

# NEA's Read Across America 2011 Science Explorabration Field Guide

Ignite curiosity and inspire lifelong discovery as you celebrate the 14th annual NEA's Read Across America Day with the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library and the new PBS KIDS® show THE CAT IN THE HAT KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THAT! Dr. Seuss's March 2nd birthday has been honored with choral readings, green eggs and ham breakfasts, and readers bedecked in the red-and-white stovepipe hat of the Cat. This year, get ready for awesome adventures and reading fun for students of all ages when they explore science with the Cat in the Hat!

## This field guide will help you identify:

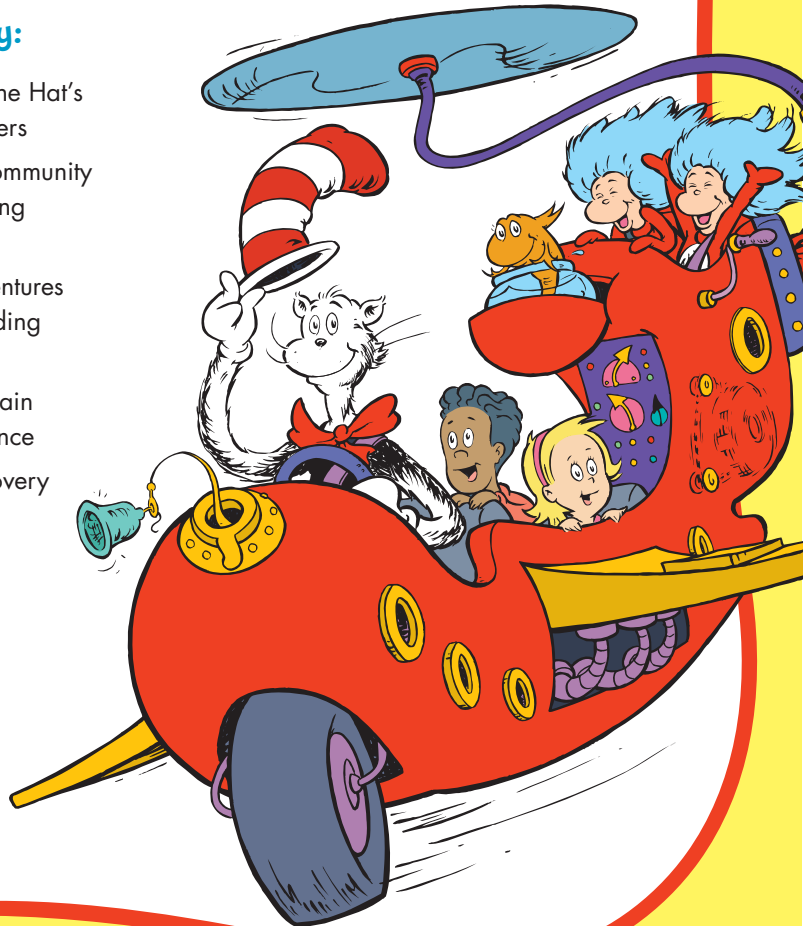
**Books:** Great nonfiction titles from the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library and fiction titles for older readers

**People:** Suggestions for who in your school community can help you plan and lead fantastic eye-popping science-themed Read Across America events

**Activities and Events:** Classroom-size adventures and school-wide celebrations that focus on building student excitement for reading and science

**Snacks:** Recipes for tasty, healthy treats to sustain young explorers that include a little kitchen science

**Internet Resources:** Online places for discovery and virtual field trips

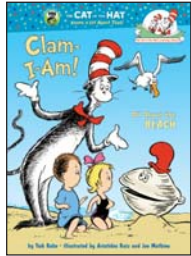
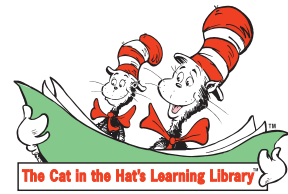


[www.seussville.com](http://www.seussville.com)  
[www.randomhouse.com/teachers](http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers)  
[www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)

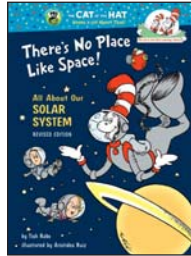
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# EXPLORABRATION FIELD GUIDE: BOOKS

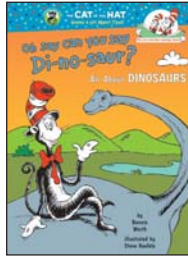
Use the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library to read and explore science concepts with your class. Beginning readers can enjoy them on their own, but the Seussian rhyme makes for a great read-aloud for pre-K through grade 5.



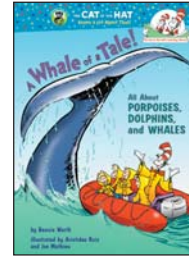
**Clam-I-Am!**  
All About the Beach  
978-0-375-82280-3



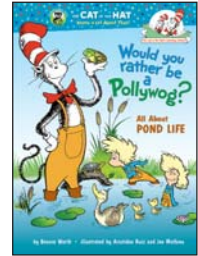
**There's No Place Like Space!**  
All About Our Solar System  
978-0-679-89115-4



**Oh Say Can You Say Di-no-saur?!**  
All About Dinosaurs  
978-0-679-89114-7



**A Whale of a Tale!**  
All About Porpoises, Dolphins, and Whales  
978-0-375-82279-7



**Would You Rather Be a Pollywog?!**  
All About Pond Life  
978-0-375-82883-6

**A Great Day for Pup!**  
All About Wild Babies  
978-0-375-81096-1

**Ice Is Nice!**  
All About the North and South Poles  
978-0-375-82885-0

**Miles and Miles of Reptiles!**  
All About Reptiles  
978-0-375-82884-3

**Oh the Things You Can Do that Are Good for You!**  
All About Being Healthy  
978-0-375-81098-5

**One Cent, Two Cents, Old Cent, New Cent!**  
All About Money  
978-0-375-82881-2

**Fine Feathered Friends!**  
All About Birds  
978-0-679-88362-3

**If I Ran the Rain Forest!**  
All About Tropical Rain Forests  
978-0-375-81097-8

**My, Oh My — a Butterfly!**  
All About Butterflies  
978-0-375-82882-9

**Oh, the Pets You Can Get!**  
All About Our Animal Friends  
978-0-375-82278-0

**There's a Map on My Lap!**  
All About Maps  
978-0-375-81099-2

**Hurray for Today!**  
All About Holidays  
978-0-375-92275-6

**Is a Camel a Mammal?!**  
All About Mammals  
978-0-679-87302-0

**Oh Say Can You Seed?!**  
All About Flowering Plants  
978-0-375-81095-4

**On Beyond Bugs!**  
All About Insects  
978-0-679-87303-7

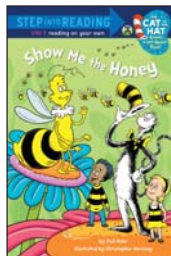
**Why Oh Why Are Deserts Dry?!**  
All About Deserts  
978-0-375-85868-0

**I Can Name 50 Trees Today!**  
All About Trees  
978-0-375-82277-3

**Inside Your Outside!**  
All About the Human Body  
978-0-375-81100-5

**Oh Say Can You Say What's the Weather Today?!**  
All About Weather  
978-0-375-82276-6

**Wish for a Fish!**  
All About Sea Creatures  
978-0-679-89116-1



**Show Me the Honey**  
978-0-375-86716-3



**Now You See Me . . .**  
978-0-375-86706-4



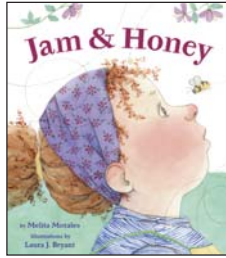
The Cat in the Hat has put on his science hat for PBS KIDS®!

THE CAT IN THE HAT KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THAT! is based on the bestselling Beginner Book collection The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library and promotes science literacy and the building of observation, classification, and communication skills. And while there's lots of Seussian magic involved, the Cat, Thing One and Thing Two, Fish, Sally, and Nick must all work together to figure out all kinds of things.

## Picture Books



**The Honeybee Man**  
978-0-375-84980-0



**Jam & Honey**  
978-1-58246-299-8



Illustration © 2010 by Jeanette Winter

## MAGIC TREE HOUSE



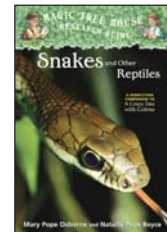
**Little Mist**  
978-0-375-86788-0



**The Watcher:**  
Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps  
978-0-375-86774-3



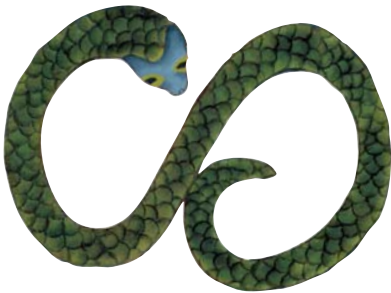
**A Crazy Day with Cobras**  
978-0-375-86823-8



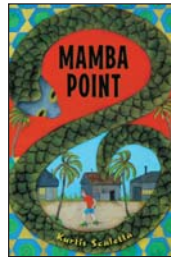
**Snakes and Other Reptiles**  
978-0-375-86011-9

For older readers, especially those who get involved in leading Seussational Science Explorabration for younger students, these fiction titles look at the natural world and complement and extend background knowledge that can be shared with younger readers.

Illustration © 2010 by Lisa Congdon.



**First Light**  
978-0-440-42222-8



**Mamba Point**  
978-0-375-86180-2

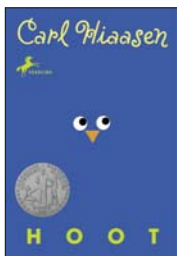


**Seaglass Summer**  
978-0-375-84399-0

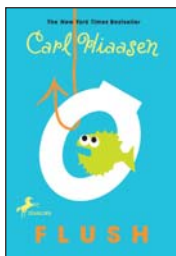


**Wish**  
978-0-385-73941-2

## From Carl Hiaasen



**Hoot**  
978-0-440-41939-6

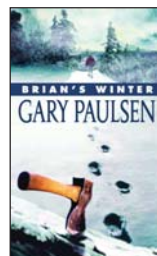


**Flush**  
978-0-375-86125-3



**Scat**  
978-0-375-83487-5

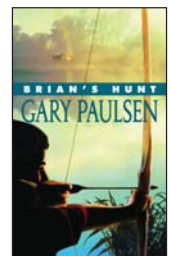
## The Brian Books by Gary Paulsen



**Brian's Winter**  
978-0-440-22719-9



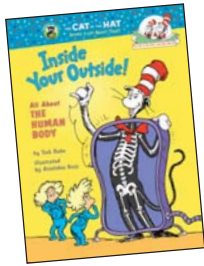
**Brian's Return**  
978-0-440-41379-0



**Brian's Hunt**  
978-0-553-49415-0

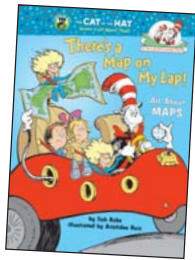
# EXPLORABRATION FIELD GUIDE: PEOPLE

Where can you find scientists for your Seussational Science Explorabration? We can all be scientists in the way we act, what we do, and how we explore! Look first to people in your own school community whose jobs involve science. You might invite one or more of these specialists to come read with your class or to plan an experiment or demonstration.



Your **school nurse**, **cafeteria workers**, and **family and consumer life sciences teachers** are great experts in the fields of health and nutrition. Students of all ages can benefit from the reminders about healthy living in *Oh the Things You Can Do that Are Good for You!* and *Inside Your Outside!* and will especially enjoy them coming from the Cat in the Hat!

**Bus drivers** really know how to get around town—that's geography! Ask a bus driver to be a guest reader, share *There's a Map on My Lap!* and talk about the maps he uses to get kids to and from school. It would make for a memorable day, especially for younger students, if storytime took place right on the (stationary) bus!



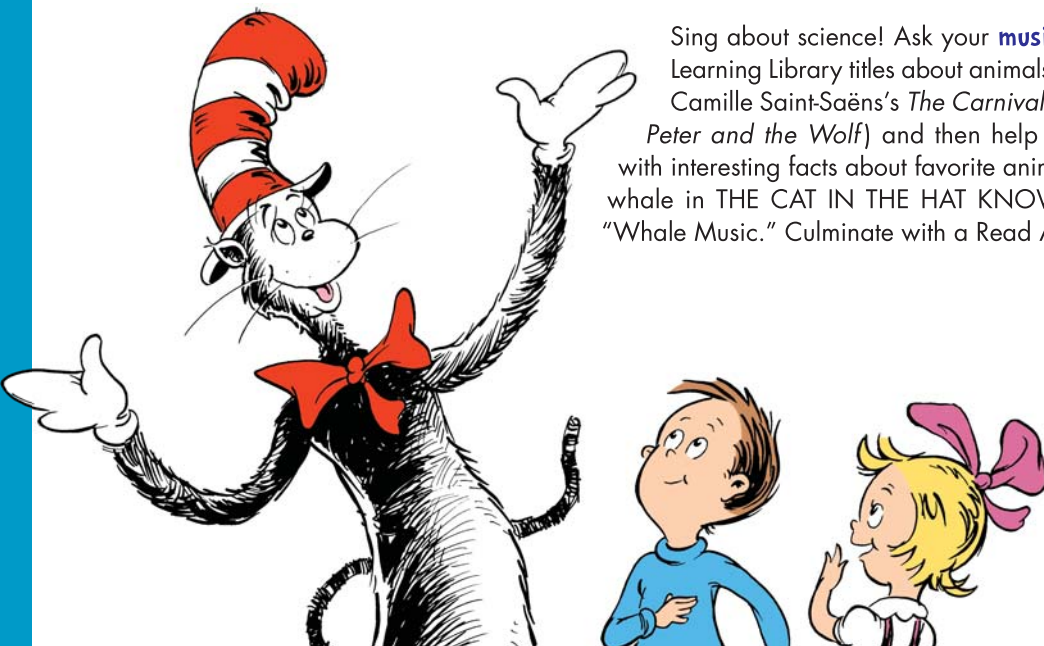
An **instructional technology coordinator** can help your students explore science using technology, especially if you are lacking materials to do hands-on activities or resources for field trips. Online videoclips of animals in their own habitats, interviews with scientists, and what outer space looks like can enrich and reinforce what was shared in a read-aloud. Students can also use technology to share what they've learned. Follow the Cat in the Hat's example and make your own science-themed TV show!



Your **physical education teacher** can help your students get moving. After a read-aloud of *On Beyond Bugs!*, have students try the unique dances of the bees. It takes the nectar from five million flowers for bees to make one pint of honey, so bees use special movements to communicate to other bees about where to find a food source. Play Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee* as students run through a wagggle dance (following a figure-eight pattern and wagging on the straight of the eight) or a round dance (moving in a simple circular pattern). The Cat know these moves: check him out in THE CAT IN THE HAT KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THAT! episode "Show Me the Honey."

A **science teacher** or **biology**, **chemistry** or **physics instructor** is an obvious choice as a guest reader for science-themed titles. They are also likely to have access to the tools of a scientist and can demonstrate use of a microscope, binoculars, or telescope, or share interesting specimens or models.

Sing about science! Ask your **music teacher** to share Cat in the Hat's Learning Library titles about animals, play animal-themed music (such as Camille Saint-Saëns's *The Carnival of the Animals* or Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*) and then help students make up their own songs with interesting facts about favorite animals. Get some singing tips from the whale in THE CAT IN THE HAT KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THAT! episode "Whale Music." Culminate with a Read Across America Day concert!

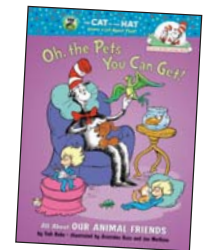
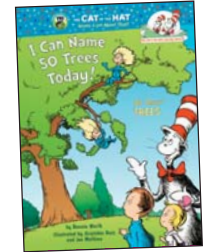


**Maintenance** and **custodial staff** take care of the trees and flowers on your school grounds. They also have to deal with what the weather brings—snowy or icy sidewalks, flooded playgrounds, wet, slippery hallways, or damage from storms. Invite them to your classroom to read aloud *Oh Say Can You Say What's the Weather Today?* or *I Can Name 50 Trees Today!* and to talk about their expertise and the role reading plays in their job of keeping the school clean and safe.

**Older students** have already put down reading roots. Ask 4th to 12th graders to help cultivate new readers and plant the seeds of science at the same time. Older students can become “experts” through their own nonfiction science reading and then share what they’ve learned by reading aloud and doing hands-on activities with younger readers (at least 2 to 3 years younger than the older students). You could have:

- **Family and consumer life sciences students** invite your class to explore the science of baking! What’s a birthday celebration without cake? Read aloud while cupcakes bake and then let students decorate their own treats.
- **Drama students** help younger students make animal sock puppets and put on a puppet show about how to care for pets, perhaps drafting a script from *Oh, the Pets You Can Get!* Kids can keep their sock creations. Or, after the show, stuff them with pinch of catnip and a handful of polyfiberfill, tie the end shut, and offer them as cat toys in honor of the Cat in the Hat to a local animal shelter.
- **Student councils** and **honor societies** conduct a book drive specifically focused on helping build your classroom science library. Work together to establish specific guidelines for donations (types of books, publication dates, age-appropriateness) and to plan a grand opening celebration of the new science library on Read Across America Day.
- **Cheerleaders** and **athletes** build a food pyramid. Start with a reading of *Oh the Things You Can Do that Are Good for You!* Then see if younger students can remember the correct numbers of servings in all food groups by organizing athletes into a human food pyramid. Athletes can wear signs with pictures of different foods to help with pyramid building. Everyone can work together to develop new cheers about reading food labels to find healthy foods.
- **High school accounting students** or **FBLA members** teach younger students about bartering. The younger students want to have a party for Read Across America Day; the older students have what they need for a party. Every student gets a card that has a HAVE or a WANT listed. Students share with each other what is listed on their cards and start bartering with the older students to see if they can successfully trade. At the end of trading, older students bring out the actual party items and the party gets started after a reading of *One Cent, Two Cents, Old Cent, New Cent*.

**Others in your school** may be blooming with ideas. Does your principal have a passion for travel or for birdwatching? Is your school librarian a bug collector or a numismatist? Who on staff has a green thumb? If you expand your search for scientists beyond the school grounds, think about doctors, nurses, nutritionists, trainers, naturalists, zoo keepers, museum staff, veterinarians, meteorologists, or master gardeners. Don’t forget about the scientist in you!



# EXPLORABRATION FIELD GUIDE: ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Teachers, when it comes to kicking off a Seussational Science Explorabration, here's your line:

**“Make a mess in the name of science! Your teacher will not mind at all if you do!”**

## Science Seuseum

From the cabinets of wonder of the Renaissance to the curio cabinets of the Victorian era, people have collected, studied, and displayed objects created by man and nature. Bring this time-honored tradition to your classroom with a Science Seuseum! Start by sharing life sciences titles from the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library with your students. This will help you and your students focus your interests and develop your museum plan. Do you want to create a single exhibition on one topic or develop a more extensive collection on a number of topics? Once you've determined the scope, let the collecting begin! Ask students to bring items from home or take collection walks through the schoolyard and neighborhood for leaves, flowers, or seeds. Encourage students to do additional research on their objects, keep journals on their explorations, and look for photographs and books to include in displays. Then have students create labels that identify what's on display and why it is of interest—in Seussian rhyme. That's what makes your classroom museum a Science Seuseum! Invite visitors to tour your class's exhibition on Read Across America Day or create a video of a student-led tour of your museum for your class blog, school Web site, or to share on SchoolTube.

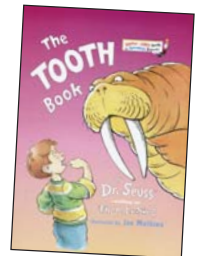
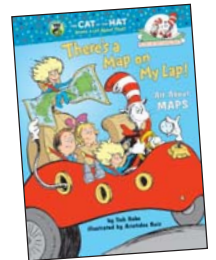
*This plant is a Queen Anne's lace  
Some people call it a weed  
Insects love to land on its flowers  
You can eat the root if you need*



## Seuss Safari

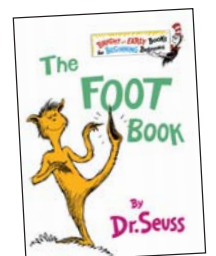
Have your students travel with the Cat in the Hat to discover the wonders of far-off places without ever leaving the schoolyard. Transform corners of your gym, multipurpose room, or playground into a beach, a desert, a pond, a rain forest, and the North and South Poles. Before having students travel to each location, start them off with a reading of *There's a Map on My Lap!* Then provide them with special maps of their own to navigate to each biome station. Have volunteers dressed as costumed explorers at each station share books and maps about these places, distinctive plants or toy animals, and things to touch and feel such as shells, sand, leaves, animal fur, rocks, and ice. If possible, make their visits even more interesting by including miles of

reptiles, some fine feathered friends, or other creatures from these habitats from the local nature center. At each station, visitors could also pick up a “brochure” on each biome that has a puzzle or activity to complete at the station or do at home.



## A Day at the Seuss Spa

You can't read *Oh the Things You Can Do that Are Good for You!* without wishing for your own trip to the Feeling Great Clinic. But since Fadoo is so far off, Read Across America Day is the perfect excuse to create your own Seuss Spa! At the Seuss Spa, help your students learn why taking care of themselves is a good thing to do and the role reading plays in it. You can set up interactive learning and reading stations where students could learn about oral hygiene, practice flossing (between fingers with yarn), and read *The Tooth Book*; or show them the power of soap, what to do about stinky feet, and read *The Foot Book*. Also nice for Seuss Spa Day: a relaxing yoga routine and a refreshing lemon or cucumber water drink. Check with a local dentist for free toothbrushes or floss and with a local hotel for small size soaps, shampoos, and lotions for your spa goody bag.



# EXPLORABRATION FIELD GUIDE: SNACKS\*

Nearly everything you do with food has something to do with science! And the Cat's curiosity about things to eat will have you and your students heading for the garden and refrigerator for more than just a snack!

## All Dried Up

Desert animals can get water from their food, which is very important since there is little water for drinking available in the desert. This snack experiment gets your students thinking about water in the foods that they eat and complements both *Why Oh Why Are Deserts Dry?* and *THE CAT IN THE HAT KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THAT!* episode "A Plan for Sand."

Share bowls of fresh and dried fruits, such as grapes and raisins, plums and prunes, or fresh and dried apple slices. Have students seal fresh fruit in a plastic sandwich bag and do the same with a piece of dried fruit. Place the bags under a lamp with a high wattage bulb or in a very sunny window spot, wait and observe. If there's water in the food, it will evaporate and form condensation inside the bag. You can also experiment with small quantities of different everyday foods to see if they would be good choices for hydration on a desert adventure!

## Belly Up to the Plant Parts Salad Bar

Have students make their own salads after enjoying a reading of *Oh Say Can You Seed?* Put them in charge of setting up the Plant Parts Salad Bar featuring a menu of seeds, roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruit.

- corn, peas, beans, sunflower seeds (seeds)
- beets, radishes, carrots (roots)
- asparagus (stems)
- spinach or lettuce (leaves)
- broccoli and cauliflower (flowers)
- apple, pear, peach, squash, cucumber, tomato (fruits)

## Cold as Ice

A frozen treat pairs well with a reading of *Ice Is Nice*, a viewing of "Snowman's Land," or a North or South Pole adventure! There may be a chill in the air, but making this sorbet recipe will get your students' blood moving.

You'll need:

- Two Ziploc bags for each student: one pint size and one gallon size (freezer bags are best)
- Apple juice (not juice drink): 2/3 cup per student
- Bags of crushed ice: (about 4 cups per student)
- Salt: (4–6 tablespoons per student)
- Towels or gloves
- Plastic spoons

Put the juice in the pint bag, squeezing out as much air as possible before sealing. Place ice and salt inside the gallon bag, then put the sealed pint bag into the gallon bag and seal it. Then start the shaking! To keep hands from getting too cold, cover the bag with a towel or wear gloves. Students should have sorbet after about five minutes of shaking. Before serving, rinse or wipe off the pint bag to keep salt out of the sorbet.



## Bee Thirsty No More

If they've gone *On Beyond Bugs!*, kids buzzing in celebration of Read Across America are sure to have worked up a thirst. Toast your bee dancers with a natural energy drink: honey water.

Just add 2/3 cup of honey for every quart of cold water. Shake well with ice and lemon slices for a refreshing zing.

## Taste of the Rain Forest

If your Read Across America activities had your students on a journey to the rain forest, give them a taste of the place they've read about. Many foods native to tropical rain forests are now widely cultivated and eaten around the world. Try a fabulous tropical fruit kabob alternating banana and red papaya in honor of the Cat and his red and white hat!



\*NOTE: Make sure these snacks are safe treats for any children with dietary needs.

# INTERNET RESOURCES

**THE CAT IN THE HAT KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THAT!: [pbskids.org/catinthehat](http://pbskids.org/catinthehat)**

Watch video clips, get printable activities and educator-designed teacher resources for pre-K and kindergarten classrooms.

**The Exploratorium: [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)**

The extensive Web site of this San Francisco museum of science, art, and human perception investigates the science behind the ordinary subjects and experiences of people's lives.

**Try Science: [www.tryscience.org](http://www.tryscience.org)**

More than 400 science centers provide online and offline resources in nine languages.

**American Field Guide: [www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide](http://www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide)**

An online collection of more than 1400 video clips enables your students to experience America's wilderness firsthand.

**Celebrate Urban Birds: [www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration)**

Take advantage of this fun Web site, free bilingual (English and Spanish) materials, and connect your students with nature while helping birds and scientists.

**National Geographic Kids: [www.nationalgeographic.com/kids](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids)**

Provides information on different places around our universe, including ocean depths and outer space as well as Creature Features, where students can learn more about animals and watch video of them in their natural habitats.

**ePals: [www.epals.com](http://www.epals.com)**

Bring new places and faces from different parts of the country right into your classroom using Skype or work on collaborative projects. When you set up a free ePals account, note your interest in Skype in your profile information so others interested in Skype can find you.

**Skype an Author: [skypeanauthor.wetpaint.com](http://skypeanauthor.wetpaint.com)**

Plan a virtual visit with a children's book author to your classroom.

Check out the all-new



Bring Dr. Seuss and his many wonderful characters into your classroom! Seussville offers a wealth of resources including a year-round Planning Calendar offers month-by-month curriculum suggestions, printable activities, discussion guides, and information about annual programs such as the *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* College Scholarship, NEA's Read Across America, NEA's Lorax Project Student Earth Day, and World Ocean's Day.



**[www.randomhouse.com/teachers](http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers)**

The ultimate online resource for educators to help bring quality literature into the classroom. Sign up for our free online newsletter to receive all the latest news!