Health and Nutrition Curriculum. Informative and Fun for K-8!

National Heart Savers Association, Omaha, NE.

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National Heart Savers Association, 9140 West Dodge Road, Omaha, NE 68114; Web site: www.heartsavers.org

Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052)

Cardiovascular System; *Comprehensive School Health Education; Dietetics; Eating Habits; Educational Games; Elementary Education; Exercise; *Health Promotion; Nutrition Instruction

Cholesterol; Lipids

This health and nutrition curriculum for students in grades K-8 teaches students good health habits in order to improve their quality of life. The curriculum consists of a series of activity sheets that offer entertaining and educational activities designed to motivate students to learn while they have fun. Each activity sheet contains a five-digit code which represents its recommended grade levels. Answers are provided for each sheet where necessary. Teachers may choose to provide the answers when they reproduce the sheets for their classes. The activities include: Fruit Fun; Exercise Makes Your Heart Strong; Alphabet Stew; Be a Low-Fat Detective; Foods Can Help or Hurt Your Heart; Fat and Cholesterol are Bad; Food Find; Healthy Snacks--Find All 11!; Happy Heart Word Find; Can You Find Your Pulse?; One-Letter Change; Healthy Heart Crossword Puzzle; Nutrition Haiku; Fun with Acrostics; Find the Hidden Message; Carrots are on Top; Learning About Labels; High or Low?; Test Your Exercise and Heart Smarts; and Two-Letter Change. The curriculum also describes how to make traditional classroom activities into nutrition education activities. (SM)

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National Heart Savers Association
9140 West Dodge Road
Omaha, Nebraska 68114

Health and Nutrition Curriculum
Informative and Fun for K-8!
Enclosed – Choose From
Over 20 Educational Activities!
Also Available On-line at
www.heartsavers.org
HOW TO BUILD A STRONG AND HEALTHY BODY!

Hello Students,

I am happy that you and your teacher are interested in better health. It is very important that you eat the right foods and exercise regularly to keep your heart and body strong and healthy. You must exercise and eat good foods to keep from becoming overweight and to build that strong, healthy body.

I would like to take a minute to tell you about what happened to me. As a young man I had a heart attack and almost died. The heart attack was a surprise because I thought I was in good health. I exercised regularly, I was thin, and I didn’t smoke. So, what caused the heart attack? CHOLESTEROL! Cholesterol is a kind of fat in your blood. Your body makes too much when you eat lots of high-fat foods. I ate hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream — just about anything creamy or greasy. The way I was eating caused my cholesterol to be twice as high as it should have been.

Since that time doctors have discovered that high levels of cholesterol cause your arteries to clog up. Arteries carry blood to different parts of your body, including your heart. When arteries are blocked, your heart and body don’t get the oxygen and nutrients they need.

Cholesterol is in fatty, greasy foods like whole milk, butter, eggs and meat. Eating too much of these foods will raise your cholesterol level. Foods cooked in animal fat will also raise your cholesterol.

To keep my cholesterol level low and to stay healthy, I exercise and eat lots of fruits and vegetables. I drink skim milk and use soft margarine. I also make sure that meat is very lean. There are a lot of great, tasty foods now that have very little fat and cholesterol.

More than half of you have too much cholesterol in your blood. So do your mothers and fathers. You can help your parents shop for more healthful foods by reading the “Nutrition Facts” food labels. You can help them find the good foods by looking for the things with the lowest number of grams of fat, especially saturated fat. The lower the number, the better.

I hope you will take these activity sheets home and talk to your family about them. They’re fun. And your parents can learn something new. Wouldn’t it be great to help your family live longer, healthier lives?

As for you, don’t be a couch potato. That’s the worst! Exercise, eat right, and build that strong, healthy body!

Your friend,

Phil Sokolof
President

Check it out ... www.heartsavers.org ... it could save your life!
DEAR TEACHERS:

*It is important to convey nutrition and exercise information to your students. We offer an easy and interesting way to get your pupils involved!*

It is imperative that children learn good health habits in order to improve their quality of life. Developing these habits early enhances their potential for enjoying longer, healthier lives. The material you are now exploring is designed to stimulate your students' interest.

National Heart Savers Association is the acknowledged leader in making Americans aware of the dangers of cholesterol and saturated fat in their diets. Our web site includes some background on our unique organization.

Many teachers today are eager to present good, yet simple and easily understood, nutrition information. We feel our activities meet this need and allow students to have fun in the process. In addition to a number of activity sheet masters, you will find answer keys and other informative resources to download. Each activity is designed to print out on a single page. If your browser extends it, you may need to cut and paste to obtain a good master. This is by no means a stand-alone curriculum. The materials, along with these notes, will provide your students with an enriching health and nutrition experience.

GENERAL NUTRITION INFORMATION

Nutrition requirements for children vary greatly based on age, size and activity level. National guidelines recommend that no more than thirty percent of daily caloric intake should come from fat, and less than ten percent should come from saturated fat. The consensus among lipid experts is that saturated fat is the major culprit in clogging arteries, leading to heart attack, and it starts at four to six years of age. A dramatic correlation has been established between eating any type of fat and many forms of cancer. Consequently, it is inevitable that lower levels of fat consumption will be the future standard. Your life expectancy will be increased by reducing your intake of fat.

GRADE-LEVEL CODES

Each activity sheet contains a five-digit code which represents its recommended grade levels. In some cases the sheet may apply to the upper or lower cusp of the grade grouping. The first and fifth digits of the number reveal the probable appropriate grade range. The middle three digits are meaningless. For instance, 14983 indicates an activity geared to first through third graders. The digit for kindergarten is 0.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Answers are provided for each sheet where necessary. You may, at your discretion, choose to provide the answers when you reproduce the sheets for your class. Experiment with both approaches. You may find them surprisingly stimulating in different ways.

The beauty of this format is that many of these sheets will be springboards for class discussion and will help generate interaction with the children's families.

FRUIT FUN Grades K-2

Fruit is an extremely important part of a healthy diet. Encourage eating fruit as a healthful alternative to sugary, fat-laden snacks.

The class simply provides the missing letters to complete the names of various fruits.
EXERCISE MAKES YOUR HEART STRONG  Grades K-2

As you introduce this sheet, discuss some of the exercises children enjoy doing. Have the youngsters color the sheet and draw their favorite exercise. You can have the students talk about their drawings and why they chose those activities.

ALPHABET STEW  Grades K-2

Students should be able to speed through the more obvious of these foods very confidently. They may not even keep track of the letters they’ve used until they get to “veal,” “zucchini,” and “oxtail soup.” These words will naturally lead to discussion of unusual foods. Encourage students to try unfamiliar, yet healthful, dishes!

BE A LOW-FAT DETECTIVE  Grades K-2

Have the students draw lines from the healthful, low-fat foods to the shopping cart. The class may enjoy coloring the foods as well. You may want to discuss each of the foods with the class, pointing out why each is heart-healthy or not. “Learning About Labels” can be introduced here to the upper grade levels. It is a natural progression for your students.

FOODS CAN HELP OR HURT YOUR HEART  Grades K-3

You may want to read this activity with younger students. The students need to draw a circle around the foods that are good for their hearts. After they have completed the page, discuss it. You should make them aware that some of their favorite foods (e.g. ice cream, donuts, etc.) are not very nutritious, although low-fat or fat-free ice cream and yogurt can be delicious and healthful. Ultimately, they should be able to identify foods they eat as being low in fat or high in fat. You might link this exercise to what they have for lunch at school.

For the two questions at the bottom, have your students list what they ate yesterday and circle the healthful foods. Have a contest to see who ate the most healthful foods. Yesterday’s or today’s lunch menu is an alternative.

Challenge your students to keep a food diary for a week. Then rate their choices according to your heart-healthy/high-fat grading system. This should capture your pupils’ interest.

HINT IN THE MIDDLE  Grades 1-3

We have provided one letter of each answer in this version for younger students ("Hint" In The Middle). Use this activity as a springboard for discussion about nutrient-packed foods.

FAT AND CHOLESTEROL ARE BAD  Grades 1-8

Have the students make as many words as possible from the letters provided. Timing them makes the game more interesting. For the first 5 minutes, have them list their words on the top half of the page. For the next 5 minutes, have them move to the bottom half of the page.

This exercise makes an excellent group activity. Set up teams of two, three or four students. Provide appropriate recognition to the students or groups who get the most words in 5 minutes and the most in 10 minutes.

This lends itself well as a take-home piece, allowing students and their families to search more diligently for more words.
FOOD FIND  Grades 2-5

The words run left to right, top to bottom or diagonally. There are no reversed words in this puzzle.

This game also lends itself to team competition. It's another great take-home piece. Deleting some or all of the word clues will greatly increase the challenge.

HEALTHY SNACKS – FIND ALL 11! Grades 2-6

This traditional "hidden-in-the-picture" puzzle contains excellent snacks for children. Encourage students to ask for these nutritious foods at home. Send the activity home to give parents some new ideas.

HAPPY HEART WORD FIND  Grades 2-6

This puzzle can be used as a stand-alone mental exercise. In addition, the diversity of the twenty words may provide a platform for lively class discussion. You can explore how each word affects or is related to heart health. Various competitions can be held. Students can choose or be assigned one or more of the words to research. They can write a brief essay on the connection to a healthy heart.

CAN YOU FIND YOUR PULSE?  Grades 2-8

Begin by helping the children find their pulse. Some of them will find their pulse with little difficulty, while others will need your assistance. Once they find it, have them count the beats for 15 seconds. Usually, counting the beats for 15 seconds is sufficient. Add a little simple math to the equation by having them multiply by 4 to give their pulse rate in beats per minute.

Have the class run in place for 5 minutes and repeat the 15-second counting process to determine their pulse.

Finally, have them count again after resting for 5 minutes. Discuss the results with the class. Point out that their hearts, like any muscle, get stronger and work better when exercised regularly.

In exercising, you should sustain an increased heart rate for 20 or 30 minutes. However, even 5 or 10 minutes is helpful. Exercise combined with a low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet will build a strong, healthy body.

You will find it interesting to know that over one-half of adults do not know how to check their heart rates. Your students will revel in knowing they have mastered an important procedure that more than 100 million adults in the United States cannot perform.

ONE-LETTER CHANGE  Grades 3-5

Change one letter of each word to form the name of a heart-healthy or high-fat food. Most of the changes involve the first or last letter.

HEALTHY HEART CROSSWORD PUZZLE  Grades 2-6

This puzzle can be staged as a contest by seeing who can finish first. Reviewing the answers will trigger a discussion regarding which foods fall into the greasy, creamy and sugary food categories. For a greater challenge, the word list can be omitted.

This activity is also good to take home and share with families – especially without the word list.
NUTRITION HAiku Grades 4-8

Haiku is probably the first poetry form young students learn. If they are unfamiliar with haiku (hi-koo), explain that lines one and three have five sounds each. This may be a simpler concept than “syllables.” The middle line has seven sounds. Assure children that any aspect of exercise or nutrition will make an appropriate poem.

FUN WITH ACROSTICS Grades 4-8

This activity allows students to create health messages within an interesting structure. Those unfamiliar with acrostics might need you to point out that some of the sample statements are one sentence long, but others have periods within the acrostic. You might also remind them that lines might be short or long or a combination by indicating the “HEART” and “LEAN” acrostics. Encourage students to let their imaginations run free.

FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE Grades 4-8

Instructions for this activity appear on the page. Some of the words have overlapping letters. Caution students to circle found words very neatly so it will be clear which letters are left. This activity may work well for older students by omitting some of the word list. If the students need help, give them oral clues. Some of them may want to take this piece home.

CARROTS ARE ON TOP Grades 4-8

The title is an obvious clue to the top word and can be used for an example. The word-find can be made more exciting by timing it. Again, a competition can be arranged by recognizing the youngsters or teams who find the most words in 3 minutes or who find them all first. The list of vegetables can be deleted to increase the difficulty.

This is another super take-home piece.

LEARNING ABOUT LABELS Grades 4-8

Our organization was a major force in the passage of the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act. Our president was named the Honorary Co-Sponsor of the bill. It requires that all packaged foods identify precise quantities of calories, cholesterol, sodium, sugar, etc. – most importantly total fat and saturated fat. The labels enable consumers to make informed food choices to live longer, healthier lives.

The significance of these labels cannot be exaggerated. Your students will benefit from the knowledge you impart to them for their entire lives.

This sheet is designed to generate familiarity with the labels. Begin by asking basic questions about the illustrated label (e.g. “How big is a serving?” and “How many calories in one serving?”). Expand on this by gathering a number of labels and having the class make comparisons.

For your edification, we have provided reference information on the food labels from the U.S. Government. Your more advanced students may enjoy delving more deeply into the intricacies of the food labels. The labels will help many students who are becoming aware of nutrition and exercise as part of building a strong body.

HIGH OR LOW? Grades 5-8
Assure students that they are not expected to know these answers. The object is to have fun making an educated guess, then to find out how they did on each question. The lesson comes from discovering the sometimes surprising actual numbers. This should stimulate discussion!

**IN THE MIDDLE**  **Grades 5-8**

To make this exercise more challenging for older children, you may want to withhold the answer list at the bottom until students become stuck. Some may require no prompting at all, although this is a very challenging exercise. Use this activity as a springboard for discussion about nutrient-packed foods.

**TEST YOUR EXERCISE AND HEART SMARTS**  **Grades 5-8**

Students will be surprised by some of these answers! This activity progresses naturally to “Can You Find Your Pulse?”

**TWO-LETTER CHANGE**  **Grades 5-8**

Change the first and last letters of each word to form the name of a heart-healthy or high-fat food. This is another good contest piece. Some of the changes are difficult. They also could prove challenging to many parents!

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

An unlimited number of classroom activities can be readily organized to expand the sensory impression of nutrition lessons. These include tasting various fruits, vegetables and low-fat foods. The class could plan a menu or prepare simple low-fat recipes. Some additional ideas follow.

- Have children prepare and taste raw fruits and vegetables. Perhaps they have never tasted turnips, rutabagas, mangoes, kiwi, persimmons and many others unfamiliar foods.
- Have children plant radish seeds. Of all vegetables, they are the fastest and easiest to grow.
- Children can learn about nutrition by following a simple recipe to prepare their own fruit cup.
- For upper grade levels, assign one of the major nutrients (carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals, and water) to any interested student to research and then have them give a brief report to the class.
- Discuss which nutrients are provided from each food on the school lunch menu. Have children put foods found on the school lunch menu into proper food groups.
- Have youngsters at lower grade levels list the reasons our bodies need food (i.e.: to build strong bones, to provide energy, to grow, to stay healthy, etc.).
- Ask your class to spend the next week tasting the healthful foods they haven’t tried previously. Discuss foods children refuse to eat and why. What are their aversions and preconceived notions? Try to dispel any misconceptions blocking students from trying the foods.
- Most fast food restaurants serve primarily high-fat foods. Ask students to bring in the nutrition information that is offered. Compare the various burgers, chicken sandwiches and other fare to determine the selections lowest in fat and saturated fat. Many fast food restaurants serve chicken and salads with low-fat dressing that are healthful and low in fat.
An interesting project is to have students determine the highest-fat meal combo in any fast food restaurant. Then have them plan the lowest-fat meal. The difference will be striking . . . the highest-fat meal will have 15 to 20 times the fat!
Fill in the missing letters to find the types of fruit.
Fruit is a great snack. It is tasty and helps build a strong body.
Fill in the missing letters to find the types of fruit. Fruit is a great snack. It is tasty and helps build a strong body.
EXERCISE MAKES YOUR HEART STRONG!

You can have a healthy, happy heart by eating good foods and exercising.

Color these exercises that you can do every day.
Draw a picture of your favorite exercise.
ALPHABET STEW

Fill in the blanks below with the 26 letters of the alphabet so that two healthful foods are revealed in every row. You may cross off each letter of the alphabet as you use it, because it will be used only once. As an example, the letter P has been filled in in the first row to complete the word PINEAPPLE.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

PINEAPPLE
CATALOUPE
UCCHINI
BROCCO_I
ARTIC_OKE
PAST_
RAI_INS
ACARONI
ASPARAG_S
BLUE_ERRIES
CH_RRIES
_RANBERRIES
CHIC_EN

OGURT
CAROTS
RAISHES
O_TAILSoup
EAL
GRAPE_RUIT
TANGER_NE
CABBA_E
_UICE
LE_TUCE
WATERMEL_N
S_UASH
_ALNUTS

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Return to Teacher's Page  Answers

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Answers to . . . ALPHABET STEW

Fill in the blanks below with the 26 letters of the alphabet so that two healthful foods are revealed in every row. You may cross off each letter of the alphabet as you use it, because it will be used only once. As an example, the letter P has been filled in in the first row to complete the word PINEAPPLE.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

P I N E A P P L E
C A N T A L O U P E
Z U C C H I N I
B R O C C O L I
A R T I C H O K E
P A S T A
R A I S I N S
M A C A R O N I
A S P A R A G U S
B L U E B E R R I E S
C H E R R I E S
C R A N B E R R I E S
C H I C K E N
Y O G U R T
C A R R O T S
R A D I S H E S
O X T A I L S O U P
V E A L
G R A P E F R U I T
T A N G E R I N E
C A B B A G E
J U I C E
L E T T U C E
W A T E R M E L O N
S Q U A S H
W A L N U T S
BE A LOW-FOX DETECTIVE

Draw a line from each healthy food to the shopping cart.
Answers to . . . BE A LOW-FAT DETECTIVE

Draw a line from each healthy food to the shopping cart.
FOODS CAN HELP OR HURT YOUR HEART

Many foods are heart healthy, while others are high in fat.
Fresh fruits and vegetables, skim milk and white turkey are heart healthy.
Lots of foods have fat you can't see. Fat raises your cholesterol and can harm your heart.
Butter, candy, cream and fried foods have hidden fat.

There are now low-fat lunch meats and hot dogs with very little or no fat.
When you go shopping at the supermarket, check labels and buy foods with the smallest amount of fat. Some foods have none or only 1 or 2 grams of fat.

It's great fun to look for and find low-fat foods because you can help your family become healthier!

CIRCLE THE HEART-HEALTHY FOODS

LOTS OF FRUIT  BUTTERY POPCORN  SKIM MILK  ICE CREAM

CHIPS  WATERMELON  WHITE TURKEY  CANDY

BUTTER  CARROTS  FRIED CHICKEN  DONUTS

Turn the paper over and list the foods you ate yesterday.
How many heart-healthy foods did you eat? _______
How many high-fat foods did you eat? _______
Try to eat more good foods!

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Answers to . . . FOODS CAN HELP OR HURT YOUR HEART

Many foods are heart healthy, while others are high in fat.
Fresh fruits and vegetables, skim milk and white turkey are heart healthy.
Lots of foods have fat you can't see. Fat raises your cholesterol and can harm your heart.
Butter, candy, cream and fried foods have hidden fat.

There are now low-fat lunch meats and hot dogs with very little or no fat.
When you go shopping at the supermarket, check labels and buy foods with the smallest amount of fat. Some foods have none or only 1 or 2 grams of fat.

It's great fun to look for and find low-fat foods because you can help your family become healthier!

CIRCLE THE HEART-HEALTHY FOODS

LOTS OF FRUIT  BUTTERY POPCORN  SKIM MILK  ICE CREAM

CHIPS  WATERMELON  WHITE TURKEY  CANDY

BUTTER  CARROTS  FRIED CHICKEN  DONUTS

Turn the paper over and list the foods you ate yesterday.
How many heart-healthy foods did you eat? ______
How many high-fat foods did you eat? ______
Try to eat more good foods!
HINT IN THE MIDDLE

Fill in the spaces "across" in each of the center rows with the name of a healthful food. Each "down" row will contain a common three-letter word. We've completed the first one for you and given you a one letter hint on the others.

The answers may be found among these healthful foods:
- cabbage
- lettuce
- peanuts
- almonds
- berries
- oatmeal
- walnuts
- turnips
- cashews
- chicken
- catfish
- oranges
- mangoes
- carrots
- raisins
Answers to . . . HINT THE MIDDLE

Fill in the spaces "across" in each of the center rows with the name of a healthful food. Each "down" row will contain a common three-letter word. We've completed the first one for you and given you a one letter hint on the others.

The answers may be found among these healthful foods:
cabbage  lettuce  peanuts  almonds  berries
oatmeal  walnuts  turnips  cashews  chicken
catfish  oranges  mangoes  carrots  raisins

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Teacher's Page

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How Many Words Can You Make Using The Letters In

"FAT AND CHOLESTEROL ARE BAD"

How many in five minutes?

How many in ten minutes?
How Many Words Can You Make Using The Letters In

Answers to . . . "FAT AND CHOLESTEROL ARE BAD"

How many in five minutes?

HOLE(S)
BEAR
TEST
BALD
SAND
ROLL . . .

How many in ten minutes?

BOTTLE
FASTER
STRETCH
COLLAR
CELEBRATE
TEACHER . . .
FOOD FIND

FIND THE HEART-HEALTHY FOODS

ARFRUITQXL
FPZPEARSDEP
GRAINCRUSFAYTOS
PEARSIOTBICLIPES
FISHZNRVSTYDCTE
FRUITHQNFDFORAX
VEGETABLEAEIJQGKHL
CORNSGRAINUPMLJ
VNHRBLKZFE

FIND THE HIGH-FAT FOODS

BBMAVFQIPE
UAQFETDJBD
KFDBGOHUC
RCZIJGMTAG
HDONUTSSSTNG
ZKYNXBPE
SMCFATEHRYL
JUPGSEORTAT
ANCREAMGVLC
EGGSCREAM
FAT
BUTTER
DONUTSCANDY

Words run horizontally, vertically and diagonally.
There are no reverse words. How many of the 12 words can you find in 4 minutes? In 8 minutes?

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Answers to ... FOOD FIND

FIND THE HEART-HEALTHY FOODS

GRAIN
PEARS
FISH
FRUIT
VEGETABLE
CORN

FIND THE HIGH-FAT FOODS

EGGS
CREAM
FAT
BUTTER
DONUTS
CANDY

Words run horizontally, vertically and diagonally. There are no reverse words. How many of the 12 words can you find in 4 minutes? How many in 8 minutes?
HAPPY HEART WORD FIND

There are 20 words in this word search. How many can you find in 5 minutes? Can you do them all? How fast?

Words to look for. They all go down or across:

FAT
MILK
LEAN
FRUIT
LABEL
GREASY
HEALTHY
EXERCISE
VEGETABLE
CHOLESTEROL

Words to look for. They all go down or across:

FISH
SKIM
MEAT
HEART
BLOOD
YOGURT
CHICKEN
BROCCOLI
MARGARINE
WATERMELON

Return to Teacher's Page

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Answers to . . . HAPPY HEART WORD FIND

There are 20 words in this word search. How many can you find in 5 minutes? Can you do them all? How fast?

Words to look for. They all go down or across.

FAT
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LEAN
FRUIT
LABEL
GREASY
HEALTHY
EXERCISE
VEGETABLE
CHOLESTEROL

Words to look for. They all go down or across

FISH
SKIM
MEAT
HEART
BLOOD
YOGURT
CHICKEN
BROCCOLI
MARGARINE
WATERMELON

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
HEALTHY SNACKS - FIND ALL ELEVEN!

There are eleven foods in the picture that make good snacks. They are all low in saturated fat and cholesterol. Grab your crayons and color them when you spot each one.

1. Cold cereal with skim milk
2. Toast with jam or jelly
3. Popcorn
4. Popsicles or fruit slush
5. A bowl of fresh fruit
6. Flavored low-fat yogurt
7. Celery stalk filled with peanut butter
8. Peanuts in a shell
9. Fruit juice
10. Homemade muffin
11. Peanut butter spread on crackers
CAN YOU FIND YOUR PULSE?

How many times does your heart beat a minute? Every time your heart beats, you can feel it. The motion you feel is called a pulse.

When you exercise, your heart beats faster. When you rest, your heart slows down. Exercise is great for your heart.

There are two easy places to find your pulse. One is on the side of your neck and the other is on your wrist.

To feel your pulse, gently place your first two fingers against your neck or wrist. The pictures show you where to press. Do not press hard.

1. Check your pulse.
   How fast is your heart beating? ____

2. Exercise for 5 minutes.
   How fast is it beating now? ____

3. Rest for 5 minutes.
   What is your heart rate? ____
   Is it the same as Number 1? ____

Over one half of adults do not know how to take their pulse rate and do not know how fast their heart beats.

THE BEST WAY TO BUILD A STRONG HEART

Exercise and make your heart beat faster for 20 or 30 minutes. Exercising 5 to 10 minutes at a time is still helpful. Some exercises are running, jumping rope, riding a bicycle, roller skating and jumping jacks.
Sample answers to . . . CAN YOU FIND YOUR PULSE?

How many times does your heart beat a minute? Every time your heart beats, you can feel it. The motion you feel is called a pulse.
When you exercise, your heart beats faster. When you rest, your heart slows down.
Exercise is great for your heart.
There are two easy places to find your pulse. One is on the side of your neck and the other is on your wrist.
To feel your pulse, gently place your first two fingers against your neck or wrist. The pictures show you where to press. Do not press hard.

1. Check your pulse.
   How fast is your heart beating? 60

2. Exercise for 5 minutes.
   How fast is it beating now? 83

3. Rest for 5 minutes.
   What is your heart rate? 60 / 64
   Is it the same as Number 1? YES / NO

Over one half of adults do not know how to take their pulse rate and do not know how fast their heart beats.

THE BEST WAY TO BUILD A STRONG HEART
Exercise and make your heart beat faster for 20 or 30 minutes.
Exercising 5 to 10 minutes at a time is still helpful.
Some exercises are running, jumping rope, riding a bicycle, roller skating and jumping jacks.
ONE-LETTER CHANGE

Change one letter in each word below to form a new word that belongs in each group. The heart-healthy foods build a strong heart. The fatty foods contain too much fat.

### HEART-HEALTHY FOODS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEACH</th>
<th>PEACH</th>
<th>DIVER</th>
<th>LIVER</th>
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<td>TORN</td>
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<td>FIST</td>
<td></td>
<td>SHIPS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LEANS</td>
<td></td>
<td>TRIES</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### FATTY FOODS

| TORN  |        | BUTLER|       |
| MICE  |        | BIBS  |       |
| NEAR  |        | LAKE  |       |
| APPLY |        | DANDY |       |
| PARROTS |    | LIE   |       |
| THICKEN |      | BOOKIES|      |
| SEAS  |       | PURGER|       |
| FIST  |       | SHIPS |       |
| LEANS |       | TRIES |       |

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Return to Teacher's Page  Answers  NHS © 1999
Answers to ... ONE-LETTER CHANGE

Change one letter in each word below to form a new word that belongs in each group. The heart-healthy foods build a strong heart. The fatty foods contain too much fat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEART-HEALTHY FOODS</th>
<th>FATTY FOODS</th>
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<tr>
<td>TEACH___ PEACH_____</td>
<td>DIVER____ LIVER______</td>
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<td>TORN____ CORN______</td>
<td>BUTLER____ BUTTER_____</td>
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<td>MICE____ RICE______</td>
<td>BIBS____ RIBS______</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEAR____ PEAR______</td>
<td>LAKE____ CAKE______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLY___ APPLE______</td>
<td>DANDY____ CANDY______</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARROTS__ CARROTS____</td>
<td>LIE____ PIE______</td>
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<tr>
<td>THICKEN___ CHICKEN____</td>
<td>BOOKIES____ COOKIES____</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEAS____ PEAS______</td>
<td>PURGER____ BURGER______</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIST______ FISH______</td>
<td>SHIPS_______ CHIPS______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEANS_______ BEANS____</td>
<td>TRIES_______ FRIES______</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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Teacher's Page
HEALTHY HEART CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
2. A large food store.
3. Potatoes, carrots and zucchini are all______ __________.
7. Potato chips are a high-fat food because they are__________.
8. Tasty and yummy.
10. A green vegetable that looks like a cucumber.
13. Frozen______________.

THESE ARE THE WORDS USED IN THE PUZZLE

aisle
watermelon
supermarket
grated
chocolate
zucchini
broccoli
yogurt
strawberry
vegetables
sugary
delicious
greasy
creamy

DOWN
1. A large, green fruit that is red inside.
2. Fatty or sweet foods are greasy, creamy or______________.
4. Where you walk in the store.
5. The best selling ice cream flavor is vanilla; the second best selling is______________.
6. A green vegetable that looks like trees.
9. A small, red fruit.
11. Whole milk is a high-fat food because it is__________.
12. Chopped or cut into tiny pieces.
Answers to . . . HEALTHY HEART CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
2. A large food store. SUPERMARKET
3. Potatoes, carrots and zucchini are all VEGETABLES.
7. Potato chips are a high-fat food because they are GREASY.
8. Tasty and yummy. DELICIOUS
10. A green vegetable that looks like a cucumber. ZUCCHINI
13. Frozen YOGURT.

THESE ARE THE WORDS USED IN THE PUZZLE
aisle
watermelon
supermarket

grated chocolate
zucchini

broccoli
yogurt
strawberry

vegetables
sugary
delicious

greasy
creamy

DOWN
1. A large, green fruit that is red inside. WATERMELON
2. Fatty or sweet foods are greasy, creamy or SUGARY.
4. Where you walk in the store. AISLE.
5. The best selling ice cream flavor is vanilla; the second best selling is CHOCOLATE.
6. A green vegetable that looks like trees. BROCCOLI
9. A small, red fruit. STRAWBERRY
11. Whole milk is a high-fat food because it is CREAMY.
12. Chopped or cut into tiny pieces. GRATED
NUTRITION HAIKU

You may already recognize "haiku" - a traditional Japanese poetry form. Each poem has three lines. Haiku (hi-koo) rarely rhymes. What's interesting and intriguing about haiku is the discipline employed by the poet. The first and third lines of haiku each contains five syllables. The second line contains seven syllables. Can you write some haiku poems about heart-healthy diet choices and an active, athletic lifestyle? We have written a few to get you started!

**Fruits and vegetables**
Energize slim, happy kids.
Eat that apple, please!

**Spinach and skim milk,**
Lean roast beef in sandwiches.
These foods keep you strong.

**Drink skim milk, and eat**
Yogurt, rich with calcium!
Your bones will thank you.

**Get up! Get going!**
Don't be a couch potato!
Exercise is great.

**Meat, when it is lean**
And dairy when it's lowfat
Build muscle for you.

**Hot dogs, hamburgers,**
Pizza and potato chips.
Fat foods hurt your heart.

**I dream about sports.**
All day I think of soccer.
I love being fit!

**Run! Jog! Sprint! Dance! Jump!**
Come on and join in the fun.
It's time to get fit.
FUN WITH ACROSTICS

We've made up some healthy acrostic messages featuring important nutrition words -- even a long one using the word "vegetables." Acrostics can be one sentence or more. Use your imagination and have fun creating your own! As you write, keep a lowfat, high energy lifestyle in mind.

Fruits and vegetables are useful sources of energy for lean, healthy kids.

Long walks and healthy runs exercise our bodies and make our hearts strong now and when we're grown.

Vigorously exercise and avoid greasy, creamy foods.

Eat fruits and veggies to grow strong and live long.

Busy, healthy kids learn better and earn good grades.

Stay strong and smart!

Can you write healthy acrostic messages using these words?

HEALTH BANANA
TURKEY MARATHON
LOWFAT YOGURT
WORKOUT BROCCOLI

Can you think of other words that would make healthy messages?

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FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

THIS IS TOUGH!

There are 15 fruits hidden in the letters below. Look across, up, down, reverse and diagonally in the letters. Circle each of the fruits you find. Some of the fruits share the same letter.

When you have circled all of the fruits, write the unused letters in the blanks below. Keep the letters in order, from left to right and top to bottom. You will find a very important message to live by.

APPLE
CHERRY
DATE
GRAPE
HONEYDEW
LEMON
LIME
MANGO

SEATLMANGO
TANGERINE
RSLSMATR
NPNDELAMON
BELIMEONE
IAPDIVEP
ANALONE
RGERTLIA
FEGYREHC
YEDEDENOH

MELON
ORANGE
PEACH
PEAR
PLUM
STRAWBERRY
TANGERINE

ANSWER: __________________________

___________________________

___________________________

___________________________

___________________________

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Teacher's Page Answer

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Answers to . . . FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

THIS IS TOUGH!

There are 15 fruits hidden in the letters below. Look across, up, down, reverse and diagonally in the letters. Circle each of the fruits you find. Some of the fruits share the same letter.

When you have circled all of the fruits, write the unused letters in the blanks below. Keep the letters in order, from left to right and top to bottom. You will find a very important message to live by.

APPLE
CHERRY
DATE
GRAPE
HONEYDEW
LEMON
LIME
MANGO
MELON
ORANGE
PEACH
PEAR
PLUM
STRAWBERRY
TANGERINE

ANSWER: EAT LESS FAT AND LIVE A LONGER LIFE!

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CARROTS ARE ON TOP!

Words appear across, back, down, up and diagonally. How many good foods listed below can you find in 3 minutes? How fast can you find them all?

YAMS
ONIONS
RADISHES
POTATOES
TOMATOES
BROCCOLI
CUCUMBERS
ASPARAGUS

CARROTS
CLHCANIPSZ
OACSPINRUT
RBSPANUCER
NRABSMCARK
COYEEHARAP
COAIEUTC
CNNMMTAO
OISRSTSP
LOTAROPI
INODEUAS
SMIBPR
MASMOA
PHTHTUG
UOECAU
XESUTS
SRCO
QUE
TCS
SV
M

PEAS
CORN
BEANS
BEETS
TURNIPS
SPINACH
CARROTS
ZUCCHINI

48478

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Answers to . . . CARROTS ARE ON TOP!

Words appear across, back, down, up and diagonally. How many good foods listed below can you find in 3 minutes? How fast can you find them all?

YAMS
ONIONS
RADISHES
POTATOES
TOMATOES
BROCCOLI
CUCUMBERS
ASPARAGUS

PEAS
CORN
BEANS
BEETS
TURNIPS
SPINACH
CARROTS
ZUCCHINI

48478

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LEARNING ABOUT LABELS

There is lots of fat in many foods you eat. How can you find out how much fat is in a particular food?

Read the Nutrition Labels!

You are lucky. The nutrition label law makes food companies show you what's in their products. The labels have only been on foods for a few years. Before that, nutrition information was very limited and often untrue. You have the advantage that your parents didn't have to help you find healthy foods to eat.

Labels tell you how many grams of fat, saturated fat, cholesterol and other nutrients are in the food. (The letter "g" means grams.) The label also defines a normal serving.

Most Important!

Limit your intake of fat and saturated fat. The lower the number of grams the better. Get plenty of exercise. These are the most important things you can do to help take care of your heart.

Some fat calories in your diet are okay, but limit the amount. The calories you get from carbohydrates are more healthful. Some foods that are rich in carbohydrates, low in fat, and consequently good for you are:

- Spaghetti
- Raisins
- Rice Krispies
- Bananas
- Sweet Potatoes
- Macaroni
- Shredded Wheat
- Beans
- Prunes
- Pineapples
- Bread
- Apricots
- Baked Potatoes
- Apples
- Bran Flakes
- Oranges
- Grapes
- Barley
- Melon
- Rice

You can stay slim and trim by eating less fat and more carbohydrate. Exercise will develop muscle tone and promote a healthy body. There are also many exercises that will help you reduce fat and build muscle.

Nutrition Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serving Size 5 crackers (16 g)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Servings Per Container</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Per Serving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calories</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietary Fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise is fun and will help you feel great. You will have more energy, feel more relaxed, and become stronger by being active. Your muscles will firm up. Even falling asleep will be easier. You will look great and feel better than ever!

But how much do you really know about exercise? Find out with this fun quiz. Decide whether the following numbers are HIGH or LOW. Then check your answers to determine your score. High or low, you’ll learn a lot about exercise!

1. The heart of a fit person beats 30 to 35 times per minute.
   High ______ Low ______

2. For a 120-pound person, an hour of soccer burns 300 calories.
   High ______ Low ______

3. Among adults over 55, 25% report that they live a sedentary (inactive) lifestyle.
   High ______ Low ______

4. In America, 100,000 deaths each year are the result of being obese.
   High ______ Low ______

5. For exercise to improve your health you must work out at least 60 minutes without stopping.
   High ______ Low ______

6. At a brisk walk, you’re moving about 6 miles per hour.
   High ______ Low ______

7. To burn one pound of fat, you must burn 1,000 calories.
   High ______ Low ______

8. A quarter-pound hamburger with cheese has 400 calories.
   High ______ Low ______

9. Children spend an average of 15 hours a week watching television.
   High ______ Low ______

10. You should exercise for 30 minutes at least 2 times a week to be fit.
    High ______ Low ______
Answers to... HIGH OR LOW?

1. That's LOW. A fit person's heart beats 45 to 55 times per minute. But an unfit person's heart beats 70 to 75 times per minute. That's very inefficient!

2. That's LOW. An hour of soccer burns 435 calories per hour on average. That's great exercise!

3. That's LOW. Surprisingly, 38% of adults over 55 are sedentary. That leads to many health problems and shortens your potential life span. But studies show if you're active while growing up, you'll become an active adult.

4. That's LOW. The fact is that over 200,000 Americans die of obesity-related diseases each year.

5. That's HIGH. Scientists used to believe that 30 minutes of sustained exercise was optimum. Now, they know that three 10-minute sessions will benefit your health just as much.

6. That's HIGH. A brisk walk is 4 miles per hour. At six miles an hour, you're jogging. That's an excellent exercise! Check your endurance. Try it and see how far you can go before you're really breathing hard.

7. That's LOW. A pound of fat actually contains 3,500 calories. It's best not to put it on!

8. That's LOW. A quarter-pound burger with cheese has 600 to 800 calories. It has lots of fat, too! The average student eats 20% more fat than recommended for good health.

9. That's LOW. The average child spends 17 hours a week in front of the TV screen in addition to the time spent on video and computer games.

10. That's LOW. Don't be a couch potato! You should exercise 3 or 4 times a week, or more, for at least 30 minutes (You don't have to do it all at once.) Exercise can be fun. Soccer, basketball, riding a bike or anything that gets you breathing hard is good for your heart.
IN THE MIDDLE

Fill in the spaces "across" in each of the center rows with the name of a healthful food. Each "down" row will contain a common three-letter word. We've completed the first one for you.

The answers may be found among these healthful foods:
cabbage   lettuce   peanuts   almonds   berries
oatmeal   walnuts   turnips   cashews   chicken
catfish   oranges   mangoes   carrots   raisins

55428

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Answers to . . . IN THE MIDDLE

Fill in the spaces "across" in each of the center rows with the name of a healthful food. Each "down" row will contain a common three-letter word. We've completed the first one for you.

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catfish  oranges  mangoes  carrots  raisins

55428

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TEST YOUR EXERCISE AND HEART SMARTS

Answer the following questions to discover just how much you know about exercise and heart health. Even if you answer incorrectly, you'll learn a lot from the answers!

1. The buildup of plaque in arteries from eating fatty foods leads to heart attacks. This buildup begins at the following age:
   a. Four to six years
   b. Early teens
   c. Early twenties
   d. Early thirties
   e. Early forties

2. Which types of exercise require stretching, warming up and cooling down?
   a. Vigorous weightlifting
   b. Vigorous calisthenics
   c. Sprinting
   d. Bicycling
   e. All of the above

3. Lifting moderate amounts of weight makes girls look muscle bound and masculine.
   a. True
   b. False

4. The more you exert yourself, the stronger your heart will be, and the more physically fit you will become.
   a. True
   b. False

5. The great benefits of exercise are:
   a. Exercise cuts the risk of heart attack
   b. Exercise helps control weight and reduces the chance of obesity
   c. Exercise strengthens and tones muscles.
   d. Exercise increases your energy level.
   e. All of the above.

6. Which exercises require a helmet and/or kneepads?
   a. Bicycling
   b. In-line skating
   c. Skateboarding
   d. Standard roller skating
   e. All of the above

7. Physically active people are more likely to have a sudden, fatal heart attack than inactive people.
   a. True
   b. False

8. To be effective, exercise must hurt. Go for the burn!
   a. True
   b. False

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EXERCISE AND HEART SMARTS ANSWERS

1. **a**, FOUR TO SIX YEARS. Cardiologists (heart doctors) used to think plaque buildup began in middle age. Autopsies done in the Korean War showed substantial buildup in 20-year-olds. Recent autopsies done on children as young as 4 to 6 showed plaque beginning to accumulate.

2. **e**, ALL OF THE ABOVE. Limbering up and cooling down slowly and gently can prevent even minor stiffness in muscles.

3. **FALSE**. Girls in weight training studies ended up smaller, not larger. Bodybuilders go to great lengths using extremely heavy weights to build big muscles.

4. **TRUE**. Physical exertion actually *prevents* damage to your heart by keeping it toned up and in good working order. When your heart is strong, you can participate in fun physical activities like sports and dance.

5. **e**, ALL OF THE ABOVE. And there are many more, including improved sleep, increased "good cholesterol" in your blood, reduced blood pressure, and stronger heart and lungs!

6. **e**, ALL OF THE ABOVE. Hundreds of people every year suffer brain damage from head injuries, even from bicycling and skating on four wheels. Protect your knees and elbows if there’s any chance you’ll fall. And if you cycle in the evening, be sure you have reflective material on your bike and on your clothing.

7. **FALSE**. Studies have proven a substantially reduced risk of sudden death for people who are physically active.

8. **FALSE**. Overdoing it and ignoring warning pain can result in injuries to your joints, feet, ankles, legs and back.

56468  
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TWO-LETTER CHANGE

Change the first and last letter in each word below to form a new word that belongs in each group. The heart-healthy foods help build a strong heart. The high-fat foods do just the opposite . . . they contain too much fat, which can harm your heart.

HEART-HEALTHY FOODS

THICKER___CHICKEN___
LATER_________________
SLUG_________________
EAGER_________________
WRAPS_________________
MIST_________________
DREAM_________________
NEAT_________________
TASTE_________________
HEAT_________________

HIGH-FAT FOODS

BRAVE____GRAVY_________
SORT_________________
PUTTED_________________
SURGES_________________
BONUS_________________
GIVEN_________________
TREAD_________________
TACOS_________________
SALTY_________________
TRIED_________________

57688

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Answers to ... TWO-LETTER CHANGE

Change the first and last letter in each word below to form a new word that belongs in each group. The heart-healthy foods help build a strong heart. The high-fat foods do just the opposite ... they contain too much fat, which can harm your heart.

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<td>TRIED______FRIES____</td>
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