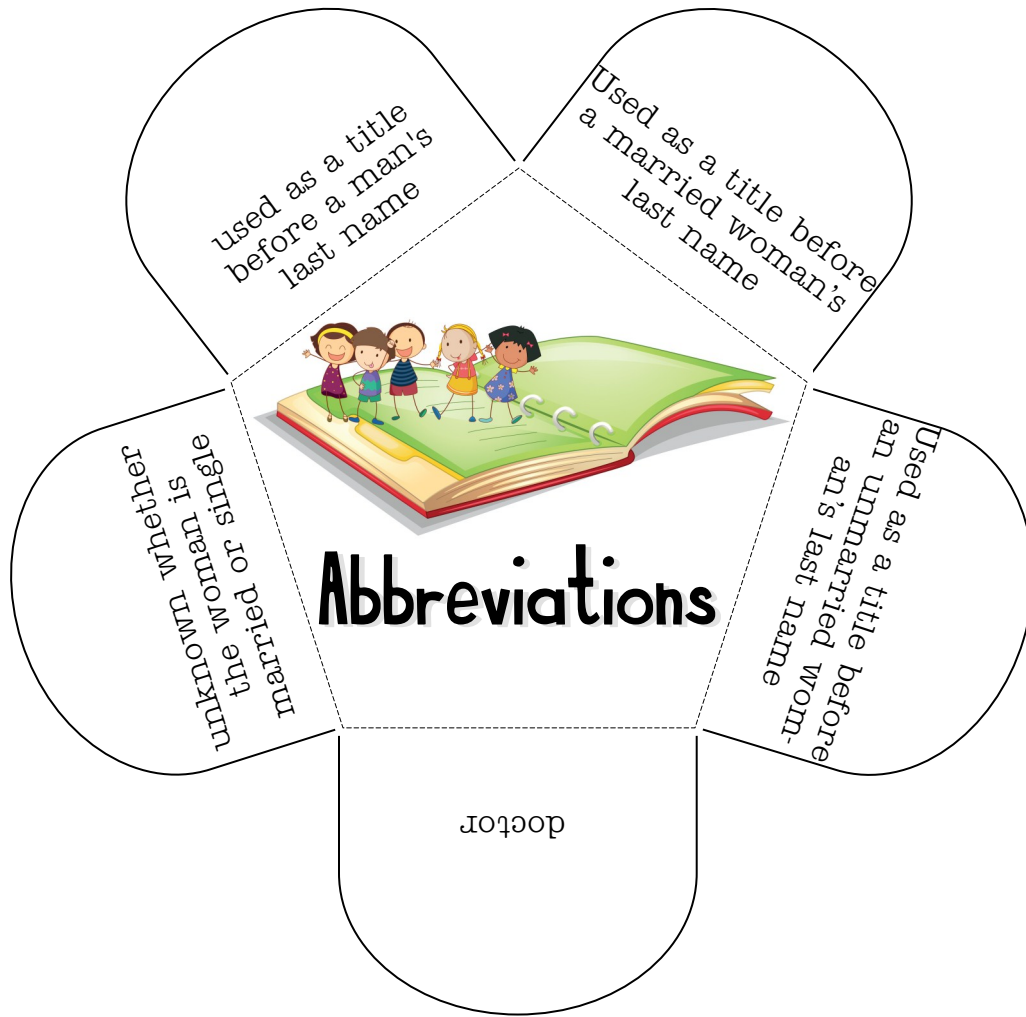
**Where in the
United States
is...**



Locate and color in the state.

Cut out book as one piece on solid lines. Fold on dotted lines.

Cut out map on solid lines and glue under shutters.



Cut shape out as one piece. Write the appropriate abbreviations at the top of each description. Fold flaps in using the dotted lines as your guide. Tuck the last flap under so that book will stay closed.

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Occupations



Tailor

Postal Worker

Policeman

As you explore the occupations with your student, record interesting information about what each person does (you may want to have your student write a job description for each occupation).

The blank clipboard is for your student to learn more about an occupation he may be interested in when he grows up.

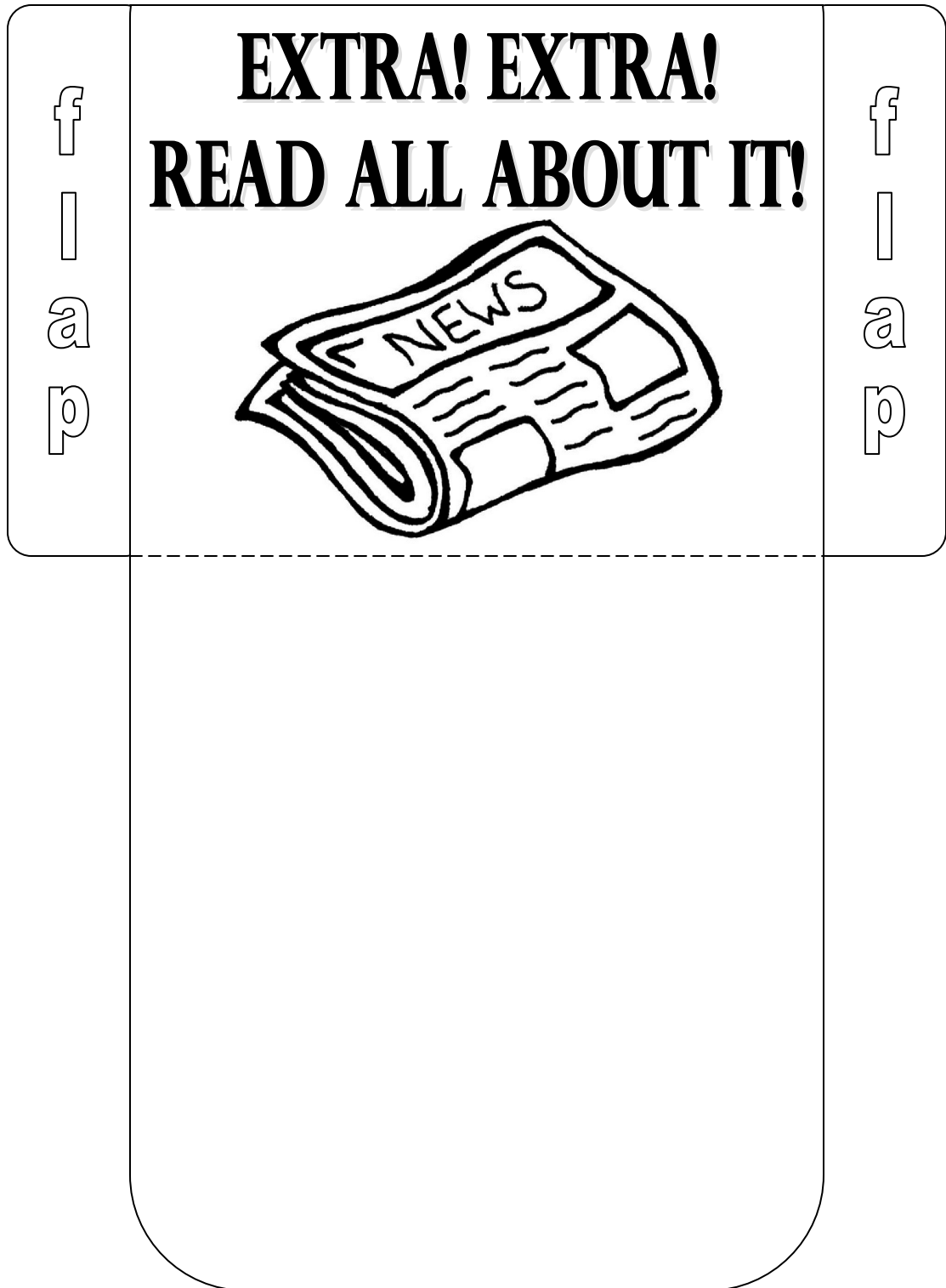
Cut the clipboards out. Stack together with cover on top. Staple at the top (or use with a brass fastener).



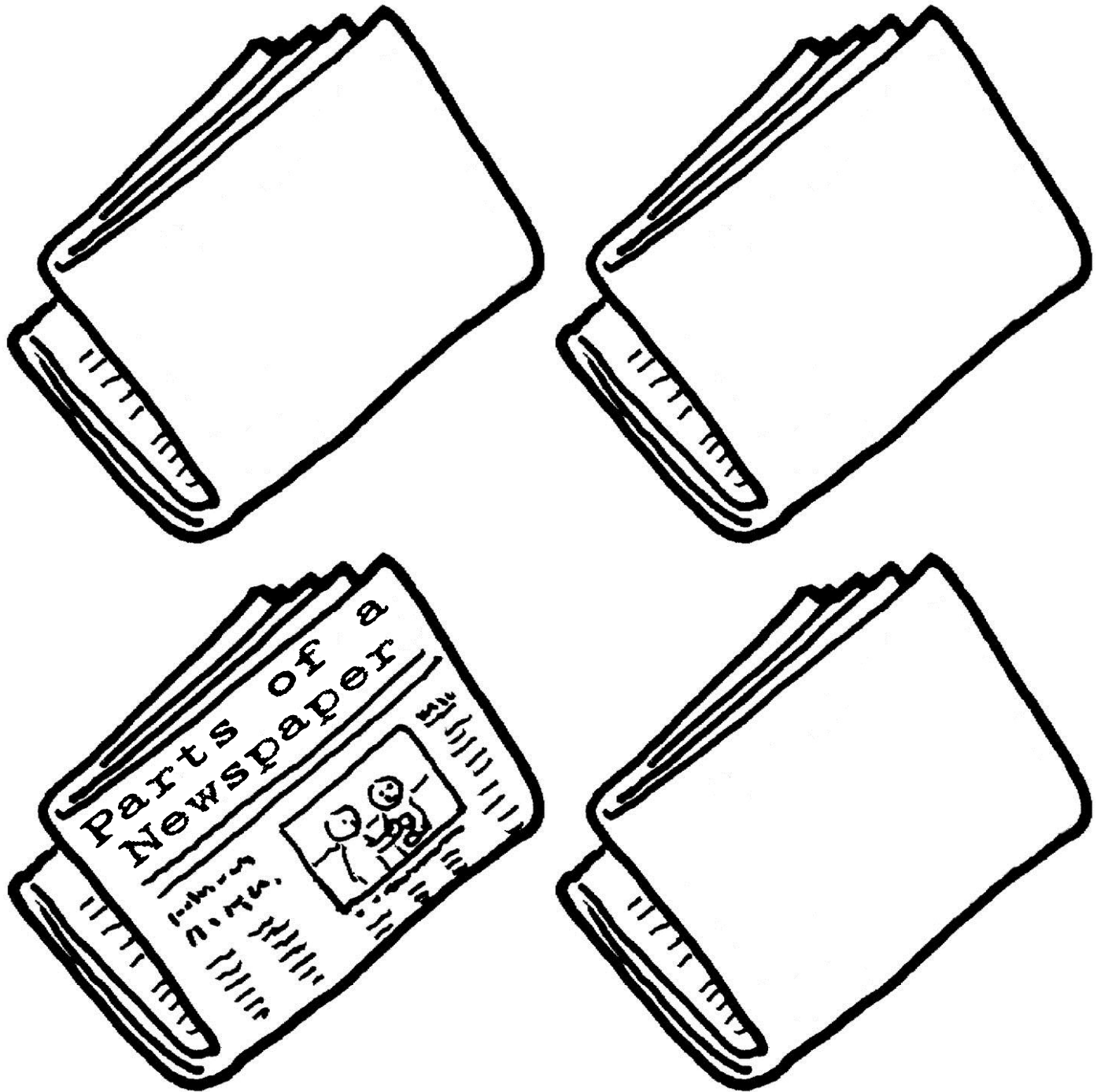
Write a newspaper article about Flat Stanley catching the museum thieves. Be sure to include a great headline and a picture. Fold the story up and store it in the pocket.

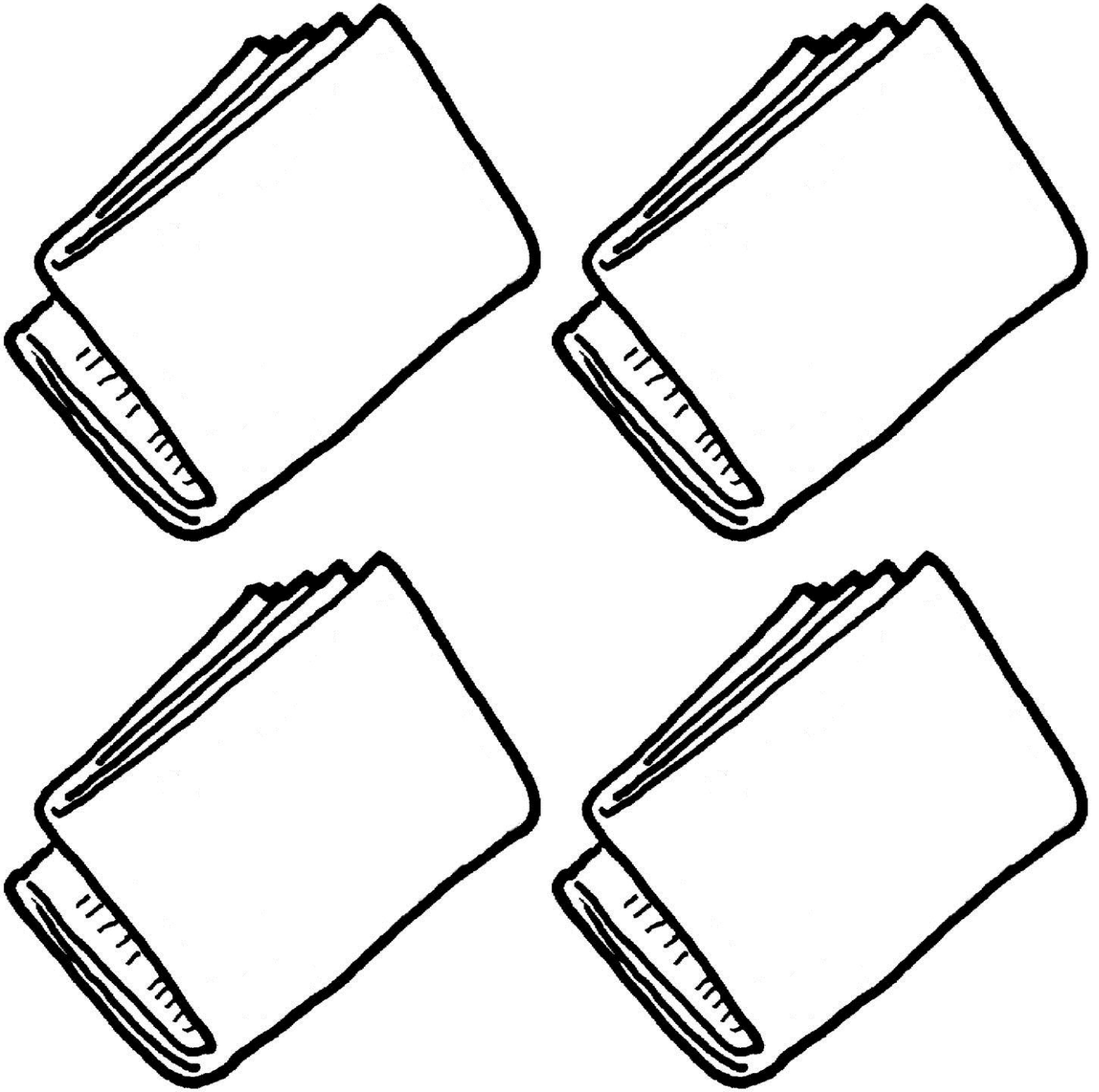
To assemble pocket—

Cut out as one piece. Fold back up and fold flaps around the back. Glue flaps down.



Cut out shapes. Read through a newspaper together. Discuss the different sections. Write one part of a newspaper on each newspaper shape. Stack together with cover on top and staple.

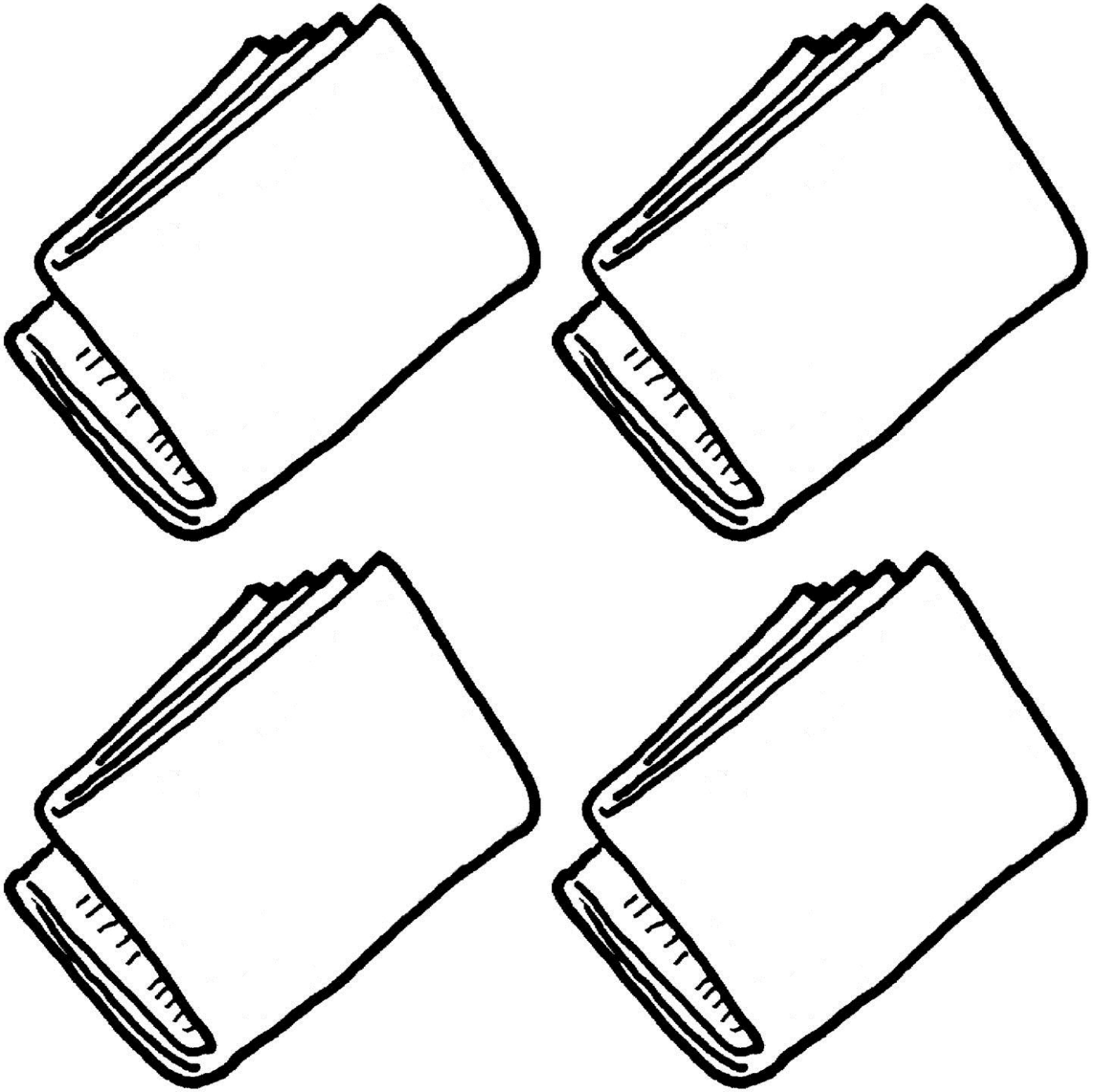




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Cut book out as one piece. Fold top under. Fold bottom under.
Write answers to questions under the flaps.



Do You Agree With Her?

What Does Stanley's Mother Say About Discrimination?



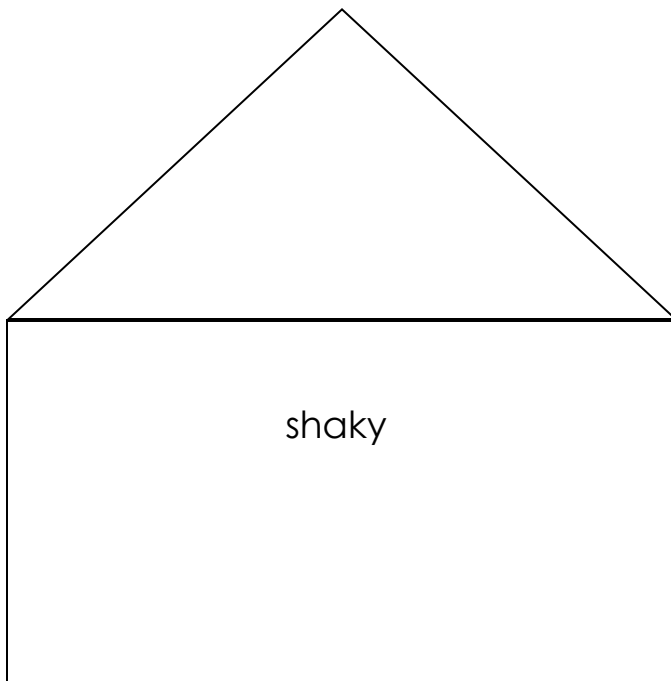
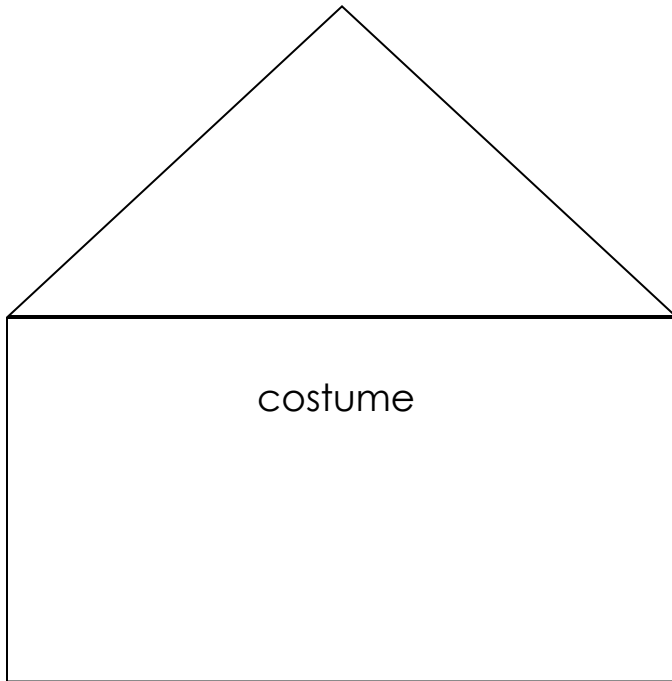
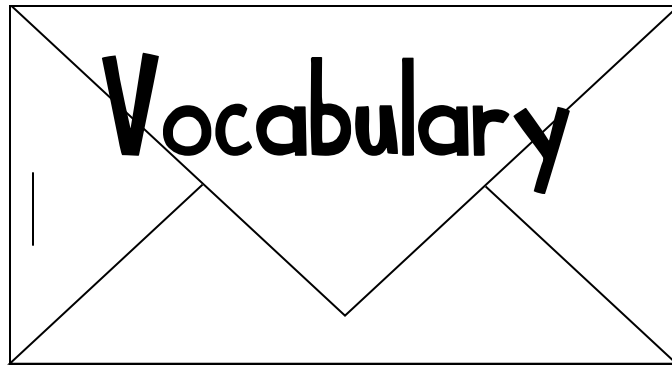
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Cut out shapes on solid black lines. Write one example of onomatopoeia on each piece. Stack together with cover on top and secure using a brass fastener or staple.

Onomatopoeia
Examples



Cut each house shape out as one piece. Fold the top triangles down so that they cover the definitions. Each one should resemble a small envelope. Write the vocabulary word on the front of the triangle. Stack together with cover on top and staple where indicated.

Note from Ami:

I haven't tried this with all the words. I think the book will get too thick if you try to use all the pieces.

You may need to make two separate books or choose to use only half the words as you work your way through the Flat Stanley Unit Study.

worth a high price

change, make smaller
or larger

very large

passage or
enclosed space

quick or hurried

bump, push, or shove

breakable

not nice

able to bend easily

well-known

someone who
has manners

angry

awesome, great,
wonderful

package

sudden blast of wind

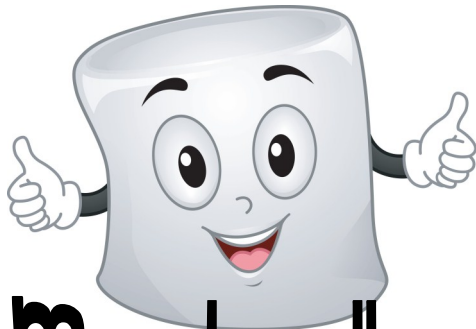
Glue to the back of the next strip

Object #1:

The marshmallow was
a little bit flat
very flat
completely smashed

I predict the flattest
marshmallow will
be a result of

- Object #1
- Object #2
- Object #3



**Marshmallow
Experiment**

Glue to the back of the last piece

Weights

- Object #1
- Object #2
- Object #3

Object #3:

The marshmallow was
a little bit flat
very flat
completely smashed

Object #2:

The marshmallow was
a little bit flat
very flat
completely smashed

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Cut out each strip (on previous page) as one piece. Glue where indicated. Fold like an accordion.

Before you do the experiment (directed in the unit study), have your student make a prediction of which object will produce the flattest marshmallow. Circle prediction.

Do experiment. Write in names for objects 1, 2, and 3 in the appropriate places. Circle a phrase that describes each object's flattening ability. Record weights for each object. Record conclusions.

You may want to secure a ribbon or string around the accordion (tie in the front) in order to help the book stay closed. Glue back of the last page in to your lap-book.

Conclusions <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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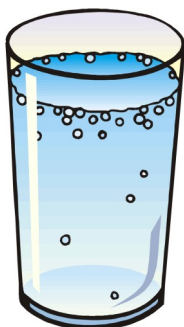
Food

REMOVE THIS AREA (Cut away so you have just a tab left)




Water

REMOVE THIS AREA



Assembly Directions:

Cut the five strips along the solid outer lines. If there is a rectangle piece in the right corner of the strip, cut it off as indicated (remove this area). Stack your strips in order with cover on top and staple where indicated.

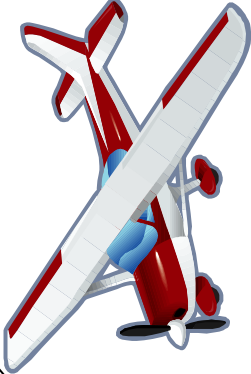
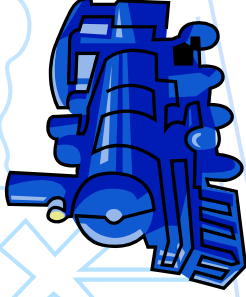
<p data-bbox="873 552 1024 592">Exercise</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p data-bbox="1096 535 1364 567">REMOVE THIS AREA</p>
	<p data-bbox="1198 1127 1279 1167">Rest</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half on the black line. Cut on the dotted lines to form three flaps. Use the spaces provided to compare and contrast trains and planes.

	 <p>PLANE</p> <p>BOTH</p>  <p>TRAIN</p>
--	---

<p>likes to eat ...</p>	<p>likes to play ...</p>	<p>likes to spend time...</p>	<p>is fun because he ...</p>
<p>likes to play ...</p>	<p>likes to spend time...</p>	<p>he also...</p>	<p>and he is my friend because...</p>
<p>likes to eat ...</p>	<p>likes to play ...</p>	<p>is fun because he ...</p>	<p>My Brother</p>
<p>likes to play ...</p>	<p>likes to spend time...</p>	<p>he also...</p>	<p>and he is my friend because...</p>
<p>likes to eat ...</p>	<p>likes to play ...</p>	<p>is fun because he ...</p>	<p>www.homeschoolshare.com</p>

My Brother

and he is my friend because...

he also...

likes to spend time...

likes to play ...

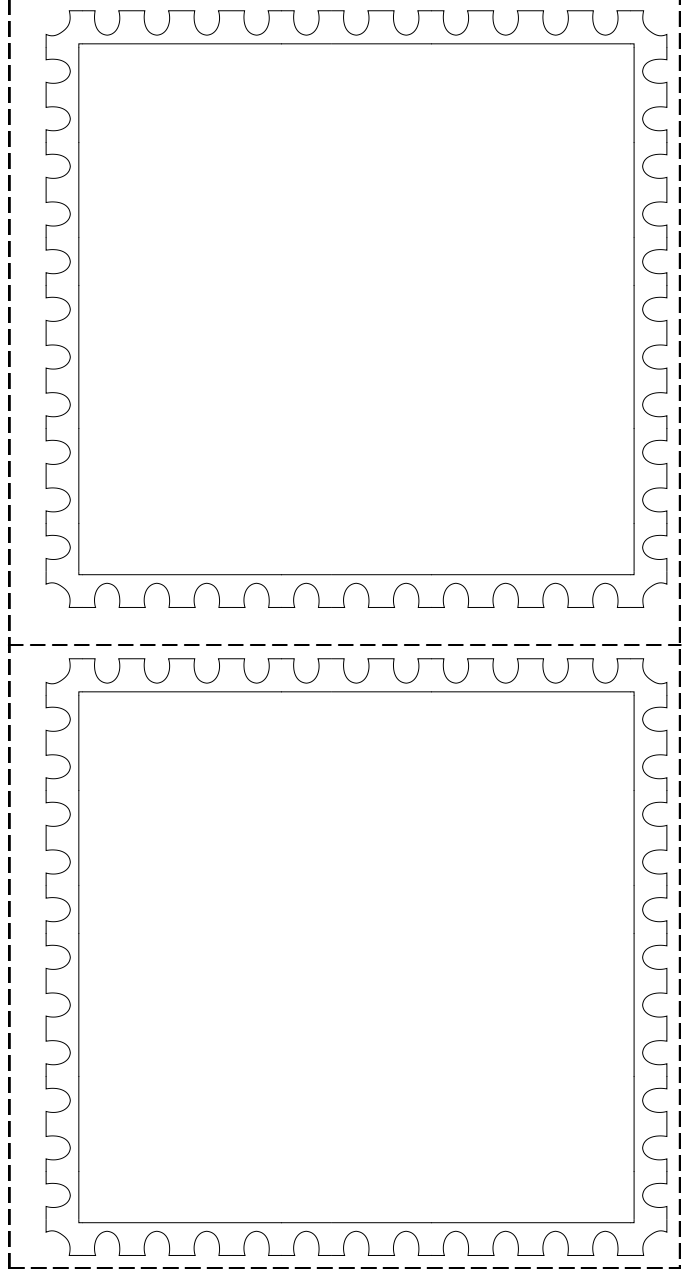
is fun because he ...

likes to eat ...

<p>likes to play...</p>	<p>likes to spend time...</p>	<p>he also...</p>	<p>and he is my friend because...</p>
<p>likes to eat...</p>	<p>is fun because he...</p>	<h1>My Sister</h1>	<p>www.homeschoolshare.com</p>

Cut out book as one piece.
Fold in half. Let your student
design the stamps. Cut and
paste them to the inside of the
book.

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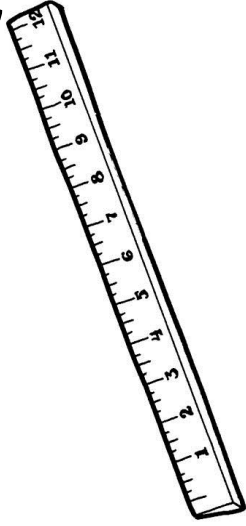


My Stamp Designs

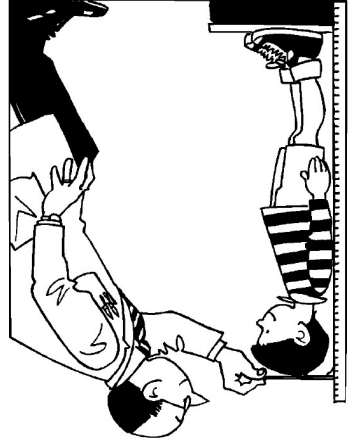
Two example stamps are shown. The first stamp has a green scalloped border and depicts a smiling red heart with eyes and arms on a white background. The second stamp has a pink scalloped border and depicts three red hearts of different sizes on a yellow background. The page is divided into two sections by a vertical dashed line, with the stamps and title on the left and a blank area on the right.

As Flat

as Stanley

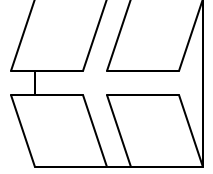


As Tall
as
Stanley



Cut each book out as one piece (two separate books in this file). Fold trifold style or fold accordion style (either way will work just fine). Find things around your house that are as flat as Stanley. Record the items in the book. Find things around your house that are as tall as Stanley. Record items in the book.

the cost of one stamp

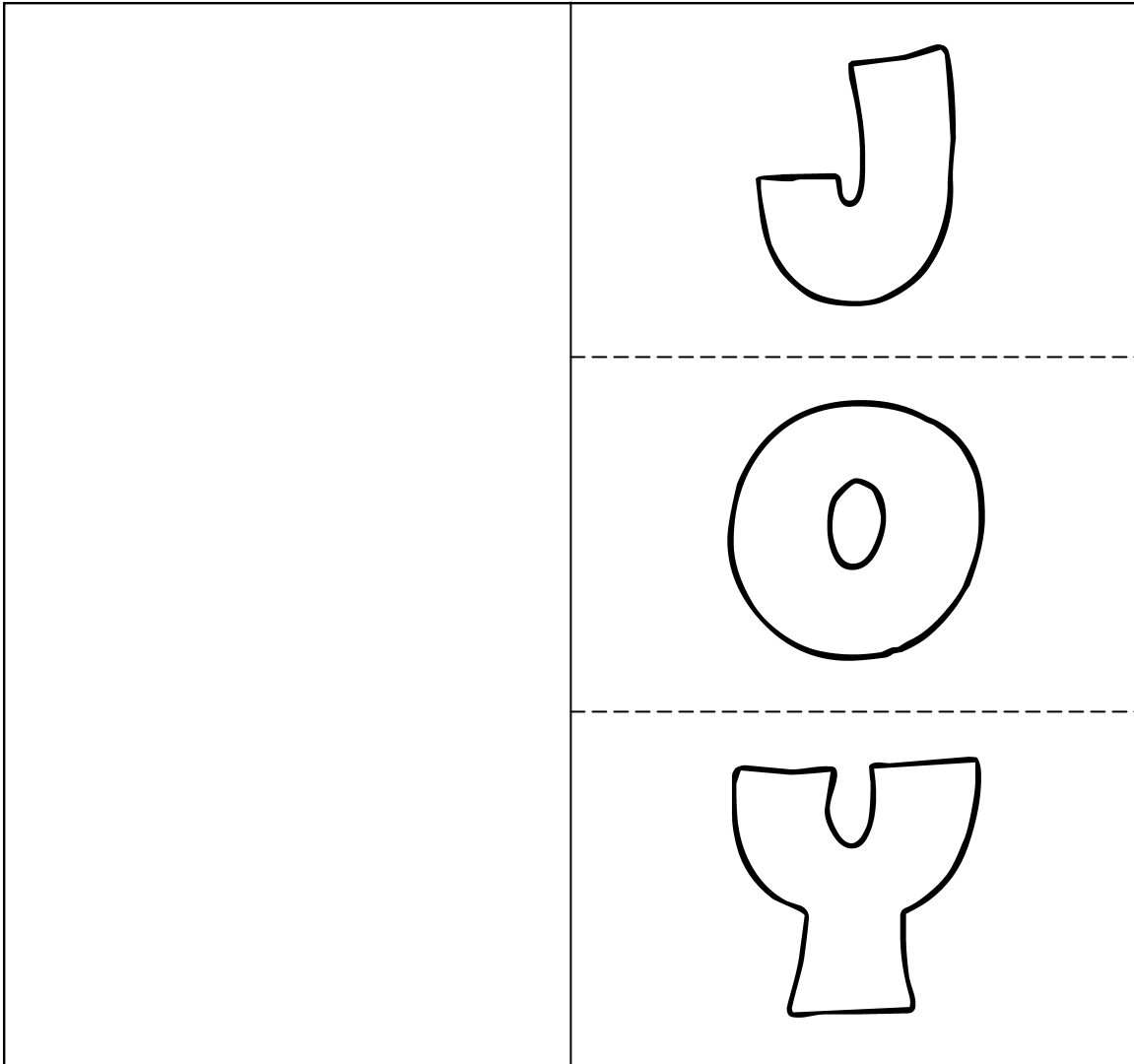


Cut out rectangle as one piece. Cut dotted lines. Fold outside flaps in (on grey lines). You will have four different sections to write on. Cut and paste title piece at the top, if desired.

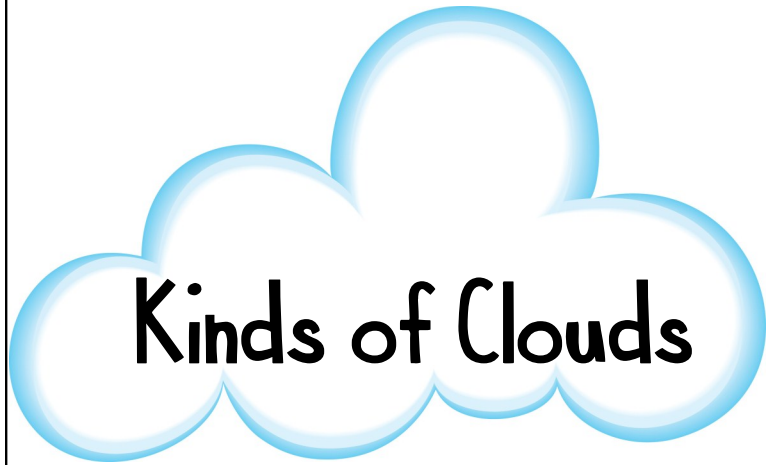
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Cut book out as one piece. Fold in half. Unfold. Cut on dotted lines to form three flaps. Fold book. Use the spaces under the flaps to write about what each letter represents.

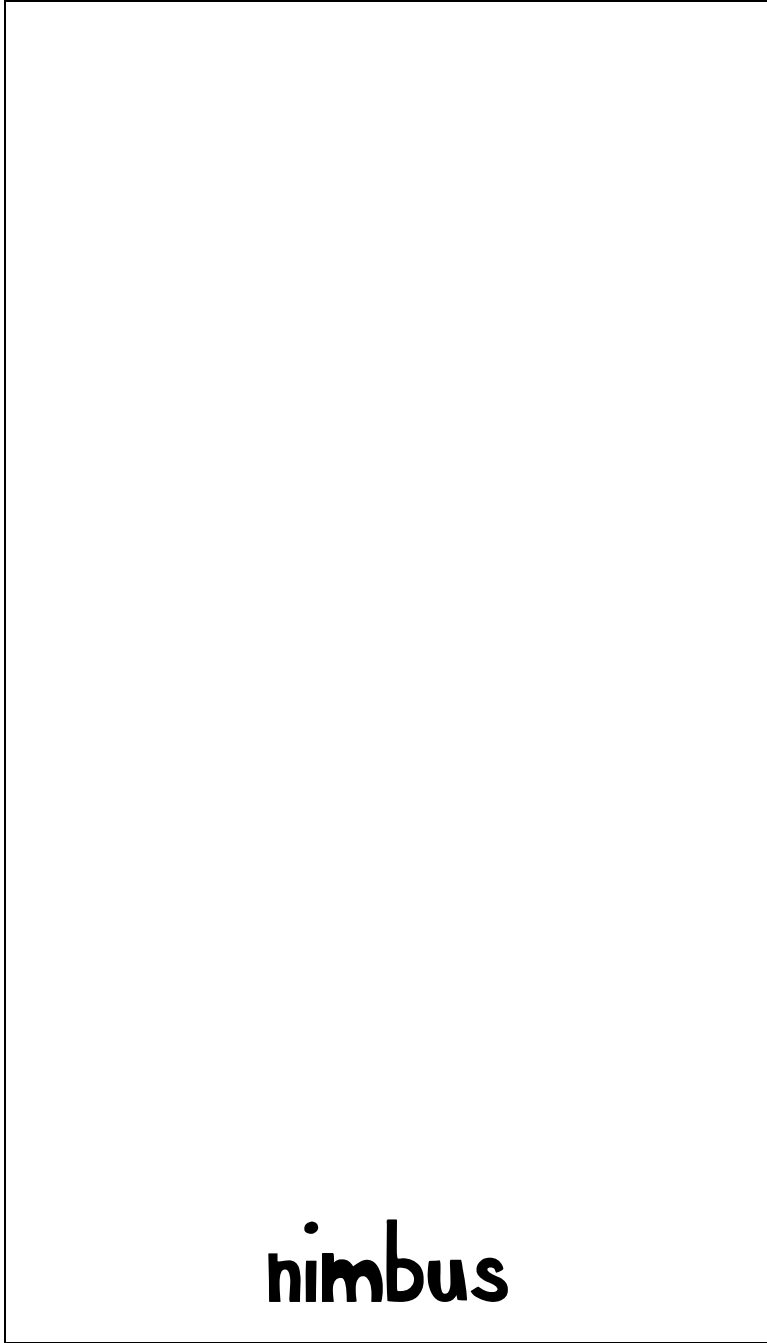


Kinds of Clouds

cirrus

stratus

cumulus



Cut out layer book as one piece. Stack together from smallest to largest and staple at the top.

Illustrate each kind of cloud.

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