

Plan The Parade Thanksgiving Mini-Project

A Fun Themed Math and Reading Project for Elementary Grades



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Plan the Parade Thanksgiving Mini-Project

Teacher Instructions

This mini-project combines reading, math, design, and artistic creativity. Students will work independently and in pairs to apply what they have learned about shapes, measurement, area, reading comprehension, and creativity to design and create a Thanksgiving Day parade float.

Each student will need a copy of the instructions and worksheets in this packet. They will also need 1-2 pieces of 1-inch graph paper (included).

This project is appropriate for 1-2 class periods, or it can be worked on in stages over the course of several days as an extension or early finisher activity.

Part 1: Reading Comprehension (Independent work)

In this part of the project, students will develop their background knowledge about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. After reading a short passage, students will summarize the information using a provided graphic organizer.

Read through the directions and provide the necessary materials in advance.

Each student will need:

- A copy of the student directions and reading passage
- Pencil
- Graphic Organizer

Part 2: Create a Rectangular Prism Net (Partner work)

In this part of the project, students will work in pairs to decide the dimensions of their parade float. They will first decide the length and width of each side and label the net provided with the dimensions. Once they are sure their dimensions fall within the specifications, they will use graph paper to create a 3-D model of their float.

Each student will need:

- A copy of the Create Your Blueprint instructions and worksheets
- Scissors, tape, possibly a ruler
- Highlighter or marker
- 1-2 sheets of 1-inch graph paper

Part 3: Design the Float (Independent/Partner work)

In this part of the project, students will work with a partner to choose a theme, color palette, and design for their float. Each partner will be responsible for designing 3 sides of the float. Students will measure out each side, cut it out, decorate it, and attach it to the 3-D model.

Each pair will need:

- A copy of the Design Your Float instructions and worksheets
- 4-5 sheets of sturdy paper, such as cardstock or construction paper
- Tape and/or liquid glue
- A ruler marked in inches
- Scissors
- Color pencils, crayons, markers

Plan a Thanksgiving Parade!

Part 1: Read About the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade to Get Ideas

Before you start reading this passage, complete parts 1 and 2 of the KWL graphic organizer.

Then, read the passage below that discusses the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. When you finish reading, complete the last part of the KWL chart.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade happens every year in New York City in front of the Macy's store at 34th Street and Herald Square. The yearly tradition began in 1924 when Macy's store employees planned a parade that included clowns, floats, and bands. They even had live animals from Central Park Zoo, such as elephants and tigers! The parade has taken place 94 times. The only time there has not been a Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was during World War II.



Today, the parade includes balloons, floats, and celebrities! The last float in the parade has Santa Claus on it, to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. Lots of people also march in the parade. Marching bands are groups of people who walk together in a formation and play music as they walk. Many of the country's best high school and college marching bands perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade each year. It is a huge honor to be chosen to march in the parade.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade also features many hot air balloons, floats, and performers. This year, some of the giant balloons that will be in the parade include Baby Yoda from the *Mandalorian*, Ada Twist, and even a giant ice cream cone! Do you like music? There will be singers in the parade as well. Some of the performers include Chris Lane, Andy Grammer, and Nelly. Some people come to perform in the parade! You can watch a jump rope team, circus group, and dance team walk in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

It is hard work being in the parade. The length of the entire parade route is usually around 2.5 miles long. It takes 3 hours to finish. Over 4,000 people volunteer to help in the parade each year. That's a lot of walking and a lot of work.

Can you guess how many people watch the parade every year? Over 50 million people watch it on TV...3.5 million people come to New York City to watch it in person. How many people does that make altogether?

Macy's Thanksgiving Parade KWL Chart

Before reading: K

→ What do I **know** about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?

Before reading: W

→ What do I **want to know** about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?

After reading: L

→ What did I **learn** about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?

→ Do I have any other questions?

Create Your Blueprint

Part 2: Create Your Blueprint

1. You and a partner are in charge of creating the blueprint for a float in your town's Thanksgiving Parade this year. You know some specifics about your float, but now it is time to design its blueprint. Here is the information you have so far:
 - Your float will be shaped as a rectangular prism.
 - Its surface area must be between 600 and 800 square feet.

To create your blueprint, you must first decide the length and width of each side.

Remember that the surface area of your float must be between 600 and 800 square feet. Based on that information, decide the width and length of each side of your net.

→ 4 rectangular sides have the same dimensions

$$\text{Side 1: } \frac{\quad}{L} \times \frac{\quad}{W} = \frac{\quad}{\text{Area}}$$

$$\text{Side 2: } \frac{\quad}{L} \times \frac{\quad}{W} = \frac{\quad}{\text{Area}}$$

$$\text{Side 3: } \frac{\quad}{L} \times \frac{\quad}{W} = \frac{\quad}{\text{Area}}$$

$$\text{Side 4: } \frac{\quad}{L} \times \frac{\quad}{W} = \frac{\quad}{\text{Area}}$$

→ 2 rectangular bases have the same dimensions

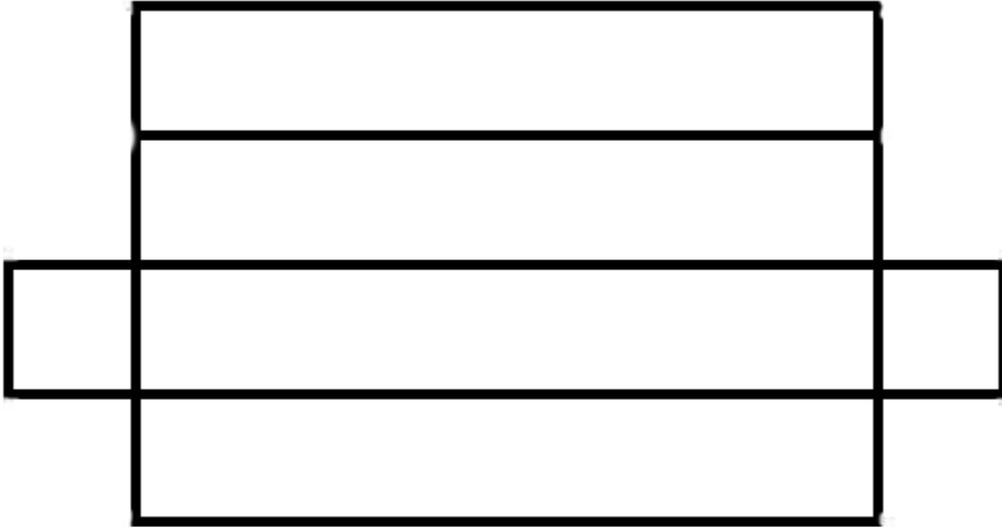
$$\text{Side 1: } \frac{\quad}{L} \times \frac{\quad}{W} = \frac{\quad}{\text{Area}}$$

$$\text{Side 2: } \frac{\quad}{L} \times \frac{\quad}{W} = \frac{\quad}{\text{Area}}$$

→ Total surface area: sum of all 6 areas

_____ (Between 600 and 800)

On the net below, label the length and width of each side based on the measurements you have chosen.



2. After sketching your net in the box, use the graph paper provided by your teacher to create a 3-D model of your float.
 - Each square on the graph paper is equal to one foot. A side that is 10 feet long will be 10 squares long.
 - Trace the outline of your net on the graph paper. Use more than one piece if you need to in order to have accurate measurements.
 - After tracing your net, cut it out. Using tape, attach the sides together so you now have a 3-D model of your float.

Decorate Your Parade Float

Part 3: Decorate Your Float

Congratulations! You have created your float. Now it's time to decorate it. When people work together to create something, it's important that everyone understands the plan. With your partner, answer the questions below.

What is the theme of our float? (It could be a movie, TV show, video game, cartoon character, animal, book, etc.)

What colors will we use on our float?

Will we use pencils, crayons, or markers to color our float?

Is there anything special we want to include in our design?

Now that you and your partner have agreed on what the float should look like, it's time to design and decorate! Each of you is responsible for decorating 3 sides: 2 rectangular sides and 1 rectangular base.

Step 1: You made the 3-D model of your float using 1-inch grid paper. Each square is equal to 1 inch. On blank white paper, use a ruler to measure out each of the 6 sides of your rectangular prism. For example, if one side was 6 feet by 10 feet, you will trace a rectangle that is 6 inches by 10 inches.

Step 2: After drawing all 6 sides of your prism, cut them out. Each partner should receive 2 rectangular sides and 1 rectangular base.

Step 3: Decorate the 3 sides you are responsible for. Remember to follow the design plan that you all created!

Step 4: Using tape or liquid glue, attach each decorated side to the 3-D model of your float.

Step 5: Enjoy the float that you created and decorated!

Name _____

12-Inch Ruler

