

Titles and Brief Descriptions for Wiser Now's *Current* MindPlay Connections™

Each 25 - 30 -page publication in this series of downloadable material created by Kathy Laenhue and found at www.WiserNow.com offers at least a dozen activities. New titles are added regularly, and most include a cross-section of trivia quizzes, word games, discussion topics and imagination or reminiscence exercises.

Purchase and download them now at <http://shop.wisernow.com>.

Read them at your leisure.

And check back often to see what we've added!

Aging Well: Rest, Recreation and Resilience. The content is mostly in the title – from word games featuring aging with grace to trivia on good news, and discussion topics ranging from retaining one's sense of humor to giving good advice. You, too, can age well by having fun . . .

Aloha, Hawaii was written to coincide with its statehood anniversary, but is primarily meant to honor the Aloha spirit with exercises related to foods and fabrics, music and movies, dance, a Duke, and many other delights.

Ant, Bees, and Butterflies is a honey of an issue that also features facts on ladybugs, crickets, caterpillars and more. We talk about insect flavors and fables, symbols and sounds, quotes and quirky research + much, much more. You will surely bug your friends with all you learn and imagine.

Aussies Down Under is a celebration of an amazing continent and its delightful people. Enjoy learning a new language – Strine – and facts about Australia's unusual animals, its Aborigines, inventors, and Big Things. This issue is overflowing with tantalizing info and tongue-in-cheek good fun.

Bird Brains provides fascinating facts on fabulous birds while busting the myth that birds aren't bright. Lots of trivia quizzes, word games and interesting ways to let your imagination soar. People will flock to this one.

Bird Brains on the Farm is the domesticated version of **Bird Brains** covering chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys. You'll learn a gaggle of new facts and find the rhyming word games, trivia quizzes, and discussion topics just ducky.



Blowing Hot and Cold covers the discomfort of extreme temperatures, the comfort of both warm and cold foods (and the discomfort of spicy ones), plus dozens of expressions and other delights to warm a cold night.

Brainy Thoughts is for anyone fascinated with how the brain works. Written in layman's language, it covers the five senses, a wide variety of other topics like remembering jokes and names, procrastination, and why friends are good for your brain. Mostly composed of discussion topics, its pages are interspersed with a few "brainy" word games. It's *all* great food for thought!

Broadway Musicals takes 10 of our best-loved stage and movie musicals and turns them into trivia quizzes, word games, discussion topics and backstage insights. You will feel an uncontrollable urge to sing along and tap your feet – or perhaps even waltz along to "Shall we Dance?"

By George! Geographic Names is a world-full of playful material that's both fun and informative. After a few exercises with irresistibly punny geographic names, we've given you lots of opportunities to use your imagination for more, along with fascinating facts on why places are called what you might least expect. This title is also a great accompaniment to **Nifty Names** and **It's All Relative**.

Celebrating the Irish is a green-themed series of exercises that doesn't require any form of Celtic heritage to enjoy. Cook up some cabbage, pour a bit of brew, let loose with a bit o' good-natured blarney and a few bars of "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" and you are on your way to fun that lasts all month.



Color Me Beautiful will put you in the pink as you test your knowledge of the symbolism of colors, fill in the blanks on colorful expressions, match colors to moods, learn about color in other cultures, and much more.

Cowboys and Indians takes trivia on all the early TV westerns Roy Rogers to Gunsmoke and combines them with famous Indians, Indian names, and World War II code talkers. If you ever owned a Davy Crockett lunch box, wanted a horse like Trigger, yelled, "Geronimo!" or tried to spell Saskatchewan, you'll find memories and inspiration here.

December Holidays is our longest publication – but then we all need more entertainment during the month of longest nights. Enjoy the extra discussions and exercises while getting into the jubilant and generous spirit of the season.

Down on the Farm provides a "barn-full" of trivia quizzes, word games, discussion topics and more on cows, pigs, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys and mules. It's meant as an accompaniment to "Bird Brains on the Farm," on domestic birds, and all you need to succeed is a little horse sense.

Fascinated by Fall covers a bushel of topics about apples (Johnny Appleseed and William Tell), autumn events (Oktoberfest, anyone?), fall sports and colors in trivia and word games, plus reminiscences



and a dozen more activities. You'll find supplements to the season in **Happy Halloween, School Daze, November Celebrations, and Mysterious Fun.**

Fast Food for Thought covers more than a dozen exercises related to hotdogs, pizza, coffee, tea, beer, sandwiches, popcorn, and other comfort food. Enjoy the trivia, word games, discussion topics and reminisce about some of your favorite – or most decadent? – meals. You might need a snack by the time you finish.

Firsts is not about winning, but about doing. It offers word games, trivia quizzes, and imaginative exercises on first letters of the alphabet, first time events, entertaining firsts, first class, first cousins, firsthand knowledge, and the first to invent – and that's just for starters.

Foreign Language Fun offers quizzes and discussions related to language and its tricky translations in Spanish, French, German, Japanese, plus British, Scottish, Irish and Aussie English to prove the diversity even among English-speakers! The exercises will amuse and amaze you, while inspiring you to reminisce on the language gifts and gaffes that have affected you in your lifetime.

Forest Creatures covers the myths, symbolism and odd facts about animals in the woods, along with a surprising variety of word games, including puns, of course.

From the Bottom of My Heart celebrates each friend we love, because we now know one of the most important elements of aging well is a strong social network that includes friends we can count on. The celebration comes in the form of nearly 20 exercises that reinforce the treasures of friendships.



Fruit to Nuts offers a healthy dose of songs and symbols, nutty puns, fine art and odd facts, old legends and living-legend watermelon carvers.

Fun with Dots and Lines is devoted to all things round and linear, from polka dots to cherry pies and borderlines to actors' lines. You'll find trivia quizzes, discussion topics, imaginative exercises, and word games on everything from viewpoints to decimal points and pickup lines to headlines. It might drive you dotty!

Golly, We're Gullible! takes a portion of **Spring Forward** devoted to April Fool's Day and adds to it exercises about showman P.T. Barnum, foolish quotes, humbug memories, and a bit of science behind it all. Lots of fun and tomfoolery here.

Good and Good for You is a counter weight to **Fast Food for Thought** and presents a lighthearted view of eating a healthy diet. Plus, the intro establishes the importance of *two* parts to easy digestion: good food and good company. That means the wide-

ranging exercises are intended to be shared with others over breakfast, lunch, dinner, or a snack!



Happy Halloween: Forget the vampires, zombies and skeletons and say hello to trick-or-treaters, pumpkin carving, and apple bobbing. We've got trivia on Halloween history, but mostly we're knocking on your door with knock-knock jokes, charming exercises, good fortune and enchanting memories.

Happy New Year is focused on parades, charms, and resolutions for the New Year with an emphasis on fun, good fortune and refusing to take yourself too seriously. Break out the champagne or the blacked eyed peas and settle in with friends with pens.

Humorous Quotations lets you lean on the wit of others when you are at a loss for words. We've taken the funny (and a few poignant) sayings of comedians, playwrights, authors and humorists and turned them into trivia quizzes, word games and imaginative exercises. The goal is not to know all the answers, but to appreciate the ideas – and perhaps apply them to your own life.

In the Garden focuses on flowers, fruits, vegetables and nuts (mostly the plant variety) and covers perennials and puns, garden gifts, garden gnomes, and much more. This flower-centric publication will put you in a beautiful frame of mind.

Inspiring People includes biographies and/or quotations from dozens of amazing individuals in the form of trivia quizzes, discussion topics and word games. It's feel-good content sure to restore your faith in humanity, while providing many hours of conversation on what's best about human beings.



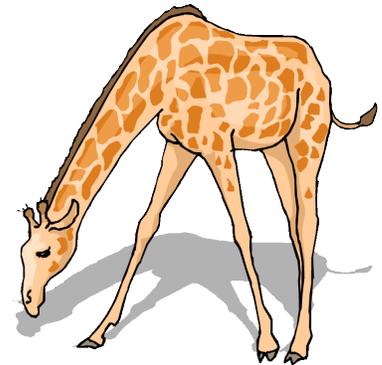
Inventions, Part 1 uses the broad topic to cover punny words, new words, Ig Nobel awards (a spoof of Nobel prizes), technical frustrations, accidental inventions, your own ideas – and the importance of letting your mind wander – in the form of discussion topics, trivia quizzes, word games and imaginative exercises.

It's All Relative, Part 1 covers the previous generation – grandparents, aunts and uncles – plus how we got our surnames, how we're related, and how we see our families. Here's a chance to remember and share your best family stories. It makes a perfect accompaniment to **It's All Relative, Part 2**, and **Nifty Names**.

It's All Relative, Part 2 offers more on surnames, and then focuses on famous siblings, our siblings, children and grandchildren, with a couple of related word games thrown in. Learn why nostalgia is a mood lifter, and then share your best family stories. It's a perfect accompaniment to **It's All Relative, Part 1**, and **Nifty Names**, which among them provide more than a month's worth of activities for everyone to enjoy.

Lasts, Endings and Odds and Ends provides the counter weight to **Firsts**, offering novel endings, weird wills, creative epitaphs, last laughs, funny and famous last words, plus a variety of “the end is in sight” word games. Enjoy its lasting pleasures.

Life Is a Zoo may sound like your emotional state, but it’s about the creatures you might find on a visit to San Diego or Washington, D.C. – giraffes, elephants, apes, hippos and more, all sleeping, waking, painting, and laughing.



The Light Fantastic covers light in its many forms – electric, fire, sun, stars, moon, music, and myth. It’s also about taking yourself lightly, enlightening experiences and the light metaphors of life.

Literature Light covers awful authors, 6-word novels, children’s authors, fairy tales, changing endings, book dedications, and other convincing reasons that reading is fun.

The Long and Short of It will amaze you with just how many variations on that theme are possible, while also providing information on record setters.

Love and Marriage, Part 1 offers more than a dozen exercises that include gender differences, pick-up lines, marriage rituals, terms of endearment, cynics’ view of marriage and much more. You’ll find much more than romance here. . .

Love and Marriage, Part 2 continues the fun of Part 1, using new topics including famous couples, punny marriages, to flirt or not to flirt, retro romance, add-a-letter word game and much more. We know you’ll fall in love with it!

Minding Your Ps and Qs is partly about minding your manners and partly about those two peculiar and quirky letters, all adding up to a pleasant pastime.

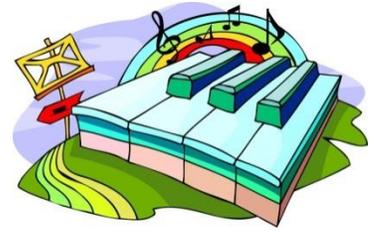


Money Matters provides trivia quizzes, word games and discussion topics on matters about money, and an imaginative exercise or two on why money doesn’t always matter, or at least why it isn’t the only way to be rich.

Mothers and Fathers was written in honor of the spring holidays celebrating them. It covers the best and worst of those in the animal kingdom and some of the most beloved on TV. We ask for reminiscences of lesson and rules from your parents, plus reactions to quotes about others’.

Movie Nostalgia – From movies like “Casablanca” in the Golden Age of the 1940s and 50s to the monster movie craze, you will find exercises to surprise and delight you in this memory-filled publication. Get out the popcorn!

Music to Lighten the Mood will have you whistling a happy tune as you imagine yourself as a rock star, play Mondegreens, match quirky country music titles, and learn about “The Really Terrible Orchestra,” among other interesting performers.



Mysterious Fun

Be forewarned: I do not like to be scared, so the mysteries you’ll find in this content focus on fun and information more than fright. But if I don’t send chills up your spine, I know I’ll light up your mind.

Nifty 1950s: This title focuses on 1950s music, culture, fads and slang. We’ve also covered the Edsel, the climbing of Mount Everest, and President Eisenhower. If you were alive in the 1950s, your memories are sure to be stirred; if you were not yet born, you will learn a lot that is likely to surprise you. Memories related to the 1950s are also part of the following MPC titles:

- Movie Nostalgia
- Nostalgia TV
- Summertime and the Living Is Easy
- Summertime 2

Nifty Names celebrates the fun and variety of people’s names from apt names (names that fit a person’s occupation) to zany names like Ina Funk and Lowe Gear. You will learn about pen names, eponyms and anagrams, how to remember names and clip names, and will end up, we hope, grateful for the name that’s yours. A great accompaniment to the **By George! Geographic Names** and **It’s All Relative** titles, too.

Nimble Numbers: The numbers 1 – 10 (and some that are higher) pop up everywhere in our lives – in songs, slogans, proverbs and perfect 10s, and in calories burned, steps climbed and fabric measured. You’ll be surprised by what you know and discover.



Nostalgia TV, unlike most of our titles, features just two types of exercises: trivia quizzes and discussions, and, oh, the fun you will have with them! Situation comedies and game shows are the primary focus; you will laugh at the past, learn something new about the performers, and linger over the happy memories.

November Holidays covers Thanksgiving in both the U.S. and Canada (even though Canadians celebrate in October), Native American Heritage Month (First Nations in Canada), Games and Puzzle Week, Lifewriting Month and more. You will be thankful for all you are asked to think about!

Occupying Occupations covers both those you would and wouldn't like to have and raises lively questions on how to satisfyingly occupy one's days. Sometimes you'll be glad to say, "That's not my job!"

Odd Celebrations proves beyond a doubt that people just want to have fun. A full range of exercises on quirky festivals of every sort from a baby jumping contest to the world's fastest couch will have you laughing and ready to start your own fun fest.

Offbeat Trivia Quizzes is a collection of a dozen trivia quizzes on subjects that mostly defy categorization: how radio action sounds are created, which is which (times three), which is a lie, games and puzzle creation, honorable mentions, "Could they have?" – and more. You will learn things you didn't know you didn't know!



Olympic Oooos and Ahhhs was prepared for the London Olympics, but offers exciting exercises on competition of all types that will take you through the years. On your mark, get set, go for it!

Our Amazing Bodies. The physiology of human beings *is* amazing and a surprising lot of it is not understood, but here we've tried our best to delightfully enlighten you. From the surprising differences between men and women to missing body parts and our bodies by the numbers – you have a lot of fun within you.

Our Better Selves provides encouraging exercises related to happiness, kindness, friendship and more while drawing out compliments on your unique talents. Learning about doing good has never *felt* so good!

Our National Parks. Getting outdoors is good for mind, body and spirit. Use this title to renew your dedication to going outdoors daily and breathing deeply. From odd park facts and Lewis and Clark's odd trinkets to a dozen other exercises, you'll have plenty to do sitting on the porch swing with pencil in hand.

Pet Patter, Part 1 offers more than a dozen exercises and discussion topics that include riddles, "pet" words, pet intelligence, astrologically-matched pets, dogs in TV and movies and much more. If you've ever owned a pet or thought of owning one, you will be "amewsed" by this "arf-ully" fun content.

Pet Patter, Part 2 continues the fun of Part 1, using new topics including famous dog owners, going overboard with pet inventions, "catty" language, dogs in children's books, and more. Doggone, you need this one, too!

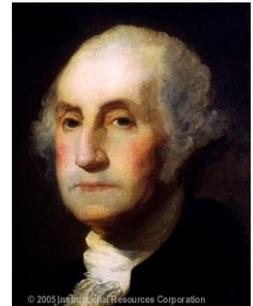


Pleasing Poetry: Most of us first encountered poetry in nursery rhymes and loved what we heard, but somewhere along the line, poetry's delights – the fun of language, the rhythm and the humor – got lost. This publication brings back those lost charms, and fits

in a few words about Shakespeare. Activity leaders: Check out the accompanying guide under Staff Development to learn of other ways to incorporate poetry in programming.

Presidential Matters covers surprising trivia about U.S. Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and First Ladies, as well as discussions on topics as varied as the Lincoln penny and White House séances. Vote for this one.

Purely Puns covers sound alike and double sounds, puns, daffynitions, spoonerisms, and more in words games and trivia quizzes. It could be verse.



Remembering Childhood, Part 1 is the first in an experimental series that will ultimately consist of 10 titles covering a lifetime of memories. This first title covers your name story, your parents and other influential adults, your siblings and birth order, plus childhood comforts, games, and freedoms with lots of prompts to help your memories flow.

Rolling Along is a mini MindPlay title covering all things that roll or come in rolls from roller coasters to cinnamon rolls. You'll roll merrily along with this one.



School Daze: This is a publication full of memories, bloopers, and positive messages for overloaded brains. School was probably never this much fun, but why shouldn't it be now? These exercises will keep you from ever wanting to play hooky again! And if you're looking for great accompaniments, check out **By George! Geographic Names, Literature Light, Nimble Numbers, and Pleasing Poetry.**

Sharing Our Young Hearts provides exercises that are intended to be done intergenerationally. It draws largely on other MPC titles that have been slightly revised in order to make them user friendly to a wide range of ages. Created as an October offering, it has a number of October themes.

Sound of Silence, Fullness of Space uses a variety of mind play exercises to build your awareness of noise and quiet, empty and full. Fill up your senses with this one!

Spring Forward covers many spring things – showers, flowers, April Fool's folly, backyard games, spring cleaning and more. Plus, **In the Garden** and **Tree-mendous Trees** are two more titles that let spring take root in your mind.

Summer Fun, created for a specific client, pulls from the other two summertime titles below and covers perfect summer days, summer jobs, summer games, and summer camps, moon landings, baseball puns, and more. Indulge yourself!

Summertime and the Living Is Easy provides loads of ways to: reminisce about simple days, special events, and summer jobs; check your knowledge of crazy contests and classic toys; and play some sporting and sundae word games – plus much more. It's a perfect accompaniment to **Summertime 2**, **Odd Celebrations**, **Movie Nostalgia**, **TV Nostalgia**, and **In the Garden**.

Summertime 2 covers Disneyland and roller coasters, perfect summer days and summer camps, moon landings, baseball puns, light words, and more of summer's pleasures. Indulge yourself! Then check out **Summertime and the Living Is Easy** and the other titles listed as accompaniments.

Sweets for the Sweet is more than a spoonful of sugary delights about cookies, candy, ice cream, chocolate, and sweet memories. Bite into this issue whole-heartedly.

Time is just a 4-letter word, but this is one of our longest titles covering multiple aspects of the subject. You will find exercises related to nostalgia, procrastination, word origins, birthstones, songs, expressions and much, much more that will keep this a timeless issue.



Tree-mendous Trees is a title that's good for both brain and boosting spirits. You will learn more than you knew about a broad cross-section of trees, and you will enjoy exercises that contribute to the "aahness of being." Let the ideas take root!

Winter Wonderland covers wide-ranging cold weather exercises and equally wide-ranging January and February events that include Mardi Gras, Groundhog Day, and Quality of Life Month. It's a perfect follow-up to **December Holidays** and **Happy New Year**.