

A Peanuts Gang Anniversary Celebration

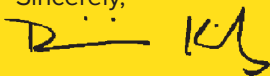
Dear Educator,

It was 55 years ago when the Peanuts comic strip introduced its first African American character, Franklin Armstrong. As Peanuts fans soon learned, Franklin is a good student who loves science, music, and sports, especially baseball, hockey, and swimming. And like the other kids in the Peanuts Gang, Franklin is always ready to lend a helping hand.

To celebrate Franklin's 55th anniversary, Peanuts Worldwide and the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired have created three easy-to-implement, standards-based classroom activities that focus on Franklin's character and personality to help generate discussion and self-reflection about the importance of friendship and finding our special talents. While learning more about Franklin, students also learn more about themselves.

We hope that you and your students will join our celebration of Franklin's 55th year as part of the Peanuts Gang and that you will share this program with other K-2 teachers at your school. Please let us know your opinion of the program by visiting [ymiclassroom.com/feedback-peanuts-franklin](https://www.yomiclassroom.com/feedback-peanuts-franklin). We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

Program Objectives

- Inspire discussion about how each person's unique talents can strengthen the bonds of friendship as seen in the adventures of Franklin and his Peanuts Gang friends
- Support language arts and STEAM skills

Target Audience

Students in grades K-2

How to Use This Program

Download, photocopy, and distribute the three reproducible activity sheets to all students. Students will need pencils, crayons, or markers to complete the activity sheets.

Activity 1

Meet Franklin!

In this activity, students learn that Franklin loves swimming, music, baseball, hockey, science, and, most of all, his friends!

Start by distributing the activity sheet and asking students if they recognize the character shown at the top (Franklin Armstrong). Allow students to share what they may know about Franklin, then explain that the pictures in Part 1 of the activity show some of Franklin's favorite things to do. Help students identify these favorites — swimming, making music, playing baseball and hockey, learning science, and being with his friends — then have them complete Part 1 by counting the pictures in each row. Help them add up the numbers to discover that there are 55 pictures on the chart because this is the 55th year that Franklin has been a member of the Peanuts Gang!

Tell students that Franklin is not only a famous comic strip character; he's also the inspiration for The Armstrong Project, created by Peanuts Worldwide to foster scholarship, mentorship, and possible internship opportunities for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities interested in animation and entertainment. How are Franklin and the project connected? When Charles Schulz, the creator of Peanuts, needed to give Franklin a last name, he asked his friend Robb Armstrong if it would be okay to call him Franklin Armstrong.



Robb Armstrong is an African American cartoonist who got his start with help from Charles Schulz. Robb admired Charles Schulz and learned from him. Now Robb is helping art students at Howard University and Hampton University develop their talents with scholarships from The Armstrong Project, funded by Peanuts Worldwide.

Complete the activity by having students circle the names of Franklin and his friends in the word puzzle in Part 2.

Answers:



Activity 2 Franklin Makes a New Friend

In this activity, students discuss one of Franklin's early appearances in Peanuts and use the situation to share their thoughts on friendship.

Start by explaining to students that Franklin first appeared in Peanuts when he met Charlie Brown at the beach. Soon, he befriended the rest of the children and became an invaluable member of the Peanuts Gang! Ask: *Have you ever had to make new friends in a place where you don't know anyone? How about your first day at school or joining a new team? How did you feel?*



Next, distribute the activity sheet and have students read the comic strip or read it together. Use the prompt below the strip to start a class discussion about why Franklin and Linus became friends. Then have students complete the sentences in Part 2 (orally or in writing) to further explore their ideas about friendship. Conclude by having students use the back of the activity sheet to draw a picture of themselves and a friend playing together.

Activity 3 Toon into Your Talents!

In this activity, students use another of Franklin's Peanuts adventures to discover and write about their special talents.

Introduce the activity by reminding students that we're all different — we have different color hair, we like different books and games, and we have different talents, too. Distribute the activity sheet and read the comic strip in Part 1. Use the prompts below the strip to help students understand differences and encourage them to give examples of their own unique talents and interests.

For Part 2, continue this discussion by having students talk with a partner about things they are good at and enjoy. Students will then write down two of their talents in the spaces provided and think about how they might use those talents when they grow up. Have students express their ideas for the future by completing the sentence starter (orally or in writing) and sharing their ideas with the class.

Resources

- peanuts.com
- peanuts.com/the-armstrong-project
- ymiclassroom.com/peanuts-franklin

Meet Franklin!

Franklin Armstrong is part of the Peanuts Gang. He's friends with Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and all the other Peanuts characters. Here's your chance to learn more about Franklin!



Part 1: Look at the pictures in this counting chart. They show some of Franklin's favorite things. Can you figure out what things Franklin likes to do?

Now count the pictures in each row. Write the number in the blank space at the end of each row.

| | |
|--|-------|
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |

Add the numbers. What is the total? _____

That's how many years Franklin has been part of the Peanuts Gang!

This year he is celebrating his _____ th anniversary!

Part 2: Now find and circle the names of Franklin and his Peanuts friends in the puzzle. Use the word bank to help you.

Word Bank

- CHARLIE BROWN
- FRANKLIN
- MARCIE
- SNOOPY
- LINUS
- PEPPERMINT PATTY
- LUCY

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | E | P | P | E | R | M | I | N | T | P | F |
| L | O | A | Y | M | A | R | C | I | E | A | R |
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Franklin Makes a New Friend

Making new friends is fun. But sometimes it can be hard to do.

Part 1: See how Franklin and his friend Linus met for the first time in the comic strip below.



Why do you think Franklin and Linus became friends? _____

Part 2: Think about your friends. What do you think it takes to become friends?
Fill in these sentences to find out.

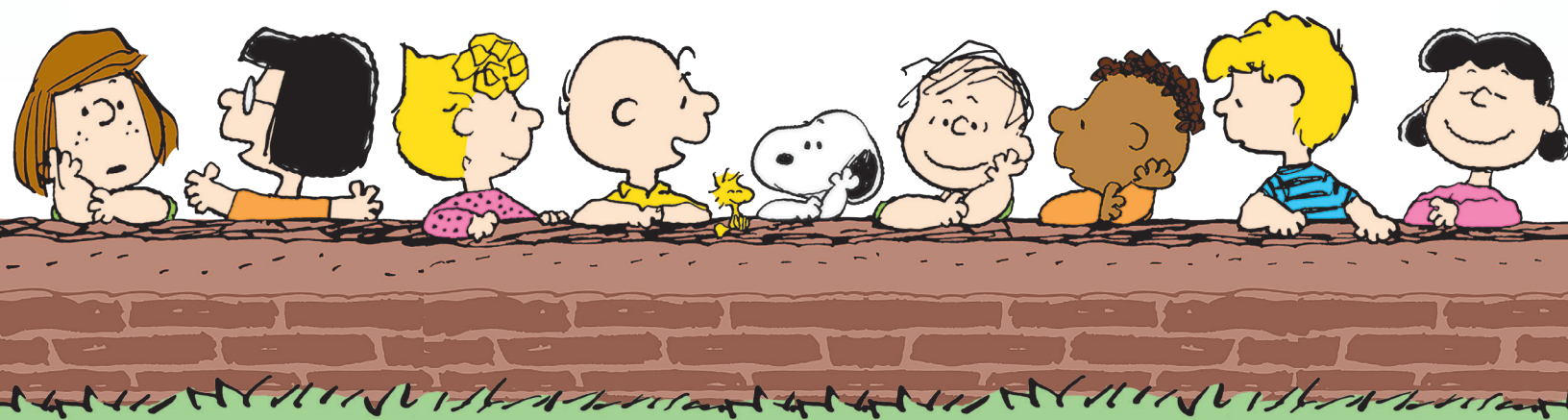
1. Good friends should _____

2. My friend and I really like _____

3. I'm glad I have friends because _____

What is your favorite thing to do with your friends?

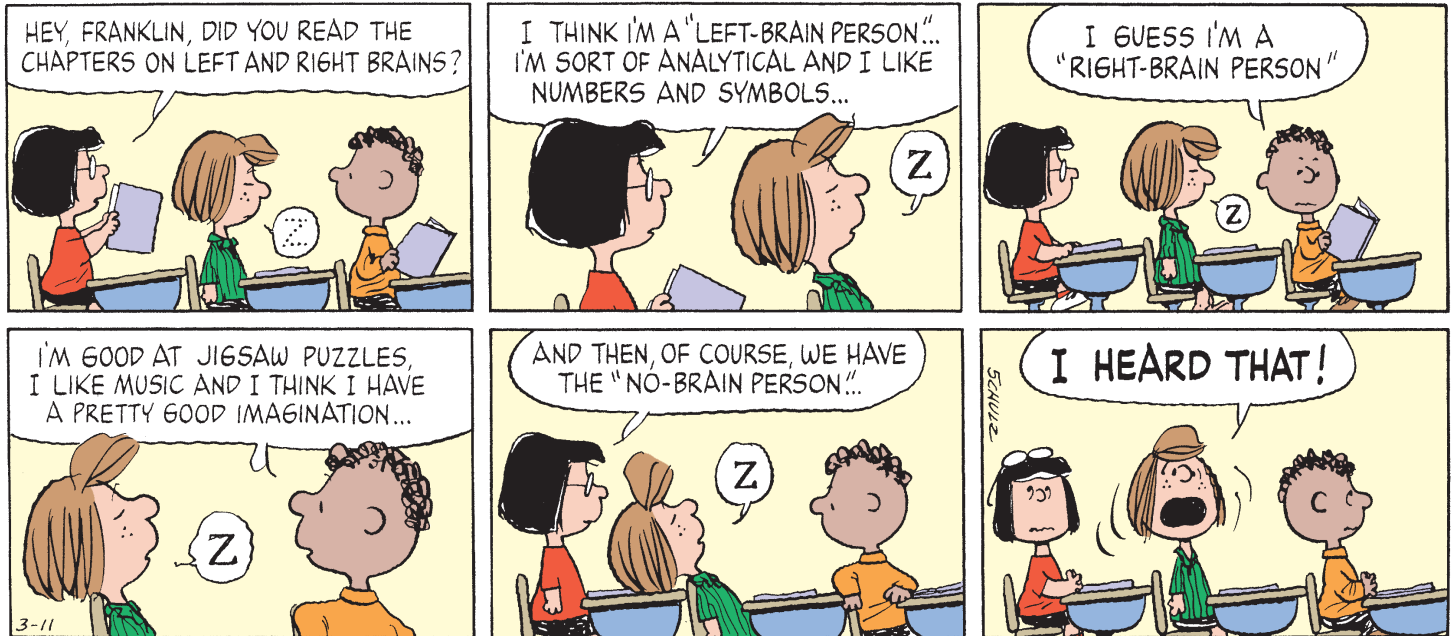
Draw a picture on the back of this sheet to show what you like to do.



Toon into Your Talents!

A *talent* is something you are good at doing. It could be a special skill. Everyone has different talents. Let's find out what talents you have!

Part 1: Read the comic strip below. What are some things that Marcie and Franklin are good at?



Part 2: What are you good at? List two talents you have:

1. _____
2. _____

How do you want to use these talents when you grow up?
Fill in the blanks:

Because I am good at _____
and _____
when I grow up, I want to _____
_____.

