



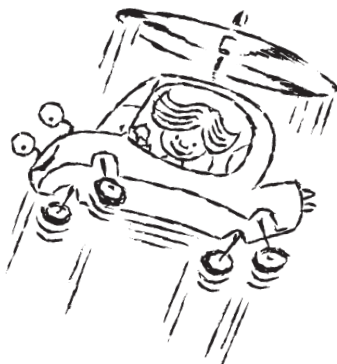
**T**ake an imaginary trip, invent a funny car, create a museum, . . . engaging activities inspired by Tom Lichtenheld's book, *EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT CARS*, a collection of made-up facts, educated guesses, and silly pictures about cars, trucks and other zoomy things. Filled with exuberant illustrations and wacky stories, it's the perfect jump-start for lessons in history, cartography, writing, and more.

## ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

geography/writing activity

Have children select a place in the world that they would like to visit, and using resources such as the library and Internet, learn as much about that place as possible. Then, pretending that they have just returned from their trip, have children create a fantasy vacation memory book. On the pages, have them write, draw, and use magazine clippings to recount their imaginary adventure. Ideas to write and draw about:

- The places they visited
- What they saw
- Who they went with
- How they got there
- The best parts of the trip
- The worst part of the trip
- Something funny that happened on the trip
- Interesting things they saw and learned about



## BUILD YOUR OWN CAR

art activity

For this activity you will need:

Empty juice boxes, milk cartons and other small boxes	Markers	Pipe cleaners
Egg cartons	Tape	Paper towels
Plastic milk jugs	Glue	Toilet paper cores
Disposable plastic plates and clear plastic cups	Pieces of cut-up cardboard	Aluminum foil
Plastic straws	Styrofoam trays	Craft glue dots
	Bottle caps	Tempra paint
	Duct tape	Other great car-making stuff

Have children put their imaginations to work by building a car or other vehicle. When finished, ask children to give their creation a name, and talk about it to the group.

## TRANSPORTATION IMAGINATION

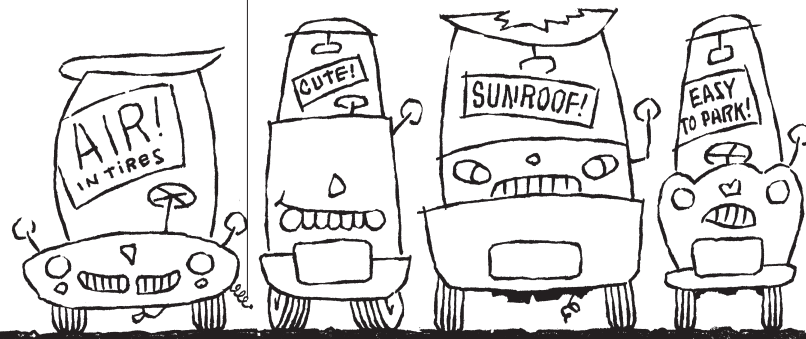
art activity

Divide a sheet of paper (or the chalkboard) into three columns: Land, Air, Water. Ask children to help devise lists (or draw pictures) of vehicles that belong in each category. Then have each child select two vehicles, each from a different column, to create an imaginary vehicle. Ask them to draw a picture of the imaginary vehicle, give it a name, and write a description of what it looks like and what it can do.

## CAR MUSEUM

history/writing/presentation skills

Create a transportation museum in your classroom. Brainstorm a list of different vehicles for land, air, sea, space, and the future. Have each child select one of the vehicles, and become an expert on it, using materials from the library and Internet. The child should then create a display for the museum, using posters, timelines, drawings, toy models. Displays could include history of the vehicle, interesting facts about the vehicle, and real or imaginary interviews with someone who has ridden in the vehicle. Then, as a group, decide on how to organize the museum and set it up. Invite other groups to tour your museum.



## CREATE A 3-D TOWN MAP

cartography/art activity

Create a community map on the floor by taping pieces of bulletin-board-sized paper together to make the base for the map. Ask the children to work together to plan and build your community.

Discuss the wants and needs of a community. Where will the physical features like rivers, lakes, hills, etc. be?

Plan for transportation needs and decide where the streets, railroads, bike trails, and bus stations will be.

Brainstorm what types of buildings (houses, apartment buildings, hospitals, factories, businesses, stores, schools, etc.) will be in your community and build them out of small boxes and containers.

Create a rose compass for your map community, and label the cardinal directions North, South, East, and West on the community map.

After the community is finished, describe the relationship between places using direction words such as: the school is south of the park, the library is east of the police station, etc.

## IMAGINARY MAPS

cartography/art activity

Have children create a map of an imaginary place where they would like to live or visit. The map can be drawn on poster board, or created on the computer using map-making software. Then have the children share their imaginary worlds with others, encouraging them to come visit or live there.

## PARKING LOT FIELD TRIP no.1

creativity/vocabulary activity

Have children copy down license plate numbers and think of funny acronym phrases using the letters from the license plates. For example, if you see the license plate MLB 428, you could say "Monkeys love bananas," or "Mothers love babies."

See how many acronyms they can make.

## PARKING LOT FIELD TRIP no.2

graphing activity

A parking lot can be a wealth of data for collecting information to make graphs and charts about vehicles. Record information using tally marks and then make bar graphs using the gathered information. Ideas for information to graph:

- car makes
- car colors
- types of vehicles
- first letter on each license plate
- the number of different totals for each of the license plates

## NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

creativity/writing activity

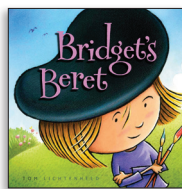
Ask children to create their own Everything I Know About ...book (see Lichtenheld's EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PIRATES . . . MONSTERS . . . CARS books). Children should choose a topic they are unfamiliar with, and pretend they are an expert on that topic. Their book should be a silly depiction of made-up facts and educated guesses. Some ideas:

### Everything I Know About...

Teachers	Aliens
Earning a Living	Time Travel
Making Friends	Parents
Behaving in School	Being President of the U.S.A.
Siblings	Pizza
Driving a Car	

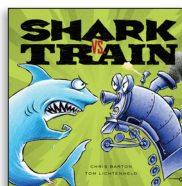
## children's books by Tom Lichtenheld

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR



### BRIDGET'S BERET

A Junior Library Guild Selection



### SHARK vs. TRAIN

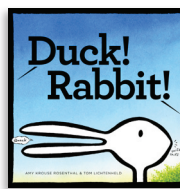
A Junior Library Guild Selection

### THE OK BOOK

### WHAT'S WITH THIS ROOM?

### IT'S NOT FAIR!

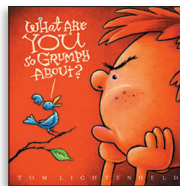
### EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PIRATES



NYT BESTSELLER

### DUCK!RABBIT!

- A New York Times bestseller
- A Time Magazine best book of 2009
- Publishers Weekly starred review



### WHAT ARE YOU SO GRUMPY ABOUT?

- A Child Magazine Best Book of 2003
- Kirkus Reviews starred review

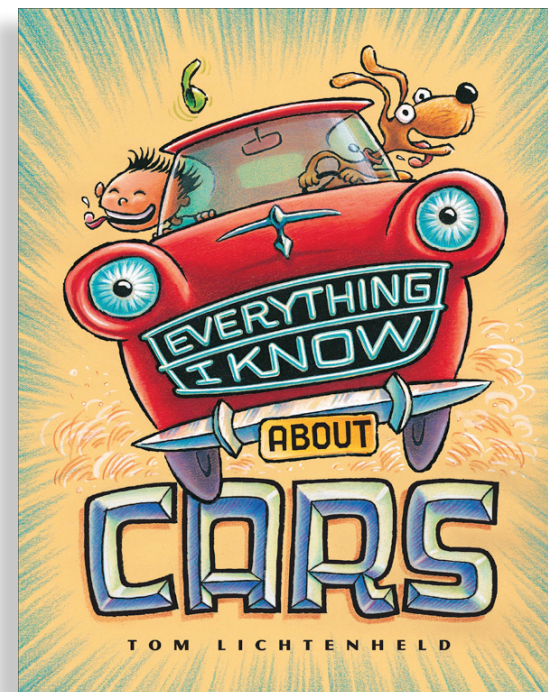
### EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT CARS

### EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT MONSTERS

### YES DAY!

# ACTIVITY GUIDE

BASED ON THE BOOK



by Tom Lichtenheld

FOR SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES AND BOOKSTORES



### Tom's books are also featured in:

Literature for Lively Lessons by Sheila Edwards

Becoming a Literacy Leader by Jennifer Allen

How to Develop Curriculum for Your Writing Workshop by Katie Wood Ray



tomlichtenheld.com

