

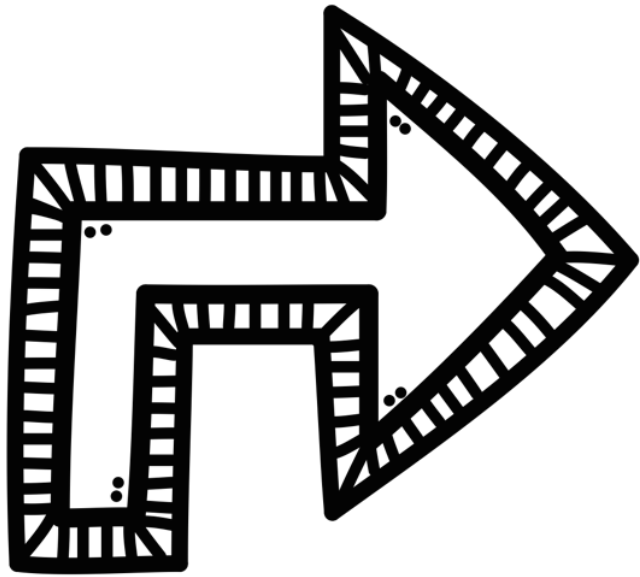
DECEMBER DAILY DENDRITE CHALLENGE

a digital resource for critical thinking



PAPERLESS, QUICK, AND FUN!

- 1) Open the slideshow or the PDF file.
- 2) Click on a brain-teaser.
- 3) Think, share, and grow new dendrites!



**ACTIVATE CRITICAL
THINKING SKILLS
EVERY DAY!**



A variety of brain teasers, problems, logical thinking questions, and open-ended challenges are included for each month!

Find three differences. 9

Click the lantern button to check your work.

How many words can you make out of the letters in this word:

REINDEER

24

Each friend chose a tree to take home. Bob picked out the tree with bows on it. Lisa picked out the tree with a thick garland on it. Annie picked a tree that not have a tree skirt under it. It has a yellow star on top. It has ribbon on it.

Which tree did Annie pick out?

Benji bought three ornaments. Then he dropped one. Oops! The two ornaments he has left have white paint on them. One has yellow on it. The other has pink on it. One has a yellow cap, and one has a gray cap. Which ornament did he drop?

A B C

Study the facts. (Hint: There is a pattern to them!) Based on the pattern, what number should the red question mark be? Click the pieces of candy to check your work.

3 4 5

I'm made of bright colors. I'm a treat you can't cook. I'm striped, I'm sweet, and I'm shaped like a hook! Who am I?

A B C

Your grandma baked a gingerbread cookie. When she opened the oven, the cookie came to life and ran out the door! What did you do next? Finish the story, and tell a friend about what happened.

6

Which candle belongs in the last row?

I have antlers and a big shiny nose. My nose is the color of a red, red rose. My ears are open, and my smile is wide. My eyebrows are gone! Are they trying to hide? Who am I?

A B C

"Who's there?"
"Snow."
"Snow who?"
(YOU make up the punchline, or answer, to this joke, and share it with a friend!)

After you share your thoughts and ideas, click the button to go back to the home screen.

Brian and Eliana are playing Dreidel. Brian has twelve coins. Eliana has half of the amount Brian has. Then she spins and collects two more. How many coins does Eliana have now?

6 7 8

Kwanzaa is a celebration of African and African-American culture. It lasts for seven days and celebrates unity, community, family, and heritage.

Why is your community important? Talk about it with a friend.

After you share your thoughts and ideas, click the button to go back to the home screen.



I have blonde hair and a smile. I have a flower on me. I have more than four green leaves. I have three blue circles. I have less than seven green leaves. Which Russian nesting doll am I?

A B C

After you share your stories, click the button to go back to the home screen.




SELF-CHECKING AND INTERACTIVE

Challenges include a clickable self-checking feature!



16











wrap is to present
as
_____ is to cookies








		
icing	decorate	sugar

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19

Use the code. What are the secret words?

									
b	i	n	l	e	d	o	a	f	m



Click the button to check your answer.



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La Befana

La Befana is an old lady who delivers presents to good children on January 6. She is part of the Italian Christmas tradition.

Way to go! You used your brain power!
Click the picture below to go to the home screen.



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Try again!

Click the picture below to go back to today's daily dendrite challenge.



You are correct!

Way to go! You used your brain power!
Click the picture below to go to the home screen.



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THIS RESOURCE IS PART OF A BUNDLE

If you are interested in purchasing the BUNDLE pack for the whole year, click below to learn more!

GROWING BUNDLE

DAILY DENDRITE CHALLENGE

a digital resource for critical thinking



MISS DECARBO 

IDEAS FOR USE

- morning circle
- before dismissal
- before or after lunch
- as an “exit” challenge each day
- as a “wake-up” challenge each day
- centers
- computer time
- transitions
- a warm-up or exit for small groups



ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

Thank you for choosing the Daily Dendrite Challenge! This is a fully digital and paperless resource for primary critical thinkers. Our students are not born with the ability to think critically. As educators, we must foster this type of thinking with the experiences, activities, discussions, and instruction we provide to our students. This resource was designed as a fun and engaging way for students to practice thinking creatively and critically. Furthermore, problem-solving, persistence, and an ability to see situations from different viewpoints are essential skills students need to develop.

The brain teasers provided in each month's Daily Dendrite Challenge vary from day to day. These teasers were created to help your students practice thinking critically, logically, creatively, and "out-of-the-box!" At times, you, as the educator, may need to provide assistance or facilitation in completing the brain teaser. You may also wish to provide a "think-aloud" to help students comprehend or work their way through the brain teaser. How much assistance you provide your students should be at your own discretion. The degree of assistance provided by the teacher may depend upon the grade level, classroom, students, goals, uses, time of the year, and individual needs.

Each month is designed around a theme, season, or holiday. In the future, additional Dendrite Challenges that are more general and not seasonal may be created by the author. However, at this time, the monthly resources are not editable or available for customization unless in the event of a technical error by the author. Thank you for your understanding. We hope you enjoy this critical thinking resource!


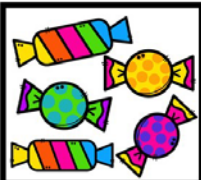

WHAT YOU NEED

To use the slideshow file, you will need a device that has Microsoft PowerPoint installed. The PDF file can also be used, as it contains clickable links. Sometimes, the text formatting can appear to be “off” when the slideshow file is used on a Mac. If this should happen, simply use the PDF file on your Mac device. The PDF file will work in the same way the slideshow does. As with all digital resources, you will want to ensure your computer and your Adobe is up-to-date.


Due to the digital nature of this resource, there is no worksheet or printable provided with this resource. If you wish to have your students show their work or thinking, I recommend having the students use individual whiteboards with a dry-erase marker. You could also have the students record their thinking into journals, notebooks, or on blank paper. An example of a brain teaser that you will want students to have workspace for is shown below. You can see that there could be multiple, open-ended answers for this brain teaser.

Create a short story using the three pictures below. Use the words first, next, and last when telling your story. Orally share your story with friends!

14

First	Next	Last
		

After you share your thoughts and ideas, click the button to go back to the home screen.





















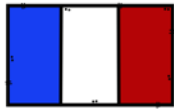









DO YOU WANT TO TRY IT OUT FIRST?

On the next page, try out THREE daily dendrite challenges for FREE using this clickable PDF preview file. Simply click on the pictures the arrows are pointing to. Are you ready to use your brain and grow some dendrites?! Head to the next page and let's get started!



As you learn, dendrites grow so that neurons in your brain can make connections. When you challenge your brain by thinking hard to solve a problem, you are growing dendrites!

DECEMBER DAILY DENDRITE CHALLENGE

 1 Reindeer Riddle	 3 Crazy Caribou	 3 Ornament Oops	 4 Similar Sweets	 5 Tricky Trees	 6 Cookie Catch	 7 Chef Stories
 8 Crazy Candles	 9 Lantern Lookout	 10 Dancing Dragon	 11 Dreidel Games	 12 Surprise Box	 13 Work Facts	 14 Piñata Problems
 15 Germany	 16 Canada	 17 England	 18 Sweden	 19 Italy	 20 Russia	 21 France
 22 Toy Invention	 23 Reindeer Line-Up	 24 Sled Spelling	 25 Santa Stories	 26 Sweet Sums	 27 Piñata Prizes	 28 Lost Latkes
 29 Kwanzaa Chat	 30 Party Hats	 31 New Year Party	Everything is difficult before it is easy.			 Credits & TOU

I have antlers and a big shiny nose.
My nose is the color of a red, red rose.
My ears are open, and my smile is wide.
My eyebrows are gone! Are they trying
to hide? Who am I?



A



B



C

Try again!

Click the picture below to go back to today's daily dendrite challenge.

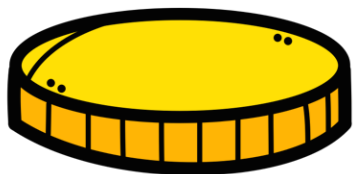
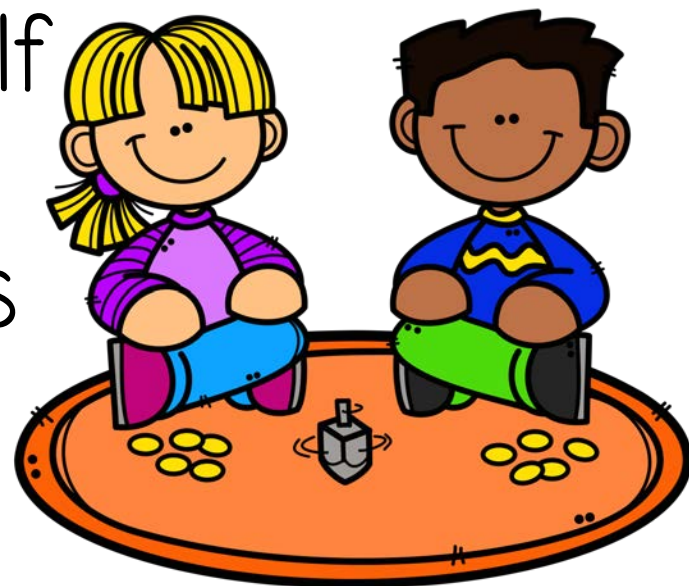


You are correct!

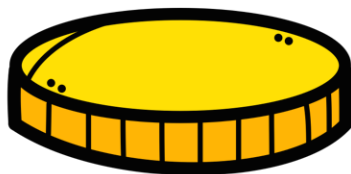
Way to go! You used your brain power!
Click the picture below to go to the home screen.



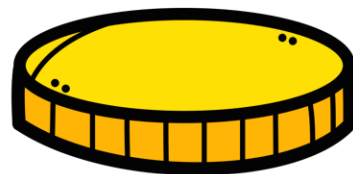
Brian and Eliana are playing Dreidel. Brian has twelve coins. Eliana has half of the amount Brian has. Then she spins and collects two more. How many coins does Eliana have now?



6



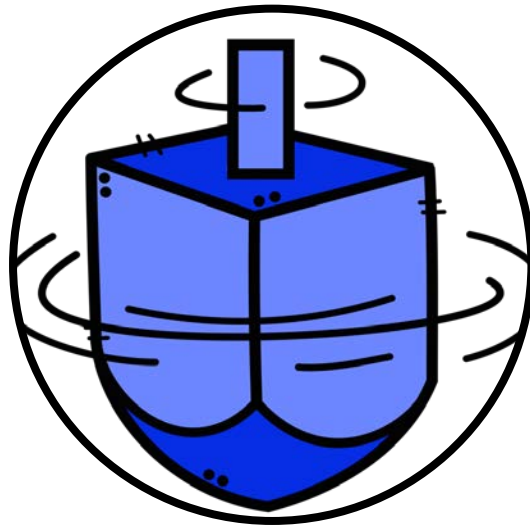
7



8

Try again!

Click the picture below to go back to today's daily dendrite challenge.



You are correct!

Way to go! You used your brain power!
Click the picture below to go to the home screen.



How many words can you make out of
the letters in this word:

REINDEER



After you share your thoughts and ideas, click
the button to go back to the home screen.



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