

Stories. The Purple Handkerchief. Directions. Print out. Read the story. Do the activities that follow.

Page 1.

THE PURPLE HANDKERCHIEF

By Ellen Baumwoll

One day, a little boy dropped his purple handkerchief in the forest while he was playing. The purple handkerchief fell to the ground. Rabbit was the first to find it. He hopped around it. He sniffed it. "It has no smell," he whispered. "It isn't food." He touched it with his paw. "It doesn't move," he said. "It's not alive. I wonder what it is. I wonder what it does." He picked it up and brought it home. "Look what I found," he called to Mrs. Rabbit. "What do you think it is?" "I don't know," Mrs. Rabbit replied. "But, I can use it as an apron when I cook lunch today." And, she tied it around her waist.

After lunch, while Mother and Father Rabbit were napping, Brother Rabbit tip-toed quietly up to Mother Rabbit and gently pulled the purple handkerchief loose. "This is just what I need," he said to himself as he ran outside holding it in his hand. He tied it to a frame he had made and attached a long string on the end. He called to his friend Squirrel, "Come, Squirrel, let's fly my kite." The kite went up, up, up carried by a

Stories. The Purple Handkerchief. Directions. Print out. Read the story. Do the activities that follow.

Page 2.

gentle breeze. The boys ran by its side even though it was high in the sky. It went up and down and around and around.

Suddenly, the wind grew stronger and stronger and the purple handkerchief blew away with it. It floated over the mountains and landed on Frog Island. The frogs knew just what to do with it. They built a small boat and used it as a sail. They sailed and sailed until it was morning. Then, they fell asleep.

While they were sleeping, a Big Black Crow pulled the purple handkerchief loose and flew away with it. "I can use this as a sack to hold my prize possessions," he cawed. He placed everything he had found that day into it and carried it back to his nest high up in a pine tree in a nearby forest. The Crow was so busy emptying the sack that he did not notice it floating away.

The purple handkerchief floated down, down, down to the forest floor, right near the spot where the Mouse Family was about to picnic. "What a perfect picnic blanket," Mrs. Mouse squeaked. She spread it out over the pine needles and placed the picnic baskets on it. Then, they ate

Stories. The Purple Handkerchief. Directions. Print out. Read the story. Do the activities that follow.

Page 3.

their lunch. After lunch, they cleaned up and went home. The purple handkerchief lay on the ground. It stayed there for two days now partially covered by pinecones. On the third day, the little boy went back to the forest. As he bent down to pick up some pinecones, he saw a flash of purple. "My purple handkerchief!" he shouted. "I guess it has been right here the whole time." He picked it up, put it in his pocket, and happily went home.

THE END.

PreK-2. The Purple Handkerchief. Questions. Directions. Print out.

Answer the questions by circling or underlining the answer. **Page 4.**

NAME _____

QUESTIONS.

1. What color is the handkerchief? a. Yellow b. Red c. Purple

2. What happened to the purple handkerchief in the beginning of the story? It was ...

a. left at home b. dropped c. given to a friend

3. Where did the little boy drop the purple handkerchief?

a. on the road b. in the forest c. by the lake

4. Who found the purple handkerchief first?

a. the mouse b. the crow c. the rabbit

5. Who used the purple handkerchief first?

a. Mrs. Crow b. Mrs. Mole c. Mrs. Rabbit

PreK-2. The Purple Handkerchief. Questions. Directions. Print out.
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NAME _____

QUESTIONS cont'd.

6. What did Mrs. Rabbit use it for?

- a. A hat b. A kerchief c. An apron

7. Who was the second animal to use the purple handkerchief?

- a. Sister rabbit b. Baby rabbit c. Brother rabbit

8. What did Brother Rabbit use the purple handkerchief for?

- a. A sack b. A hat c. A kite

9. Who was the third group of animals to find the purple handkerchief?

- a. The geese b. The turtles c. The frogs

10. What did the Frogs use it for?

- a. A kite b. A sail c. A flag

PreK-2. The Purple Handkerchief. Questions. Directions. Print out.
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NAME _____

QUESTIONS cont'd.

11. Who was the fourth animal to find the purple handkerchief?

- a. The black crow b. The gray seagull c. The fuzzy duck

12. What did the Big Black Crow use the purple handkerchief for?

- a. A head band b. A sack c. A bandage

13. Who was the fifth animal to find the purple handkerchief?

- a. Mrs. Mouse b. Mrs. Goose c. Mrs. Mole

14. What did Mrs. Mouse use the purple handkerchief for?

- a. A sack b. A picnic basket c. A picnic blanket

15. Who was the sixth one to find the purple handkerchief?

- a. Mrs. Rabbit b. The little boy c. The big black crow

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NAME _____

QUESTIONS cont'd.

16. Did the little boy know how the purple handkerchief had gotten there?

no

yes

Why?

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PreK-2. The Purple Handkerchief. Questions. Directions. Print out.
Answer the questions by circling or underlining the answer. **Page 8.**

NAME _____

QUESTIONS cont'd.

17. How did Mrs. Mouse get the purple handkerchief?

she found it under a bush

it floated down to her

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BY WRITING THE ANSWER.

18. What happened in the beginning of the story?

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Answer the questions by writing the answer.

Page 9.

NAME _____

QUESTIONS cont'd.

19. What happened at the end of the story?

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PreK-2. The Purple Handkerchief. Questions. Directions. Print out.

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Page 10.

NAME _____

QUESTIONS cont'd.

20. What happened in between the beginning and the end of the story?

PreK-2. The Purple Handkerchief. Questions. Directions. Print out.

Check your answers with the answers below.

Page 11.

NAME _____

ANSWERS.

1. Purple.
2. Dropped.
3. In the forest.
4. The Rabbit.
5. Mrs. Rabbit.
6. An apron.
7. Brother Rabbit.
8. A kite.
9. The Frogs.
10. A sailboat.
11. The Big Black Crow.
12. A sack for his prize possessions.

PreK-2. The Purple Handkerchief. Questions. Directions. Print out.

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Page 12.

NAME _____

ANSWERS cont'd.

13. Mrs. Mouse.

14. A picnic blanket.

15. The little boy. He found it under some pinecones.

16. No. Why? Because he had dropped the purple handkerchief in the forest and found it there when he returned, he never imagined the journey it had gone through.

17. It floated down to the forest floor from the Big Black Crow's nest in the pine tree. It landed right in the spot where the Mouse Family was about to picnic.

18. A little boy dropped his purple handkerchief in the forest.

19. The little boy found the purple handkerchief under some pinecones in the forest.

20. The purple handkerchief was found and used by various animals in various ways.