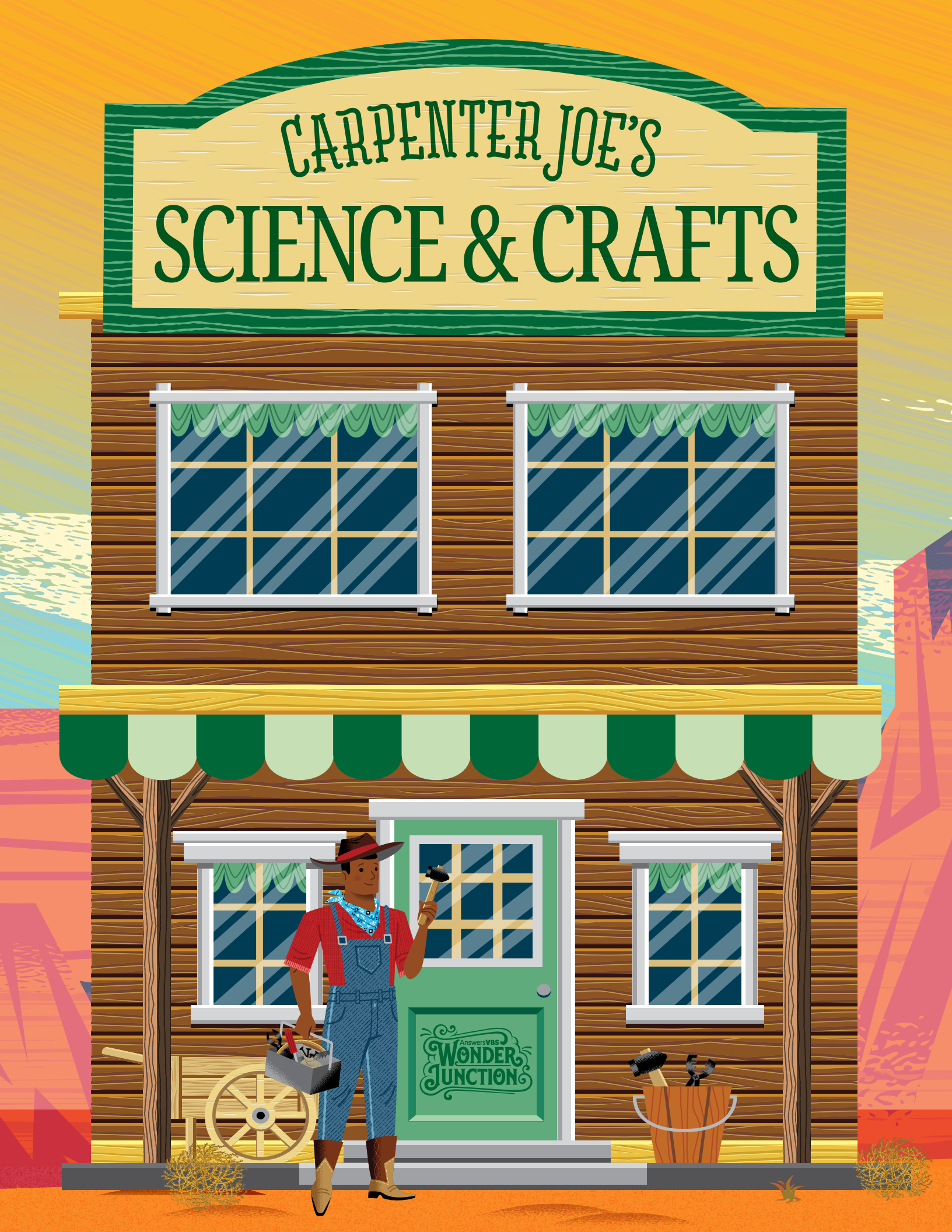
CARPENTER JOE'S
SCIENCE & CRAFTS
Answers VBS
WONDER JUNCTION

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Carpenter Joe's Science and Crafts

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Printed in China.

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Handy Helps

Yee-Haw!

Howdy, partners!

Look to your left—do you see the cattle over yonder stampeding across the plains? Look to your right—can your eyes make out the sun-covered buttes of the desert? Look behind you—the brand-new transcontinental railroad is rumbling along the tracks! From the Badlands of South Dakota to the high peaks of the Rockies, there is wonder to be discovered everywhere we turn in the Old West!

Join us as we gallop through the wonder-filled West, where our friends at Wonder Junction will teach us about the grandest wonder of all—Jesus Christ. Each day, we'll dig deeper into who this awe-inspiring Jesus is, answering questions such as:

- What amazing things happened surrounding Jesus' birth?
- What was Jesus like as a child and teen?
- What wonders occurred during Jesus' ministry years?
- How were Jesus' death and resurrection like no other?
- What should we be doing as we wait for Jesus' return?

Wonder and amazement await us each day at Wonder Junction, where kids will gather at the **All Aboard Assembly**, a high-energy beginning that includes wacky intros, lively songs, a mission moment, and prayer.

Then we're off to rotate through five fun sites:

High Point Bible Time, where God's Word is taught in creative, hands-on ways.

Carpenter Joe's Science and Crafts, where kids get their hands dirty as they make crafts and explore God's world through science experiments.

Sweet Sadie's Snacks, where kids munch on some downright tasty home-cooked vittles.

Gallopin' Gabe's Games, the rambunctious rec time where kids might just get plumb tuckered out.

Miss Millie's Missions, Music, and Memory Verses, where kids sing songs, learn their memory verses, or go in-depth with the mission moment featuring Children's Hunger Fund.

Finally, everyone is rounded up to head back to the **All Aboard Assembly** for the closing, where there's more singing, contest results, and the highly anticipated daily drama that highlights the shenanigans of two bumbling bandits who are transformed after learning about the *wonder*ful life of Jesus Christ.

So dust off your boots, grab your bandana, and get ready for a rootin' tootin' good ol' time at Wonder Junction!

Our Goal

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past years! But why did we decide to embark on such an undertaking in the first place, and why are we still at it, by God's grace?

Our primary goal has always been to bring God glory by boldly and unashamedly proclaiming him to a strategic group—young people. From both a biblical and statistical point of view, young people are a big deal. They're not only awesome—we love 'em!—but they're also dearly cherished by our Lord and tend to be softhearted toward spiritual things. Researchers generally agree most people become Christians when they're children, so it's apparent this age group is a huge mission field!

Children are loved by their Creator, and Jesus said to let them come to him (Luke 18:16). We want children to come to Christ and not be hindered in any way from doing so. To that end, we combine a biblically rich VBS with off-the-chart, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers, we don't want to sacrifice rich teaching. But it's also crucial that the most exciting book in the world not come across as boring or irrelevant. We want to reflect our creative, inspiring, joy-giving God who made laughter and fun.

So why do we do it? We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent, and every word spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ.

Just remember—VBS is worth it. May God richly bless your VBS. We're praying for you!

Your Role

Your role is outlined in the following pages. Your responsibilities may include:

- Planning crafts and science experiments for all age levels
- Overseeing assistants
- Organizing sign-up for donations of materials
- Buying all supplies that have not been donated
- Enlisting help and preparing supplies
- Acting as the presenter during VBS or overseeing others who present the activities
- Overseeing the daily setup and cleanup of the area(s)
- Making sure key lesson themes are reinforced
- Praying over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *Wonder Junction* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit AnswersVBS.com/wonderfaq.

Terms to Know

Throughout the VBS curriculum, various terms will be used. Here is a list of some of the most common terms to know.

Partners (as in, "Howdy, partners!"): Groups of children (individual classes) named after Old West people, such as Miners, Ranchers, Blacksmiths, and Homesteaders.
Group Guides: Group leaders who guide the partners from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required of this position.
High Point Bible Time: Bible and apologetics lesson time happening at the High Point Chapel.
Truth Teachers: Teachers of the High Point Bible Time.
Carpenter Joe's Science and Crafts: Rotation site where crafts are made and science experiments are explored.
Sweet Sadie's Snacks: Indoor or outdoor location where snacks are served.
Gallopin' Gabe's Games: Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for recreation time.
Miss Millie's Missions, Music, and Memory Verses: Rotation site where kids can spend additional time learning songs and memory verses and hearing about missions.
Gold Mine Memory Time: Time to learn and practice the daily Bible verse.
Animal Pals: Our friendly animal mascots that remind us of the main themes of each day.
Toddlers: 2–4-year-olds.
Pre-Primaries: 4–6-year-olds or children ages 4 through those who have completed kindergarten.
Primaries: 6–9-year-olds or children who have completed grades 1–3.
Juniors: 9–12-year-olds or children who have completed grades 4–6.

For multi-age K–6 travel groups, we recommend using the material for the Primaries.

Top 20 Tips for Carpenter Joe's Science and Crafts

1. Pray! This is your most important preparation. Give all concerns to the Lord and watch *him* do great things!
2. This guide offers main craft and science experiment suggestions as well as ideas for extra crafts and craft kit options. Some are simple and quick, while others are more involved. There are also toddler crafts. Think through your time and resources and decide which crafts and/or science experiments you will do each day.
3. Gather faithful helpers who will prepare items well in advance. Record their names, addresses, cell phone numbers, and email addresses so you can contact them quickly and easily.
4. Make a sample of every craft and science experiment before you meet with your team for the first time so they can visualize what you are presenting. Each helper should make a sample of each craft so they're familiar with all the steps. Try out each science experiment ahead of time and make sure your presenters have done a trial run as well.
5. Host "Craft Shops" or "Science Shops." Workers can drop by and pick up materials to prep at home, or they can stay for part or all of the time. Assembly lines can be set up to prep craft materials quickly. Weekday or Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon, complete with doughnuts and coffee, can be an enjoyable time in preparation.
6. Use an office paper cutter for cutting patterns or paper with straight edges. Make sure to remove the paper cutter and any other dangerous supplies, such as miter saws and craft knives, from the classrooms. If a science experiment calls for this type of item, store it in a safe place before and after use.
7. Be prepared. Organize crafts into individual kits for each child, using plastic baggies or lunch sacks. Place the individual kits into boxes labeled for each rotation. Organize science experiment supplies as well, considering whether they will be done by individuals, groups, or as a teacher demo as noted in the directions.
8. Cover the tables with plastic tablecloths and secure with tape.
9. Craft glue, such as Tacky Glue, works better than school glue for grade-schoolers. Toothpicks and Q-tips work well for dipping into and applying the glue.
10. Permanent markers in vibrant colors can be a good alternative to paint for grade-schoolers. They work on most surfaces—paper, wood, fabric, and plastic.
11. Decorate the room to correspond with the theme. See Decorating Decisions in the Director Guide for possible ideas. Play VBS music to set the mood. Display the memory verses on each table or around the room. Place a sample of each craft or science experiment on every table so children can visualize what they will be making or doing.
12. Overhead projectors or slide presentations are helpful for sharing directions in crafts, and pictures of things referenced in science. Video capabilities are also helpful in the science room.
13. Use this time to engage in conversation and share God's love. Be ready to offer smiles, hugs, and laughs. (Be aware of your church's appropriate touching policies.)
14. Be ready to help children who are easily frustrated. Helping with steps requiring physical dexterity does not detract from the child's creativity.
15. To reinforce the day's lesson, share the Teaching Tie-In that goes with each craft or science experiment. Ask the kids about what they're learning throughout your time together or right before they leave this rotation.
16. Print the daily memory verses on address labels and place on finished crafts or experiments, if possible.
17. Give leftover craft supplies to sick children, another VBS, or your church's resource area.
18. Always, always, always put names on crafts and take-home science experiments! Strips of masking tape work well for name labels.
19. The test churches divide this rotation time by having 17 minutes in a science room, attempting one or two science experiments, and 17 minutes in a craft room, doing one or two crafts.
20. This book is loaded with fabulous stuff—more than you'll probably be able to do—so consider incorporating unused ideas at other times during your ministry year.

DAY 1 EXPERIMENT

Star of Wonder

Materials

- ☐ Rotational Axis of Earth Illustration
- ☐ 10 or more 4-inch star cutouts
- ☐ Painter's tape or other wall adhesive
- ☐ 1 large, 20-inch, yellow ball or balloon
- ☐ Small globes or earth balls, 1 per person
- ☐ 1 globe for demonstration
- ☐ Optional: star cutouts or glow-in-the-dark stars, 1 per person to take home

Prep

1. Place all but one of the 4-inch stars randomly on the walls around the room and secure them with painter's tape. Keep one for demonstration.
2. Print the IMAGE.

Tip Corner

- In place of the earth ball/globe, use a small blue or green ball or balloon and tell kids that it represents the earth.
- Instead of telling kids how fast the earth is rotating at the equator, consider calculating approximately how fast they are spinning at your location by using the following method.

  Look up the approximate latitude of your location on a map. Calculate the distance around the earth at your latitude:

  - » cos(latitude) x 40,000 = distance in km
  - » cos(latitude) x 25,000 = distance in miles
  - » Divide by 24 hours to get miles per hour (mph).

Class Time Directions & Dialogue

Introduction

Have you ever looked up into God's wondrous night sky? Pause. What have you seen? Take responses. On a clear night, we see lights in the sky, right?

- If the light is twinkling, what is it? Take responses—a star.
- If the light is solid, what is it? Take responses—a planet.
- If the light is flashing and moving slowly, what is it? Take responses—a plane.
- If the light moves fast and has a long tail, what is it? Take responses—a comet.
- If the light moves very fast and then disappears from view, what is it? Take responses—a shooting star, which is actually a meteor that has entered our atmosphere and is burning up.

Today, we're going to talk about a star—a unique star mentioned in the Bible. According to the Bible, we understand that the wise men came to worship Jesus before he was two years old. What led them to Jesus? Take answers. Read Matthew 2:9.

We're going to do an experiment that will teach us something about this special star! First, let's make sure we all understand some things about the motion of the earth and stars.

Everyone, be very still. Let the kids settle. What would you say if I said none of you are being still? Take

answers. It depends on *perspective*, or what you're being compared to.

- If we compare ourselves to the room around us, we are still.
- If we compare our location here to where we were before we came today, have we moved?
- If we compare our location in space to where we were an hour ago, have we moved? Yes, we've moved a big distance. Some of that distance is due to the rotation of the earth. Make your globe spin around one time.

Everyone, spin around one time right where you are. Wait for children to spin once. That was pretty quick, just a few seconds. Who knows how long one rotation of the earth takes? How many hours? It's a number between 1 and 50. Shout it out if you think you know. Take answers. It takes 24 hours, or one day, to make one full rotation.

Point to the north and south poles either on your globe or on the ROTATIONAL AXIS OF EARTH ILLUSTRATION. So, if you were standing at either the north or south pole, one rotation would barely move you. You would spin around once per day without moving your feet. For example, imagine standing in the middle of a merry-go-round and not moving your feet while it spins. I'll spin the globe and you keep your feet firmly in place to represent this. Do so.

Now look at the equator. Use your finger to draw a line around the earth at the equator. Show the distance on the ROTATIONAL AXIS OF EARTH ILLUSTRATION. This is called the circumference, or the distance around the earth. Does anyone have a guess how many miles it is? Take guesses. It's a little under 25,000 miles (40,000 km). We would have to travel that distance in 24 hours, so we'd really be moving, wouldn't we? I'll spin the globe again and let's jog fast in place to represent this, even though it's not nearly fast enough. Do so. We would be going a little over 1,000 miles per hour (1,670 kmph)! Wow! That's about 16 times faster than your car goes on the highway!

Optional paragraphs: The earth doesn't just spin. What else does it do? Take answers. It revolves around the sun like this. Demonstrate by making your globe orbit around the sun. How long does it take to travel one time around the sun? How many days? It's a number between 0 and 1,000. Shout it out. Take answers. It takes one year or approximately 365 days. Does anyone know how far the earth travels in that year? Take answers. You may want to write the following number out dramatically: 584,000,000 miles (940,000,000 km). Who can count that high? That's a really big number, isn't it? So while we're rotating, we're also revolving! If you thought we were moving quickly in our daily rotation, check this out. We revolve around the sun at a speed of around 66,620 miles per hour (107,200 kmph)! We would have to travel around the earth near the equator more than two and a half times in one hour if we wanted to feel that speed! Try to spin and rotate around your chair at the same time. Do so.

And that's not even all of our motion in space. The solar system (including our earth) is orbiting around our Milky Way galaxy. And our entire galaxy is moving, including the sun—which is the nearest star—so we can add that motion to our rotating and revolving.

Directions

Now let's talk about the stars we see in the night sky. Show thumbs-up if you think they're moving and thumbs-down if you think they're not. Do so. Thumbs-up—they are moving, but maybe not in the way you're thinking. Raise your hand if you think that stars are moving because you've seen them cross the night sky. Acknowledge.

Stars do appear to cross the night sky, but it's actually the earth rotating around that makes them appear to move. The stars are far away, and they're moving really fast, but since the distance they travel is much, much smaller than the distance from us, we can't tell they're moving. Again, it's a matter of perspective. In fact, astronomers have to study stars for years to see their movements because we're so far away from them.

Did you notice the stars that are around our room? Acknowledge. Okay, we're going to imagine they're stars in the sky.

- Everyone, pick up one of the earth balls and point to any place on it. Imagine you're at that spot on the earth.
- Now point your finger to one particular star.
- Rotate your earth by turning your wrist counterclockwise while still pointing at the star. Demonstrate.
- As you turn your earth, do the stars appear to move with it? Take answers. No, they don't. But did their positions change in your sky? Acknowledge. Yes, they sure did.

Who remembers what the Bible says about the star that led the wise men to Jesus? Take answers. Reread Matthew 2:9. How could this be? How, if the earth continued to rotate, could a star stay over one particular place like this? Demonstrate by making a star move with the earth's rotation. Look at the stars around our room. How could this one star ***stay*** over the house where Jesus was? What do you think? Take answers. This particular "star" could ***not*** have been a typical star that we find in the universe because of the way it moved and then stayed in position. This had to have been a supernatural star, a supernatural light sent to lead the wise men to our Savior, Jesus. God is all-powerful. He can make anything he chooses—including this star of wonder.

Optional: Everyone may take home a star to remind them of the star that went before the wise men and stopped over the house where Jesus was.

DAY 1 EXPERIMENT

Cone in a Cornfield

Materials

- ☐ Parícutin Photo
- ☐ Map of Mexico Volcanoes
- ☐ Cinder Cone Volcano Collage
- ☐ Cinder Cone Volcano Formation
- ☐ Pie plate
- ☐ Zippered plastic bag of sand
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ YouTube.com/answersvbs video experiment using ammonium dichromate
- ☐ Device to play the video

Prep

1. Print the IMAGES.
2. Put sand into the zippered plastic bag.

Tip Corner

- Use a computer to show the YouTube video or show it on a video screen. You may want to make the illustrations into slides and show on the screen as well.
- Prepare more zippered baggies of sand and pie plates if you'd like to have the kids try this at their tables.

Class Time Directions & Dialogue

Introduction

The first wonder that we're learning about here at Wonder Junction is the wonder of Jesus' birth. The Bible gives us a record of Jesus' life on earth.

Although nothing compares to the wonder of Jesus, there are many natural wonders on earth. We have written records from birth to death of one of those natural wonders. I'm going to read what a man said about this natural wonder and then you can guess what it is. Around 4 p.m. on February 20, 1943, a man named Dionisio Pulido reported this:

> I left my wife to set fire to a pile of branches when I noticed that a crack, which was situated on one of the knolls of my farm, had opened . . . and I saw that it was a kind of fissure that had a depth of only half a meter. I set about to ignite the branches again when I felt a thunder, the trees trembled, and I turned to speak to Paula; and it was then I saw how, in the hole, the ground swelled and raised itself 2 or 2.5 m high, and a kind of smoke or fine dust—grey, like ashes— began to rise up in a portion of the crack that I had not previously seen. . . . Immediately more smoke began to rise with a hiss or whistle, loud and continuous; and there was a smell of sulfur.

What do you think this man was talking about? What was happening? Take answers. There was a volcano forming right there in his cornfield! Can you imagine walking around in your yard and all of a sudden the ground starts rising up and spewing ashes? Show PARÍCUTIN PHOTO. That would be pretty scary! But there are lots of volcanoes on earth, so why is this the only one to be called a natural wonder? Take answers. The birth of a volcano had not been recorded before, as far as we know. But thanks to this event, we now have a written record of the complete life cycle of a volcano.

Here are five facts about this volcano. Help me count them off by putting up your finger and saying "1":

Hold up one finger and say, "One!" The name of this natural wonder is Parícutin. Let's say that together. Do so. It was named after the nearby village of Parícutin, one of the two villages destroyed by flying rocks and fire, and then buried by the lava flow.

Hold up two fingers and say, "Two!" Two weeks of earthquakes led up to this event. Even now, the region continues to have many earthquakes.

Hold up three fingers and show **MAP OF MEXICO VOLCANOES**. It occurred in west central Mexico in an area that already has more than 1,400 volcanoes.

Hold up four fingers and show **CINDER CONE VOLCANO COLLAGE**. It is a cinder cone volcano. Cinder cones are the simplest and most common type of volcano, and once they stop, they typically don't erupt again. Therefore, Parícutin has been classified as extinct. However, we know it's still hot because rainwater forms steam when it seeps into the cone.

Hold up five fingers and say, "Five!" Parícutin erupted for nine years and reached a final height of 1,391 feet (424 m) above where the cornfield was. That's almost five football fields high! Can you imagine if this happened in your backyard?

Show the **CINDER CONE VOLCANO FORMATION ILLUSTRATION**. Let's talk about how a cinder cone volcano forms. What is magma? Take answers. Magma is molten rock that's normally found deep inside the earth where there's lots of pressure and it's very, very hot.

Who can tell me what a cinder is? Take answers. A cinder is a small piece of rock that forms when magma and hot gases escape the earth through a crack in the earth's crust, often created by an earthquake. The molten rock flies up into the air and cools into a cinder before landing.

Most of the cinders fall back down near the crack and pile up, making a cone shape, so the name "cinder cone" is very appropriate.

What's the difference between magma and lava? Take answers. Magma is the molten rock that's still inside the earth, and lava is that same molten rock once it has flowed out. While a cinder cone volcano is erupting, additional cracks near the base of the volcano often allow lava to flow out and spread across the area. This is exactly what happened with Parícutin.

Show the YouTube video demonstrating the ignition of ammonium dichromate, which looks like a cinder cone volcano as it burns.

Directions

Let's see what happens when we try to form a cone of our own.

SAND DEMONSTRATION:

I have a bag of sand, and I'm going to see if it will create a cone when my pretend cinders fall to the ground. Be sure everyone can see the pie plate before continuing. Let's imagine that the center of this pie plate is a new crack that just opened in the earth and that molten rock and gas are spraying up into the air. I'm going to hold this bag over the crack, cut a small hole in the bottom corner, and let the grains fall as if they were the cinders from a volcano. Cut the hole. Who thinks it will form a cone shape? Acknowledge. Let's see! Wait while the sand falls. We did it! Keep in mind that there are other types of volcanoes that form in different ways. You can research volcanoes if you want to learn more about them.

DAY 1 CRAFT

Christmas Crèche

JUNIOR, PRIMARY & PRE-PRIMARY

Materials

- ☐ Lamb Face Pattern
- ☐ O Come, Let Us Adore Him Label Pattern
- ☐ Uline (S-18146) Kraft (brown) 4 x 4 x 1 mailer boxes, 1 per child
- ☐ Dark blue card stock, 4 x 4-inch pieces, 1 per child
- ☐ White card stock, 1 sheet per 39 children
- ☐ Black card stock, ½-inch circles, 2 per child (150+ per sheet)
- ☐ Brown card stock, 1 sheet per 35 children
- ☐ Red copy paper, 1 sheet per 39 children
- ☐ Beige linen cloth, 2 x 2-inch pieces, 2 per child
- ☐ Unfinished wood peg dolls, 2⅜ x ⅞-inch, 1 per child
- ☐ Unfinished wood peg dolls, 2 x ¾-inch, 1 per child
- ☐ Unfinished split wood balls, ½-inch, 1 per child
- ☐ White pom-poms, 1-inch, 2 per child
- ☐ Brown chenille stems, 1 per 2 children
- ☐ Large gold star stickers, 1 per child

Tools and Basic Supplies

- ☐ Office paper cutter
- ☐ ½-inch hole punch
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Glue dots
- ☐ Zippered baggies
- ☐ White acrylic paint
- ☐ Toothpicks
- ☐ Fine-point Sharpies
- ☐ Colored markers

Prep

1. Assemble the boxes for each child.
2. Cut the dark blue card stock into 4 x 4-inch pieces.
3. Cut the beige linen cloth into 2-inch squares.
4. Print the **LAMB FACE PATTERN** onto white card stock and rough cut 2 faces per child. The kids can do the finish cutting.
5. Print the **O COME, LET US ADORE HIM PATTERN** onto red copy paper and cut out.
6. Hole punch black card stock into ½-inch circles.
7. Cut brown card stock into 1½-inch squares.
8. Cut brown chenille stems into 3-inch pieces.
9. Make individual kits in zippered baggies for each child with all the above supplies.

Tip Corner

For the stars, metallic silver Sharpies can be substituted for white paint and toothpicks—especially for younger kids.

Teaching Tie-In

Show the sample craft and say:

Do you know when you were born (your birthday)? How about where you were born? Take responses. **Jesus came to earth as a baby, but his birth had extraordinary events surrounding it. What were some ways Jesus' birth was different than everyone else's?** Take responses.

Today at VBS, we're making a Christmas Crèche to remind us of some of those wonder-filled events that happened.

Class Time Directions

1. Stick the large gold star near the top center of the blue card stock square.
2. Glue stick the blue card stock square to the inside bottom of the box so the star is near the side where the box flap tucks in.
3. Dip a toothpick into white paint, then carefully make tiny dots all over the blue card stock to look like stars. Set aside to dry.
4. Attach a lamb head and a black circle base to each white pom-pom with glue dots.
5. For the manger, take the brown card stock square and bend two opposite sides up. For the legs, take the two chenille stem pieces, make an *X*, and then twist the pieces together at the center a couple times. Then bend the ends down and glue dot the middle of the *X* to the underside of the manger.
6. For baby Jesus, take a piece of beige cloth and position it like a diamond in front of you. Then glue dot the split wood ball to the top corner. Next, add a glue dot to the right corner. Fold the bottom corner up, the left corner over and then the right corner last, pressing down to secure. Use a fine-point Sharpie to draw a face on the wood ball—2 dashes for closed eyes and a smile.
7. Use markers to color clothes on the wood peg dolls (the larger doll for Joseph and the smaller doll for Mary). Add face details with a fine-point black Sharpie. Attach the other piece of cloth to Mary's head for a veil. Use one glue dot on each side of her head and one on her back.
8. Set up your manger scene to see how everything looks. Then glue stick the red O COME, LET US ADORE HIM LABEL to the outside of the box lid tab that sticks up at the front.
9. Place all the pieces inside and close the lid to take it home.

Super Simple Idea

Each day, at least one super simple option is included, which is a premade craft kit from Oriental Trading Company that goes along with the main concepts of the day. To order, call 1 (800) 875-8480 or visit OrientalTrading.com.

As an alternative to the Day 1 main crafts, try the following craft kit. Note that this is available at the time of printing and may not be available later.

- 3D Journey to Bethlehem Stand-Up Craft Kit (Item Number: #13911851)—Manufacturer does not recommend for children under three years of age.

DAY 1 CRAFT

Ticket to Ride Ornament

JUNIOR, PRIMARY & PRE-PRIMARY

Materials

- ☐ Wonder Junction Ticket Pattern
- ☐ Wood craft sticks, 4½-inch, 2 per child
- ☐ Mini craft sticks, 2½-inch, 4 per child
- ☐ Silver or gold paper drinking straws, 1 per 2 children
- ☐ Tan card stock, 1 sheet per 15 children*
- ☐ 20-gauge copper wire, 12 inches per child

*If printing the pattern in sepia (instead of black and white), use white card stock.

Tools and Basic Supplies

- ☐ Office paper cutter
- ☐ Wire cutters
- ☐ Glue dots
- ☐ Craft glue
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Quart-size zippered baggies

Prep

1. Print the **WONDER JUNCTION TICKET PATTERN** onto tan or white card stock and cut one per child.
2. Cut the straws in half.
3. Cut the copper wire into 12-inch lengths.
4. Place a ticket, 2 regular craft sticks, 4 mini craft sticks, 2 silver straw pieces, and one 12-inch piece of wire in zippered baggies for each child.

Tip Corner

For younger kids, substitute chenille stems for copper wire.

Teaching Tie-In

Show the sample craft and say:

Do you have favorite Christmas ornaments you enjoy putting up each year? Take responses. **Why do we celebrate Christmas?** Take responses. **Today, we're making this keepsake Ticket to Ride ornament so we can always remember this VBS. But more importantly, we can always remember Jesus—the reason we celebrate Christmas in the first place! There wouldn't even be such a thing as Christmas if it weren't for Jesus.**

Class Time Directions

1. Take the 4 mini craft sticks and position them like railroad ties side-by-side approximately ½ inch apart.
2. Place a drop of glue about ½ inch from both ends of each mini craft stick, then lay the 2 long craft sticks across the minis, creating a railroad track.
3. Glue the straw pieces to the long craft sticks.
4. Wrap the ends of the copper wire around the upper rail to hang the ornament.

5. Place a glue dot on the upper silver or gold rail directly above the third mini craft stick (counting from left to right). Then place a glue dot on the lower silver or gold rail directly above the second mini craft stick.
6. Position the ticket on an angle over the 2 glue dots and press into place.

Super Simple Idea

Try the following Oriental Trading Company craft kit. To order, call 1 (800) 875-8480 or visit OrientalTrading.com.

Note that this is available at the time of printing and may not be available later.

- Nativity Suncatcher Ornaments (Item Number: #14324579)—Manufacturer does not recommend for children under three years of age.