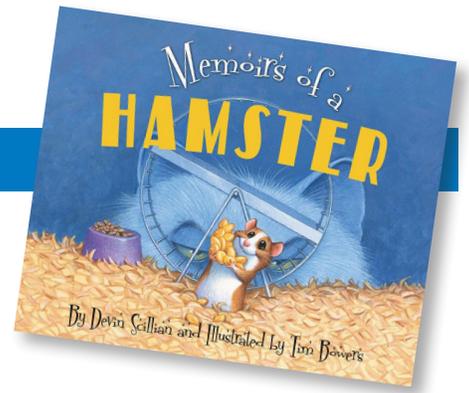


Memoirs of a Hamster



RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING

A-MAZE-ING HAMSTER

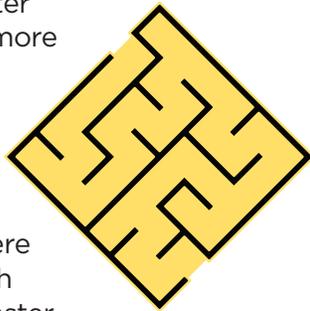
Have students put on their scientist hats and watch two videos of different hamsters completing a maze to get to a treat.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQLsoNQ_QEO

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aphsdzUCdl

Hypothesize why one hamster was able to get to his treat more quickly. How does maze construction contribute to the experiment?

What other factors might contribute to a faster finish? What other observations were you able to make about both hamsters? If you have a hamster as a classroom pet, build a maze and test out your hypothesis firsthand!



SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY, MATH

HOW-TO MANUAL

Research what you need in order to care for a hamster or other small pet properly. Include all materials needed and the cost of each. Create a PowerPoint that outlines how to prepare and care for your animal. Include the expenses of having a pet.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART

ULTIMATE HAMSTER HABITAT

Scenario: You are a hamster that has just arrived in town. No home, no cage, no one to give you yogurt drops and seeds. Research the kind of habitat that would be best for a hamster. The websites www.petsmart.com and www.aspca.com are good places to start. Create a blueprint for a habitat that would offer the ultimate hamster accommodations. If available, use scrap materials to build a model of the habitat.

ART, LANGUAGE ARTS

MORE THAN A WRITER

Did you know the author Devin Scillian is not only a writer but is also a country music singer and an evening-news anchor? Create a song OR write a news broadcast about Seymour that summarizes his experience. Be prepared to share with the class. Want to know more about the author? Visit www.devinscillian.com.

MATH

AND THE WINNER IS...

Conduct a class survey to find out how many and what type of pets students have. Create a graph to display the data. Have students think of an alternative way to express the data. For a challenge, ask students questions like: How many legs are represented on this graph? What percent of students have dogs? If the answer is $\frac{6}{15}$, what is the question based on this data?

ART, WRITING MY MEMOIR

Get with a partner and brainstorm ideas that you might include in a memoir about yourself. Create an organizer to help you track the sequence of events.

Think of descriptive words to use and how you were feeling during that time. As you write, share with your partner so you can provide feedback on each other's work. When finished, design a booklet to hold your memoir. Add pictures and design the cover.

