

Computer Capers

September 2008

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A Sign of the New York Times

Commemorate the 1st edition of the *New York Times* on September 18, 1851 by writing a newspaper article that would have likely appeared in the newspaper during that time. Begin by doing some research as to what was taking place in the mid 1800's and decide on a topic for your article. You can even go to www.nytimes.com and look in their article archive for ideas. Be sure to take notes and gather your thoughts as you find information. Next, use a word processor to write your piece. Be sure to begin with a catchy headline. Next, type in your article, adding facts and details as you go. Does it have a clear message? End with a strong conclusion? Be sure to use a newspaper style font as well as a multi-column format to make it realistic. Also be sure to edit and proofread your own writing as well as revise word choice and review for meaning and clarity. When your piece is complete, print it out and share it with your family and friends. Discuss with them:

1. Why you chose the topic.
2. What you learned while doing the research.
3. Why or why not you think your article would have actually been published in the *New York Times*.



Indiana Social Studies Standard 8.1.20-27 The Civil War and Reconstruction Period: 1850 to 1877 Indiana Language Arts Standard 8.4.2 Create compositions that have a clear message, a coherent thesis (a statement of position on the topic), and end with a clear and well-supported conclusion. 8.4.6 Use a computer to create documents by using word-processing skills.

A GRAND Greeting

Celebrate Grandparents Day this year by creating a mini poster on your computer that honors why one or more of your grandparents are important to you. Create a word processing or drawing document and at the top type: "I think you are GRAND because..." Be sure to choose a fun font, especially for the word

"GRAND" to make it colorful and eye catching. Next, write all the ways that your grandparents are grand. What kinds of things do they do with you? Tell you about? Share with you? Be sure to add clipart or original drawings or even a photograph of you with them if possible. At the bottom of the page include "Happy Grandparents Day 2008" and then print it out and sign it. They will surely be pleased when you send it for them to open on Grandparents Day, September 7th, 2008.

Indiana Language Arts Standard 2.5.6 Write for different purposes and to a specific audience or person. 2.4.5 Use a computer to draft, revise, and publish writing.



Peanut Percentages

Get a little practice figuring out percentages while learning a about a popular legume; the peanut.



What percentage of a whole peanut "package" is actually edible? What percentage is the shell? Begin by selecting 10 unshelled peanuts from a bag and put a number (1-10) on the outside of the shell with a marker. Next, using a food scale, weigh each numbered nut and record your measurement in a spreadsheet (Column A: Nut #, Column B: Total Weight in grams). Now, crack open each shell and take out the peanuts keeping them separated. Weigh the nutmeats that were in each shell and record the weights in column C. Finally, create a formula that will help you figure out what percentage is edible in Column D (" $=C2/B2*100$ "). Challenge: Can you figure out what percentage is the shell without measuring each shell? Did you have any peanuts that contained only one nutmeat? Did that affect the percentage edible for that nut? Based on your calculations, how many peanuts would you need to have to make a pound of peanuts? You might be a little "nutty" by this time, but why not get a little more practice by comparing the total length of the shell to the length of the nut(s) inside. When you are *percentage pooped out*, celebrate your peanut math work by enjoying the peanuts as a snack!

Nut #	Wt. in Shell	Nut Wt. (Grams)	Percent Edible
1	4	2.8	70%

Indiana Mathematics Standard 5.1.4 Interpret percents as a part of a hundred. Find decimal and percent equivalents for common fractions and explain why they represent the same value. 5.5.5 Understand and use the smaller and larger units for measuring weight (ounce, gram, and ton) and their relationship to pounds and kilograms.