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# APRIL FOOLS' <br> INVESTIGATION 

It's April Fools' Day and Rose City has gone haywire. Have no fear though, the Sis \& Bro private investigators are on the case. Help them solve their first assignment by finding the 11 things that have gone haywire in their office.

Bonus Activity: Color in this illustration with your favorite colors!


## Origins of April Fools' Day

No one really knows how April Fools' Day came to be. There are many theories; and some of those theories are even April Fools' jokes themselves! Here are some of the most popular theories of why April Fools' Day is celebrated...

In the 1500 s, most European countries made a calendar change to the more modern Gregorian calendar, which identified January 1st as the new year, instead of in early April as the old Julian calendar did. But not everyone heard about the change or observed it. France was especially known for being a little late on the switch. The country dwellers who were slow to hear the news were known as "April fools", so they say. In France, April Fools' Day is called poisson d'avril, which translates to "April's fish". It is said that French pranksters would pin fish on the backs of people who still celebrated the old April new year.

April Fools' Day may have originated from one of many different "joke days" that have been celebrated around the world for ages. There was the Roman festival Hilaria, which was held in late March. There was the Medieval Feast of Fools that was celebrated in late December. One of the oldest known prank days was celebrated on the 13th day of the Persian new year, which typically falls on April 1st.

Other historians think that the holiday just evolved from centuries of spring festivals held by Romans, Pagans and other old European societies, where merriment and joke-making were common practices.
Writing Prompt
What is the funniest or most wacky April Fools' Day prank that you've experienced?

## The World's Craziest Hoaxes

All over the world people are celebrating the mischevious April Fools‘ Day! From practical jokes, to world-wide news, everybody knows April 1st is the day for a good laugh and to test your originality on pulling pranks. Below are some ways that people all over have celebrated April Fools' Day.


Every year in Istanbul, during the April Fools' Day celebration, over 100,000 pink balloons are let go as part of the celebration!

On April 1, 1996, Taco Bell Corporation took out a full-page ad that appeared in six major newspapers announcing it had bought the Liberty Bell and was renaming it the Taco Liberty Bell. Hundreds of angry citizens complained to the National Historic Park in Philadelphia where the bell was held. A few hours later, Taco Bell proclaimed that it was all a practical joke.


On April 1, 2008, the BBC announced that camera crews filming near the Antarctic had captured footage of penguins flying in the air. It even had a video clip of the penguins. A follow-up video finally told their secret on how the BBC created the special effects of the flying birds.

Burger King put up an ad announcing their new item to their menu, the "Left-Handed Whopper." It was told to be specifically for the 32 million left-handed Americans. The following day Burger King revealed that the Left-Handed Whopper was a prank, though thousands of customers had gone into the restaraunt to order the new hot item.


## The World's Craziest Hoaxes



April 1957: BBC aired a news report about a bountiful spaghetti harvest in Switzerland. The broadcast stated that the disappearance of the spaghetti weevil and a mild winter were both factors in this epic spaghetti harvest. They even showed clips of farmers pulling pasta out of "spaghetti trees"! Thousands of people called in to ask how to grow their own spaghetti tree, and the BBC actually told them to put a "sprig" of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best.

August 2001: The National Geographic's "Photo of the Year" went viral. It was a photo of a shark jumping out of the water to attack a helicopter. The photo was actually two images spliced together-one U.S. Air Force photo taken near the Golden Gate Bridge, and another photo of a great white shark taken by a South African photographer.

April 1998: In a newsletter put out by New Mexicans for Science and Reason, there was an article titled, "Alabama Legislature Lays Siege to Pi". The byline said the article was written by April Holiday of the Associmated Press, and the story was about the Alabama state legislature voting to change the value of pi to 3. The real author of the article wrote it as a parody of the legislative and school board attacks on teaching evolution in New Mexico schools.

## Writing Prompt

Why do you think people enjoy playing tricks on each other?

How is a hoax different from a prank? Do you think one is better or worse than the other?

Flash mobs are a fun way to get a large audience for a prank or gag. Can you think of a funny flash mob you've seen? Now Come up with your own flash mob idea! Can it be done at school?

## Writing Prompt

On April Fools' Day, you and your friends wake up to find that each of you has been granted a trivial power! Unlike a superpower, trivial powers are unimpressive and only sort of useful. Your friend Todd can now grow his hair at will, and your friend Elle now has the ability to see 30 seconds into anyone's future. Tell a story about the trivial power you woke up with, and how your day goes as you and your friends test out your new powers.

## April Fools' Day Cupcakes

## Surprise!

There's no sugar in these cupcakes, and your friends and family will love them!

## INGREDIENTS: <br> MEAT LOAF

1 pound lean ground beef
1/2 cup seasoned bread crumbs
1 cup grated Monterey Jack cheese
3 tablespoons ketchup
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon celery salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

## POTATO FROSTING

3 cups mashed potatoes
Food coloring

## DIRECTIONS:

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Line 12 muffin tin cups with foil bake cups.
In a large bowl, mix all of the meat loaf ingredients until well combined. Divide the mixture evenly among the lined cups; the foil cups should be about 3/4 full.

Place the filled muffin tins on cookie sheets, and bake the cupcakes for about 15 minutes, or until cooked through.

Divide the mashed potatoes among three small bowls, and stir a few drops of food coloring into each batch to create blue, yellow and pink pastel "frosting". Spread a generous dollop on each cupcake. Makes 12 cupcakes.


## April Fools' Day: Sugar French Fries

This April Fools' Day, replace a classic salty snack with a little bit of sugar!

## INGREDIENTS:

1 package of plain, prepared breadstick dough Scissors

Sugar
White envelope
Seedless strawberry jam

## DIRECTIONS:



Begin by unrolling the dough and separating the breadsticks. Then, use the scissors to cut them into 1/4-inch wide sticks.

Roll the sticks in sugar and bake them on a cookie sheet according to the package directions, or until golden brown. Leave them to cool on the baking sheet.

Make this even more fun by putting the fries in a fast food fry sleeve or the cut-off end of a sealed envelope. Serve them with a side of "ketchup" (jam stirred with a fork to a smooth consistency).


## Silly Haiku for April Fools' Day

## HAIKU FORMAT:

first line - 5 syllables second line - 7 syllables third line - 5 syllables

Mostly, haiku is about nature or seasons, but some are silly!

## Haiku is also

a good counting exercise.
You may run out of...

Now you try to create a funny or witty haiku using the format above.

## Writing Prompt <br> 

Here's a fun writing prompt... April Fools! What would you rather be doing than writing this prompt right now?


## Cut-out Googly Fyes

Cut-out the GOOGLY EYES and place them on random objects around your home!


## Pranks for April Fools' Day!

Jell-0?
Place a needed item in Jell-O! If you're at home, choose something that everyone interacts with, like the toothpaste.

## Items needed:

Jell-O mix
Object: toothpaste, dollar bill, hair brush, etc.
DO NOT USE
ELECTRONIC DEVICES!!

## Everlasting Cereal!

Before breakfast, thread any circle shaped cereal together. When anyone goes to pour it out of the box, it'll just keep on coming and coming and coming...

## Items needed:

Cereal
String (dental floss works too!)


## Sugar Salt Swaperoo!

## 



Swap the sugar for the salt and watch your family members pour it in their coffee or on their cereal!
Be prepared to run after!

## Items needed:

Sugar \& Salt


Message in the Toilet
April Fools' Day is the holiday for mischevious behavior! Here is a hilarious prank that will bring a smile to anybody!


Not all potty humor has to be offensive! Try this fun, yet tame, prank. On a few squares of toilet paper, write a funny line with permanent marker. Then float the paper in the toilet for the next person to find! Floating will last longer if you allow the paper's edges to touch the sides of the bowl.


## Prank Message Ideas:

The joke's on poo!
Look out below!
Ahhhhhh!!!
TIMBER!
Poo goes there?
The Yellow Lagoon
Swamp Thing Lived Here.

## Your Ideas:

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## April Fools Day Survival Guide:

## Be Allert

Today is the day to think like a prankster, even if you aren't pulling a prank. Of course, approach any "gifts" or foreign objects with caution. But more importantly, take extra care to investigate items in your everyday routine. Some hot spots to keep in mind:

## your chair

your backpack
your locker
your computer
$\square$ any doorway
$\square$ everything in the bathroom
$\square$ the sink
$\square$ food that is given to you
Can you think of any other hot spots for pranks?


## 2. Don't De parancoid.

Being alert is important, but being too suspicious of everyone and everything will make your day worse than if you had a prank pulled on you. Remember that it's all in good fun!

## 3. Plan ahead.

If you know your friends are pranksters, plan a prank on them! Then, be prepared for anything they could throw at you. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting messed up. Bring a Fools' First Aid Kit, with some suggested supplies: a towel, a change of clothes, a trash bag, rubber gloves... Can you think of any other supplies you might need?

If you are the prankster, you may want to take some time to plan your prank. Some pranks even take weeks (even months) just to set up! Use the space below to $\mathbb{P L}, A \mathbb{N}, ~, A H E A D$ and draw out your plans for this April Fools' Day:
4. Prank the prankster.

If you got fooled, turn things around! Look confused, and tell the prankster that tomorrow is April Fools' Day, or that April Fools' Day already happened. You could even go further and tell them a crazy story as to why April Fools' Day is no longer happening... for example, maybe the U.S. government banned April Fools' Day and made all pranks illegal, to prevent any hoaxes from happening.

## 5. Be a good sport.

Don't dish it if you can't take it. April Fools' Day is about having a good time, not becoming enemies with your close friends. If your prank will ruin someone's day, don't do it. If you are pranked, try to laugh it off; you'll live longer that way!

## Writing Prompt



When you walked to school on April Fools' Day, it didn't take long for you to notice that everyone was missing. None of the teachers or students were there. You double check your watch to make sure that it's Tuesday, and it's not a holiday. Tell a story to explain what happened, and what happens next!

## April Fools- Iunny Cut-Outs

Cut out the objects below and use the tab to wrap around and glue to a stick, pencil, or straw and wear them around!

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## Silly Word Problems

Silly Addition and Subtraction stories!
Solve the problems and show your work!

When Ryan was getting ready for school on April lst, he noticed that there were no matching socks in his drawer! If he used to have 15 different pairs of matching socks, how many socks went missing?


The day got even more strange as Ryan walked to school. He noticed that all the cars on the road had three wheels instead of four! He saw 8 three-wheeled cars total. How many wheels did he see?

When Ryan walked into his classroom, he was shocked to see that l/4 of the kids were wearing their clothes inside out, and $1 / 2$ of them were wearing their pants backwards! There are 20 kids in Ryan's class (not including Ryan). How many kids were wearing their clothes inside out? How many were wearing pants backwards?


Lunchtime was even worse. When Ryan went to pay for his food, he saw that the prices had gone up a bit... His soda was \$194.20, and his sandwich was \$890.39! Ryan only had \$25.30 in his pocket. How much more money would he need to pay for his very expensive April Fools' Day lunch?



## Writing Prompt

You wake up on April Fools' Day to realize that you are reliving the worst day of your life. What happened on that day? Tell a story about your experience reliving the worst day; is there anything you can do differently on this day to change things?

# APRILS FOOLS' DAY WORD SEARCH 

April Fools Funny Joke Laugh Prank Silly Trick

OAES GW J C XCHERWW U I BE L O Q UXDOYYZ K Q NOCKOHNXHTRICK J P W E X I OMEFT L W N X UFMSQZDFYSXIANL M L E Z L W Y R L Y GRXQ B L J Q G S B L W K I P E S P U L OALIGILDMRZVGN W A J J L O Z K F Z V P VOO Q D US L Z V I WQVRAYF STXGYQ FXPPVASNA JCRVHZGJKJZQLNH RTZGCMWTRDDFIUA C W G Z DELLEBQ I JFF PSRHOGCDWDBJZJV


Color and build an outrageous animal! Have an adult help you cut out these body parts: eyes, ears, noses and feet. Then see what wild creations you can come up with. Start by choosing one of the three shapes below as the body. When you are finished building, come up with a fun story for your new animal.





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Once your outrageous animal is done, think of a fun adventure that it could go on and write a story below! Write the name of your animal here: $-=-=\|$

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# Answer Sheets 

## April Fools Fun

April Fools' Investigation \#1
April Fools' Investigation \#2
Silly Word Problems
April Fools' Investigation \#3
April Fools' Day Word Search

## Answer Sheet



## Answer Sheet



## Silly Word Problems

Silly Addition and Subtraction stories! Solve the problems and show your work!

When Ryan was getting ready for school on April 1st, he noticed that there were no matching socks in his drawer! If he used to have 15 different pairs of matching socks, how many socks went missing?

15 socks went missing.

The day got even more strange as Ryan walked to school. He noticed that all the cars on the road had three wheels instead of four! He saw 8 three-wheeled cars total. How many wheels did he see?

## He saw 24 wheels total.

When Ryan walked into his classroom, he was shocked to see that $1 / 4$ of the kids were wearing their clothes inside out, and $1 / 2$ of them were wearing their pants backwards! There are 20 kids in Ryan's class (not including Ryan). How many kids were wearing their clothes inside out? How many were wearing pants backwards?

5 kids were wearing clothes inside out; 10 were wearing pants backwards.


Lunchtime was even worse. When Ryan went to pay for his food, he saw that the prices had gone up a bit... His soda was \$194.20, and his sandwich was \$890.39! Ryan only had \$25.30 in his pocket. How much more money would he need to pay for his very expensive April Fools' Day lunch?

He would need \$1,059.29.

## Answer Sheet



## Answer Sheet

April Fools Funny Joke Laugh
Prank Silly Trick


