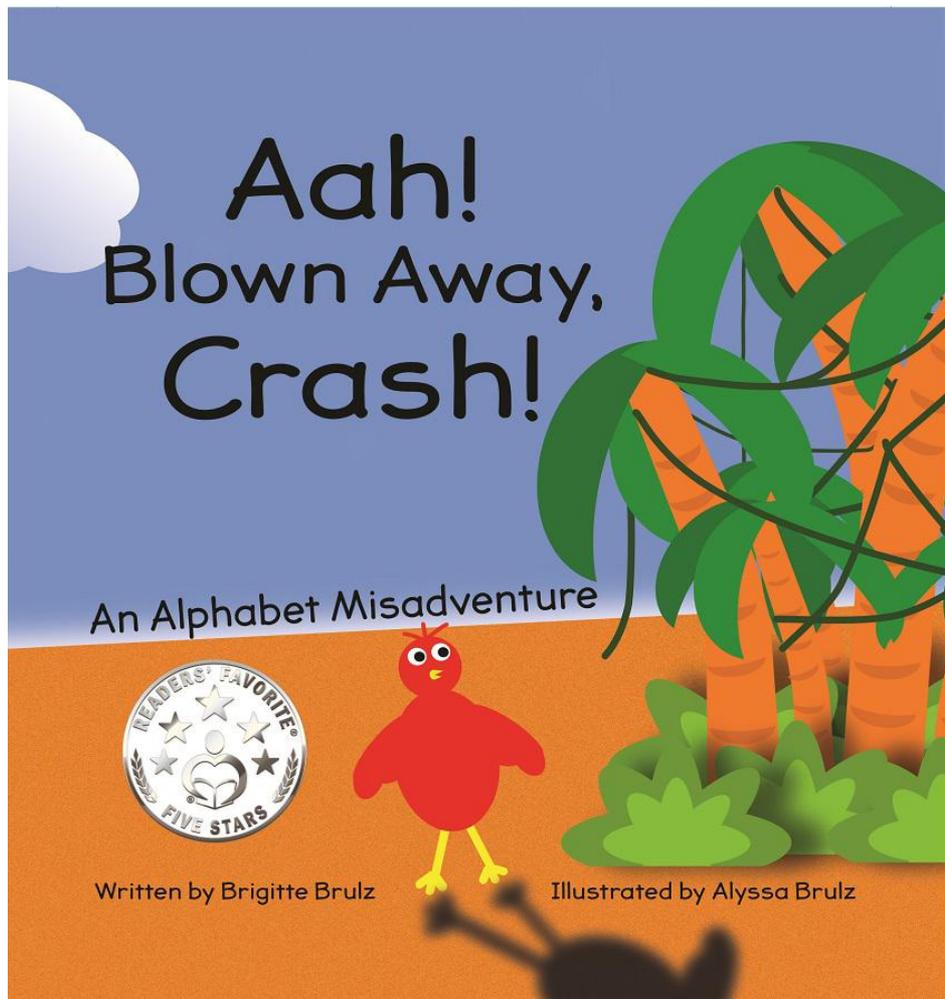


Teacher's Guide



Aah! Blown Away, Crash! An Alphabet Misadventure

Author: Brigitte Brulz
Illustrator: Alyssa Brulz

Guide Created by Brigitte Brulz

About the Author

Brigitte Brulz is a homeschooling mom, author, and journal creator. She has enjoyed exploring small islands on the Mississippi River with her family. Thankfully, she has never been stranded on one. You can find more information about her and her writings on www.brittebrulz.com.

About the Illustrator

Alyssa Brulz is a 12 year old homeschooled student who knows the alphabet in English and in French. She used a computer program to create all of the illustrations. *Aah! Blown Away, Crash!* is her first published picture book.

About the Book

Title: Aah! Blown Away, Crash!: An Alphabet Misadventure

Author: Brigitte Brulz

Illustrator: Alyssa Brulz

Ages: 4-8

ISBN (softcover): 979-8-6342-9640-1

ISBN (hardcover): 978-1-0878-7717-4

Summary: Aah! A bird is blown away and crashes on a deserted island. Will he figure out how to get off the island? And who - or what - is following him? Find out in this comical alphabet misadventure that has only one to three words per page.

Review: "Very cleverly done and beautifully illustrated. Lots of fun in this gem of an alphabet book." - Emily-Jane Hills Orford for Readers' Favorite

Guide Copyright Information

Guide content © 2020 by Brigitte Brulz. Illustrations © 2020 by Alyssa Brulz. This guide can be reproduced for educational and personal use only. May not be sold.

Teacher's Guide Information

This teacher's guide was created for use with the book *Aah! Blown Away, Crash!: An Alphabet Misadventure* written by Brigitte Brulz and illustrated by Alyssa Brulz. The content is intended for children ages 4-8 and can be used in a classroom or home setting.

This guide includes activities for English language arts (ELA), science, math, social studies, and art. Completing all activities is not a requirement! Please feel free to choose whichever activities work best for your situation.

Find even more fun ideas to do with *Aah! Blown Away, Crash!* on Pinterest:.

<https://www.pinterest.com/brigittebrulz/aah-blown-away-crash/>

You are welcome to sign up to Brigitte Brulz's monthly e-newsletter, so you never miss out on fun extras, books, and journals as they are added. Sign up on

www.brigittebrulz.com.

Thank you for using this guide. May you have a wonderful day!



Table of Contents

English Language Arts	1
Reading Comprehension.....	1
Before You Read.....	1
As You Read.....	1
After You Read.....	3
New Vocabulary.....	3
Alphabet Practice.....	4
Writing Practice.....	4
Science	5
Bird Discussion.....	5
Shadow Discussion.....	5
Cloud Discussion.....	6
Wind Discussion.....	6
Math	7
Counting Practice.....	7
Adding and Subtracting Practice.....	7
Word Problems.....	7
Shape Practice.....	7
Social Studies	8
Map Skills.....	8
Decision Making.....	8
Further Discussion.....	8
Art	9
Sculpting.....	9
Drawing.....	9
Painting.....	9
Crafting.....	9
Shadow Puppets Printable	10
Pictures for Math Practice Printable	12
Maze Printable	15

English Language Arts

Reading Comprehension

Before you read *Aah! Blown Away, Crash!*, discuss:

- What is the title of this book?
*(Aah! Blown Away, Crash! is the main **title**, but it also has a second title, which is known as a **subtitle**. Its subtitle is An Alphabet Misadventure.)*
- Point out what letters **A**ah! **B**lown Away, **C**rash! start with.
(They start with the letters A, B, C, which are the first letters of the alphabet.)
- What is an adventure? What do you think misadventure means?
(Answers may vary. Adventures can be fun and exciting. A misadventure is like an adventure that doesn't go as planned.)
- Who do you think the main character of this book will be?
(The red bird on the front cover. In fact, he is the only character in this book.)
- What do you see at the bottom of the page by the bird?
(Point out the bird's shadow.)
- Do you have any guesses as to what this book will be about?
(Answers will vary. Possible answer could be a bird on an island who has an adventure that doesn't go as planned.)
- What does an author do? Who is the author?
*(An **author** writes books. The author is Brigitte Brulz. She is also the author of two other picture books called Pickles, Pickles, I Like Pickles and Jobs of a Preschooler.)*
- What does an illustrator do? Who is the illustrator?
*(An **illustrator** creates the pictures for books. The illustrator is Alyssa Brulz. Alyssa used a computer to create all of the pictures in this book when she was only twelve years old.)*

As you read *Aah! Blown Away, Crash!*, discuss:

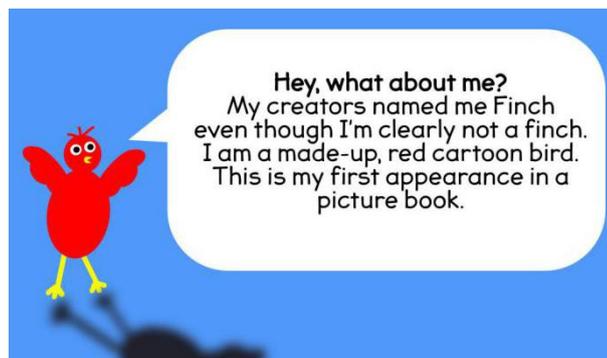
- The first page is known as a **title page**. Notice how it includes the title, subtitle, author's name, and illustrator's name. This one also includes the red bird again telling us to turn the page.

- The second page is known as the **copyright page**. It tells us that we shouldn't copy the book without asking the author first. It also tells us a special number known as the ISBN. The ISBN is a very special number that tells us exactly what book this is. *Aah! Blown Away, Crash!* is the only book that has this exact number. If you look at other books, you can see they also have their own special numbers. There's the red bird again telling us to keep going.
- The third page is for the dedications and acknowledgments. Those are both big words. A **dedication** may tell us about a special person or special people the author or illustrator thought of when they wrote the book. An **acknowledgment** is for the author or illustrator to say thank you to someone who may have helped with the book. Only the author wrote a dedication and acknowledgment in this book. (Read dedication and acknowledgment.) Ask: If you were to write a book, do you know who you would dedicate it to?
- Point out the beginning letters on each of the pages. Notice how they are in alphabetical order.
- Discuss what a **deserted** island is. Deserted is different than dessert. Deserted means there is no body else on the island.
- Ask: What do you think the bird is looking at when he is wondering "enemy?" and "friend?" (*He's looking at his shadow*) What is the difference between an enemy and a friend? Look at how the bird is acting on those pages. (*An enemy may not be nice, but a friend should be. When it says "enemy", he is moving away from the shadow. When it says "friend", he is moving towards the shadow.*)
- Ask: What was the bird afraid of? (*His shadow.*) Have you ever been afraid of anything? (*Answers will vary. It's possible they have been afraid of their shadow.*) What did you do when you were afraid?
- The bird calms down and listens, but then he gets scared again and panics. Ask: What do you think **panic** means? (*The bird is scared and doesn't know what to do.*) But again, he quiets down.
- The bird realizes it is still his shadow. Ask: What does **realize** mean? (*He figures something out, so he now understands or knows that it is still his shadow he was getting scared of.*)

- The bird is trying to think of how to get off of the island. Do you have any ideas of how he should get off of the island? (*Answers will vary. Maybe they will think he can fly away.*)
- The bird looks up and sees a vine. Ask: What do you think he is trying to do? (*Answers will vary. Maybe he is trying to figure out a way off of the island. Maybe he is just trying to have fun.*)

After you read *Aah! Blown Away, Crash*, discuss:

- The bird didn't remember he could use his wings to fly away. Ask: Why do you think the bird didn't remember he could fly away? (*Maybe because he was afraid*) Have you ever forgotten something? (*Answers will vary.*)
- Who the bird is by reading his short biography at the end of the book. Ask: What would you have named the bird? (*Answers will vary.*)



New Vocabulary

Discuss the word: **Realize**

Finch keeps getting scared of something. He **realizes** the thing he is scared of is his shadow. Later in the story, Finch figures out how to get off of the island. He **realizes** he has wings and can zoom away from the island.

What does realize mean? (*understand something, figure something out, know something that you might not have known before*)

Discuss a time when you may have realized something. Ask: When is a time you realized something?

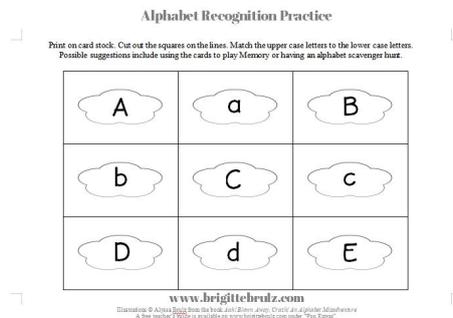
Other vocabulary words from the story include deserted, panic, and enemy.

Alphabet Practice

Sing the alphabet as you point out the letters on the pages throughout the book starting with A in *Aah!* and ending with Z in *Zoom away!*

Label 26 small paper bags with the letters of the alphabet (with a capital letter on one side and the lower case letter on the other side). Go on a letter hunt and fill each of the paper bags with an item that starts with the letter on the bag.

Print the **Alphabet Recognition Practice** (found under “Fun Extras” on www.brittebrulz.com) on to card stock. Cut out the squares on the lines. Play Memory or hide the letters and go on an alphabet scavenger hunt.



Find more alphabet practice ideas on Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/brittebrulz/aah-blown-away-crash/alphabet/>

Writing Practice

Practice writing letters “in a cloud” using shaving cream.

Write a story about who Finch is and where he lives. Does he have any family? Where was he going when he crashed on the island? Where is he going to go now that he has zoomed away from the island?

Finch crash landed on a deserted island. Have students write a paragraph about what they would want to take with them on an island and why they would want those items.

Aah! Blown Away, Crash! tells a story in alphabetical order. Try to create your own story the same way.

Science

Bird Discussion

Finch is a bird, but he is not a finch. Look at pictures of actual finches. Examples of finches include the American Goldfinch, Black Rosy-Finch, Blue Finch, Brown-Capped Rosy-Finch, Cassin's Finch, European Goldfinch, European Greenfinch, House Finch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Owl Finch, Star Finch, and Zebra Finch. Discuss their size, color, and beak shape.

Research and discuss different birds that live in your area. Go for a walk and see how many birds you can find.

Finch forgets he can use his wings to fly away. Research and discuss birds that have wings but cannot fly. Flightless birds include ostriches, emus, cassowaries, rheas, kiwis, penguins, and wekas. (<https://handsonaswegrow.com/penguin-activities/> has a list of fun penguin activities to try.)



Find more bird activities on Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/brittebrulz/aah-blown-away-crash/birds/>

Shadow Discussion

Learn about shadows by reading books such as *What Makes a Shadow* by Clyde Robert Bulla and *Whose Shadow Is This?* by Claire Berge.

Print the shadow puppets found on pages 10-11 on to card stock. Cut out the shapes. Tape the backs of each shape to a straw. Create shadows using the shadow puppets.

Find more shadow activities on Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/brittebrulz/aah-blown-away-crash/shadows/>

Cloud Discussion

Learn about clouds by reading books such as *Clouds* by Marfe Ferguson Delano and *Clouds* by Anne Rockwell.

Create your own clouds out of cotton balls as shown on I Heart Crafty Things.

(<https://iheartcraftythings.com/preschool-cotton-ball-clouds-activity.html>)



Find more cloud activities on Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/brigittebrulz/aah-blown-away-crash/clouds/>

Wind Discussion

Learn about wind by reading books such as *Feel the Wind* by Arthur Dorros.

Put various objects (such as a rock, feather, pom pom, pencil, paper clip, and heavy book) on a table and see if you can move them by blowing on them. Make predictions first. Discuss why you could blow some objects off of the table but not others.

Tape a line down the center of a table. Space some cotton balls evenly on the line. Form two teams. Have the teams stand at opposite sides of the table. Using straws, have the teams try to blow the cotton balls off of the table on to the floor on the other side. Teams are not allowed to cross the tape line, but they can move around on their own side of the table. When there are no more cotton balls left on the table, count the number of cotton balls on the floor from each side. The team with the least number of cotton balls on their side wins.

Find more wind activities on Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/brigittebrulz/aah-blown-away-crash/wind/>

Math

Counting Practice

Count “clouds” (cotton balls).

Count the number of letters in the alphabet.

Combine math and science together and count birds as you go for a walk.

Adding and Subtracting Practice

Add and subtract “clouds” (cotton balls). Write the addition and subtraction problems for the students to see as they count the “clouds”.

Word Problems

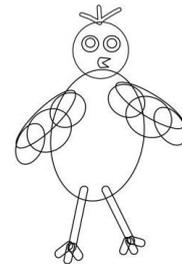
Change the numbers in the following two word problems to create new equations. Use the pictures on pages 12-14 as needed to display the amounts being added and subtracted.

Finch walked past 2 palm trees. Then he walked past 3 more palm trees. How many total palm trees did he walk past? ($2+3=5$)

Finch saw 3 shark fins in the water. 1 shark fin went under the water. How many shark fins could Finch still see? ($3-1=2$)

Shape Practice

The illustrator used a bunch of different shapes to create Finch in a computer program. Do a fun shape activity.



Point out the shapes of different objects in a room. Ask: Can you find anything shaped like a circle? Can you find anything shaped like a square? Can you find anything shaped like a rectangle? Etc.

(<https://handsonaswegrow.com/try-this-cotton-ball-transfer-challenge-for-kids/> and <https://handsonaswegrow.com/gross-motor-activity-preschoolers-energy/> are two more examples of shape activities to try.)

Social Studies

Map Skills

Finch crashed on a deserted island, but he was able to use his wings and zoom away. Help Finch find the deserted island again using the maze on page 15. Older students can practice the cardinal directions as the maze is completed.

Create a map of a room.

Decision Making

Ask: What kinds of decisions do you have to make? (*Answers will vary. Possible answers could include what clothes to wear and what to eat first for lunch.*)

Discuss decision making. When someone has a decision to make, they may figure out what the problem is, find information, think of ideas to solve the problem, think of what the pros and cons to their ideas are, make a choice, act, and think about whether or not their choice worked.

STOP >> THINK >> ACT >>>EVALUATE

Finch had a problem when he crashed on the deserted island. He didn't know how to get back off of the island. He had to calm down and think of a way to leave the island. He noticed the vines and tried to swing on one. Ask: Did that choice work for Finch? (*No, he ended up crashing into a tree and landing in the sand.*) As he was laying in the sand, he finally realized he had wings and could fly off of the island. Ask: Did using his wings to fly off of the island work? (*Yes.*)

Further Discussion

Finch was afraid of his shadow in the story. Explain that everyone is afraid of something sometimes, but we do not need to be afraid of our shadows. It can be scary to try new things or go to new places. Have students tell about a time when either they or someone they know was scared. How did it make them feel? What did they do? What made them feel better?

Art

Sculpting

Having a clay sculpture of Finch helped the illustrator to figure out how Finch would look when facing different directions.

Have students sculpt a bird out of clay or dough. They can add objects (such as pipe cleaners) for the beak, legs, and tail.



Alternative sculpting project: Have students sculpt a nest out of clay or dough. They can add shredded paper, straw, or other objects to imitate the look of an actual nest.

Drawing

Finch is a made-up bird. Have students draw their own made-up creatures.

Painting

Paint with feathers instead of paint brushes.

Crafting

Decorate a small paper bag to look like a bird.

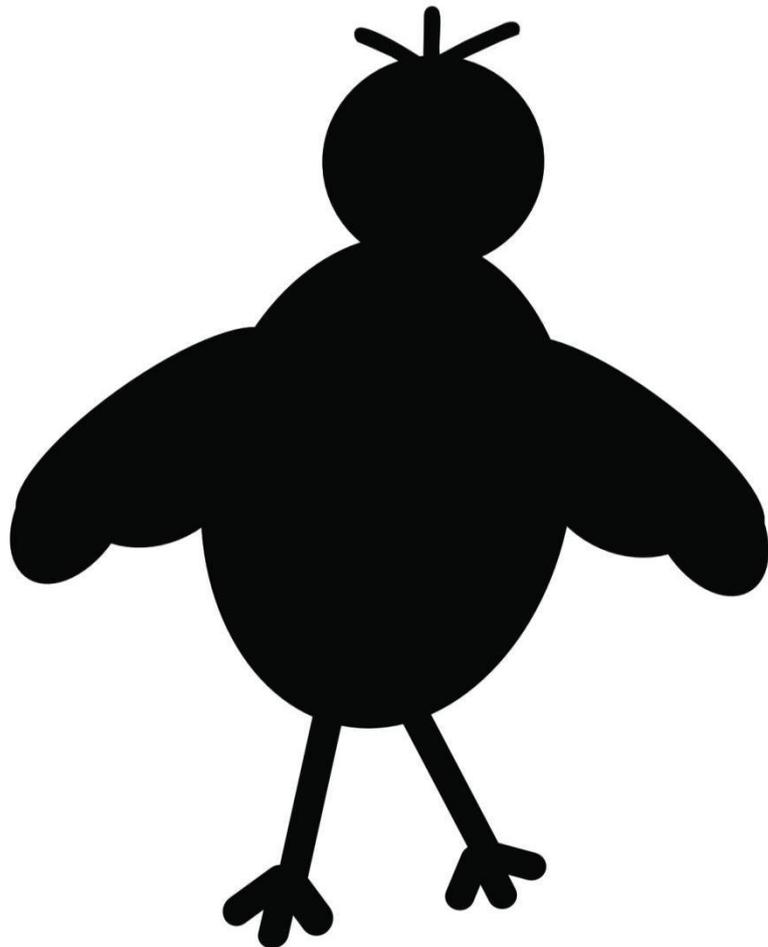
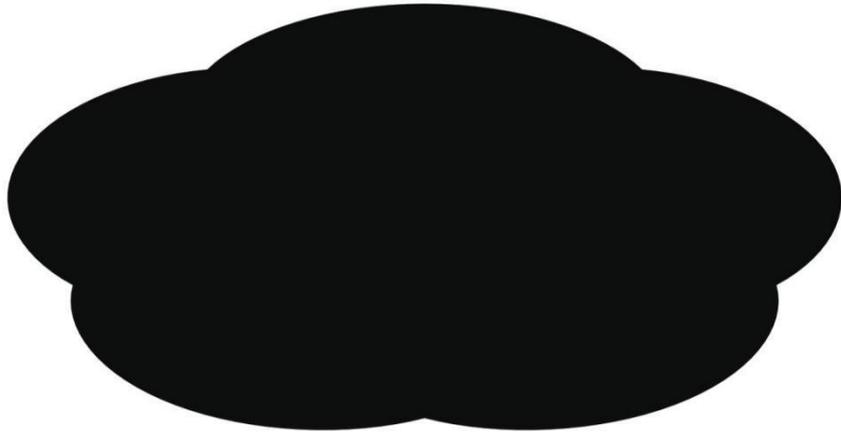
Decorate a palm tree.

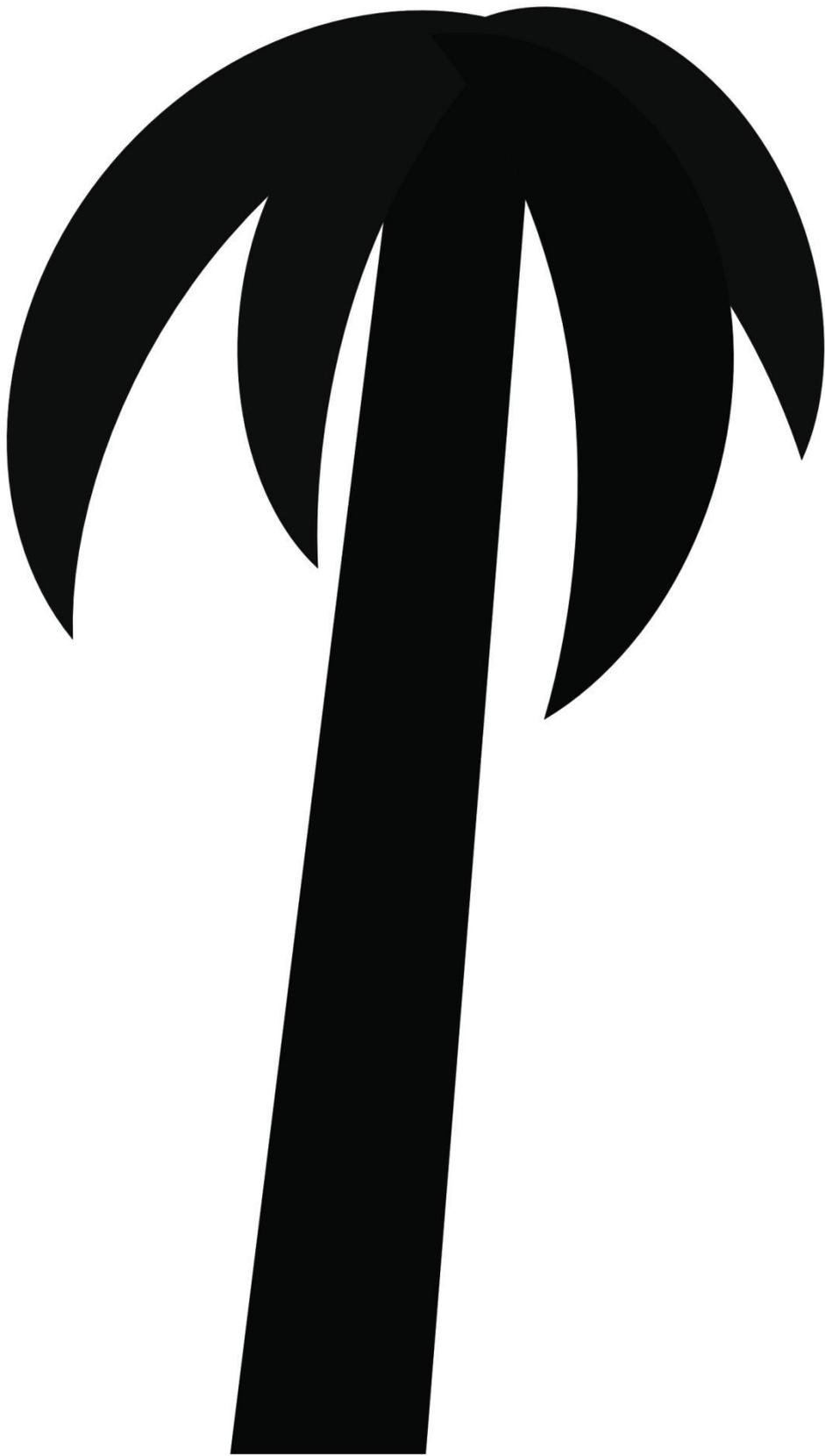
Find more ideas for these art projects on Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/brigittebrulz/aah-blown-away-crash/birds/>

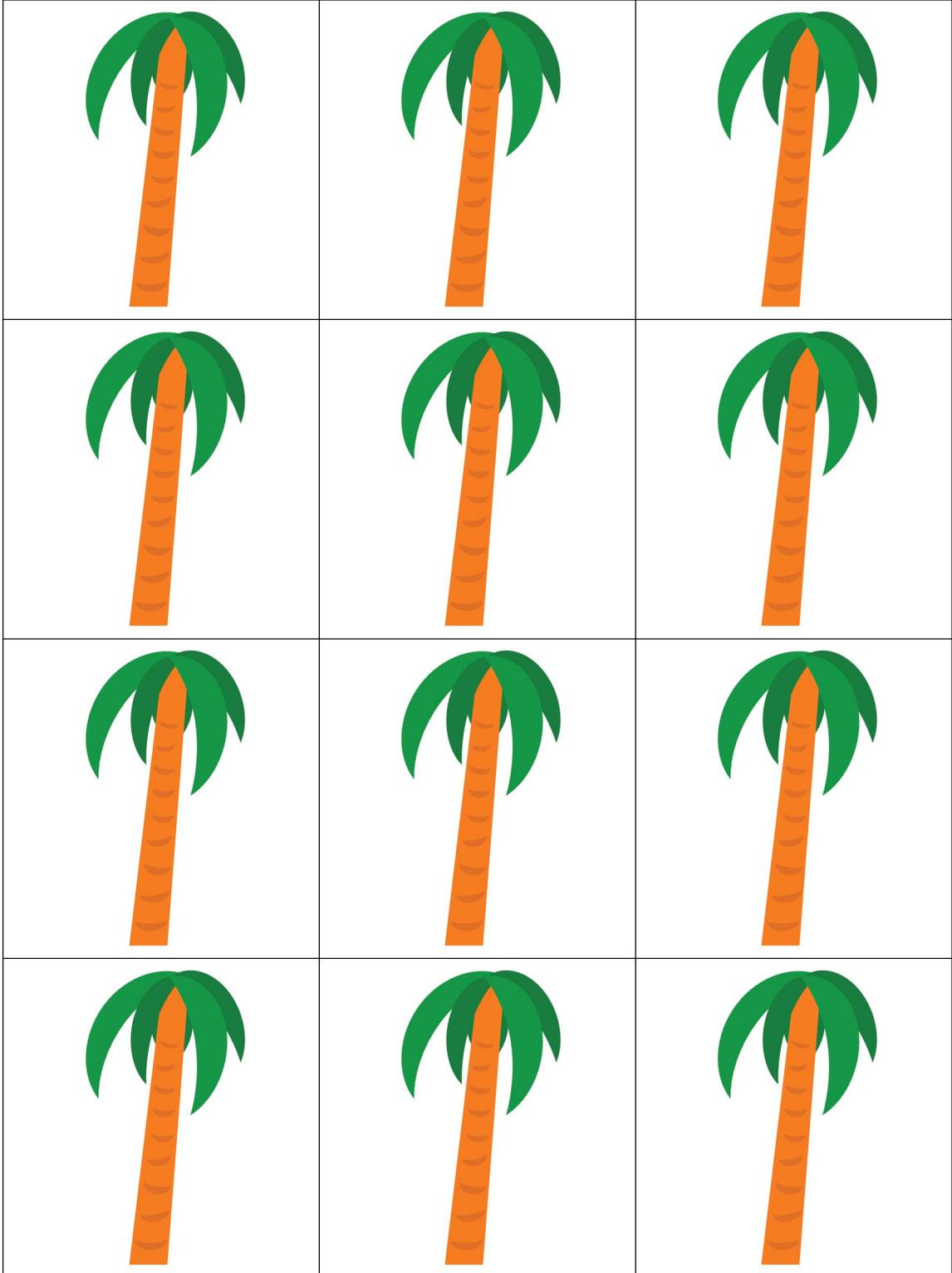
<https://www.pinterest.com/brigittebrulz/aah-blown-away-crash/palm-trees/>



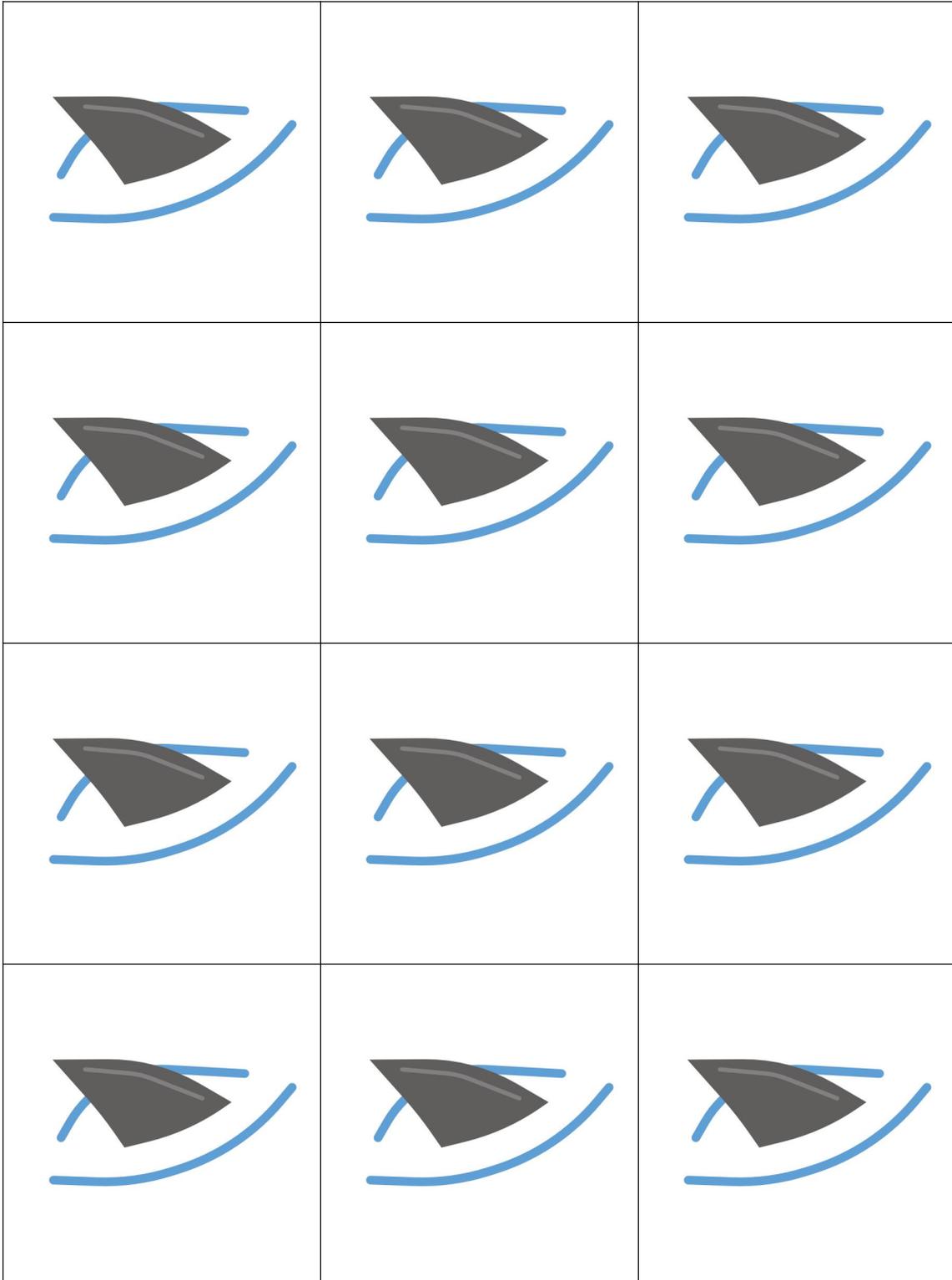




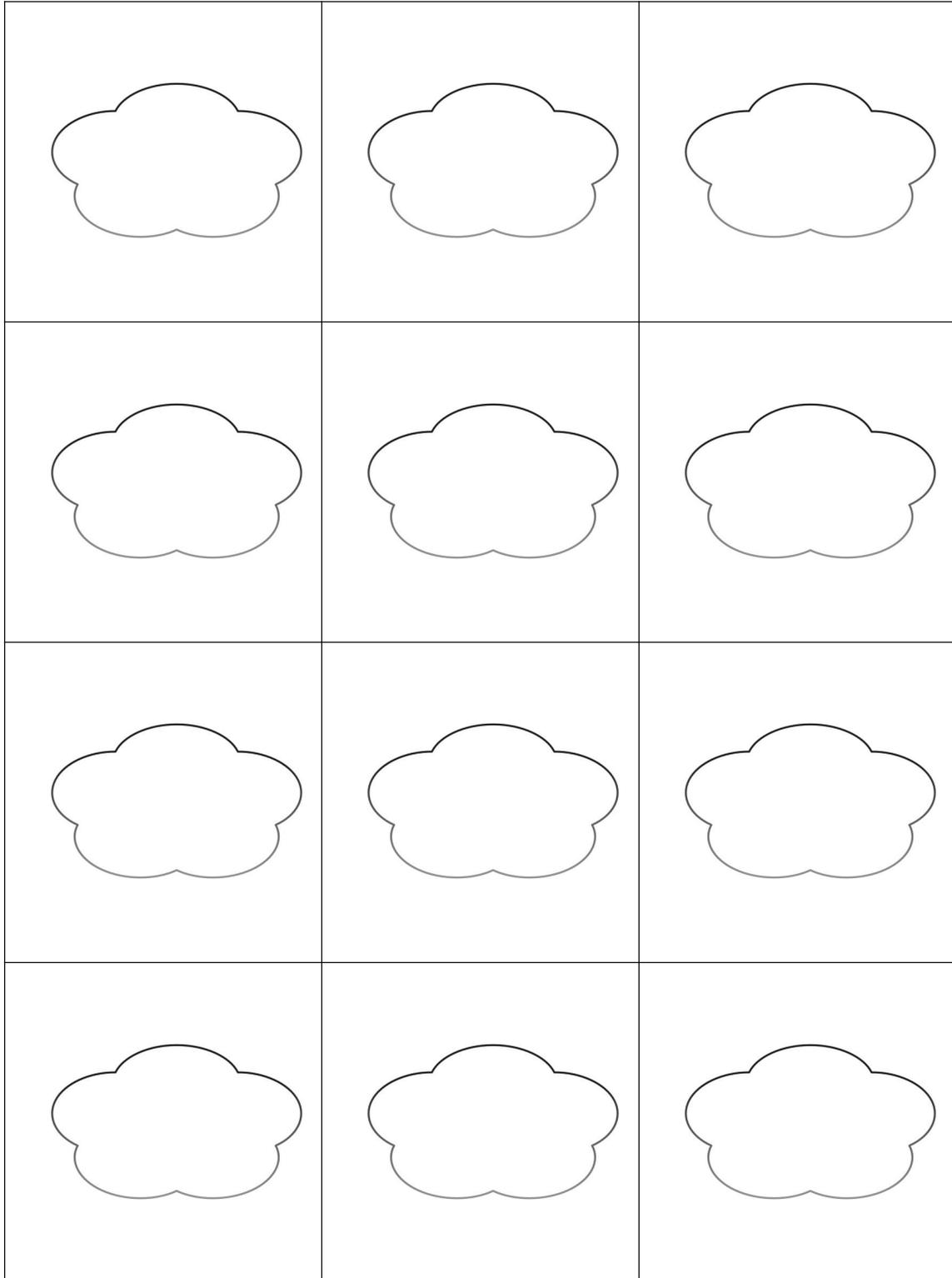
Print these palm trees on card stock. Cut on the lines. Use the squares to practice adding and subtracting amounts.
See page 7 for word problem examples.



Print these shark fins on card stock. Cut on the lines. Use the squares to practice adding and subtracting amounts.
See page 7 for word problem examples.



Print these clouds on card stock. Cut on the lines. Use the squares to practice adding and subtracting amounts.





Help Finch find the deserted island.

