

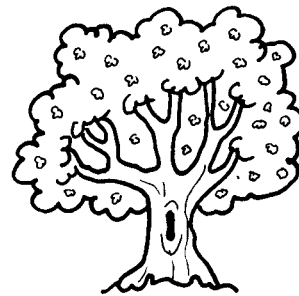
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“Red at Night, Seaman’s Delight.”

Ivan says, “Red at night, seaman’s delight; bloody in the morning, sailor takes warning.” He means that if the sky is red in the morning, a storm is on its way.

American Indians know that most natural events, such as the appearance of certain insects and the bloom of wildflowers, occur in the same order, year after year. They use this knowledge to decide when to plant certain crops. In recent times, the use of environmental and climate clues has become a branch of science called *phenology*. Ivan’s quote is based on the natural observations he uses to govern life’s activities.



Here are several other phenological sayings:

- When the sun goes to bed red, ‘twill rain tomorrow, it’s said.
- When wasps build their nests in exposed areas, expect a dry season.
- When elm leaves are the size of a penny, plant green beans.
- When peach and plum trees bloom, plant hardy crops like asparagus, rhubarb, and strawberries.

1. Brainstorm as a class to come up with more phenological sayings. Continue the brainstorming as a homework assignment.
2. After the class has brainstormed and polled family members, conduct a class discussion of the phenological sayings. Use the following questions to guide your discussion.

- a. Are there some sayings that are common? _____

- b. Are there some that are quite unusual? _____

- c. Are there certain sayings that are used in some cultures, but not in others? _____

- d. Are there variations in sayings between the different generations? _____

- e. What other professions (aside from farmers) could benefit from phenology? _____

- f. How could knowing some of these quotes be useful to you in your life? _____

- g. How might phenology affect the way nurseries conduct business? _____

Using Chopsticks

The Chinese and other Asian cultures use chopsticks in the same way that other cultures use forks. May Amelia has a difficult time using chopsticks at Otto's house. In this activity, you will try to pick up various items from bowls using chopsticks. See if you are more coordinated than May!

Materials:

- Several pairs of chopsticks
- Bowls
- Assorted items to be picked up with chopsticks (such as markers, marbles, pencils, paper clips, and cooked rice)

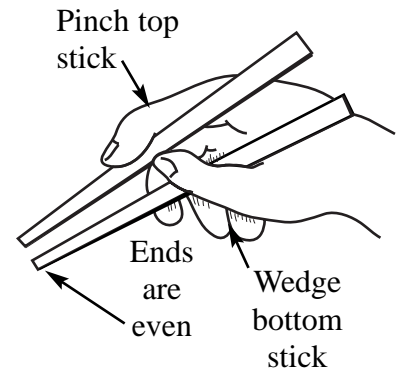
Procedure:

Discuss chop stick etiquette. Never spear food with chopsticks, never use only a single chopstick to eat, do not use two hands when using chopsticks, and always rest chopsticks on special holders—never in or across the bowl.

To use chopsticks, hold both sticks in one hand. Rest the end of one chopstick in the V between your thumb and pointer finger. Support the chopstick with your pinkie and ring finger. Hold the upper stick like you would hold a pencil, between your middle finger and your pointer finger, anchored down with your thumb. Make sure the ends of the chopsticks are always even with each other. If one chopstick protrudes longer than the other, it will become virtually impossible to use them effectively. When picking up food, only the upper chopstick (one held like a pencil) moves. The lower chopstick (one in the V of your thumb and forefinger) always remains still.

Place assorted items in the bowls and try to pick the items up using chopsticks. Put progressively more difficult items in each bowl, the most difficult being marbles.

Discuss the idea that people of varied cultures use different utensils for eating. Brainstorm, then use the chart below to record the different foods you can eat with varied utensils. Beside each utensil, list the foods for which it might be used.



UTENSIL	FOOD
Forks	
Spoons	
Knives	
Chopsticks	
Straws	
Fingers	
Other	