

## Alaska's Three Pigs

Written by Arlene LaVerde

Illustrated by Mindy Dwyer

### Activity Guide

For PreK through 4th grade

#### Art

##### 1. Where Are the Pigs?

Supplies needed:

Large white paper, white oil pastels, watercolors, brush and water container

Draw a picture of a pig with a white oil pastel. It is tricky because you can't see the white on white. But, when you paint it with watercolors, the lines will appear like magic! Let it dry and then paint in some details. This also works with colored oil pastels, use lots of different colors to outline.

Try this technique on your fable that you write in the Creative Writing section.

##### 2. Watercolor techniques

Supplies needed:

Watercolors, brush, container of water, heavy white paper, little sponges or kitchen sponge cut into squares, table salt, straws

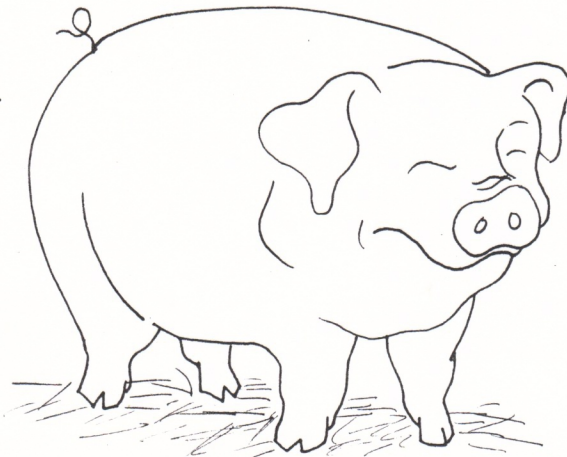
Use watercolors to illustrate an original three pigs story from the Creative Writing section. Try the techniques that the illustrator uses, salt to create sparkles, blowing paint out of a straw to show a splash, sponges to show texture and paint splatters.

##### 3. Border designs

Decorate a story with borders that tell something about what is happening in the story.

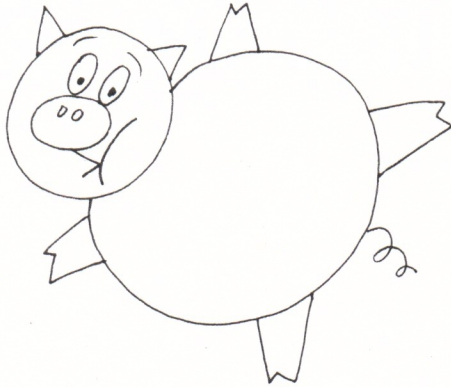
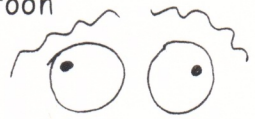
##### 4. Cartooning

Draw a picture of a realistic pig.





Now draw a cartoon pig. How many ways can you draw a pig in a cartoon style? Can you make him look angry? Silly? Confused? Surprised?



5. **Illustrators** have different styles. What is your favorite way of drawing? Compare the styles of illustrations in the books listed under Literature and try to determine what kind of paint or drawing materials they used.

## Math

### 1. Pigs in Pink Playdough:

Ingredients-

1 cup flour

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup salt

1 tablespoon oil

2 teaspoons cream of tartar

1 cup water

a few drops food coloring (red)

Combine ingredients in a pot. Stir over slow heat until thick. Keep stirring and don't turn the heat up too high impatiently. It will seem like a glob of a mess but keep stirring. When it's thick, take it off the stove and let it cool a few minutes. Form into a ball and store in a covered container. It's nice to add a drop of scented oil, such as oil of peppermint.

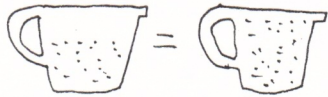


Where's the math? Ask some math questions. How do you make a batch big enough for your whole class? How many kids are in your class? How many batches of dough should you make? You would need a really big pot to make a whole class-sized dough ball! Let's say you are making five batches of dough with enough for four kids in each.

Take your recipe and double it. That means two of everything. 1 cup of flour is two cups.



$\frac{1}{2}$  cup of salt is 1 whole cup of salt



1 tablespoon is now 2 tablespoons



2 teaspoons cream of tartar is now 4 teaspoons



1 cup water is now 2 cups of water



That was easy! Now try quadrupling the recipe. How about ten times more?

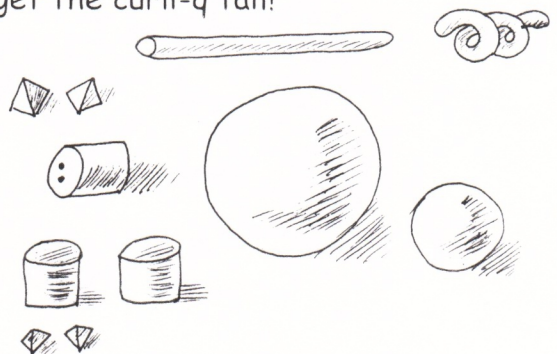
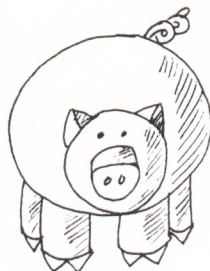
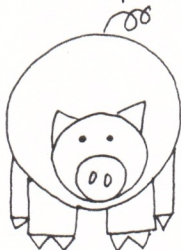
## 2. Shapes

What shapes make a pig?

Circles or spheres, triangles or pyramids, ovals or cylinders, squares or cubes. Draw these shapes and talk about the differences between the circle and the sphere, etc.



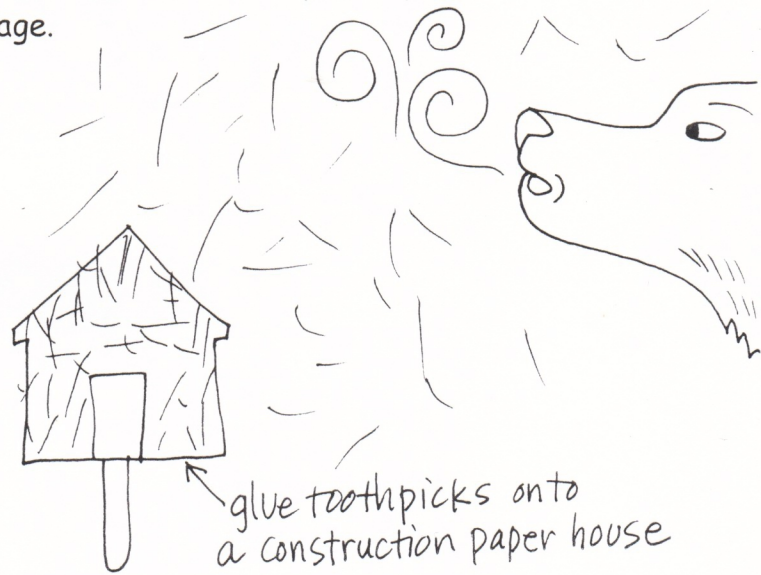
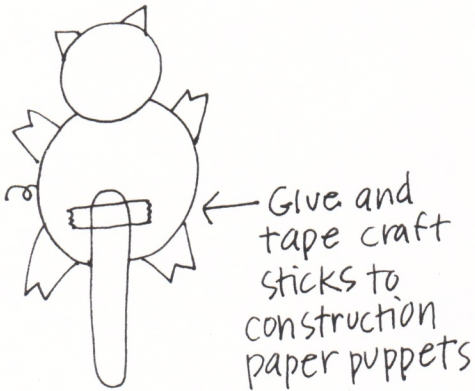
How do these shapes make a pig? Use the playdough to make the shapes and then assemble a pig! Don't forget the curli-q tail!





## Puppetry/Storytelling

1. **Make paper puppets** glued to craft sticks and have a puppet show of the three pigs. Use different things to make the houses out of, for example toothpicks for the house of sticks. When the wolf blows down the house, you can toss a handful of toothpicks up in the air on your puppet theatre stage.



2. **Practice telling a story** of the three pigs without reading it. Use different voices for each character. Or perform a variation of the three pigs that you wrote about in the creative writing section.

## Literature

1. **Ask your librarian** to help you find as many three pigs stories as you can. Here are a few of my favorites;

The Real Story of the Three Pigs, by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Lane Smith (*oil paints and collage*) "*Lane says that since the story is told from the wolve's point of view and the three pigs get eaten up, he never really shows you the pigs or let's you get to know them, so you won't be sad when the wolf eats them. He wants you to see the story from his view.*"

The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig, by Eugene Trivizas, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury (*watercolor and black pencil*)

The Three Little Pigs, adapted by Milt Banta and Al Dempster from the Walt Disney Motion Picture "The Three Little Pigs" (*animation cells are painted with gouache, an opaque watercolor on the back side of clear plastic. Sometimes the characters are painted separately so they can move around on a bigger background.*)

The Three Little Javelinas, by Susan Lowell, illustrated by Jim Harris (*watercolor, colored pencils and acrylic paint, splatter technique and maybe airbrush*)

Alaska's Three Pigs, by Arlene LaVerde, illustrated by Mindy Dwyer (*watercolor with salt, sponge, splatter and straw trechnique*)

## Social Studies

1. **Locate** the three pigs story in a different part of the world. What kind of houses would they live in and what kind of clothes would they wear, if pigs wore clothes? Illustrate it! Write about it! Draw a map!

2. What is anthropomorphism? What is a fable? Is this story a fable?

**Anthropomorphism**; humanizing; giving human characteristics and personality to nonhuman things. (Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)

**Fable**; a fictitious narrative or statement; a legendary story of supernatural happenings; a narration intended to enforce a useful truth; one in which animals speak and act like human beings. (Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)






## Creative Writing

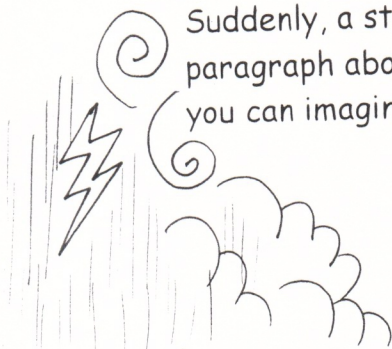
1. **Imagine** the story of the three pigs told in a different part of the world, for example; in the jungle, at the beach or how about where your grandma lives or in New York City. Make it funny! Illustrate it!
2. **Write a fable**


Imagine that in the wilderness a pig is taking a walk. He comes across a grizzly bear. Write a sentence about what the pig decides to do and what he will say.

 Now, write an answer from the grizzly bear.

Next, write about what the pig says back to the bear.

Suddenly, a storm blows up and it begins to rain very hard. Write a paragraph about a storm; wind blowing, thunder, or lightening or whatever you can imagine.



 Then, write what the bear says.

Now, write what the pig answers back.

Take a minute and read your story to yourself and then think of the ending. This is what makes a fable. There must be a lesson learned by the characters or by the reader. Write: the moral of the story is.....

Congratulations, you have just written a fable!



# Science

## 1. Glacier Ice

Do some research to answer these questions:

What are glaciers?

What color is glacier ice?

Why is it that color?

Could you really make an igloo out of glacier ice?

Why would you pour water on it to make it harder?

What does an ice crystal look like?

How does water turn to ice?

Try this simple science experiment.

\*Small, clean, metal container with a resealable lid like the kind tea comes in

\*bottle top

\*3 pencils

\*Tape

\*Water

\*freezer

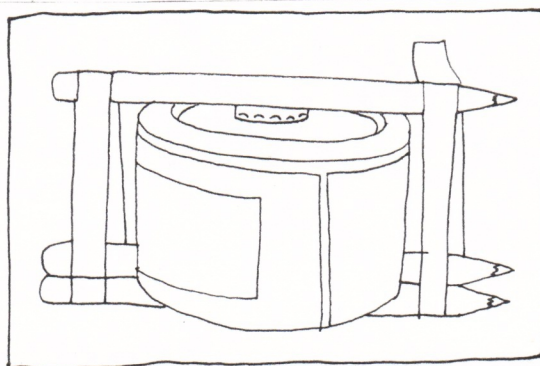
### ?

Does ice take up the same space as when it was a liquid? Usually, as a liquid turns to a solid it takes up less space. Try this to see if this is true with water.

1. Fill the metal container with water all the way to the top and press the lid on as tightly as you can.
2. Put the bottle top on the lid. Put two pencils under the container on one on the bottle top and wind tape around the ends of the pencils. Freeze for about eight hours. What happened?

### A

*When water freezes it gets bigger and as it gets bigger it will press against the container. It will push the lid up and break the pencil. It may even break open the sides of the container.*



? Imagine a glacier moving slowly down a valley. What will happen to anything in it's path? Try this:

\*thin wire at 8" long

\*tape

\*bottle

\*ice cube

\*2 spoons

1. Wind the ends of the wire around the handles of two spoons and tape them on tightly.

2. Balance an ice cube on the top of the bottle. Lay the wire across the cube so the spoons hang down equally on either side. Put the bottle in a cold place. What happens?

**A** *When there is pressure on ice it lowers the melting point. The ice will melt into water where the wire presses on it. As the wire sinks through the ice, the water above it will freeze again trapping the wire in the ice cube.*

