

Activity and Teacher's Guide: *Ten Rowdy Ravens*

Written by Susan Ewing, Illustrated by Evon Zerbetz

Alaska Northwest Books®

0-88240-606-X, \$15.95 HB • 0-88240-610-8, \$8.95 SB

For more information visit:

www.susanewing.com and www.evonzerbetz.com

Ten Rowdy Ravens introduces children 4 years and up to the rowdy and mischievous shenanigans of the popular raven! This fun “countdown from 10” book features 10 ravens in silly situations that gradually take their numbers down to one, where they eventually reunite to play all over again! Happy reading!

Reading/Writing/Language Arts

1. Read *Ten Rowdy Ravens* and answer the following questions:
 - a. How many ravens start out in the beginning of the game?
 - b. What happened to the pail of bait on the Corvid boat?
 - c. Eight roguish ravens pilfer piles of loot. What items can you see in the beaks of the ravens?
 - d. What happened at the Ravenous Dragon restaurant? What gives the ravens a bellyache?
 - e. What do the two remaining ravens do in the back of the pickup truck?
2. What is an **adjective**? What adjectives can you find in *Ten Rowdy Ravens* that describes the ravens? List them on a sheet of paper and then list all adjectives that describe yourself. Do you share any similarities with ravens?
3. Create a list of characteristics of a raven using the letters **RAVEN**. For example:

R- rambunctious
A- adventurous
V- vim
E- energetic
N- nosy

4. At the end of the game the one remaining raven called (*kawed*) for his friends to come and begin the game again. Write about the mischievous adventures you would have the ravens play. Come up with 10 difference scenarios.



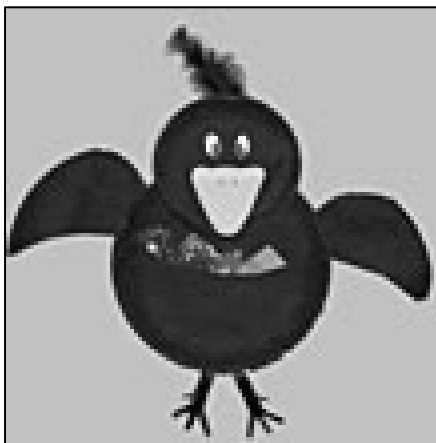
Science/Natural History

1. What family does the raven belong to? What other birds belong to this family?
2. Are ravens and crows the same bird? If not, what are their differences? Do they have any similarities?
3. Where do ravens live? Do they make nests to sleep in? Do any ravens live near you?
4. What do ravens eat? Are there some foods you can't believe they actually eat? List them.
5. Do ravens migrate or stay year round in one place?
6. Do ravens like to be together in groups like in *Ten Rowdy Ravens* or do they like to be alone? Are they considered social birds?
7. Do you think ravens talk to one another? Why or why not? Do they sing?
8. Do you think ravens like to play like you? Do you think they are very smart? Can you think of any other animals that get into as much trouble as the ravens? List them.



Math

1. Ravens love pretty things! If a raven had a jewelry box filled with 50 pretty pearls and stole 15 of them, how many pearls would be left? How many would be left if another raven took 7?
2. Ravens like to slide down a snow hill too! If one raven *kaws* for two of his friends to join him and then they each *kaw* for two of their friends, how many total will be sliding down the snow hill?



Art

Paper Plate Raven Craft - This bird can be used to hold papers or candy.

What you will need: large paper plates, small paper plates, yellow, black, and white construction paper, black markers, black paint and paint brushes, glue gun, and black feathers.

What to do:

1. Before class cut the top 1/3 off of one large paper plate. Glue it to another large paper plate so that it forms a pocket.

2. Glue two small paper plates together, top to top, for the head. Glue the head to the large paper plates as shown.
3. Cut out some wings from another paper plate or black construction paper and glue them to the body.
4. In class have the children paint the body of the bird, cut out a beak and eyes, and glue them to the body.
5. They can also glue some feathers to the top of the head and make legs from black construction paper. You can also punch a hole in the top and tie a piece of yarn in the hole so they can hang their birds.

(Provided by: www.daniellesplace.com/html/birdcrafts.html)

Other Activities

1. Raven Word Find!

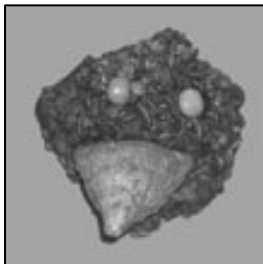
C	H	O	P	S	U	E	Y	A
R	S	B	P	E	A	R	L	S
A	I	R	A	U	C	O	U	S
K	U	Y	D	W	O	R	R	E
I	G	P	C	T	D	E	N	L
S	O	R	R	F	Z	J	U	K
H	R	I	P	I	C	N	I	C
G	C	Z	C	R	A	Z	Y	E
K	H	E	I	N	E	V	A	R

Find these words from *Ten Rowdy Ravens!* They can be found across, down, diagonal, and backwards.

CHOP-SUEY
CRAZY
LOOT
PEARLS
PICNIC
PRIZE
RAKISH

RAUCOUS
RAVEN
RECKLESS
ROGUSH
ROWDY
TRICK
UNRULY

2. Make Raven Cookies!



What you will need:

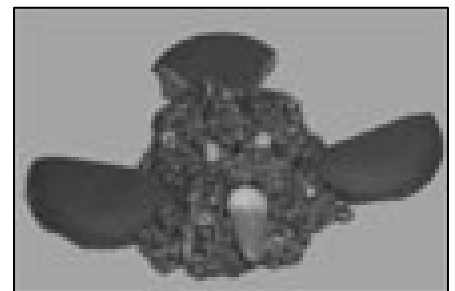
1/2 cup cocoa	Nilla Chocolate Wafers
1 cup milk	Candy corn
4 cups sugar	3D's Doritos
2 sticks of butter (1 cup)	Raisins
1 cup of peanut butter (optional)	
6 cups of old fashioned oatmeal	

Make the Dough for the Raven's Body:

1. Mix cocoa, sugar, and milk stirring well in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the butter. Bring to a boil. Boil 2 to 3 minutes until the mixture reaches the soft ball stage. (Drop a small amount of the hot mixture into a cold cup of water. If the mixture sticks together slightly when you push it together with your fingers, it is in a soft ball stage.) Do not over cook because they will be too dry and fall apart.
2. Remove from heat and add the peanut butter and oats. Scoop onto waxed paper that has been placed on a cookie sheet.

To Complete the Ravens:

Raven's head - Add candy corn or 3D's Doritos for a beak. Use raisins to make the eyes.
 Raven with wings - Cut one Chocolate Wafer in half to make two wings. Push wafer halves into the sides of the raven's body. Cut another wafer into a triangular shape for the tail feathers. Push into the top of the raven's body. Push a Candy Corn or a 3D's Doritos into the lower half of the body for a beak. Add eyes with raisins.



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INTERESTING RAVEN FACTS!

- Ravens are members of the Corvidae family of birds along with crows and magpies.
- They range across the entire Northern Hemisphere and occupy almost every kind of habitat- from treeless arctic tundra, to hot desert, to dense forest, to open seashore, to country-side and town.
- Ravens can be found in many stories that are older than written history.
- Ravens are extremely smart and are among the most playful of all animals.
- A Fairbanks raven likes to perch on the edge of a radar dish shouting different calls into the parabola and listening to the echo.
- Ravens living near a golf course in Pennsylvania snatch golf balls off the course and drop them into a water hazard.
- At the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage, a resident raven pushed food through the bars of its cage to feed the wild ravens.



About the author



Susan Ewing's love of animals and the outdoors shapes her writing as well as her life. Her first children's book was *Lucky Hares and Itchy Bears*, a quirky collection of animal poems produced in an energetic collaboration with Ketchikan artist Evon Zerbetz; this same delightful creative partnership now gives *Ten Rowdy Ravens* its unbridled zest. Susan is also the author of several nonfiction books for adults: *The Great Rocky Mountain Nature Factbook*, *The Great Alaska Nature Factbook*, and *Going Wild in Washington and Oregon*. Her articles, essays, and short stories have appeared in *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Big Sky Journal*, *Montana Quarterly*, *the Acorn*, *Sports Afield*, *Bugle* and other publications, as well as in such anthologies as *Heartshots*, *American Nature Writing*, *A Road of Her Own*, *Alaska Passages*, *Solo: On Her Own Adventure*, and *Living in the Runaway West*. Susan has always been captivated by ravens, especially the way their mythology reflects the dualities of corvid, as well as human, nature. She got the idea for *Ten Rowdy Ravens* watching a flock of the raucous birds fly over her house on their daily commute from the town landfill to their night roost in the mountains.

About the illustrator

Raven imagery has flown in and out of **Evon Zerbetz's** artwork throughout her career as a linocut artist. Noted for her witty menagerie of animal imagery, corvidophiles have had particular interest in the ravens which populate a good amount of her work. Over 100 new raven postures were required for the creation of *Ten Rowdy Ravens*. Daily observations of the big black birds provide her with much of her resource material. Her house is in the flyway of a raven pair which regularly travels through the air from beach to their territory in the treetops behind her house. Carving her imagery in reverse into linoleum blocks, Evon delights in every aspect of the traditional printmaking process. She has focused on this medium for the last 17 years. *Ten Rowdy Ravens* will be the sixth book she has illustrated with her linocuts. Her artwork is sold in select galleries in Alaska, and can also be found in public collections in Alaska and private collections throughout the world.



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