

# DETERMINATION

Character First!® Elementary Teacher's Guide  
Series 4, Booklet 3



## Definition

Purposing to accomplish right goals at the right time, regardless of the opposition.



## Illustration

After one to four years at sea, the king salmon determines to find the place of its birth. Swimming against fierce river currents and leaping up waterfalls, the mighty salmon actually *increases* its daily speed as it covers the hundreds of miles back home. Look on page 4 to follow the remarkable journey of a fish that wouldn't give up.

Despite failure, opposition, and discouragement, Sequoyah determined to do what no man had been able to achieve—create a written language for the Cherokee people. Find out on page 6 how Sequoyah's "talking leaves" made him a national hero.

## I Will:

- set goals.
- make sure my goals are right.
- ignore distractions.
- not be discouraged by others.
- face problems head-on.



## Application

There are two parts to determination: *setting* goals and *reaching* goals. The crafts and activities on pages 8–14 are designed to help children do both. Use the lessons to help students 1) plan what they want to accomplish this year, and 2) develop the resolve to do it.



## Praise

As with anything else, if you don't *schedule* times to praise, it probably won't happen—at least not to the extent that it should. Look on page 15 for a schedule that might work well for you.



# What Is Determination?

Purposing  
to accomplish  
right goals  
at the  
right time,  
regardless  
of the  
opposition.

## **DETERMINATION**

### *vs. Faintheartedness*

**De•ter•mi•na•tion** *n.* **1:** the quality or act of bringing to a decision or conclusion. **2:** direction to a certain end. **3:** fixed purpose; resolution; adherence to aims or purposes. **4:** judicial decision.

The Latin verb *terminare*, “to bound; to limit; to prescribe,” gives meaning to several other words. The *terms* of a contract describe the limits of that agreement. The *termination* of a program marks its conclusion. A legal *determination* hands down the final judgment, thus closing all further discussion.

In a strict sense, *determination* sets limits by defining a goal and establishing a deadline to finish it. Determination also limits one’s attention. It avoids distractions and remains faithful to a task until it is completed.

### ***Determination or Disobedience?***

Imagine driving down a road and a large box falls off a truck ahead, obstructing the way. Does a driver turn around because of the box and go back home? Of course not. Most drivers have more determination than that. A determined driver either removes the box or goes around it.

But what if a driver comes to a red traffic signal? Does a determined driver continue through the red light? Of course not! Running a red light is disobedience, not determination.

While these illustrations may seem trite, some people literally let “nothing get in their way,” including the directions of authorities. Such character is not determination, but disobedience.



## The Concept of Determination

Determination is a choice, the choice to press on despite what obstacles appear. Obstacles *will* come. Their appearance along life's path should come as no surprise. The very laws of nature warn that "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." Any forward movement will meet with some measure of resistance. Determination is merely the power to overcome any obstacle or any resistance.

When one accomplished mountain climber was asked how he climbed such difficult ranges, he responded, "By putting one foot ahead of the other." Indeed, determination puts one foot in front of the next to keep going, no matter how tired, frustrated, or discouraged a person may feel. Determination makes it possible to climb even the highest mountain.

## The Role of Leadership

In 1896, Thomas Edison met with the top executives of his company, and during the meeting the conversation turned to the "horseless carriage." After talk of batteries and electricity, one executive pointed across the table and said, "There's the young fellow who has made a gas car."

Mr. Edison listened earnestly as the young engineer explained his internal-combustion engine. Suddenly, Edison's fist came down on the table with a bang, and he said, "Young man, that's the thing! You have it! Keep at it!" That young man's name was Henry Ford.

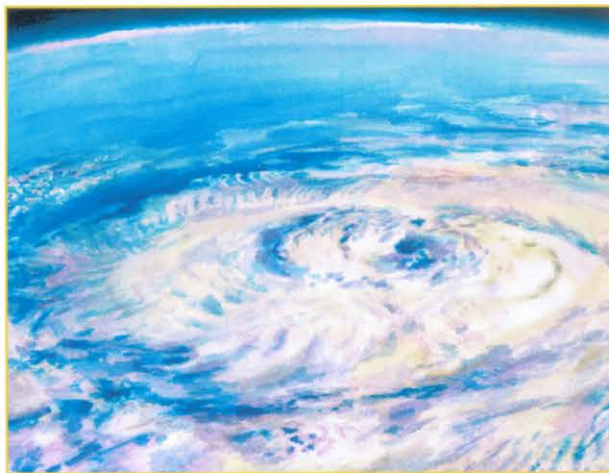
Many years later, Ford remarked, "That bang on the table was worth worlds to me. No man up to then had given me any encouragement. . . . I knew I was right, but sometimes I wondered a little whether I might not be wasting my time. I should have gone on without the commendation of Mr. Edison, but with his approval I went on twice as fast."

Teachers and parents never know how their words affect their students. A little bit of encouragement goes a long way to give anyone a boost down the road.

## The "Real" Strength of a Hurricane

As a hurricane sweeps inland, its winds root up every obstacle in its path. It plucks up trees and throws them like grass and flattens buildings to the ground. Nothing deters its advance.

While people respect the powerful winds of a hurricane, something other than the winds produces the greater damage. Hours before the forceful winds reach shore, millions and millions of tiny raindrops saturate the ground and soften the soil. Without solid "anchors" to hold them in place, trees and homes succumb much more easily to the pressure of the wind. While winds deal an impressive blow, it is the steady and persistent rainfall, one drop at a time, that does the greater damage.



## Strong Bones, Strong People

People often refer to determined individuals as having "strong backbones," and liken the fainthearted to jellyfish, which have no backbone. Indeed, the backbone is the body's primary source of strength. However, it also holds the body's main channel of sensation—the spinal cord—and provides the flexibility required to move.

Likewise, determination ought to have the *strength* to finish a task, the *sensitivity* to avoid running over others, and the *flexibility* to change direction when necessary. Strong bones make healthier bodies, and good character makes a stronger person.



# Determination in Nature

## King the Salmon



The salmon faces many obstacles on its journey back home, not the least of which are hungry grizzly bears. Avoiding dangerous traps quickly becomes a major part of a salmon's determination to reach its home successfully.

Thousands of tiny eggs lay at the bottom of a river. One of them began to move very slowly. It rocked back and forth among the small stones and loose gravel. Within a minute, the egg cracked open, and a tiny fish appeared.

The fish was a salmon. It was only 1/2 inch long and carried a small yolk sac underneath its chin for nourishment during the first few weeks of its life.

The salmon grew larger every day and eventually began eating insects and minnows. The salmon stayed near its place of birth for almost a year. The river had its own chemical "smell"—a smell the salmon would never forget.

One day, the salmon was big enough to leave home. It didn't know where it would go but simply followed the river downstream. Wherever the river went, the salmon went, too.

Swimming *with* the current was easy for the salmon. The water carried the

little fish farther and faster with each passing day. As the salmon reached a set of rapids, the water smashed it against the huge rocks in the middle of the river. But, the water pushed the salmon right over the rocks and into the smooth river below.

However, just around the bend came a waterfall. Thousands of gallons flowed over the edge every minute—and so did the salmon. *Sssplashhhh!*

The salmon landed safely in the river and continued its course downstream. A few miles later, the salmon came to a huge tree that had fallen across the river. Its tangled branches and trunk blocked most of the river, but the high water carried the salmon right over the top and into the current on the other side.

The salmon swam faster and faster until it reached the river's end. The salmon coasted to a stop. The beautiful ocean lay only a few yards away. Its water was clear and cool and deep.

The young salmon's body began to adjust to the ocean salt water. Within a few days, the salmon plunged into the ocean depths, where it found all kinds of food. Shrimp, herring, and other small fish were all around!

The salmon stayed in the ocean for three years, where it grew bigger all the time. In its fourth year at sea, the salmon reached three feet long and weighed over 20 pounds. It lived like most other fish, swimming hundreds of miles in a year, eating whatever it could find.

But something happened to the salmon during its fourth year at sea: it developed an urge to return home. It was an unmistakable drive to go *back* to its native river to produce the next generation of salmon.

After three years at sea, the salmon was over 1,000 miles away from its native river. Despite how far it was, the salmon determined to return home. No matter what happened, the salmon *wouldn't give up!*



Light from the sun and moon guided the salmon, bringing it closer and closer to its home. As the salmon finally reached the coast, it stopped at the first river it found, but that river didn't "smell" like home. It stopped at another river farther south, but it was wrong, too. However, the salmon *wouldn't give up*.

On the salmon's third try, it found the right river. The salmon waited in the river's mouth to readjust to fresh water. The salmon also stopped eating before it resumed the journey home.

The salmon started up the river, but it wasn't as easy as floating downstream. The current slammed into the salmon as it battled upstream. The way was hard, and it seemed like an impossible task. However, the salmon *wouldn't give up!*

The salmon followed the "smell" of home until it reached a fork in the river. Which direction was home? Which was the right path to take? The salmon investigated the first fork, but lost the "smell" of home. It quickly returned to the other fork and found the right scent again.

The salmon plunged forward, following the familiar scent, certain that it was on the right course. A few miles later, it reached a fallen tree that stretched across the river. Its tangled branches blocked the easy path. There was no way over it and no way around it. However, the salmon *wouldn't give up!*

Water poured through the web of leaves and sticks, but the salmon dove under and pushed ahead anyway. It wiggled through the nest of limbs, which poked the fish each time it moved. The salmon wiggled and wiggled and wiggled until it popped out the other side.

The salmon continued its difficult journey. It was tired, hungry, and sore from swimming through the branches. However, the salmon *wouldn't give up!*



Actual size of a salmon fry as it journeys downstream toward the ocean. By the time it returns home 3-4 years later, the salmon could range in weight from 15 pounds to a record weight of 126 pounds.

The determined fish plunged ahead through the water until it reached the bottom of a waterfall—the same waterfall that had been so easy years before. The salmon looked at the waterfall. There was no way under it and no way around it. However, the salmon *wouldn't give up!*

The salmon dove to the bottom of the river and turned upward. It swam with all its might and leaped out of the water. It reached half-way up the waterfall but fell right back into the water.

The second attempt proved the same, and so did the third and fourth. On its fifth try, the salmon caught a ledge. It wiggled into position and flung its body almost to the top . . . but it came crashing down again! However, the salmon *wouldn't give up*.

The salmon mustered its strength once more and shot up to the ledge. It wiggled into position again and flung its body to the top . . . but came crashing down as before. Ten times the salmon tried to flip over the top, but it failed each attempt. However, the salmon *wouldn't give up*.

On its eleventh try, the salmon finally made it. It flipped itself up and over the edge of the waterfall. The water was smooth on the other side, and the salmon forged ahead.

One more obstacle lay in the salmon's way—the rapids. Water crashed against the boulders more violently than ever before. There was no way under it and no way around it. However, the salmon *wouldn't give up!*

With great care, the salmon swam between the boulders. It worked its way through the dangerous rapids, squeezing its way through shoots of water. The salmon flipped itself on top of the rocks and tumbled down the other side, only to be swept away by the rushing water.

The salmon retraced its "steps" and plunged through the water with every ounce of energy. It flipped on top of the largest boulder and crashed into the river on the other side. The salmon paused for a moment, as if it were too good to be true. After more than a thousand miles and one obstacle after another, the salmon had finally made it home!

The salmon searched for a nesting site in the quiet waters of its native stream bed, where it laid more than 10,000 eggs. The salmon whipped its tail back and forth over the eggs to stir up the loose gravel. Tiny pebbles covered the eggs to protect them from the hot sun and from being swept away.

The salmon's journey was finally over. Because of its determination, the next generation of salmon was secure. Despite all the obstacles, the salmon *wouldn't give up!*

# Talking Leaves

**T**he soldiers raised a mighty shout as the last of their horses emerged from the flooded river. Sequoyah rubbed the neck of his dripping mount, and squeezed water from his homespun shirt and deerskin leggings.

It was February of 1814. Sequoyah and his fellow Cherokee Indians had joined the American army to help fight a war against Great Britain.

Sequoyah hurried to join the other soldiers in the American army camp. He knelt beside a crackling fire and thought of his wife and children. "I wonder how they fare," he muttered to himself.

Just then, a shout pierced the camp. "Mail call!" cried a man, riding in on a dark brown horse. "Hello boys, I've brought you news from home!"

Sequoyah arose from his spot by the fire and watched curiously as the men read their letters. One man laughed aloud for joy. Another wiped away tears.

The soldiers' reactions astonished Sequoyah. He turned to his Cherokee friend, Chief John Ross. "What are those 'white leaves' the men look at?" Sequoyah asked John. "It seems that the leaves *talk* to the soldiers."

"They are letters," John answered. "English-speaking men put words on paper and send messages to one another."

"Why cannot we Cherokees do that?" Sequoyah questioned. "We should have 'talking leaves' in our language."

"English-speaking people have tried," replied John, "but they decided our Cherokee tongue is too difficult to write down."

Sequoyah couldn't sleep that night. He tossed and turned, thinking about the talking leaves. "The talking leaves should speak Cherokee," he thought. "Fixing sounds on paper is like catching a wild animal and taming it. Perhaps a Cherokee must do it!"

The next morning, Sequoyah ran to Chief John. "John," he cried, "I will be the one to do it!"

"Do what?" John asked in return.

"I will make Cherokee words talk from paper!" Sequoyah exclaimed. "The sun may cross the sky many times before I finish, but my goal is set. I know what I must do."

Did you spot the "I Will"? Sequoyah set a goal to put the Cherokee language into writing.

When the war ended, Sequoyah returned home. "Father is here!" shouted his oldest son as Sequoyah neared the family cabin.

"How happy I am to see your faces!" Sequoyah exclaimed. "My boys are tall like oaks, and my little daughter," he said, picking up Ah-yoka, "is like a young dove."

The next morning, Sequoyah took a sharp knife and cut thin strips of bark

from a birch tree. He took the bark to his cabin and drew pictures on the smooth side of the strips.

Ah-yoka climbed onto a stool next to her father. "That is a deer!" she said, pointing to one of his pictures.

"Yes," Sequoyah replied with a smile. "Each picture speaks a different word."

Weeks passed, and Sequoyah's stack of pictures grew higher and higher. Sequoyah felt pleased, but many of his neighbors questioned his work.

"It is for the good of our people," Sequoyah told his neighbors. "We must have a way to write down our words, pass on the stories of our ancestors, teach our young children, and preserve the way of the Cherokee. It is right to do this. The future of our people depends on it."

Did you spot the "I Will"? Sequoyah made sure that his goal was right.

Sequoyah worked steadily on his project. His eyes often grew weary, but he continued drawing. Children played noisily in the surrounding woods, but he ignored their distracting sounds.

His knife grew dull after several cuts, but he sharpened it and kept going. Nothing seemed to slow him down. Sequoyah ignored any distraction that would keep him from reaching his goal.

Did you spot the "I Will"? Sequoyah ignored distractions.



Ah-yoka bolted out of the cabin and down the road to find her father. Tears streamed down her face. "What troubles you, my daughter?" Sequoyah asked.

"The moment you left for the village," she sobbed, "Mother and the neighbors burned all your pictures!" Sequoyah rushed back to his cabin to see if it was really true. He swung the door open and gazed at the stone fireplace. A heap of ashes was all that remained from his weeks of labor.

Ah-yoka placed her small hand on her father's arm. "How sorry I am," she said, "that you lost all your work."

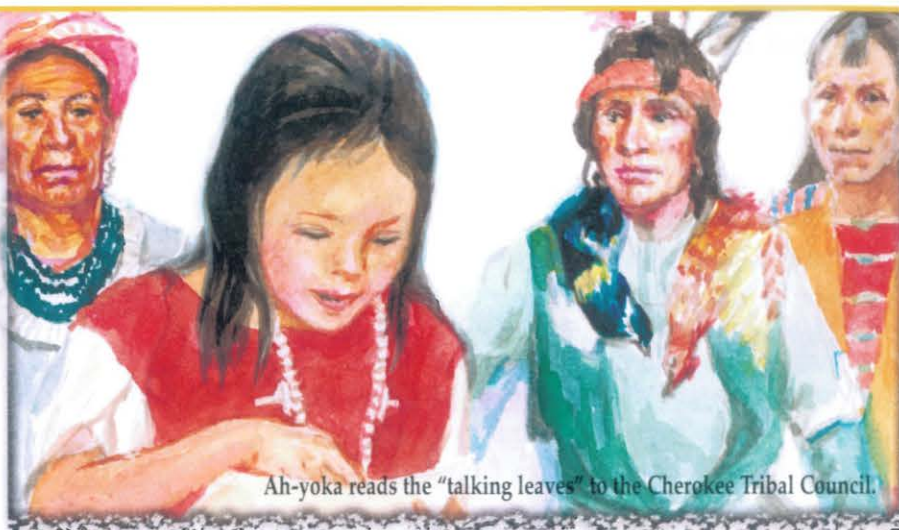
Sequoyah put his arm around his little girl. "We must begin again," he sighed. "We cannot let others discourage us from doing the right thing."

Did you spot the "I Will"? Sequoyah was not discouraged by others.

For days, Sequoyah considered what to do next. Perhaps drawing pictures was not the best way to write. He picked up an English book that he had found along the road and studied the strange-looking letters. As Sequoyah stared at the book, it suddenly made sense. "I understand!" he shouted. "That is how the English do it!"

"Understand what, my father?" Ah-yoka asked from her stool next to him.

"Look here!" Sequoyah said, waving the English book. "English people do not use pictures to make words. They use symbols for each sound. The symbols and sounds make whatever words they want to say!"



Ah-yoka reads the "talking leaves" to the Cherokee Tribal Council.

"What will you do?" Ah-yoka asked.

"I will invent a set of Cherokee symbols—a different symbol for each of our sounds. We can put the symbols into groups and make any word we want!"

Sequoyah created a Cherokee syllabary, much like an alphabet, that included 86 different symbols. However, Sequoyah still faced one major problem. How could he convince the Cherokee people that his system really worked?

Sequoyah wasted no time dealing with the problem. "Ah-yoka," he declared, "We shall journey to the meeting of the Cherokee Tribal Council and present our talking leaves to the chiefs. That is the only way to face this problem."

Did you spot the "I Will"? Sequoyah faced his problem head-on.

In 1821, Sequoyah stood before the Cherokee Tribal Council. "This is my daughter, Ah-yoka," he explained. "I will leave this room, and Ah-yoka will write down whatever words you say."

Sequoyah left the council chamber. Two warriors stood guard to make sure he couldn't hear. Inside the room, the head

chiefs told Ah-yoka what to write. "Her symbols look like bird tracks," whispered one of the chiefs.

When Ah-yoka finished, the Council called Sequoyah back into the room. The chiefs stared intently as he picked up Ah-yoka's paper. They wondered if it would work.

Sequoyah looked at Ah-yoka's symbols and took a deep breath. Then he began to read *exactly* what the chiefs had said!

"It works!" the chiefs shouted. "The talking leaves work!" News of a written Cherokee language spread like wildfire. Cherokees everywhere wanted to read and write. They wrote symbols on paper, cut symbols in trees, and drew symbols on the ground. They printed books and published a newspaper called the *Cherokee Phoenix*.

Sequoyah had finally reached his goal. The Cherokee Nation had a written language of its own. The Tribal Council presented Sequoyah with a beautiful silver medal for his amazing service. "You are a great man," the chiefs told Sequoyah. "You have done a mighty work. You have given our people leaves that can talk."



# Will to Be Determined

## I Will Set Goals.

Setting goals is similar to plowing a field. Farmers begin by picking out two fixed objects in the direction they want to plow. They select one object at the end of the field and another one a little farther away. As the farmer plows, he concentrates on keeping the two markers aligned. As long as the farmer focuses on both goals, near and far, the tractor remains on course and the farmer plows a straight row.

Children can also stay on course by setting two kinds of goals: short term and long term. By making choices that are consistent with their goals for both the present and the future, children can avoid wandering off course.



Character Training Never Ends

## I Will Make Sure My Goals Are Right.

Good marksmanship is more than hitting the center of a target—it has to be the *right* target. In a world filled with countless measures of success, choosing the right target is sometimes harder than hitting it. When setting goals, children should consider if their objectives are in harmony with their parents' wishes, teachers' expectations, and standards of good character. Unfortunately, hitting the wrong target leads to defeat as surely as missing the right one.

## I Will Ignore Distractions.

Distractions come in many shapes and sizes. Physical discomfort interferes with concentration. Alcohol and drugs cloud reasoning. Noise and loud music confuse thoughts. Perhaps the greatest sources of distraction, however, lie in good things which aren't the best at the moment.

For example, playing outside is a good thing, but not when the priority is doing homework. Daydreaming about the future may produce great ambitions, but it becomes a distraction if the priority is to complete a school assignment. Children must be careful not to let good things stand in the way of great things.

## I Will Not Be Discouraged by Others.

Discouragement is the loss of confidence and hope that comes when things don't appear to be going as they should. Sometimes it overwhelms individuals to the point that they have no desire, energy, or ability to go on.

Determination overcomes discouragement by causing young people to reevaluate their goals. Thomas Edison didn't quit when others criticized his electric light bulb. He knew that his goals were right and used the potential discouragement as motivation to prove his critics wrong. As long as their goals are right, children can feel confident in their actions in spite of criticism or ridicule from others.

## I Will Face Problems Head-on.

One rule of American football is that "if you don't tackle it, it will probably tackle you." The same principle applies to determination. Children who are serious about reaching their goals must tackle their problems head-on. If they don't, their problems will probably tackle them.



## Determination Train (Craft)

Copy and enlarge the outline of a railroad car for each child. Write goals for the year on the cars, and allow children to cut out and decorate their part of the train to make it more personal. Copy a locomotive for the teacher's name and goals. Link the cars together with brass fasteners, and hang the finished train in the classroom as a reminder to work together toward those goals throughout the year.

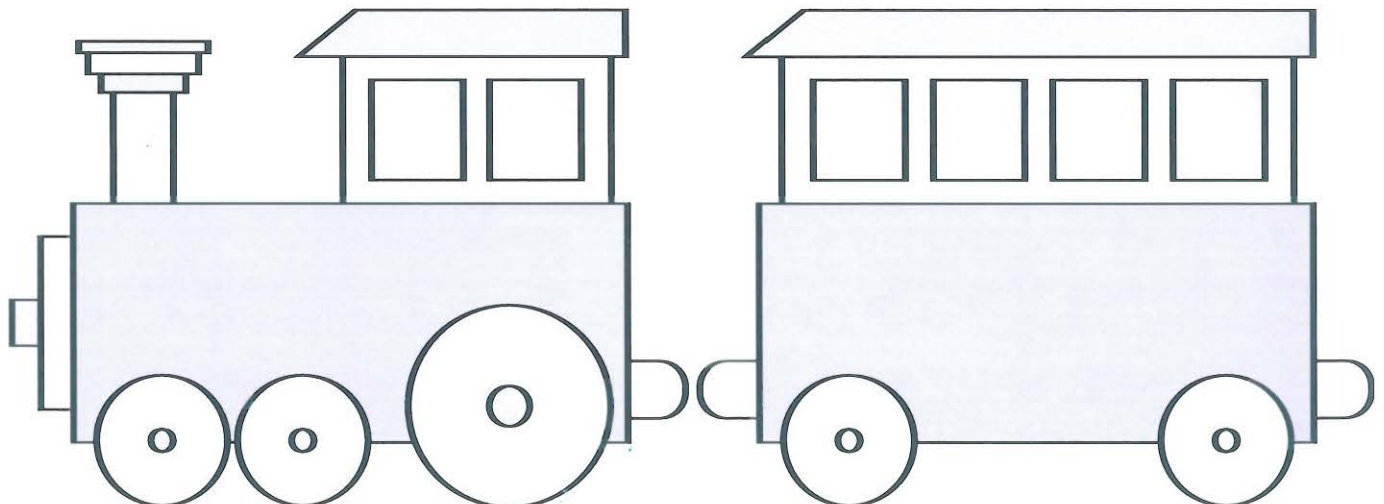
Take time periodically to remind students of the goals they make. Toward the end of the year, ask students to evaluate themselves to see how close they are to reaching their goals.

### Supplies:

- One railroad car for each student
- One locomotive
- Brass fasteners
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers

### Variations:

- Let every class at school design a car with the class goals written on it. Link the cars together in a common area such as the lunchroom or hallway. Place the principal in the position of locomotive.
- Decorate a school bulletin board using a determination train. Label 13 cars, each with a single letter to spell *DETERMINATION*. Pull the train with a locomotive carrying the name of your school.



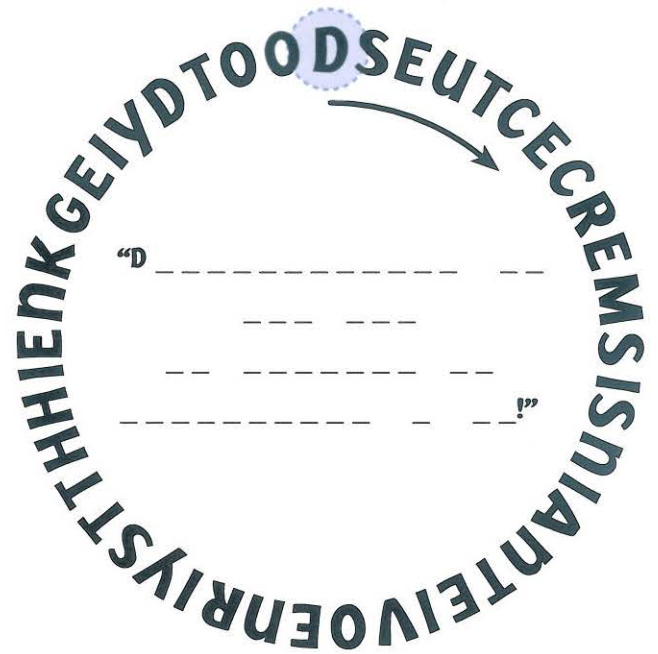
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## Message Wheel (Game)

Test your students' determination to figure out the message hidden below.

### Directions:

The letters in the circle are a chain of words. Begin with the circled letter "D," and write every other letter in the blanks below. Continue clockwise (follow the arrow) going around the circle twice until all the letters are used up.



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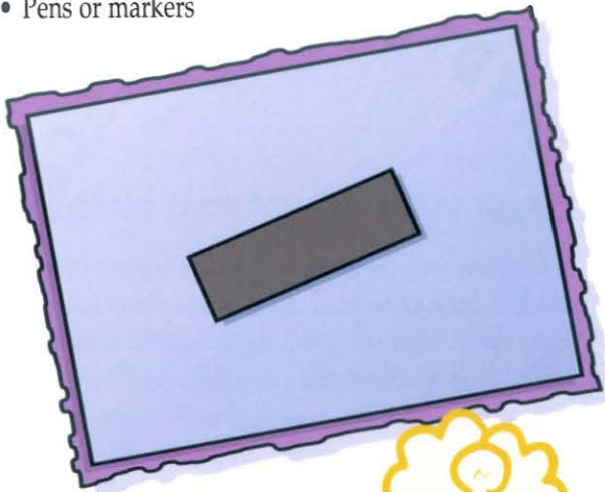
# Activities

## Magnetic Thoughts (Craft)

Write several quotations on the chalkboard for children to choose and copy onto half-size pieces of heavy paper. Allow students to decorate their quotes and stick a magnet on the back. Send the Magnetic Thoughts home with the children as a reminder to show determination in everything they do.

### Supplies:

- Half sheets of heavy paper or cardstock
- Adhesive magnets or magnet tape
- Pens or markers



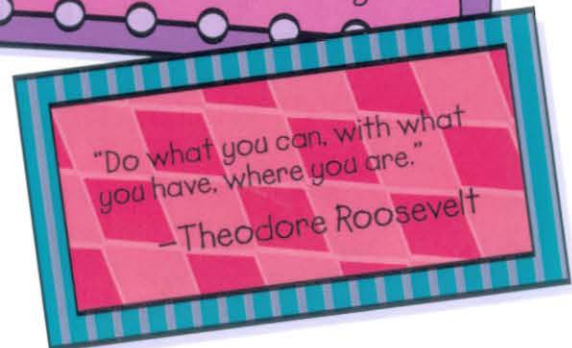
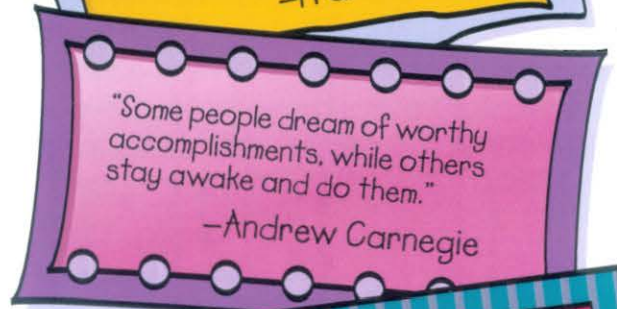
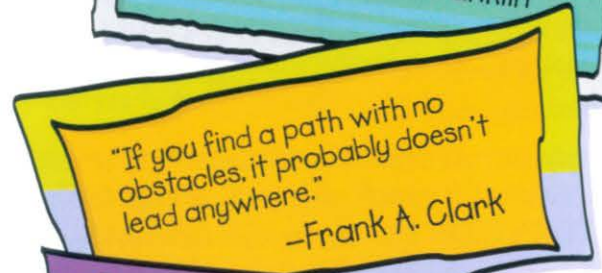
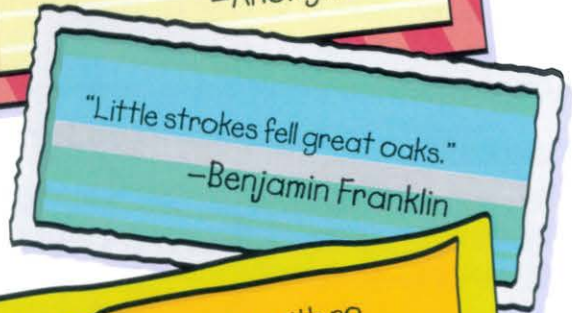
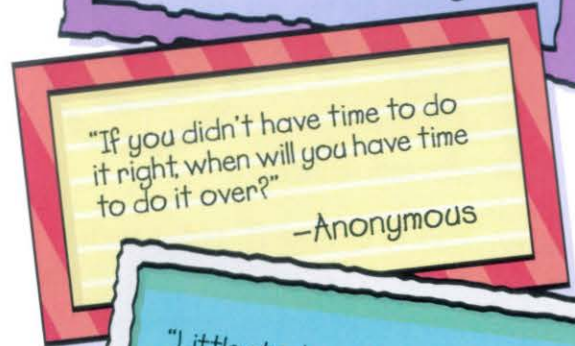
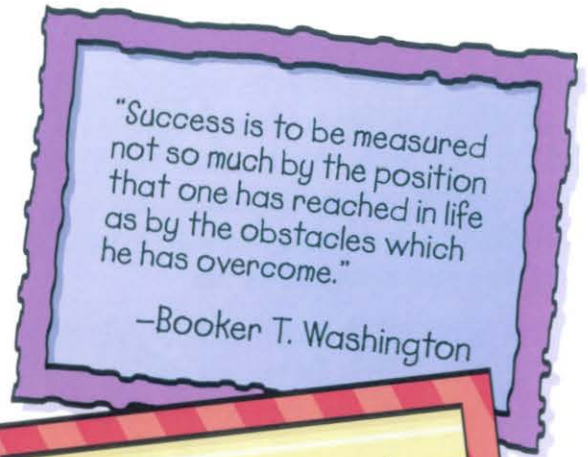
### Memory Work

I will set the goals before me  
That I know for sure are right.  
I'll ignore the things distracting me,  
And keep my goals in sight.

I'll take hold of ev'ry problem,  
And despite what others say,  
I will move ahead with courage,  
And will never turn away.

To live a life of character,  
Commitment is the key.  
When things get tough, I'll prove to you  
That you can count on me!

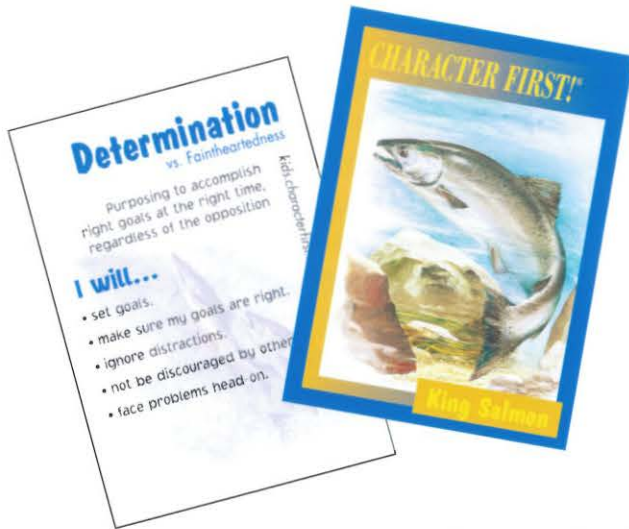
### Determination Quotations:





## Character Cards

Remind children to keep trying until they succeed by distributing the *Determination Character Card*. Review the "I Will" commitments on the back of the card and the lesson of the king salmon. Make practical applications of the "I Wills" to life at school and at home. Inspire the children with personal illustrations of how you have overcome significant obstacles in your life.



## Sequoyah

An impossible task? A hopeless cause? That's what many people concluded when they thought about putting the Cherokee language into writing. Numerous translators tried and failed, convinced that it could never be done.



Sequoyah first observed written letters during his service with the United States Army. The "talking leaves" inspired him to create a system for his own people to send written messages to one another.

Perhaps it wouldn't have happened had it not been for a Cherokee named Sequoyah. Despite failure, opposition, and discouragement from even his closest friends, Sequoyah overcame great obstacles to create a system of writing for his people. The story on page 6, based on Sequoyah's determined spirit, will give your students a picture of determination at work.

## Determination Train



John D. Cornish

John D. Cornish

Chug-ga, chug-ga, Chug-ga, chug-ga. Chug-ga, chug-ga, Chug. If I'm on a train that's head-ed down a rail-road track, And all of a sud-den there's a moun-tain in my path, As I start to climb it, if I think that I can't make it, If I quit and give up try-ing then I'll just fall right back do - wn!

I'm gon-na... Get on board the de - ter-mi-na-tion train, WHOO! WHOO! WHOO! Won't let those moun-tains get in-to my way, WHOO! WHOO! WHOO!

As I start to climb it, I will ne-ver, e-ver stop; and if I keep my goal be-fore me then I'll reach the ver-y to - p! I'm gon-na...

Get on board the de - ter-mi-na-tion train, WHOO! WHOO! WHOO! Won't let those moun-tains get in-to my way, WHOO! WHOO! WHOO!

Life is full of strug-gles, but I will not get dis-cour-aged, I will keep on mo-ving for-ward as I get on board the, Chug-ga, chug-ga, Chug-ga, de - ter-mi-na-tion train! Hey!

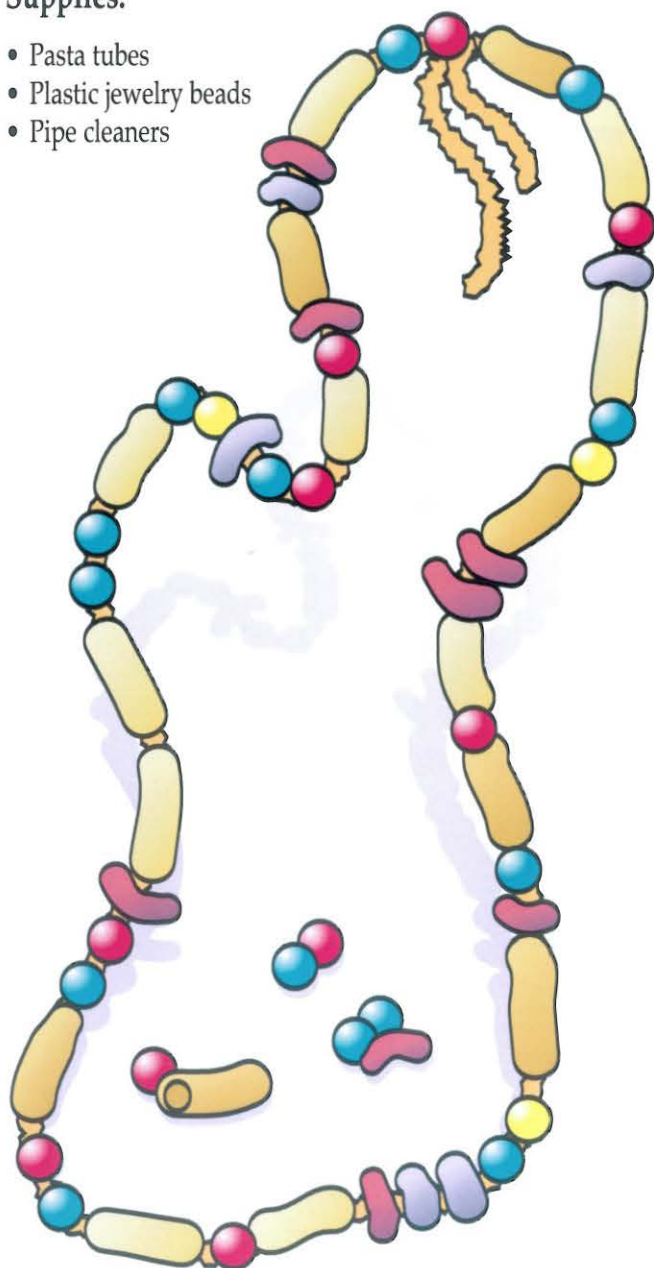


## Indian Jewelry (Craft)

For a special craft, make Indian necklaces to remind students of the determined efforts of Sequoyah and his daughter, Ah-yoka, to help their people. Twist the ends of two pipe cleaners together to make one long pipe cleaner. Thread pipe cleaners through various kinds of dry pasta. Intersperse plastic beads for greater variety and color. For a smaller project, make bracelets instead of necklaces using one pipe cleaner instead of two.

### Supplies:

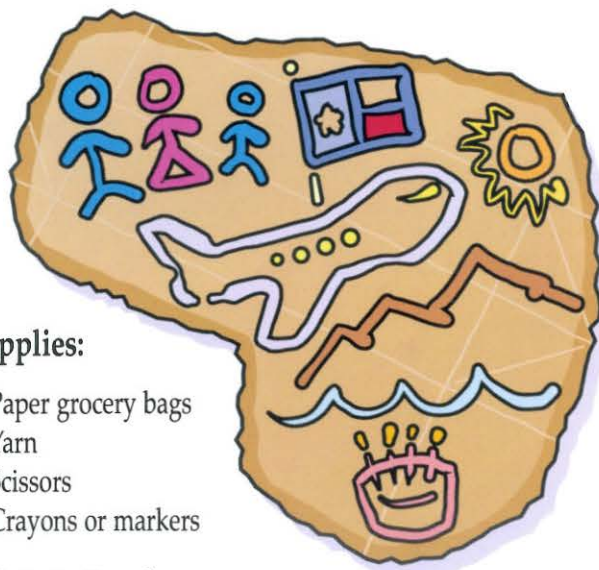
- Pasta tubes
- Plastic jewelry beads
- Pipe cleaners



## Indian Messages (Craft)

Throughout North America, native Indians used to record special events by drawing pictures on animal hides. These pictures told of important events without using any words. Today, these message blankets are a valuable record of life many years ago.

Let children record special events in their lives using pictures instead of words. Give students a brown paper bag, grocery-size if possible. Cut the bag apart at the seams, and smooth it out flat. Tear the edges to give the bag a rough shape. Use crayons or markers to draw special events, from one's birth to the present. When exciting things happen in the months ahead, children can add them to the record. To store messages, roll the "hides" up and tie with a piece of yarn.



### Supplies:

- Paper grocery bags
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers

### Points to Ponder:

- Children will probably find it difficult to express themselves fully with just pictures. In the same way, the Cherokee people were limited in what they could say because they had no written language. However, thanks to Sequoyah's determination, a new world of communication was opened to the Cherokee people.
- In the story of Sequoyah's work, "Talking Leaves," it was not easy or popular to develop a syllabary of letters. Sequoyah was criticized and mocked for his noble efforts, but that didn't stop him from finishing his task. In the same way, children should not let discouragement keep them from doing what they know is right.

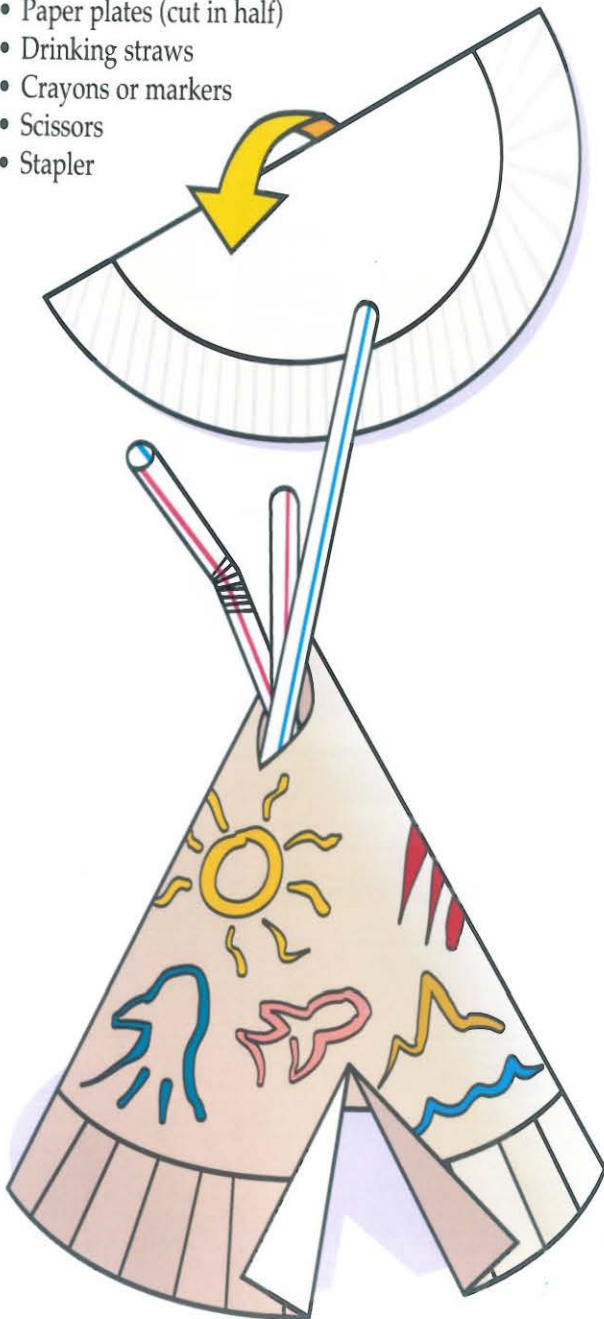


## Indian Tepees (Craft)

Give each child half of a paper plate. Decorate one side with Indian designs using crayons or markers. Roll together to create a cone and staple in place. Trim the point of the cone, and insert three drinking straws so they extend past the top. Cut a slit from the bottom of the tepee, and fold the edges back to form a door.

### Supplies:

- Paper plates (cut in half)
- Drinking straws
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Stapler



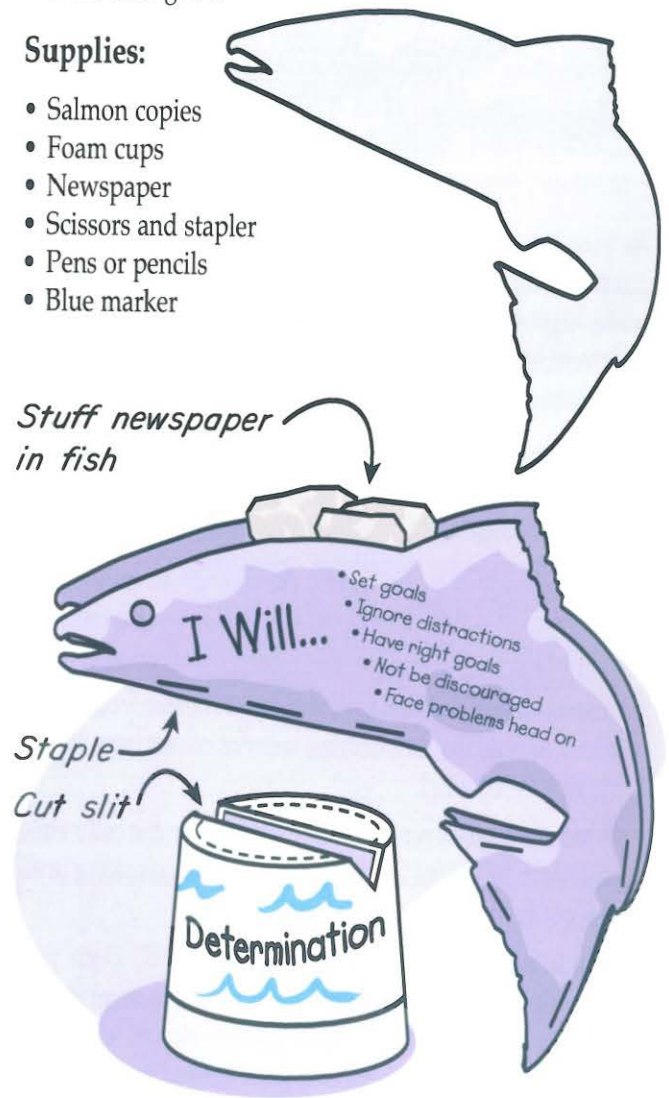
## Stuffed Salmon (Craft)

Copy two salmon for each student in your class. (Fit two fish onto one sheet.) Have the children cut out their salmon and write personal/academic goals on one fish and the five "I Wills" on the other fish. Be sure the writing is on the outside of the fish when the two fish are placed together and stapled along the bottom.

After stapling the lower half of the fish, stuff with crumpled newspaper. Continue stapling and stuffing until the fish is completely sealed. Make a stand for the fish by cutting a notch in the bottom of a foam cup. Invert the cup and draw waves with a blue marker. Send the salmon home to remind children throughout the year to show determination for each of their goals.

### Supplies:

- Salmon copies
- Foam cups
- Newspaper
- Scissors and stapler
- Pens or pencils
- Blue marker



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# Little Ideas

## Definition for Young Children

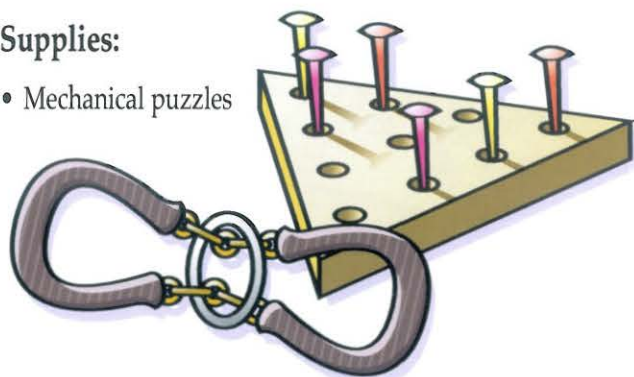
*Determination is not giving up.*

### Picture This (Object Lesson)

To help young children picture the concept of determination, bring several mechanical puzzles to class for students to solve. These are readily available at toy or novelty stores:

#### Supplies:

- Mechanical puzzles

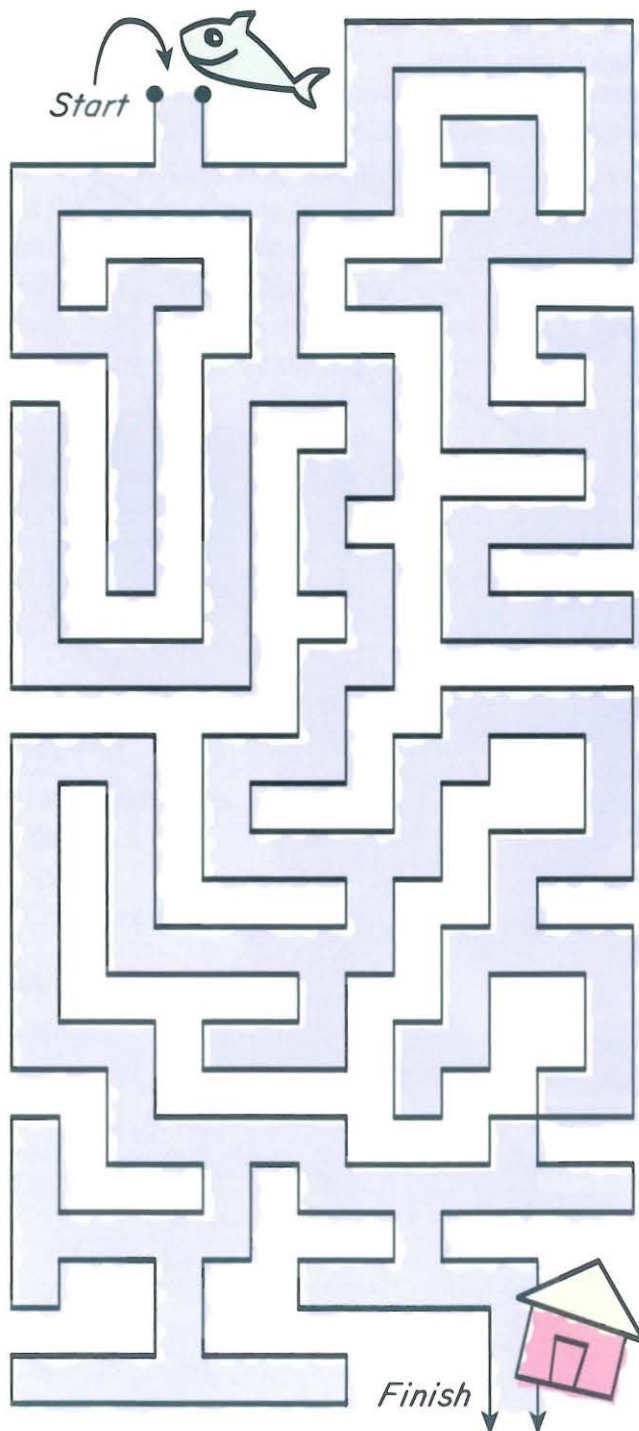


As you know, it's not always easy to solve one of these puzzles. That's what makes them puzzles. If just anyone could figure them out, they wouldn't be a challenge. Determination to solve one of these puzzles requires at least five lessons, maybe more.

- Determination requires attention to details. Look at these puzzles. Examine their parts. Ask yourself "What moves?" "What's the goal?" "What are the options?"
- Determination requires careful observation of how others find success. Watch carefully as a person solves the mechanical puzzle. Determination learns from observation.
- Determination follows instructions. Whether you watch others or read the instructions, success comes from listening to wise counsel.
- Determination never gives up. Remember the only time you really fail is the last time you try. Keep working until you get the puzzle solved.
- Determination helps others to be successful. Once you know how to solve the puzzle, help others to solve it, too. When you know how to solve the puzzles of life, don't keep those secrets to yourself. Determined people share their success with others.

## No Place Like Home (Game)

Copy and enlarge the maze for children to help the salmon find its way home. Be sure to not get sidetracked on the wrong stream!



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## Determine to Praise

Most adults recognize the need to praise children, but for one reason or another, fail to praise as often as they would like to. Sometimes they merely forget to praise, sometimes they are too busy, and sometimes they withhold praise out of fear that it will produce the wrong results. However, if teachers and parents are serious about recognizing students for positive behavior, they must determine to do five things:

1. **Notice** what children say and do. This means watching how students behave at school, especially when they are unaware of a teacher's presence. To record these events, many teachers keep a memo pad or "Praise Journal" handy at all times. When they see commendable actions, they write them down for future reference.
2. **Connect** a child's outward actions to the character qualities behind them. Since it is difficult to remember every character quality by name, it helps to keep a list of *Character First!* qualities and definitions handy for easy reference.
3. **Verbalize** approval, either privately or publicly for everyone to hear. Verbal praise highlights not only the character quality, but also the specific words or actions that a teacher noticed. The more detail included in verbal praise, the more meaningful it is to the recipient. It is also important to include how the character quality has benefited the lives of others.
4. **Schedule** praise at a specific time of day. Teachers who are serious about recognizing character will set aside a time just for praising. Keeping track of whom they praise allows teachers to recognize every student once in awhile, not just a select few individuals.
5. **Expect** positive results. Behavior and attitudes which get attention naturally develop and grow—even negative ones. By giving attention to character through praise, teachers and parents help to ensure that only positive attributes become habits.

## Ways to Praise

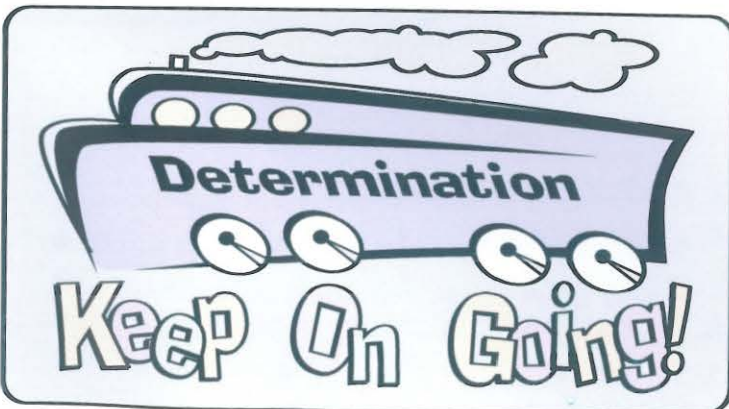
**Praise children for the following:**

- Finishing all of their assignments
- Learning new skills
- Studying subjects they don't enjoy
- Not being distracted by other students
- Resisting pressure to do wrong

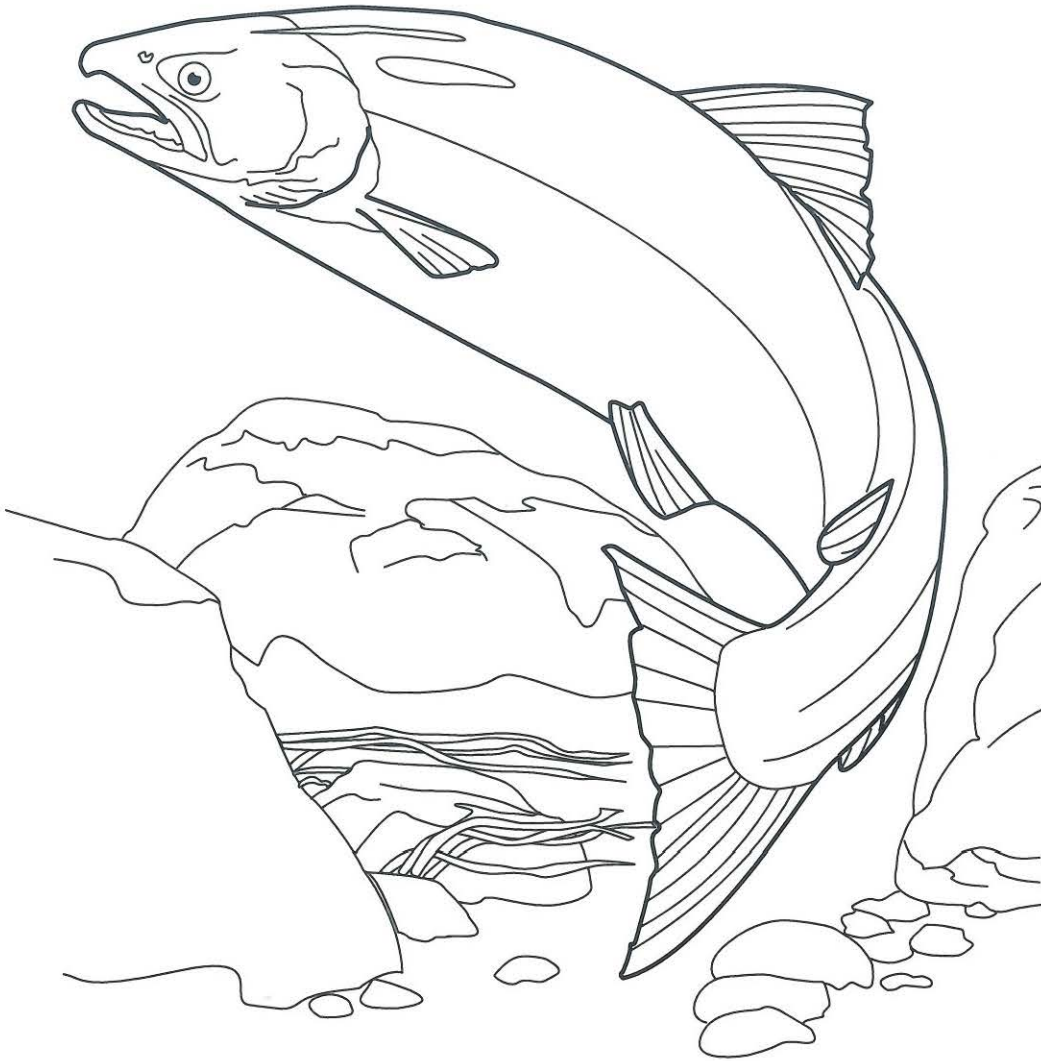
**Make a Schedule:**

Chances are that if you don't schedule times to praise, it probably won't happen . . . at least not regularly. Try some of the following suggestions until you find a schedule that fits.

- **Daily:** Assign five students to each day of the week. Write their names at the top of your calendar so you remember to watch their behavior. Make sure to find a moment during the day to praise them.
- **Weekly:** Divide your class into four groups, assigning one group to each week of the month. Take 15 minutes at the end of each week to praise the students in that group.
- **Monthly:** Take time at your monthly or bi-monthly award ceremonies to recognize outstanding students for character. When recognizing academic achievements, be sure to point out the character qualities that make achievement possible, such as attentiveness, diligence, and determination.



# DETERMINATION



Purposing to accomplish right goals at the right time,  
regardless of the opposition.

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## Coloring Fun

Make copies of the picture on the left. Let students color and take home.

### Copying guide:

Choose “enlarge”—8.5 x 11 to 11 x 17 (129%) to fill an 8.5 x 11 page.

Be sure to choose the “8.5 x 11” paper source.

Some copiers may require repositioning the page on the copier to copy only the area to be colored.

## Teaching Tips

### Set a Goal

Whether it is spelling or reading, math or science, history or art, set a goal to achieve during this semester. Keep track of the class’s progress toward the goal, and show determination by reaching the goal in the allotted time.

### Modern-Day Examples

Look for modern-day men and women to use as illustrations of determination. Possibilities might include athletes, inventors, artists, or those who have overcome physical handicaps to achieve great goals. Watch for inspiring stories in your local newspaper.