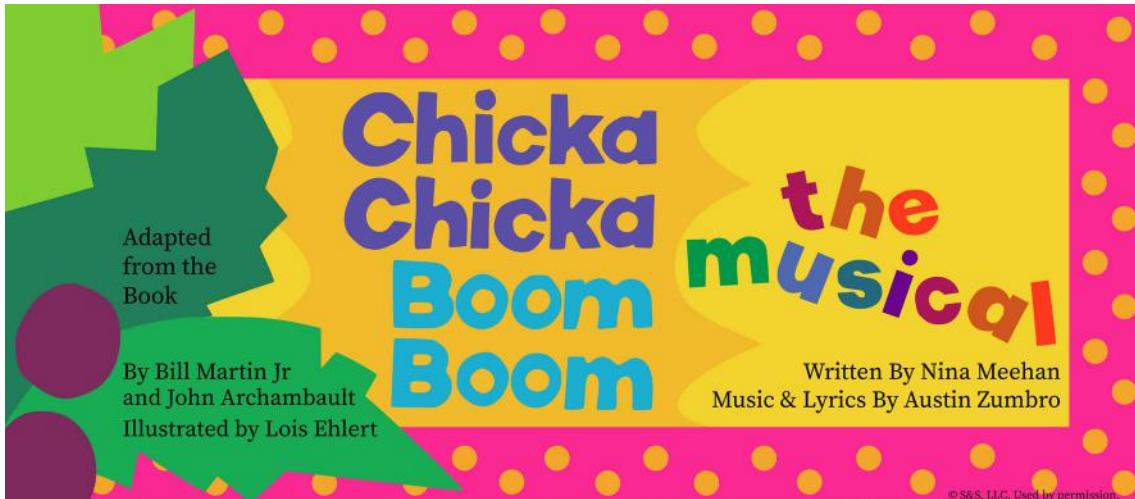




ONSTAGE STUDENT FIELD TRIP  
**RESOURCE GUIDE**



Chicka Chicka  
Boom Boom  
the musical



## ABOUT OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Overture Center for the Arts fills a city block in downtown Madison with world-class venues for the performing and visual arts. Made possible by an extraordinary gift from Madison businessman W. Jerome Frautschi, the center presents the highest-quality arts and entertainment programming in a wide variety of disciplines for diverse audiences. Offerings include performances by acclaimed classical, jazz, pop, and folk performers; touring Broadway musicals; quality children's entertainment; and world-class ballet, modern and jazz dance. Overture Center's extensive outreach and educational programs serve thousands of Madison-area residents annually, including youth, older adults, people with limited financial resources and people with disabilities. The center is also home to ten independent resident organizations.

## RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society  
Children's Theater of Madison  
Forward Theater Company  
Kanopy Dance Company  
Li Chiao-Ping Dance Company  
Madison Ballet  
Madison Opera  
Madison Symphony Orchestra  
Wisconsin Academy's James Watrous Gallery  
Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra

Internationally renowned architect Cesar Pelli designed the center to provide the best possible environment for artists and audiences, as well as to complement Madison's urban environment. Performance spaces range from the spectacular 2,250-seat Overture Hall to the casual and intimate Rotunda Stage. The renovated Capitol Theater seats approximately 1,110, and The Playhouse seats 350. In addition, three multi-purpose spaces provide flexible performance, meeting and rehearsal facilities. Overture Center also features several art exhibit spaces. Overture Galleries I, II and III display works by Dane County artists. The Playhouse Gallery features regional artists with an emphasis on collaborations with local organizations. The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters' Watrous Gallery displays works by Wisconsin artists, and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art offers works by national and international artists.

Dear Teachers,

In this resource guide you will find valuable information that will help you apply your academic goals to your students' performance experience. We have included suggestions for activities which can help you prepare students to see this performance, ideas for follow-up activities, and additional resources you can access on the web. Along with these activities and resources, we've also included the applicable Wisconsin Academic Standards in order to help you align the experience with your curriculum requirements.

This Educator's Resource Guide for this OnStage presentation of ***Chicka Chicka Boom Boom the musical*** is designed to:

- Extend the scholastic impact of the performance by providing discussion ideas, activities and further reading which promote learning across the curriculum;
- Promote arts literacy by expanding students' knowledge of music, science, storytelling and theatre;
- Illustrate that the arts are a legacy reflecting the values, custom, beliefs, expressions and reflections of a culture;
- Use the arts to teach about the cultures of other people and to celebrate students' own heritage through self-reflection;
- Maximize students' enjoyment and appreciation of the performance.

We hope this performance and the suggestions in this resource guide will provide you and your students opportunities to apply art learning in your curricula, expanding it in new and enriching ways.

Enjoy the Show!

### We Want Your Feedback!

OnStage performances can be evaluated online! Evaluations are vital to the future and funding of this program. Your feedback educates us about the ways the program is utilized and we often implement your suggestions.

Follow this link: <https://form.jotform.com/252614119409152>

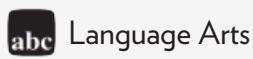
and fill out an evaluation. We look forward to hearing from you.



### Table of Contents

About <b><i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom the musical</i></b> .....	4
About <b><i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i></b> the Book & Lois Ehlert, the Illustrator.....	5
About Collage & Fun Facts About the Alphabet.....	6
Resources & Activities.....	7
<b>Activity #1</b> - I Can Spell My Name.....	8
<b>Activity #2</b> - The Matching Game .....	9
<b>Activity #3</b> - Fill in the Coconuts .....	10
<b>Activity #4</b> - Connect the Alphabet Dots.....	11- 12
<b>Activity #5</b> - Alphabet Crossword .....	13
<b>Activity #6</b> - Problem Solving.....	14
<b>Activity #7</b> - Rhyme Time.....	15
<b>Activity #8</b> - Become a Set Designer.....	16
<b>Activity #9</b> - Alphabet Musical Chairs ....	17
<b>Activity #10</b> - Coconut Experiments .....	18
<b>Activity #5</b> - Crossword Answer Key .....	19
Be Your Own Critic .....	20
Academic Standards .....	21
About Live Performance .....	22

### Education Categories



Language Arts



Social Emotional



Social Studies



Arts



## About *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom the Musical*

This production takes the idea of playing with words to a whole new level.

Get ready to see a favorite children's book spring to life on stage with playful puppets, catchy tunes, high-energy dancing, and an enthusiastic cast.

See the alphabet letters tackle the challenge of climbing all the way to the top of the coconut tree, only to spill laughingly back down to the ground when the tree can't hold them all.

**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom the Musical** is chock full of audience participation. It offers children an entertaining and energizing way to explore sound and rhythm while they learn about reading and the alphabet.

It also touches on themes of self-confidence, social and emotional learning, and problem-solving. Watching the letters struggle to make their way to the top of the coconut tree, not to mention their efforts to deal with success and failure, and figure out where they belong, shows young audiences the positive effects of engaging with their emotions.

This musical adaptation of **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** was written by Nina Meehan, with music and lyrics by Austin Zumbro.

The production originated at Seattle Children's Theatre before setting off on a national tour. The performance runs for 60 minutes without an intermission.

### Things Your Students Can Learn Through the Show

The musical is rooted in early childhood curriculum and supports learning through:

- Literacy & Phonemic Awareness
- Theatre, Music, and Dance
- Rhythm & Movement
- Problem-Solving & Teamwork
- Social/Emotional Learning
- Self-Confidence & Storytelling

## About **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** the Book

It's not often that a children's book remains a favorite long enough for people who grew up with it to read the same book to their kids, but that's the case with **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom**.

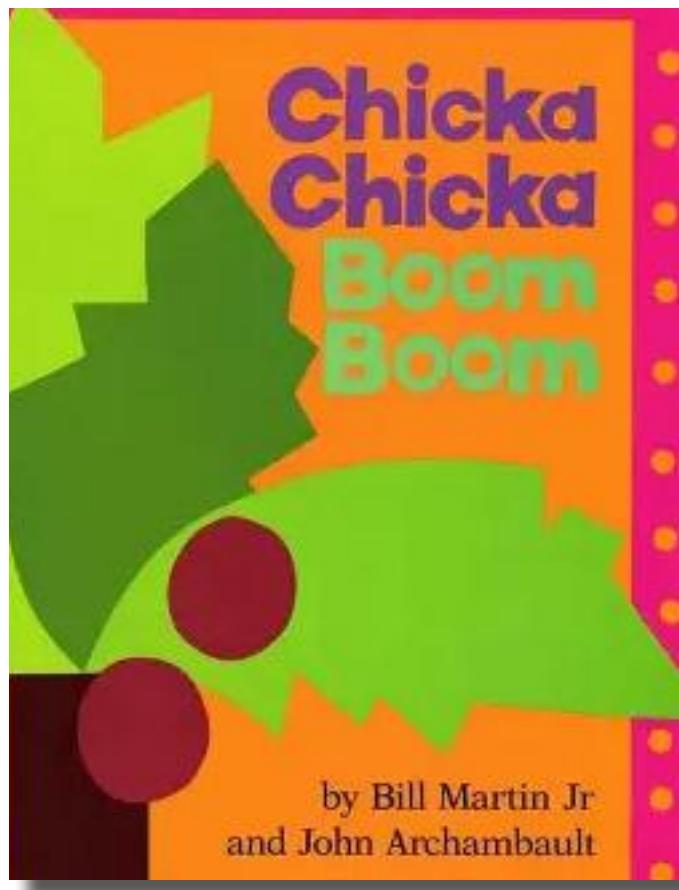
This beloved alphabet book has been a children's favorite for 40 years, and sold more than 30 million copies.

Maybe it's the rhythmic text by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault.

Maybe it's the vivid, colorful art by Caldecott Honor illustrator Lois Ehlert.

Whatever it is, **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** can be found in playrooms and classrooms around the world.

It's the #1 book at baby showers and President Barack Obama even read **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** to children attending the 2013 Easter Egg Roll at the White House.



## Lois Ehlert, the Illustrator

Lois Ehlert was an award-winning artist who illustrated and also wrote 38 books for young children. Nature and gardens were common themes in her work. Her favorite art technique was collage, in which the artist cuts and pastes different materials to create images.

Her awards include the Caldecott Honor Book, the Publishers Weekly Book of the Year, the Booklist Editors' Choice, the IRA Teachers' Choice, and the American Library Association's Notable Children's Book Award.

Lois Ehlert has a strong connection to Wisconsin. She was born in Beaver Dam in 1934. Her mother was a seamstress and taught Lois how to sew when she turned eight years old. Her mother also gave Lois fabric scraps to play with and her blue-collar father had a basement workshop chock full of art supplies.

Lois went to college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied English and Psychology. After graduation, she studied advertising design at the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee. She died in Milwaukee in 2021 at the age of 86.

# About Collage & Fun Facts About the Alphabet

The term “collage” can refer to both a process and a product.

The process of collage involves cutting, tearing, and collecting different materials and then combining them to create a new work of art.

These “different materials” can be paper, photographs, pieces of cloth, thread, yarn, objects, or anything else the artist thinks of.

The artist then arranges these materials on a backing material, which could be paper, canvas, wood, or, once again, anything else the artist thinks of, and glues everything all together.

In fact, the word “collage” comes from the French word “coller,” which means “to glue.”

The finished product that results from using the collage technique is also called a “collage.”

The technique was first used by calligraphers in Japan in the 10th century. By the 13th century, it had spread to medieval Europe.

Victorian photographers and hobbyists used the technique in the 1860s. But many arts experts say collage didn’t really come into its own until Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque began using the technique extensively in the early 20th century.

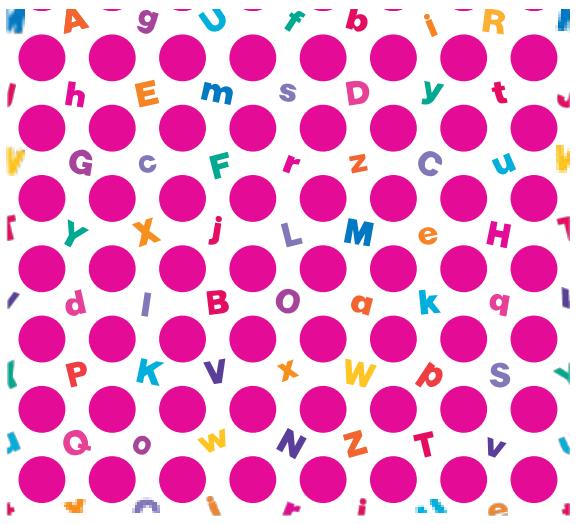


Photo courtesy of Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Brand Guidelines



Photo courtesy of freimageslive.co.uk

## Fun Facts About the Alphabet

- The word “alphabet” actually comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet – “alpha” and “beta.”
- Majuscules are capital letters. Minuscules are lower-case letters.
- A pangram is a sentence that contains all the letters of the alphabet, such as “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.”
- Of the 26 letters in the English alphabet, 19 are consonants. Five are usually vowels – A, E, I, O, and U. But Y and W can be both.
- People started writing down English using Latin letters in the 600s, but the 26 letters we know as the alphabet today weren’t really set until the 1500s.
- E is the letter used most often in English. What letter do you think is used least often? If you guessed Z, you’re right!
- The ampersand -- & -- was considered the 27th letter of the alphabet until 1835.
- One-third of the letters in the English language start with either an S, a C, or a P.
- The letter “x” is sometimes used to signify a kiss. Some scholars think this is because in the Middle Ages, when not many people could read or write, people would sign official documents with an X. They would then kiss the X to show they agreed with what the document said.

# Resources & Arts Activities

The Chicka Chicka Boom Boom [website](#)

Link to a [video](#) about collage as an art form

A [website](#) with examples of different types of collages

This site has [even more fun facts](#) about the alphabet

This site has a fun fact for each [letter of the alphabet](#)

The [Madison Public Library](#) has dozens of copies of Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, the book, plus audiobooks, CDs, and DVDs. It also carries other titles from this series, including:

- Boom Chicka Rock
- Chicka Chicka. I love dad.
- Chicka Chicka. I love mom.
- Chicka chicka tricka treat
- Chicka Chicka I love you
- Chicka chicka ho ho ho
- Chicka chicka 1,2,3
- Chica chica bum bum



The following 10 arts education activities were developed as part of the ***Chicka Chicka Boom Boom the musical*** Study Guide.



## Activity #1 - I Can Spell My Name

*Your name is so special. Can you spell it?*

### Directions:

Trace the Letters: Use a pencil to trace over the letters you see.

Color the Letter in Your Name: Find the letters in your name and color them in.

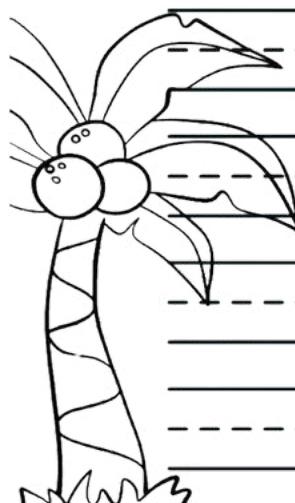
Write Your Name: Try writing your name on the lines below.



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## Activity #2: The Matching Game

*Match the letter with the picture.*

**Directions:**

Draw a line from the letter to the picture that starts with the same letter.

Example: If you see the letter T and you see a picture of a TREE you will draw the line from the T to the TREE. TREE starts with the letter T.

A



House

B



Grass

C



Coconut

D



Dinosaur

E



Bicycle

F



Eyes

G



Fire Fighter

H



Ant

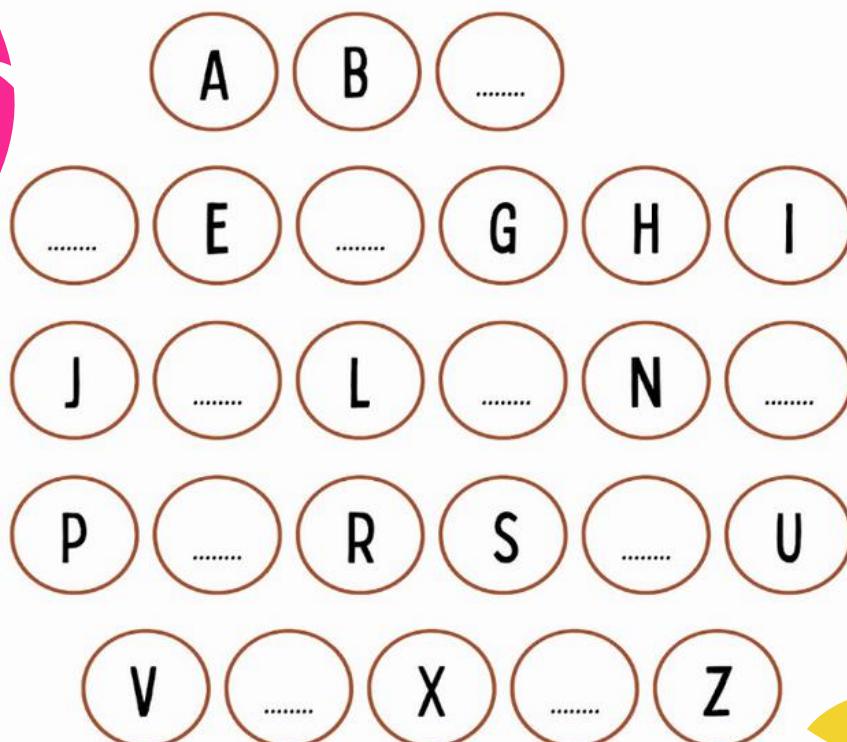


## Activity #3: Fill in the Coconuts

*Oh no! Some of the letters are missing from the coconut. Can you help?*

### Directions:

Fill in the blank coconut with the right letter.



A grid of 25 circles arranged in five rows. The first four rows each have six circles, and the fifth row has five circles. The circles contain the following letters and symbols:

A	B	.....			
.....	E	.....	G	H	I
J	.....	L	.....	N	.....
P	.....	R	S	.....	U
V	.....	X	.....	Z	





## Activity #4: Connect the Alphabet Dots

*Do you like saying your ABCs? Do you like drawing? Do you like counting? Let's connect the Alphabet dots!*

### Directions:

- 1. Say Your ABCs:** Start by saying the ABCs out loud.
- 2. Connect the Dots:** Use a pencil or crayon to draw lines connecting the letters in the right order. Saying your ABCs can help you!
- 3. See Your Picture:** What picture did you draw when you connected the dots? Write it here:

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- 1. Coloring Time:** Color your picture.
- 2. Write Your Name:** Don't forget to write your name on the paper.
- 3. Share your picture** with your family and friends!

### Bonus:

- Count the Letters: Count how many letters you see. Write the number here: \_\_\_\_\_
- Find Missing Letters: Are any letters missing? If yes, write down which ones are missing:

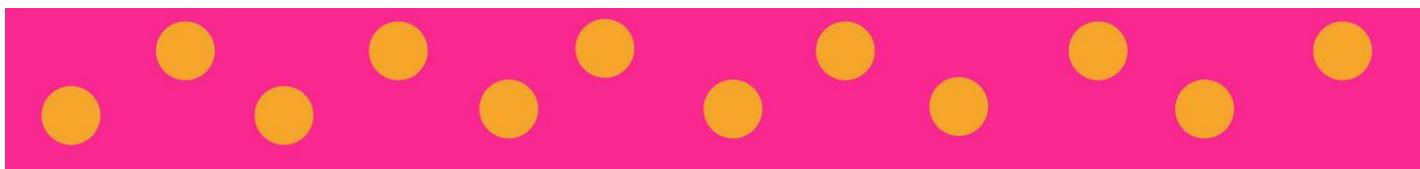
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- Count Missing Letters: How many letters are missing? Write the number here:

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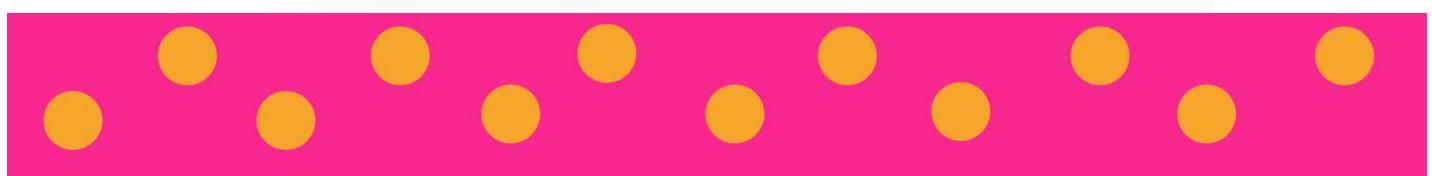
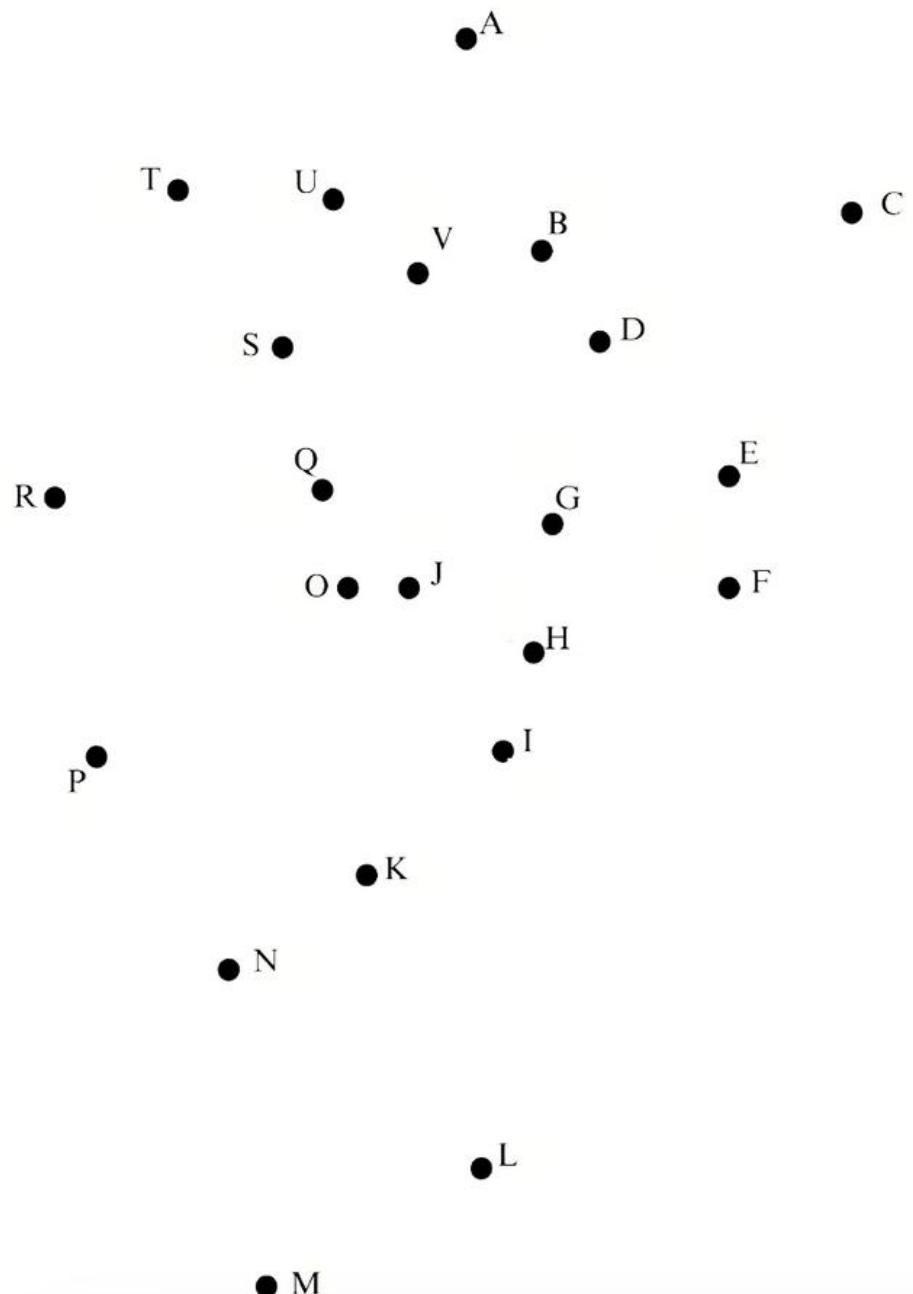
- Addition: Add the number of letters you see with the letters missing.

$$\text{Letter you see} + \text{Letters missing} = \text{Total number of letters in the Alphabet}$$





## Activity #4: Continued





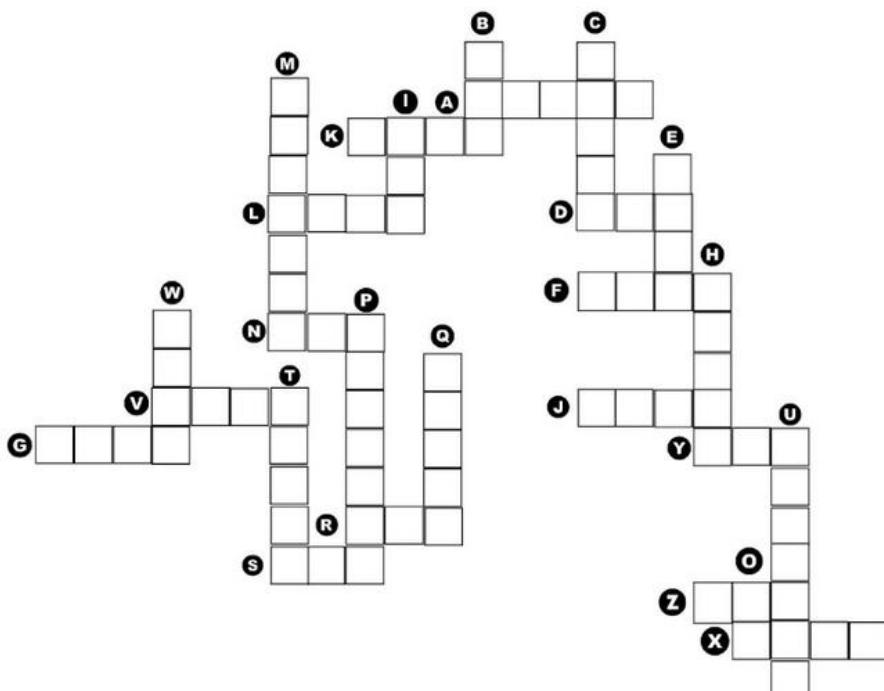
## Activity #5: Alphabet Crossword Puzzle

*Challenge your spelling skills by completing this Alphabet Crossword Puzzle.*

**Directions:**

1. Pick a letter and a picture.
2. Look for the letter in the crossword puzzle.
3. Write down the name of the picture in the crossword.

Tip: Say the words out loud. It will help you spell them correctly!





## Activity #6 - Problem Solving

*Uh oh, the alphabets seem to be having some problems in the story Chicka Chicka Boom Boom! Help them solve the problem.*

### Directions:

- 1. Write Down the Problem:** Think about what trouble the letters are having in the story Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Write about what's going wrong for them.
- 2. Find Solutions:** Come up with a few ideas on how the letters could fix their problem. Write down these ideas.
- 3. Draw a Picture:** Draw a picture that shows how your idea will help the letters solve their problem. Make sure it shows how everything will work out!





## Activity #7 - Rhyme Time

*A rhyme is when two words sound the same at the end, like "cat" and "hat." It's a fun way to play with words and make songs or poems. There are lots of different rhyming words in Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Create your own Chicka Chicka Boom Boom song with words that rhyme.*

### Directions:

1. Find Rhyming Words: Look for words in "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" that sound the same at the end. This will help you get familiar with different words that rhyme. It's like a word game!
2. Think About Yourself: Think of all the cool things you like about yourself. What makes you special?
3. Write a Verse: Make up a part of a song that tells everyone about you. You can be as creative as you like!
4. Create a Chorus: Use this fun line from the book: "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom! Will there be enough room?" to be the catchy part of your song.
5. Perform Your Song: Sing your song to your friends and family and show them what you've made! Have fun and enjoy the moment.

### Here is a sample song:

#### VERSE

**My name is Natalie Yu  
I like to go to the zoo  
I like my dinosaur PJs  
And my little brother EJ  
I'll be an astronaut when I'm bigger  
And eat Hot Cheetos for dinner  
I love myself, I am the best  
Better than all the rest**

#### CHORUS

**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom  
Will there be enough room  
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom  
Will there be enough room**



## Activity #8 - Become a Set Designer

### Vocabulary:

*Setting:* The setting is the place and time where a story happens. It's like a movie's backdrop or a book's location. It helps you understand where the characters are and what's around them. For example, the setting could be a magical forest, a busy city, or a cozy house.

- **What is the setting of Chicka Chicka Boom Boom?**

*Set Designer:* A set designer makes the places where actors perform look cool and exciting. They create the rooms, backgrounds, and props you see on stage or in movies to help tell the story.

- **The coconut tree is an important set piece in the story. Become a set designer and design your own edible Chicka Chicka Boom Boom coconut tree!**

### Directions:

1. Gather all the necessary snacks and materials to create your edible coconut tree such as:

Haribo Frogs - tree leaves  
Pepperidge Farm Pirouette Cookie - tree trunk  
Brownie - dirt to help the tree stand up  
Granola - sand  
Whoopers - coconut  
Haribo Alphabet Gummies - the alphabet  
Toothpicks and string to help put everything together.

2. As you think about how you want your set to look, think about these questions:

Is the sun out?  
Is there a bird in the tree?  
Is the tree near a body of water?  
Is there grass?  
Does the moon appear?

*If the answer is yes to any of these questions, gather the additional items you might need to build your edible set.*

3. BUILD YOUR SET!

4. Once you are finished building your set, use your set and alphabet to act out the story.
5. After you are done performing, feel free to eat your set with your friends!





## Activity #9 - Alphabet Musical Chairs

**Musical Chairs is a fun game with friends!**

**Adding the alphabets and retelling the Chicka Chicka Boom Boom story makes the game an even more exciting challenge.**

**Directions:**

**1. Get Ready:**

- Write one letter of the alphabet on each of 26 index cards. You should have 26 cards with different letters.
- Draw 5 coconuts on 5 index cards. So, you'll have 5 cards with coconuts on them.

**2. Set Up the Chairs:**

- If you have 20 friends, put 2 letters on the bottom of 13 chairs.
- Put 1 coconut on the bottom of 5 chairs.
- If you have more or fewer friends, just make sure there are 2 fewer chairs than people and that there are at least 2 chairs with letters on them.

**3. Arrange the Chairs:**

- You can make a circle or a line with the chairs.
- If you make a circle, the backs of the chairs should face the center.
- If you make a line, alternate the way each chair faces.

**4. Get Ready to Move:**

- Everyone should stand around the chairs.
- Choose one person to play the music.

**5. Play the Game:**

- When the music starts, everyone walks around the chairs in the same direction.
- When the music stops, everyone needs to find a seat!

**6. If You're Left Standing:**

- Look at the chair you're closest to. If it has a letter, share something about that letter from the story Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. For example, if the letter is Z, you could say, "Z was the last to come down the coconut tree in the story."

**7. Win Letters:**

- If you get it right, you can take the letter card and stick it on yourself. The game continues!
- If you get it wrong, the game continues, and you don't get the letter.

**8. Watch Out for Coconuts:**

- If you land on a chair with a coconut, you must take off one letter card you have taped on yourself. That letter is out of the game now.
- If you don't have any letters yet and land on a coconut, the first letter you get is out of the game.

**9. Winning the Game:**

- At the end, the person with the most letters on them wins!





## Activity #10 - Coconut Experiments

Dear Scientist,

Have you ever seen a coconut in person? Let's do a coconut experiment! If you are allergic you can replace the coconut with a football or something comparable to explore.

**Things you'll need:**

- A coconut
- Magnifying glass
- Small scale
- Tape measure
- Bucket or bin of water
- 6-8 unopened plastic water bottles
- Paper and something to write with

**Directions:**

1. Give Your Coconut a Name: Think of a fun name for your coconut and write it on your paper.
2. Guess the Size and Weight: Before you start, make a guess about how heavy your coconut is and how wide and long it is. Write down your guesses on your paper.
3. Measure the Coconut: Use the tape measure to find out how wide and long your coconut really is. Compare it to your guesses!
4. Weigh the Coconut: Use the scale to find out how heavy your coconut is. See how close you were to your guess!
5. Examine the Coconut: Use the magnifying glass to take a closer look at your coconut.

*Write down what you notice:*

*What color is it?*

*What do you see up close?*

*What does it look like?*

*What does it smell like?*

*What does it feel like?*

*How old do you think it looks?*

6. Will It Sink or Float? Guess if your coconut will sink or float in water. Write down your guess and why you think so.

7. Test the Coconut: Fill a bucket, bin, or tub with water. Put your coconut in the water and see if your guess was right. Write down what happened. After the coconut is wet, note if it looks, smells, or feels different from when it was dry.

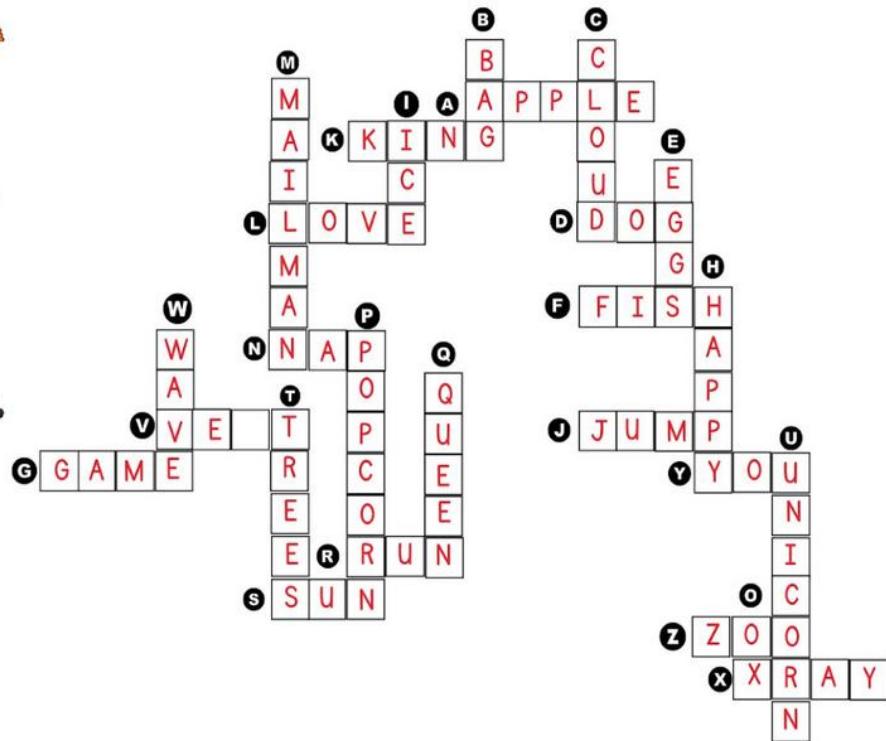
8. Coconut Bowling: Set up some water bottles in a triangle shape like bowling pins. Measure 20-40 feet away from the bottles with your tape measure.

9. Play the Game: Roll the coconut towards the bottles and try to knock them over!

*Have fun with your coconut experiments!*



## ACTIVITY #5 CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWER KEY



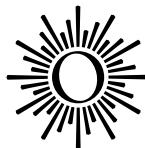
# BE YOUR OWN CRITIC

Now it is your turn to tell us what you thought about the performance that you saw at Overture Center! Use this worksheet to brainstorm some ideas. Make sure to use specific examples from the performance. If you forgot anything, ask your friends and teachers who went to the show with you.

Turn your ideas into a rough draft and then send a final copy to us!

I saw \_\_\_\_\_  
(SHOW TITLE)

Overture Center is...



because...

What would you say this show is about?



Two things that I really loved about the performance were...



Two things that could have been better in the performance were...



I thought the artistic elements (scenery, sound/music, lighting, costumes) were...



because...

I would want to meet the character...



in real life because...

If I could ask the performer(s) a question, I would ask them...



Imagine that you're telling a friend about this show. What would you say?



# Academic Standards

## Theater

### ***Theatre Performance: Respond***

#### Standard 3 – RESPOND

TP.R.4.i – Analysis – Identify separate elements in a theatrical work.

TP.R.5.i – Reflection – Assess personal participation in a performance

TP.R.6.i – View Performance – Demonstrate developmentally appropriate audience etiquette.

#### Standard 4 – CONNECT

TP.Cn.5.i: Cultural Social Context - Explain how theatre relates to self, others, and the world.

TP.Cn.6.i: Research - Identify the “given circumstances,” environmental and situational conditions that influence a theatrical work.

TP.Cn.8.i: Cross Disciplinary - Identify how theatre connects to literature and social studies.

## English Language Arts

Strand: Speaking and Listening – Listen to understand and adapt speech to a variety of purposes, audiences, and situations in order to meet communicative goals. Be able to justify intentional language choices and how those choices differ for culture and context.

### ***Comprehension & Collaboration***

SL.1.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

1. With guidance and support, follow agreed-upon norms for discussions and participate by actively listening, taking turns, and staying on topic.

2. Build on others’ talk in conversations by responding to the comments of others through multiple exchanges.

3. Ask questions to clear up any confusion about the topics and texts under discussion.

4. Consider individual differences when communicating with others.

## Art & Design

### **Standard AA 3: RESPOND**

#### K-2 (e)

A.A.R.1.e: Describe: Identify details, basic elements, and subject matter of an artwork.

A.A.R.2.e: Analyze: Distinguish between reality and imaginary when describing a work of art.

A.A.R.3.e: Interpret: Use details and subject matter to interpret an artwork’s mood or meaning.

A.A.R.4.e: Inquire: Determine the artist’s intent by identifying the details and subject matter.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

# About Live Performance

Theater, unlike movies or television, is a **LIVE** performance. This means that the action unfolds right in front of an audience, and the performance is constantly evolving. The artists respond to the audience's laughter, clapping, gasps and general reactions. Therefore, the audience is a critical part of the theater experience. In fact, without you in the audience, the artists would still be in rehearsal!

Remember, you are sharing this performance space with the artists and other audience members. Your considerate behavior allows everyone to enjoy a positive theater experience.

**Prepare:** Be sure to use the restroom before the show begins!

**Find Your Seat:** When the performance is about to begin, the lights will dim. This is a signal for the artists and the audience to put aside conversations. Settle into your seat and get ready to enjoy the show!

**Look and Listen:** There is so much to hear (dialogue, music, sound effects) and so much to see (costumes, props, set design, lighting) in this performance. Pay close attention to the artists onstage. Unlike videos, you cannot rewind if you miss something.

**Energy and Focus:** Artists use concentration to focus their energy during a performance. The audience gives energy to the artist, who uses that energy to give life to the performance. Help the artists focus that energy. They can feel that you are with them!

Talking to neighbors (even whispering) can easily distract the artists onstage. They approach their audiences with respect, and expect the same from you in return. Help the artists concentrate with your attention.

**Laugh Out Loud:** If something is funny, it's good to laugh. If you like something a lot, applaud. Artists are thrilled when the audience is engaged and responsive. They want you to laugh, cheer, clap and really enjoy your time at the theater.

**Discover New Worlds:** Attending a live performance is a time to sit back and look inward, and question what is being presented to you. Be curious about new worlds, experience new ideas, and discover people and lives previously unknown to you. Your open mind, curiosity, and respect will allow a whole other world to unfold right before your eyes!

**Please, don't feed the audience:** Food is not allowed in the theater. Soda and snacks are noisy and distracting to both the artists and audience.

**Unplug:** Please turn off all cell phones and other electronics before the performance. Photographs and recording devices are prohibited.





Overture  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS



PARTNERS:



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Overture Center's mission is to support and elevate our community's creative culture, economy and quality of life through the arts.

**[overture.org/onstage](http://overture.org/onstage)**

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