

# Critical Thinking

Connecting School and Home

Grade

**4**

**Solve**  
**Eating Out**

The Jones family went out for dinner. Use the clues and fill in the chart to find out where they ate.

**Find**  
**Mount Saint Helens**

Read the directions below and cross off words to reveal 3 interesting facts about Mount Saint Helens. Write the facts on the lines.

- Cross off the names of animals.
- Cross off the numbers with digits that add up to 12.
- Cross off the odd numbers.
- Cross off the words that end in Y.
- Cross off the word in each row that would come last in alphabetical order.

THE	ONE	ERUPTION	VERY	SEA	SPIT
DEER	ONE	WENT	SAD	SADLY	VELVET
DIRTY	TWO	BEARS	OF	THE	UNDER
YOUNG	WONDER	ASH	DIRTY		
THROUGH	THE	TR			

Hamburger  
Loupie

solve

synthesize

infer

We are **buzzing** with  
**excitement** to give you these  
**FREEBIES!**



Use your phone to scan the QR code and get your

**FREE BONUS PRINTABLES**

<https://www.evan-moor.com/freebies>



Access your **FREE Teaching Guide**  
resource today!

- **Background information** provides added teaching support.
- **Extension activities** motivate children to apply concepts – and learn!

Download the **Skill Sharpeners Teaching Guide** for this book.

Use the QR code or the web address below to access it.

<https://www.evan-moor.com/skill-sharpeners-teaching-guide-g4>

# SKILL SHARPENERS

# Critical Thinking

Grade 4

The following illustrations were created by the artists listed (provided through Shutterstock.com) and are protected by copyright: *blanckys/mesa* (pages 7, 23, 41, 59, 75, 91, 107, 128), *schnee* (page 9), *apexcity* (page 9), *ScrabbleDesign* (pages 9, 10), *Larry Jacobsen* (page 10), *Rahmetul* (page 10), *GraphicBolt* (pages 11, 13, 32, 68, 74, 82), *Eric Isenke* (page 12), *Rim Lothman* (pages 13, 52), *shutterstock* (page 14), *Oiga1980* (page 16), *Paul Hunt* (page 24), *m* (page 24), *Lorena Medina* (pages 25, 30), *carbone* (page 26, 28), *Memo Schaefer* (page 27), *ScottMogh* (page 28), *serena* (page 31), *Liver 8* (pages 41, 57, 58), *Creative Travel Projects* (page 42), *peruware* (page 42), *Viktor Image Studio* (page 42), *Lyudmila Khalilova* (page 43), *jedlin* (page 44), *Ludmila Maryton* (page 44), *Michele Passero* (page 44), *piruze* (page 44), *TeddyandMa* (page 44), *Evgeny Karandeev* (pages 44, 52), *Tubi Letic* (page 46), *LoopAll* (pages 46, 61), *Memo Angeles* (page 48), *Milo Mihalj Ignati* (page 48), *eformat* (page 49), *graphico-ira* (page 61), *variani* (page 62), *DuoPhotography* (page 68), *Sorawit Pongyokvor* (page 68), *ekhsal* (pages 67, 89, 103), *Dan Moore Pictures* (page 69), *Isabel Hevas Berjocheta* (page 69), *Lenna Kall* (page 69), *nika* (page 71), *Karapovkin Tatyana* (page 65), *eddy* (page 63), *andrialex293* (page 65), *shutterstock* (page 66), *Sivron* (page 66), *angelini* (page 67), *Iris Witter* (page 68), *Muhammad Dzaki Lukmana* (page 71), *tyber* (page 72), *Eva Joca Maron Vidale* (page 74), *Inaerona* (page 74), *Kath Wilson* (page 74), *prahajawanto* (page 74), *Arntzandra* (page 78), *Sjodmark Ltd* (page 78), *Shamar Mook* (page 78), *Shoreen* (page 78), *Pu Chong* (page 78), *Proson* (page 81), *Lucaoid* (page 82), *Favel G* (page 84), *skelbin* (page 103), *Mesa Pixel* (page 110), *Ozr*, *pan* (page 111), *podgallery* (page 110), *Berkhoff* (page 114), *Mel Dea* (page 115), *wonchansoo* (page 117), *vernie* (page 118), *evrikaa* (page 119), *Air Mikal* (page 120), *Lisa S.* (page 120), *Nir* (page 120), *Isoko Bentley* (page 120), *plisatbook* (page 120), *Doccor* (page 120), *ehetstc18* (page 120), *morris* (page 120), *Macovecici* (page 127), *kokpach* (page 126), *clay\_rykova* (page 128), *plisatke* (page 126), *vectorsstocker* (page 130), *Yukio* (page 131), *arimicu* (page 132)

Editorial Development: Rachel Lynette  
Lisa Vitaris Mathews  
Jo Ellen Moore  
Copy Editing: Anna Peligra  
Art Direction: Yuki Meyer  
Design/Production: Paula Acollido  
Jessica Onken  
Cheryl Puckett



EBC 3254

Evan-Moor.

Visit  
[teaching-standards.com](http://teaching-standards.com)  
to view a correlation  
of this book.  
This is a free service.

**Correlated to  
Current Standards**

Congratulations on your purchase of some of the  
finest teaching materials in the world.

*No part of this book may be reproduced  
in any form or stored in any retrieval system  
without the written permission of publisher.*

EVAN-MOOR CORP.  
phone 1-800-777-4362, fax 1-800-777-4332.  
Entire contents © 2017 EVAN-MOOR CORP.

78 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Monterey, CA 93940-5746. Printed in China.

# Contents

How to Use This Book ..... 4

## Animals

<b>Wild Cats</b> .....	7
<b>Read All About It!</b> Facts About Wild Cats ...	8
<b>Tell What You Know</b> Wild Cats .....	9
<b>Tell What You Know</b> Which Cat? .....	10
<b>Solve</b> Word Squares .....	11
<b>Construct</b> The Signs .....	12
<b>Produce</b> What Do You Think? .....	13
<b>Construct</b> Tiger Tidbits .....	14
<b>Decode</b> Cheetah Code .....	15
<b>Compute</b> Top Speed .....	16
<b>Draw</b> How to Draw a Lion .....	17
<b>Create</b> Pop-Up Lion .....	18
<b>Ocean Animals</b> .....	23
<b>Read All About It!</b> Facts About Ocean Animals .....	24
<b>Tell What You Know</b> Dolphins and Whales .....	25
<b>Tell What You Know</b> Giant Squid .....	26
<b>Graph</b> Whales .....	27
<b>Compute</b> It's So Big! .....	28
<b>Find</b> Sea Mammal Words .....	29
<b>Draw</b> Draw a Whale .....	30
<b>Compute</b> Octo Problems .....	31
<b>Compose</b> Ocean Life .....	32
<b>Solve</b> A Fishy Riddle .....	33
<b>Visualize</b> Just Imagine .....	34
<b>Analyze</b> Number Patterns .....	35
<b>Create</b> What a Whale! .....	36

## Natural Forces

<b>Rain, Snow, and Sun</b> .....	41
<b>Read All About It!</b> Facts About Rain, Snow, and Sun .....	42
<b>Tell What You Know</b> Rain .....	43
<b>Tell What You Know</b> Snow .....	44
<b>Tell What You Know</b> Sun .....	45
<b>Graph</b> How Much Rain? .....	46
<b>Visualize</b> Picture It .....	47
<b>Draw</b> Draw It .....	48
<b>Synthesize</b> Rain Showers .....	49
<b>Compute</b> Math Problems .....	50
<b>Analyze</b> It's Cold Outside .....	51
<b>Solve</b> Sun Fun .....	52
<b>Determine</b> Snow Words .....	53
<b>Pattern</b> Find the Number Pattern .....	54
<b>Create</b> My Snowflakes .....	55
<b>Storms, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes</b> .....	59
<b>Read All About It!</b> Facts About Storms, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes .....	60
<b>Tell What You Know</b> Caught in a Storm ...	61
<b>Tell What You Know</b> Earthquakes and Volcanoes .....	62
<b>Categorize</b> Earth Actions .....	63
<b>Visualize</b> Picture It .....	64
<b>Compute</b> Math Storms .....	65
<b>Conclude</b> Draw Conclusions .....	66
<b>Determine</b> Mother Nature .....	67
<b>Find</b> Mount Saint Helens .....	68
<b>Originate</b> Hurricanes .....	69
<b>Explain</b> Connections .....	70
<b>Justify</b> Erupting Analogies .....	71
<b>Change</b> A Storm of Figures .....	72
<b>Find</b> Earthquake Words .....	73
<b>Create</b> An Erupting Volcano .....	74

## Transportation

<b>Walking and Riding</b> .....	75
Read All About It! Facts About Walking and Riding .....	76
Tell What You Know On a Walk .....	77
Tell What You Know My Bike .....	78
Solve Alphabet Walk .....	79
Produce Bike Parts .....	80
Compute Dog Walking .....	81
Determine Don't Walk...Leap! .....	82
Compute Word Problems .....	83
Infer A Windy Walk .....	84
Explain Get In Shape! .....	85
Construct In the Car .....	86
Apply What Direction? .....	87
Create Ride a Tangram .....	88
<b>Wheels and Wings</b> .....	91
Read All About It! Facts About Wheels and Wings .....	92
Tell What You Know Wheels .....	93
Tell What You Know Wings .....	94
Compare Wheels and Wings .....	95
Solve A Lot in Common .....	96
Deduce The Wheels on the Bus .....	97
Apply An Airplane Factory .....	98
Compute Car Problems .....	99
Compose Airplane Words .....	100
Evaluate Flight Patterns .....	101
Deduce Speedy Delivery .....	102
Create Folded Paper Airplane .....	104

## Places

<b>At School and at the Library</b> .....	107
Read All About It! Facts About Schools and Libraries .....	108
Tell What You Know My School .....	109
Tell What You Know The Library .....	110
Compare Libraries and Schools .....	111
Determine Which Seat? .....	112
Compute Break the Code .....	113
Solve Word Squares .....	114
Infer Connections .....	115
Solve Books, Books, Books .....	116
Deduce School Clues .....	117
Predict Check It Out! .....	118
Solve School Crossword Puzzle .....	119
Create A Map of My Classroom .....	120
<b>The Supermarket and the Restaurant</b> .....	123
Read All About It! Facts About Restaurants and Supermarkets .....	124
Tell What You Know The Supermarket ...	125
Tell What You Know A Restaurant .....	126
Analyze Shopping List .....	127
Solve Eating Out .....	128
Find Food Words .....	129
Determine Pizza Please! .....	130
Decide Manners .....	131
Solve Time for Dessert! .....	132
Find Spoons and Forks .....	133
Create My Menu .....	134
<b>Answer Key</b> .....	135

## Practicing Critical Thinking Skills

Critical thinking comes naturally to young children. They learn autonomy through exploration, observe their environment using logic and reasoning, try new things, and think creatively. As children grow and enter an academic setting, some of their natural curiosity and problem-solving instincts are not engaged as often as they could be. This practice book encourages children to “think about their thinking” through creative, analytical, and evaluative tasks.

### Read All About It

The reading selections provide context for the theme-based activities that follow them. Children read the selections, paying attention to the photos, and discuss the topics with a parent or friend.



### Tell What You Know

The activities on these pages provide opportunities for children to connect their knowledge and opinions to the topic. Encourage your child to think about his or her experiences and support his or her curiosity by discussing the questions and topics together.











# Wild Cats

**✓ It's Done!** Check each activity as you complete it.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Read All About It</b> Facts About Wild Cats ..... 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Construct</b> Tiger Tidbits ..... 14
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tell What You Know</b> Wild Cats ..... 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Decode</b> Cheetah Code ..... 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tell What You Know</b> Which Cat? ..... 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Compute</b> Top Speed ..... 16
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Solve</b> Word Squares ..... 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Draw</b> How to Draw a Lion ..... 17
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Construct</b> The Signs ..... 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Create</b> Pop-Up Lion ..... 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Produce</b> What Do You Think? ..... 13		



## Be on the Lookout!

How many different big cats are pictured on pages 9–18? \_\_\_\_\_

How many big cats have you seen in real life? \_\_\_\_\_

## Facts About Wild Cats

Read about wild cats. Then answer the questions on the following pages.

Do you have a pet cat or know someone who does? Pets are tame, but they are still like their big, wild relatives in some ways. They have sharp claws and keen eyesight, and when given the chance, they will hunt, stalking and pouncing on mice or birds.

In the wild, there are many types of wild cats. There are cougars, cheetahs, lions, leopards, and bobcats, to name a few. All of them are carnivorous and all hunt for their food. Each cat is adapted to the environment in which it lives.

Let's take a look at two of the big wild cats: the tiger and the black panther\*. Tigers and black panthers have similarities. They both have fur, sharp claws and teeth, and long tails. Both are good hunters and usually hunt at night. Unlike our pet cats, both of these big cats

like water and will swim.

Although they are similar in many ways, they also have differences. Siberian tigers are the largest purebred wild cat. They have yellow eyes, orange and

black fur, black stripes, and white stomachs. Black panthers are smaller, with black and brown fur and emerald green eyes.

They are both solitary animals. Tigers are more territorial than black panthers. While both wild cats roar, the tiger has a variety of vocalizations. It can roar, moan, hiss, and growl.

Tigers usually hunt for large prey such as deer, buffalo, antelope, and wild boar. Black panthers also hunt deer, but they hunt a lot of smaller animals such as tapirs, warthogs, birds, and rabbits. Tigers use their strong bodies to jump high in the air. They can leap a distance of over five meters. Black panthers use their claws and strong legs to climb up into the trees, sometimes carrying their prey.

Think about other wild cats you know. Compare them to the tiger or the black panther. Are they alike or different?

\*The animal we call the black panther is a type of leopard when found in Asia and Africa and a type of jaguar in South America.



# Wild Cats

Write something that is true about tigers but not true about panthers.

---

Write something that is true about leopards but not true about lions.

---

Unscramble the letters to find the names of big cats. Then write the words in the grid.

RITGE \_\_\_\_\_

GUCARO \_\_\_\_\_

COBBAT \_\_\_\_\_

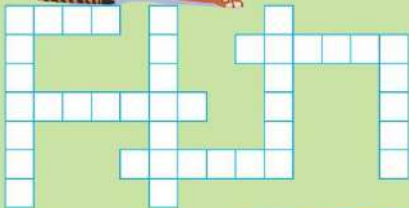
ONIL \_\_\_\_\_

GURAJA \_\_\_\_\_

AHECTEH \_\_\_\_\_

PEDRALO \_\_\_\_\_

NEPARHT \_\_\_\_\_



Carson went to a wildlife park. He saw tigers before he saw lions. He saw cheetahs after he saw jaguars. He saw cheetahs before tigers. In what order did Carson see the 4 kinds of cats?

First: \_\_\_\_\_

Second: \_\_\_\_\_

Third: \_\_\_\_\_

Fourth: \_\_\_\_\_

# Which Cat?

Use the chart to answer the questions.

If you had one each of the big cats listed, how much would they weigh altogether?

\_\_\_\_\_ pounds  
(600 kg)

How much heavier is a lion than a cheetah?

\_\_\_\_\_ pounds  
(126 kg)

How much heavier is a tiger than a cougar?

\_\_\_\_\_ pounds  
(168 kg)

How much heavier is a leopard than a bobcat?

\_\_\_\_\_ pounds  
(59 kg)



Cat	Average Weight
Bobcat	20 lbs. (9 kg)
Cheetah	120 lbs. (54 kg)
Cougar	130 lbs. (59 kg)
Leopard	150 lbs. (68 kg)
Lion	400 lbs. (180 kg)
Tiger	500 lbs. (227 kg)

Imagine that you have a scale.  
Your job is to make the scale balance.

There is a lion on one side.  
Which 3 cats do you put on the other side?

\_\_\_\_\_

There are 2 tigers on one side. You put several  
of the same kind of cat on the other side.

Kind of cat: \_\_\_\_\_ How many: \_\_\_\_\_

Which 3 cats weigh 300 pounds (136 kg) altogether?

\_\_\_\_\_

Which is heavier? Circle it.

5 cheetahs **or** 1 tiger

7 leopards **or** 2 tigers

12 bobcats **or** 2 cougars

4 cougars **or** 3 leopards

5 leopards **or** 2 lions

6 cheetahs **or** 5 leopards

3 tigers **or** 5 lions



# Word Squares

Each square below contains an eight-letter word about big cats.

Find each word by starting at one of the letters and reading either clockwise or counterclockwise.

E	E	T
H		A
C	S	H

---

S	T	A
H		T
A	B	I

---

L	U	C
A		S
R	M	U

---

R	N	S
E		P
T	T	A

---

P	A	R
O		D
E	L	S

---

P	R	O
R		T
E	D	A

---

## CHALLENGE

Find more eight-letter words and make your own word squares.

# The Signs

Solve each problem.

Use  $<$   $>$  or  $=$ 

Example:



1. Jody is confused about the signs. She understands that 7.5 is bigger than 7.48, but she can't remember which symbol goes in the sentence:

$$7.5 \text{ \_\_\_\_ } 7.48$$

Help Jody by completing the math sentence. Then write a way Jody can remember which symbol to use and what the symbol means.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. Ken and Stacy were arguing about this math sentence:

$$7 = 7.0$$

Ken says that the  $=$  sign is the only symbol that works to make it a true sentence. Stacy, however, believes that there are other symbols that could be used to also make a true sentence. Do you agree or disagree with Stacy? Write to explain why you agree or disagree.

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. Daryl couldn't figure out the following math sentence:

$$4.2 \text{ \_\_\_\_ } 4.29$$

Help Daryl by explaining a strategy he can use to compare these numbers.

---

---

---

---

---

---



# What Do You Think?

What do you think it means to get the "lion's share" of something?

---



---

What is something that you would like to have the lion's share of?

---



---



The Happytown Zoo has fewer cheetahs than it has lions. It has more jaguars than it has cheetahs.

Write **T** if the statement is **true**.  
Write **F** if the statement is **false**.  
Write **C** if you **can't be sure**.

- \_\_\_\_\_ There are more lions than cheetahs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are fewer jaguars than cheetahs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are fewer jaguars than lions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are more jaguars than lions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are more cheetahs than lions.

Finish the tongue twisters.



Leo Lion loves \_\_\_\_\_

---

Tia the Tiger tried \_\_\_\_\_

---

Carl Cougar could \_\_\_\_\_

---



# Tiger Tidbits

For each clue, find the two halves of the word to form the answer. Then write the word in the column with the same number as the clue. The first one is done for you. When you are finished, write the letters that are in the shaded boxes to answer the question.

SIL ISL ANI ISH IVE VAN ACT ATT ACK LAR PER  
KEE TER ENT AND MAL HUN FOR ORA EST GER NGE

## CLUES

1. a woodland habitat of tigers
2. a predator
3. of a greater size than other wild cats
4. to disappear
5. a zoo \_\_\_\_\_, or animal caretaker
6. A nocturnal animal is \_\_\_\_\_ at night.
7. land surrounded by water, like Sumatra
8. doesn't make a sound
9. After stalking prey, a tiger will \_\_\_\_\_.
10. not a vegetable or a mineral
11. a color of some tigers' stripes

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
F											
O											
R											
E											
S											
T											

**What do tigers have under their striped fur?**

\_\_\_\_\_

1    2    3    4    5    6    7

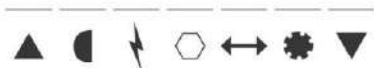
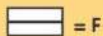
\_\_\_\_\_

8    9    10    11



# Cheetah Code

Use the code below to figure out what the cheetah is known for.



Compute

# Top Speed

MaryAnn is learning about cheetahs. She discovered that a cheetah's top running speed is 70 miles per hour (113 km per hour). She wanted to compare this to other animals. This chart shows the top speeds of cheetahs and other animals in the world.

Animal	Top Speed (in mph/kmph)
Black mamba snake	12.5/20
Cheetah	70/113
Chicken	9/14
Greyhound	45/72
Lion	50/80
Pronghorn antelope	60/97
Warthog	30/48
Zebra	40/64



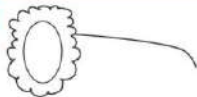
Use the chart to answer the following questions.

- Which animal or animals have a top speed that is more than three times as fast as a black mamba snake?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- About how many times faster is a cheetah than a chicken?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If these animals were in a race, which animal would finish first? Fourth? Last?  
\_\_\_\_\_

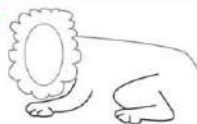
# How to Draw a Lion

Follow the steps to draw a lion.

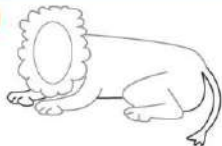
1



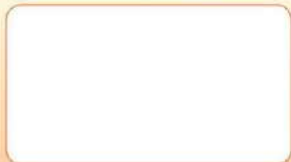
2



3



4



Create

# Pop-Up Lion

Follow these steps:

- Remove page 19 from the book. Cut out the lion's head and body along the outer black lines.
- Make the head:**
  - Fold the head in half on fold 1 with the black lines on the outside.
  - Cut the nose and mouth lines while the head is folded in half.
  - Fold lines 2 and 3 away from you and then toward you.
  - Unfold the head. Push the nose up until the head folds flat.
- Make the body:**
  - Fold the body in half with the black lines on the outside.
  - Make folds 2 and 3 while the body is folded in half.
  - Unfold the body. Reverse the folds and pull the top part forward.
- Now remove page 21 from the book. Fold the page in half. Apply glue to the marked places on the lion's head and body. Fit the folds carefully into the crease. Put the lion in the fold. Let dry. Display your Pop-Up Lion.

Make the head



Make the body



