

If I ran the school

A PRIMARY INTEREST INVENTORY

developed by Deborah E. Burns
design by Del Siegle

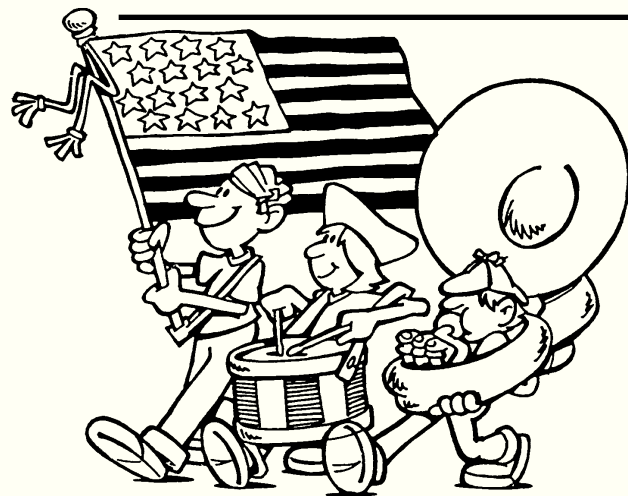
Name _____

Grade _____ Teacher _____

If I ran the school, I would choose to learn about these ten things. I have thought about my answers very carefully and I have circled my best ideas for right now.

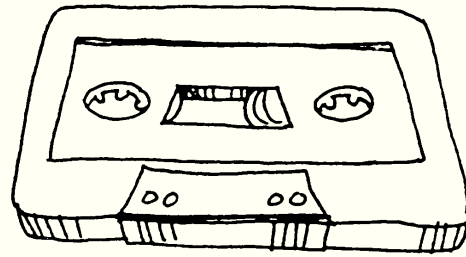
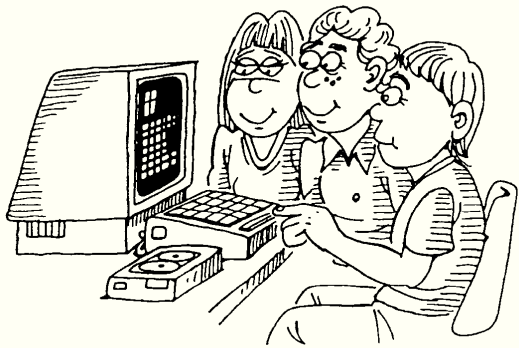
I am really interested in:

1. The Stars and Planets
2. Birds
3. Dinosaurs and Fossils
4. Life in the Ocean
5. Trees, Plants and Flowers
6. The Human Body
7. Monsters and Mysteries
8. Animals and Their Homes
9. Outer Space, Astronauts and Rockets
10. The Weather
11. Electricity, Light and Energy
12. Volcanoes and Earthquakes
13. Insects
14. Reptiles
15. Rocks and Minerals
16. Machines and Engines
17. Diseases and Medicine
18. Chemistry and Experiments



1. Families
2. The Future
3. Our Presidents
4. The United States
5. Other Countries
6. History and Long Ago Times
7. Famous Men and Women
8. Problems We Have in Our Town
9. Holidays
10. Native Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics and Black People
11. Explorers
12. People Who Live and Work in Our Town
13. Travel and Transportation

1. Math Games and Puzzlers
2. Measuring Lines, Liquids, Weight
3. Shapes and Sizes
4. Buying and Money
5. Calculators and Computers
6. Building
7. Counting and Numbering
8. Calendars and Time
9. Math Stories and Problems

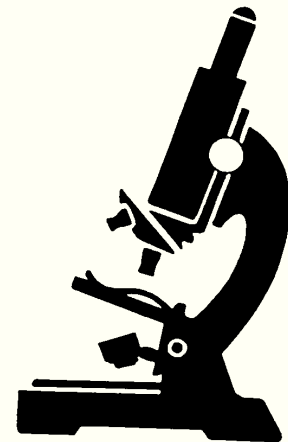


1. Writing a Book
2. Writing Poems
3. Writing Plays and Skits
4. Writing Newspapers
5. Making Speeches
6. Sign Language
7. Making a Book
8. Comic and Cartoon Strips
9. Letter Writing
10. Spanish and French
11. Talking and Listening to Stories
12. Making a New Game or Puzzle

1. Cartoons
2. Art Projects
3. Painting
4. Clay
5. Acting
6. Dancing
7. Drawing
8. Writing Music
9. Photography
10. Movies
11. Puppets
12. Radio and Television
13. Famous Artists and Their Work
14. Making New Toys
15. Magic
16. Mime



1. Doctors
2. Lawyers
3. Police Work
4. Fire Fighters
5. Scientists
6. Builders
7. Reporters
8. Store Workers
9. Sports Stars
10. Actors
11. Veterinarians
12. Farmers
13. Writers
14. Engineers
15. Artists
16. Inventors



You forgot to list some of my very special interests. They are:

By
Joseph S. Renzulli
and **Mary G. Rizza**
University of Connecticut

PRIMARY INTEREST-A-LYZER

Name: _____ **Age:** _____

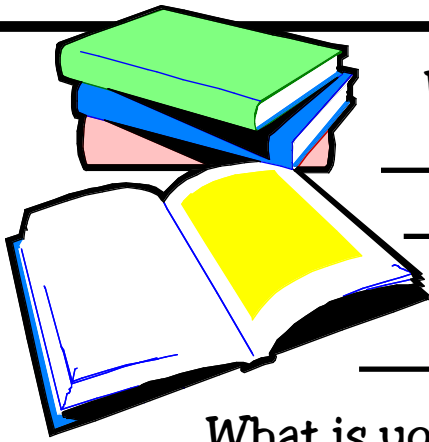
Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____

Note to Teachers & Parents:

This *Interest-A-Lyzer* is designed for students in grades K-3. It is intended for whole classroom use but some students, especially those who can not read, may need some individual attention for proper completion. Picture cues are provided for each question to help keep new readers on task and to facilitate with group administration. It is suggested that an adult consult with students and annotate the responses, particularly when students use inventive spelling. This will facilitate interpretation and ensure proper identification later on.

Interpretation of this instrument is similar to other versions of the *Interest-A-Lyzer* and will look at individual responses within the context of broader categories. The more information obtained from the child, the easier it will be to interpret. Whenever necessary, the student should be asked to provide more information by asking questions like "Why?" or "How long?" or "Is that all?" It is hoped that teachers will view this instrument as an opportunity to interact with their students on a positive and enjoyable activity. We feel it is a great way to get to know your students and their non-academic interests.

Remember that there are no right or wrong answers to this instrument and special attention should be given to ensure that each response is true to the student's own unique interests. There are no time limits for completion. In fact, students should be encouraged to think about their answers before filling out this instrument.

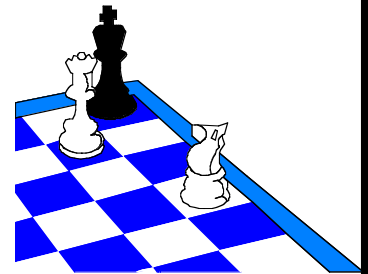


What kinds of books do you like to read?

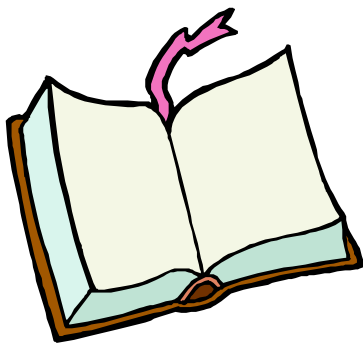
What is your favorite book?

Do you belong to any clubs or teams?

Tell about them here:



Imagine that you can travel to any time in history.



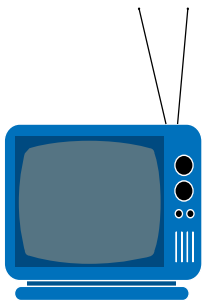
Where would you go?

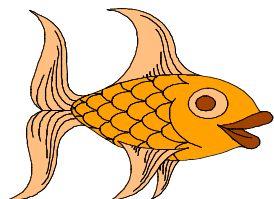
You are a famous author about to write your next book, what will it be about?



Can you think of a title?

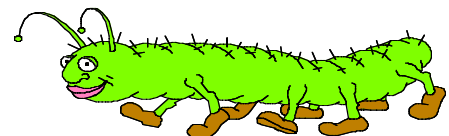
Name your three favorite T.V. shows here:





Do you have any pets?
Tell about them here:

If you could have any pet you wanted, what would it be?



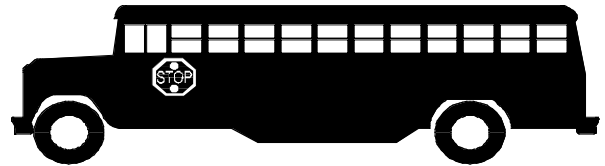


Lots of people play games. What are some of your favorite games?

Have you ever made up a new game? Tell about it here:

Pretend your class is going on a trip and you are in charge of picking the place to go.

Check off 3 ideas from below:



_____ Museum

_____ Science Center

_____ Sports Game

_____ A Show like Ice Capades

_____ Music Concert

_____ Mayor's Office

_____ Newspaper Office

_____ Firehouse

_____ T.V. Studio

_____ Planetarium

_____ Court Room

_____ Police Station

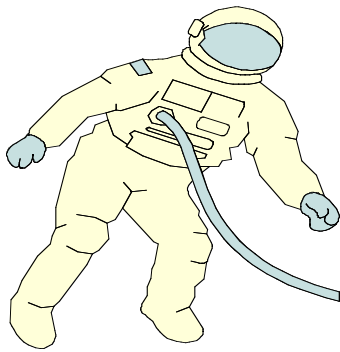
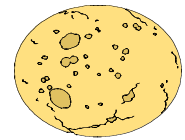
_____ The Zoo

_____ An Amusement Park

_____ A Play

What did we forget? _____

Pretend you are going to move to the moon with your family and friends. What things will you take with you?



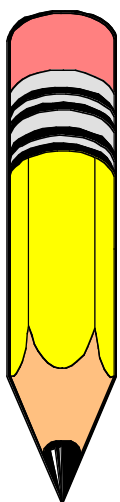
Do you like to collect things? _____

What are some things that you collect?

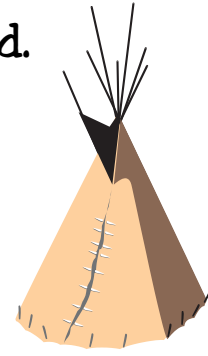
Some people keep journals where they write stories or poems.

Do you have a journal?

What are some things you like to write about?



Some people like to do craft projects. They weave pot holders, string beads, or build things with wood. Do you like to do these kinds of projects?



What are some of the things you make?



Some people like to listen to music.

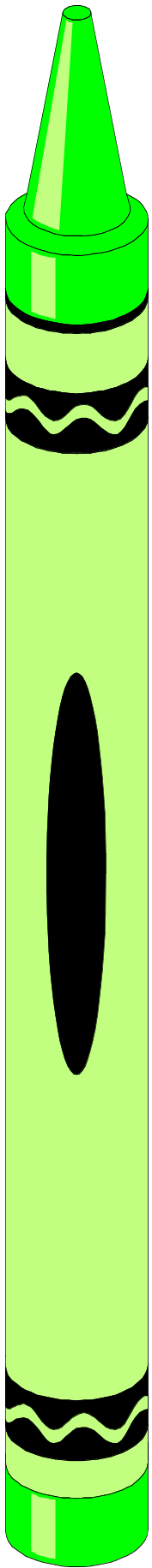
What is your favorite kind of music?



Do you have a favorite singer or band?

Do you play a musical instrument?
Tell about it here:





Here are things that some people like to do.
Do you like any of them?
Put a check mark next to the ones you like to do.
Circle the ones you would like to try.

_____ go to the opera, ballet, play

_____ make a secret code

_____ help animals

_____ speak another language real or imagined

_____ make cartoons

_____ do science experiments at home

_____ plant a garden

_____ play a musical instrument

_____ sculpt with clay

_____ play chess

_____ build with legos or other blocks

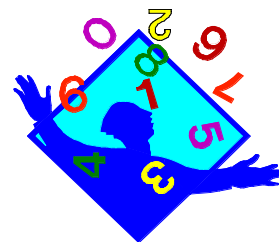
_____ take things apart to see how they work

_____ count things (like leaves on a tree or tiles in the floor)

_____ cook or bake

_____ do jigsaw puzzles

_____ play math games





Do you like to draw?
What do you like to draw?

Here is a blank space to draw a picture.



WAIT! WHAT DID WE FORGET?

**DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST THAT
WE DIDN'T ASK ABOUT?**

Secondary Interest-A-Lyzer

Thomas P. Hébert
The University of Alabama

Michele F. Sorensen
Farmington, Connecticut Public Schools

Joseph S. Renzulli
The University of Connecticut

This is an informal interest inventory which will serve as a foundation for developing your specific areas of interest throughout the school year. The information you provide is completely confidential. As a result of this survey, we hope to provide you with meaningful educational experiences that will further develop your interests, nurture your talents, and challenge your learning potential.

Read each question carefully and provide us with as much detailed information as possible so we may obtain a clear understanding of your interests.

Name _____

Grade _____ Date _____

School _____

1

You are fed up with the course offerings at your high school. Your principal has asked you to design the perfect course for people with your same interests. What would the course be called? What would be taught?

2

Rather than provide money for a class trip, the board of education has decided to give money to each individual student for a trip of his or her choice! Where would you go? List three (3) places you would visit and explain what you would do while visiting there. Why?

3

You have written your first book which you are ready to submit for publication. What is the title? What is the book about?

4

You have been asked to plan a concert for your high school. You have an unlimited budget! List three (3) choices of musical performances that you would schedule for that evening's program.

5

The science teachers at your high school are planning a Speakers' Bureau for their department based on a variety of special topics. Sign up for the **1st, 2nd** and **3rd choices** of presentations you would be interested in attending from the topics listed below:

Vertical rectangular box for student name

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> toxic waste | <input type="checkbox"/> nuclear energy issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> health issues for teenagers | <input type="checkbox"/> green house effect |
| <input type="checkbox"/> genetic engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> environmental issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> endangered species | <input type="checkbox"/> volcanic erosion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> weather mapping | <input type="checkbox"/> meteorology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> forensic medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> rain forests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> robotics | <input type="checkbox"/> astronomy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> insecticide applications
in our environment | <input type="checkbox"/> ecology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> entomology | <input type="checkbox"/> medicine and medical issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> scientific research and methods | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

6

In connection with a Law Day celebration, a conservative and a liberal attorney in your community have been invited to your high school to debate a topic. What are your three preferred choices for possible debate topics? Why are they important issues?

Vertical rectangular box for student name

7

You are a photographer and you have one picture left to take on your roll of film. What will it be of? Why?

Vertical rectangular box for student name

8

Teenagers in your community have been asked to prepare individual time capsules for future generations. You are allowed to include 10 personal possessions that are representative of you. What would you include in your capsule?

9

You have the opportunity to work with an editor of your choice on the local newspaper staff. Which department would you work for? Rank order your choices 1 through 3 and feel free to prioritize beyond your third choice.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| _____ national events | _____ household management and improvement |
| _____ culinary arts and nutrition | _____ movie reviews |
| _____ political cartoons | _____ crossword puzzles |
| _____ local history | _____ horoscopes |
| _____ stock market analysis | _____ music |
| _____ fashions | _____ consumer reports |
| _____ personal advice | _____ business |
| _____ humor and cartoons | _____ editorials |
| _____ celebrity column | _____ math puzzles |
| _____ children's page | _____ book reviews |
| _____ travel | _____ sports |
| _____ economics | _____ political commentary |
| _____ local events | _____ gossip column |
| _____ economics | _____ international events |
| _____ legal issues | _____ Other: _____ |

10

You have had a dream in which you have been transported back in time and have become an active participant in that historical time period. Which period has this dream taken you to? Who did you meet while you were there?

11

If you could conduct an interview with a man you admire, past or present, who would it be? What three (3) questions would you ask him?

12

If you could conduct an interview with a woman you admire, past or present, who would it be? What three (3) questions would you ask her?

13

If you could be an exchange student in any other country for half a school year, what country would you like to be in as a student? Why?

14

You have the opportunity to learn foreign languages from native speakers. What three foreign languages would you want to learn? Explain your selections.

[Empty rectangular box for answer]

15

An after school group has been planned to meet and discuss important issues facing young people. Select the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices of seminars you would be interested in attending.

[Empty rectangular box for answer]

- contemporary moral issues
- national security
- career opportunities & choices
- gender issues
- death and dying
- peer relationships
- world peace
- family structure
- issues in ethnicity
- Other:** _____

16

The school board is sponsoring a school-wide Olympiad. Any and all physical related activities will be featured. If you were to participate, what three (3) events would you like to compete in? Specify if your preference for being judged would be based on individual or group performance.

[Empty rectangular box for answer]

17

Have you ever designed a computer program? If you have, describe your program. If you could design a computer program, what would it be?

[Empty rectangular box for answer]

18

A mentorship program is being arranged to allow you to work with a person in the community involved in a profession/occupation you are interested in. List three (3) occupations that you would like to explore in a mentorship.

19

List the titles/authors of your three (3) favorite books. State the type of book (science fiction, poetry, non-fiction, etc.) and briefly explain what it's about.

20

List 5 magazines that you enjoy reading. Rank order your choices.

21

Do you collect anything? Briefly describe your collection(s). What would you like to collect if you had the time and money?

22

You have been asked to participate in producing the film of your choice. What type of film will this be? List your favorite three (3) choices.

_____ documentary
_____ musical
_____ biographical
_____ travelogue
_____ fantasy
_____ mystery
_____ horror

_____ science fiction
_____ classic
_____ foreign
_____ comedy
_____ a popular release for teenage audiences
_____ adventure
_____ general drama

23

You have been asked to be a member of a social action committee in your town. Your task will be to work with elected officials to work on issues of importance. What three issues do you think need to be discussed? Why?



Respond to the following questions by checking all of the responses that might apply:

Yes, I would do this.

No, I would not do this.

I might be interested in doing this.

I have had experience with this activity.

Would you enjoy...

submitting one of your original writings for publication?

repairing a car, stereo or household appliance?

conducting a scientific experiment?

establishing a school newspaper?

being a photographer for a magazine?

starting an astronomer's nighttime observation group?

studying the stock market?

organizing a new school club or team?

starting a musical group/band?

acting in a theatrical production?

starting your own business?

creating your own comic strip?

painting or sketching people, objects and landscapes?

Yes, I would
do this.

No, I would
not do this.

I might be
interested in
doing this.

I have had
experience
with this
activity.

working on a political campaign? _____

learning a handicraft such as jewelry
making, pottery, or silkscreening ? _____

designing costumes, clothing
or furniture? _____

designing a building? _____

designing your own invention? _____

having your own photo lab and
developing your own photography? _____

visiting a museum or historical site? _____

keeping a personal journal or diary? _____

organic gardening? _____

being involved in a neighborhood
project? _____

belonging to a social action group
like the Sierra Club? _____

developing & maintaining a
computer bulletin board? _____

volunteering your time to a charitable
organization? _____



AN INTEREST INVENTORY

Adapted by
Jeanne Purcell
Designed by
Del Siegle

DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

MY TURN is a two-part inventory that can be used by parents and teachers to identify the interests of young people. The first part contains lists of specific topics organized around 10 general areas of interest, and the second part contains four open-ended questions. Although students can complete much of the inventory by themselves, it is essential that teachers and parents interview each young person about their responses to ensure that interest areas and potential areas of interest have been uncovered.

Teachers can use the information provided by **MY TURN** to orchestrate meaningful and enjoyable classroom activities that can (1) capitalize on students' interests, and (2) lead students to related, highly creative and productive investigations. Parents can use the information provided by the instrument to organize co-curricular activities around children's interests. Also, parents can share information about their child's interests with teachers in order to facilitate escalating levels of their children's creative productivity. Instructions for using **MY TURN** are provided below.

1 *Step #1: Preliminary Activities* Teachers and parents should begin with several activities to ensure success with **MY TURN**. First, an explanation about the purpose of the instrument and upcoming interviews should precede all other activities. Put simply, learning is more enjoyable when it capitalizes on topics that are interesting to the learner! Therefore, clarifying the connection between the results of the interviews and subsequent learning opportunities that may be orchestrated around interests, assures young people that an honest attempt is being made to take their interests seriously and make learning more enjoyable. We also recommended that teachers and parents review orally with children the open-ended questions on page 4 of the instrument prior to the interviews and suggest that they begin to jot down some notes about possible answers. This oral review of the questions and preliminary notetaking provide young people with time to think and reflect about their answers, thereby ensuring more complete and accurate information for the interview.

2 *Step #2: Completing MY TURN and Conducting the Interviews* When preliminary activities related to **MY TURN** have been completed, teachers and parents should set aside approximately 15-20 minutes for children to complete the instrument. Read the instructions that accompany the document with young people and provide them with sufficient time to circle the numbers of all topics of interest, rank order their top five interest areas, and fill in answers to the open-ended questions. Then set aside about 10 minutes per child to interview each young person about his/her answers to the last four questions and review his or her top five topic selections. Parents will be able to complete the interviews in a short period of time; teachers may take several weeks to complete the interviews with all class members. During the interview, parents and teachers should ask the questions on the survey, as well as any other probing questions which may prompt additional information from the child related to specific interest areas.

3 *Step #3: Summarizing the Findings* Once the interviews have been completed, the next step in the interest assessment process is to review the pattern of interests that emerge from each child's responses. We ask teachers and parents to scan **MY TURN** for the "big picture," by looking for general areas of interest that recur in the document. The general areas of interest underlying each version of the instrument include: fine arts and crafts, science, creative writing and journalism, social action, mathematics, business/ managerial, technology, history, athletics, and performing arts. See the back of this page for activities and preferences that characterize the 10 interest areas. Specific areas of interest will emerge from the topics contained in each list, as well as from the interviews. Finally, document each young person's general area(s) of interest and specific interests on the front of the **MY TURN**.



**My
Turn**

**AN
INTEREST
INVENTORY**

**Adapted by
Jeanne Purcell
Designed by
Del Siegle**

Name _____ **Grade** _____

Date _____ **Teacher** _____

Directions: **MY TURN** is a series of questions designed to identify your interests and special talents. Pages two and three contain lists of topics. Please circle the numbers of all the topics that interest you. Then, go back over the ones you circled and rank the five topics that interest you the most. Put #1 next to the topic that is most interesting, #2 next to the one that is next most interesting and so forth through your 3rd, 4th, and 5th choices. Page four of **MY TURN** contains open-ended questions. Please place your answers on the spaces provided. After talking to you about your answers, an adult will fill in the spotlight section below.

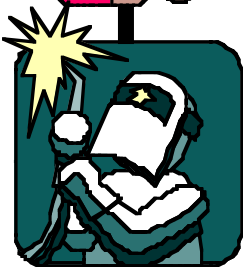
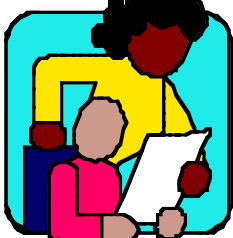
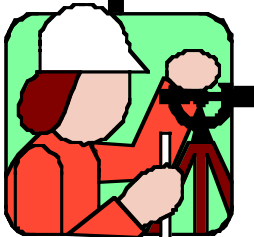
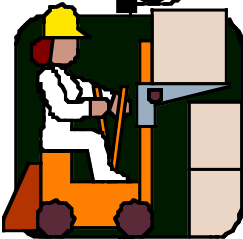
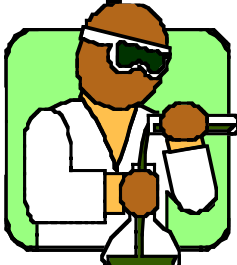


General Area(s) of
INTEREST

Specific Areas
INTEREST

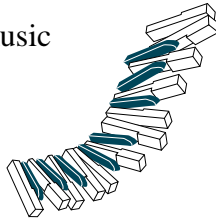
Directions:

Look at the lists of topics on these two pages. Please circle the numbers of all that interest you. Then, go back over the items you circled and rank the five topics that interest you the most. Put #1 next to the topic that is most interesting, #2 next to the one that is next most interesting, and so forth through your 3rd, 4th, and 5th choices.



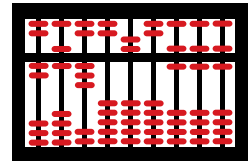
Performing Arts

1. Mime
2. Ballet
3. Magic
4. The circus
5. Rock groups
6. Electronic music
7. Movies
8. Acting
9. Theater
10. Jazz
11. Opera
12. Broadway shows
13. Dances from other countries
14. Famous actresses and actors



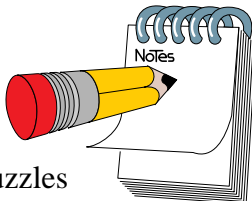
Mathematics

1. Fractions
2. Measuring
3. Shapes/Geometry
4. Fractals/Chaos theory
5. Problem solving/Puzzles
6. Time/Calendars
7. Patterns
8. Algebra
9. Calculators
10. Counting
11. Graphing
12. Palindromes
13. Tessellations/Symmetry
14. Logic/Mindbenders
15. Number systems
16. Famous mathematicians



Creative Writing and Journalism

1. Folktales
2. Poetry
3. Story telling
4. Short stories
5. Editorials
6. Letters
7. Crossword puzzles
8. News stories
9. Comic strips
10. Political cartoons
11. Book making
12. Playwriting



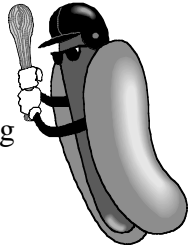
Business/Managerial

1. The stock market
2. Employment
3. Unemployment
4. Inventions/Inventing
5. American currency
6. Minting money
7. Taxes
8. Effective leadership
9. Savings
10. Famous business leaders
11. Financial careers
12. The Federal Reserve
13. Foreign currency
14. Global economics



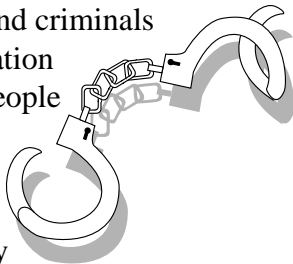
Athletics

1. Hockey
2. Soccer
3. Fitness
4. Health foods
5. Mental training/peak performances
6. Sports medicine
7. Sports equipment
8. The Olympics
9. Sports card collecting
10. Tennis
11. Gymnastics
12. Basketball



History

1. Maps and map making
2. Archeology
3. Explorers
4. Ancient civilizations
5. Families/Family history
6. American history
7. Outlaws and criminals
8. Transportation
9. Famous people
10. Climates
11. Folklore
12. Plagues
13. Geography
14. Transportation



Social Action

1. Animal rights
3. Environmental issues
4. Aids victims
5. Women's rights
6. Prison reform
7. Prayer in school
8. Homelessness
9. Wetlands conservation
10. The death penalty
11. Consumer rights
12. Gun control



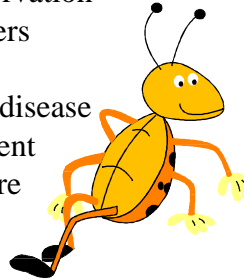
Fine Arts and Crafts

1. Interior design
2. Children's book illustrations
3. Costume design
4. Photography
5. Drafting/Construction
6. Wood working
7. Fashion design
8. Ceramics
9. Toy design
10. Architecture



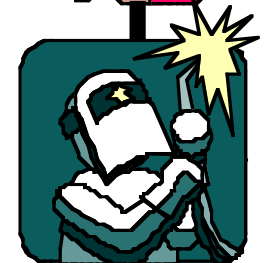
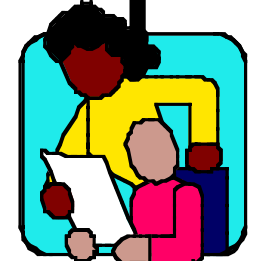
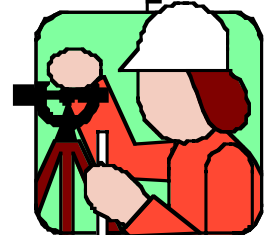
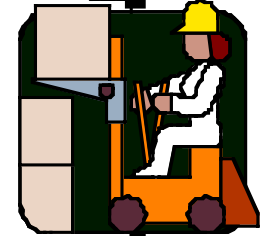
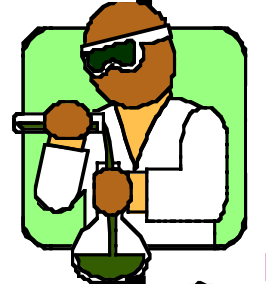
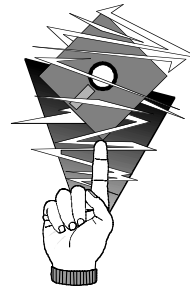
Science

1. Birds
2. Fossils
3. Insects
4. Electricity
5. Space exploration
6. Chemistry
7. Wildlife conservation
8. Natural disasters
9. Plants/botany
10. Medicine and disease
11. The environment
12. The atmosphere
13. Light
14. Sound
15. Telescopes and microscopes
16. Rocks and minerals
17. Living creatures
18. Stars and planets



Technology

1. Communication
2. The Internet
3. Computers
4. CD ROMs
5. Virtual reality
6. Computer programming
7. Multimedia
8. Disc and file management
9. Modems
10. Faxes





1. Imagine the following clubs were available in your school. Circle your first three choices.

The Creative Furniture Design Company
Modern Jewelry Design Guild
The Scientists' Research Institute
The Save the Dolphins Society
Young Authors' Guild
The African American Literary Guild
The Hispanic Cultural Awareness Association
The Environmental Protection Agency
The Young Women's Mathematical Society
The Math Puzzle Quarterly

The Young Entrepreneurs' Support Group
The Junior Stockbrokers of America Company
The Creative Cartographers' Guild
The Archeologists' Society
Sports Medicine Team
The Fitness Dietary Group
The Electronic Music Research Group
The Native American Dance Institute
The Computer Software Company
The Interneters' Institute

2. Imagine yourself as the author of a well-known book or video. What is the general subject of the book or video? Please circle one.

Fine arts (*painting, sculpting, photography, etc.*)
Science
Writing
Social action (*working for a cause, such as save the animals or rain forest, etc.*)
Mathematics

Business (*starting your own company, managing people, etc.*)
History
Athletics
Performing arts (*dance, opera, the symphony, etc.*)
Technology (*computers, communications, etc.*)

What will it be about? _____

3. Computers allow us to communicate with people all over the world. Imagine that your school has installed an Internet system that will allow you to write back and forth with anyone. With whom would you correspond?

First choice _____
Second choice _____
Third choice _____

4. Imagine that a time machine has been invented. Name three people you would like to meet if you could use this machine to move back through history or forward into the future.

First choice _____
Second choice _____
Third choice _____

5. Imagine you have the money and time to collect anything you wanted. List what you would collect.



What Lights You Up?

Below is a list of topics. To help us determine your interests, circle the five that interest you the most. Then, prioritize your five topics on the spaces below. Place the one which interests you most on space # 1, and so forth through your fifth selection. Make sure to put your name on the space provided.



1. Advertising
2. Animals
3. Archeology
4. Architecture
5. Art/Artists
6. Astronomy
7. Authors
8. Biology
9. Black history
10. Careers
11. Cartooning
12. Castles/Knights
13. Civil War
14. Chemistry
15. Communication
16. Computer Programming
17. Conservation
18. Cowboys
19. Crime/Law
20. Dreams
21. Death
22. Ecology

23. Economics
24. Energy
25. Elections/Voting
26. Etymology
27. Experiments
28. Explorers
29. Legends/Myths
30. Famous People
31. Forestry
32. Fossils
33. Future Studies
34. Gender Issues
35. Genealogy
36. Genetics
37. Geology/Rocks/Minerals
38. Geography/Mapping
39. Hobbies
40. Ice Age
41. Indians
42. Inventions
43. Kites/Hot Air Balloons/Gliders
44. Local History

45. Magic
46. Medicine
47. Music
48. Nutrition
49. Oceanography
50. Opera
51. Phobias
52. Photography
53. Pirates
54. Plays/Acting
55. Poetry
56. Pollution
57. Presidents
58. Robots
59. Rocketry
60. Senior Citizens
61. Sign Language
62. Stock Market
63. Transportation
64. Puppetry/Mime
65. Weather

Name: _____

Selection # 1 _____

Selection # 2 _____

Selection # 3 _____

Selection # 4 _____

Selection # 5 _____

