

Name: _____

Blizzard Bag Third Grade

	Grade 3 Blizzard Bag Day 2
Reading	Read the article, “Should School Be Year-Round?” Read this statement: “Students feel like they need frequent breaks.” Which piece of evidence from the text supports this statement?
Writing and Social Studies	After reading the article, “Should School Be Year-Round?” you have probably formed your own opinion to this question. Write your opinion to the question using your own reasons. Use MAY choose to use the internet to support your reasons.

Should School Be Year-Round?

Many students say that June is the best time of year. In most places, school lets out as summer begins. Some students don't spend summers at home or at camp, though. They are in school instead. That is because they go to year-round schools.

Students in some year-round schools go to school the same number of days as students in schools with a long summer break. They get mini-breaks throughout the year instead of one long summer vacation. The mini-breaks are a few weeks long. For example, students at some year-round schools get a few weeks off at Thanksgiving instead of just a few days.

More and more schools are becoming year-round places of learning. The National Association for Year-Round Education states that the number of students in year-round schools has tripled in the last ten years. By 2001, there were about 3,000 year-round schools.

Is your school year-round? If not, would you want it to be? Read the arguments that follow.

Yes, Schools Should Be Year-Round.

Year-round schools are better than schools with a long summer break. Students in year-round schools have more breaks. They get to enjoy time off in every season.

Year-round schools allow families to plan vacations at times other than summer. Students in year-round schools are less likely to have to miss school for a trip.

Frequent breaks are good for students. They have less stress when they go back to school after a short break. They become more eager to learn. One student said, "I love it. Just about the time I'm really tired, I get a break."

Breaks also give teachers time to plan better lessons. Teachers in schools with a long summer break are so busy teaching that they have less time to plan lessons for their classes. Students in year-round schools tend to remember what they learn. That is because their breaks aren't too long. Teachers don't have to spend time going over things that students have forgotten over the summer. All schools should be year-round.

No, Schools Should Not Be Year-Round.

Year-round schools are a bad idea. Summer is a great season. Students should be able to enjoy their summers.

Most families plan vacations over the summer. Year-round schools restrict family vacations. They also don't allow students to go away to camp or take on summer jobs to earn money for the future.

Too many breaks disrupt learning. The breaks allow teachers to focus on a topic for only a few weeks. During mini-breaks, students are away from school long enough to forget what they learned.

In schools with a long summer break, lessons are not broken up by frequent breaks. Teachers can spend more time on one topic. Teachers also don't have to plan around as many breaks. Summer can also be very hot. Many schools don't have air conditioning. How can students learn in a hot classroom?

Christopher Newland, a researcher at Auburn University, said that year-round schools do not help students learn. Newland said, "The evidence is that it would be as useful as changing the color of the school buses."

Schools with a long summer break work just fine. There is no need to change to year-round schools.

Day Two - Math

Activity 1

Paper Plane Launch. Create a paper airplane. Decide on one room in the house where you will fly your plane. You will fly your plane 15 times. Measure the distance each time you fly the plane, in inches, half inches or quarter inches...you can decide! Keep track of the distances and record these on a chart. After 5 attempts, write down any changes you make to the plane in order to increase the distance. What are your findings? What was the longest distance? What was the shortest distance? What is the difference between the longest and shortest distance?

Activity 2

A framing shop was making frames with different dimensions but all with an area of 24 square inches and selling them at the same price. What dimensions might the frames have?

Day 2 – Science

Learning Target: *Plants and animals have life cycles that are part of their adaptations for survival in their natural environment.*

Web link and Directions: Choose an organism (ladybug, mosquito or frog) and do a mini-research project. Answer these questions in your science journal (or use regular paper). Be sure to include illustrations.

Questions to guide your research:

- What are the stages in the life cycle of your organism?
- Draw a diagram of the life cycle and label the stages.
- How long does it take for your organism to go through its life cycle?
- During its life cycle, did you notice that your organism started to look like its parent? If so, in which stage did this happen?

Ladybugs:

http://kidsgrowingstrong.org/ladybug_life

<http://www.animalplanet.com/insects/ladybug-stages.htm>

<http://www.ladybug-life-cycle.com>

Frog:

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/kids/animals-pets-kids/amphibians-kids/frog-tadpole-kids/>

Mosquito:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/insects/mosquito/lifecycle.shtml>

[http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/pests/pdf/wnv/New Kids Mosquito Activity Book_070511.pdf](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/pests/pdf/wnv/New_Kids_Mosquito_Activity_Book_070511.pdf)

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/kids/animals-pets-kids/bugs-kids/mosquito-kids/>

What to bring back to school: your mini-research project.