



50 Morning Launch Activities

Zero-prep ideas for the first 10 minutes of the school day

GRADES 3– 6 • WRITING • DISCUSSION • CREATING • SCIENCE • GAMES

From the makers of **Classroom Blastoff** —
5-minute morning videos for grades 3–6

How to Use This Book

Print it, keep it by your desk, and grab an activity whenever the morning needs a launch.

- **Zero prep.** Every activity runs with materials already in your classroom — pencil, paper, and ten minutes.
- **Look for the ■.** Activities marked with ■ pair with a free 5-minute Classroom Blastoff video. Play the video, then run the activity — the link is right there.
- **Mix and match.** Five categories, ten ideas each. Use them in order, pick favorites, or let a student choose each morning.

Let's launch. ■

⇒ ■ Quick Writes

Grab a pencil. Five to eight minutes of writing that wakes up the brain.

1. The Giant Yawn

One enormous yawn starts in your classroom and spreads through the whole school. Write the story of where it begins, how it travels from room to room, and who yawns last.

■ Pairs with the video “Why Do We Yawn?” — youtu.be/FtrAB2Jvk6s

2. First Migration

You are a young bird leaving on your very first migration — thousands of miles with no map. Describe the journey: what you see below, what scares you, and how you know which way to go.

■ Pairs with the video “How Do Birds Find Their Way?” — youtu.be/kiqXJy59QJQ

3. The Leaf's Goodbye Letter

A leaf is writing a goodbye letter to its tree before falling for the winter. What does it thank the tree for? What is it excited — or nervous — about?

■ Pairs with the video “Why Do Leaves Change Color?” — youtu.be/7F1Fw5roLME

4. My Invention

Think of one small problem in your life — tangled headphones, cold hands, a wobbly desk. Sketch an invention that solves it, then write a paragraph explaining how it works.

■ Pairs with the video “The Kid Who Invented Earmuffs” — youtu.be/vvf2TbF1NkE

5. Firefly Night

You shrink to the size of a firefly on a warm summer night. Describe everything you see, hear, and feel — and what you use your glowing light to say.

■ Pairs with the video “How Do Fireflies Glow?” — youtu.be/z13twWRgcuY

6. The Lunchbox Time Machine

You open your lunchbox and find a tiny time machine where your sandwich should be. Where do you go first, and what do you bring back?

7. Dear Future Me

Write a short letter to yourself on the last day of school. What do you hope you've learned? What advice does today-you give future-you? Seal it — your teacher returns it in June.

8. The Classroom Comes Alive

At midnight, everything in our classroom wakes up. Pick one object — the whiteboard, the pencil sharpener, the class plant — and write about its secret nighttime adventure.

9. Weather Reporter

Describe today's weather like the world's most dramatic news reporter. "Folks, we have a SITUATION developing over the playground..." Read your best line aloud.

10. The Lost Backpack

Someone left a mysterious backpack in the hallway. List five strange things inside it, then write who you think it belongs to and why.

■ Turn & Talk

One minute to think, two minutes to share with a partner, two for the class.

11. Contagious Yawns

Yawns are contagious — but so are smiles and laughter. What other things “spread” from person to person?

■ Pairs with the video “Why Do We Yawn?” — youtu.be/FtrAB2Jvk6s

12. Your Built-in Compass

Birds navigate with the sun, stars, and Earth’s magnetic field. If you woke up with a built-in compass, where is the first place you’d travel?

■ Pairs with the video “How Do Birds Find Their Way?” — youtu.be/kiqXJy59QJQ

13. Season Colors

Every season has its own colors. Which season’s colors are your favorite, and what memory do they remind you of?

■ Pairs with the video “Why Do Leaves Change Color?” — youtu.be/7F1Fw5roLME

14. The Big Build

The Great Pyramid took thousands of workers and around twenty years. If you had thousands of helpers and twenty years, what would you build?

■ Pairs with the video “How Were the Pyramids Built?” — youtu.be/poi0_kPEjXM

15. Rainbow Favorite

A rainbow holds every color of sunlight. Which color would you remove, and which would you keep forever? Defend your choice.

■ Pairs with the video “What Makes a Rainbow?” — youtu.be/18KSjZuLH00

16. Try, Try Again

Chester Greenwood didn’t stop after his first earmuff attempt failed. Tell your partner about a time you kept going after something didn’t work.

■ Pairs with the video “The Kid Who Invented Earmuffs” — youtu.be/vvf2TbF1NkE

17. Believing Anyway

Marie Tharp believed her ocean maps were right even when the experts disagreed. Have you ever believed something was true when others didn’t?

■ Pairs with the video “The Woman Who Mapped the Ocean Floor” — youtu.be/SuzsWzifRkQ

18. Stored Energy

A basketball stores energy and releases it in a bounce. What else stores energy and lets it out — in nature, in sports, or in your home?

■ Pairs with the video “Why Do Basketballs Bounce So High?” — youtu.be/Js_ZuZxGGdo

19. Your Own Light

Fireflies use light to send messages. If you could glow in the dark, what would you use your light for?

■ Pairs with the video “How Do Fireflies Glow?” — youtu.be/z13twWRgcuY

20. Worth Protecting

The Great Wall was built to protect something its builders loved. What is one thing worth protecting, and what would you build to protect it?

■ Pairs with the video “Who Built the Great Wall of China?” — youtu.be/pL1iO8CVtYs

■ Draw & Create

No artistic skill required — just a pencil and ten minutes.

21. Mission Patch

Astronaut crews design a patch for every mission. Design a mission patch for your class's week: symbols for what you'll learn, your class name, and a motto.

22. Dream Playground

Draw and label your ultimate playground. Include at least one thing that has never been built before.

23. Emoji Story

Write a three-sentence story using only emojis. Trade with a partner and decode each other's stories.

24. Map Your Morning

Draw a bird's-eye map of your route from home to school. Mark three landmarks and one "danger zone" (like the big puddle).

25. Earmuff Upgrade

Chester Greenwood invented earmuffs at fifteen. Sketch your improved version — heated? musical? — and label its features.

■ Pairs with the video "The Kid Who Invented Earmuffs" — youtu.be/vvf2TbF1NkE

26. New Constellation

Connect the dots into a brand-new constellation. Name it, draw it, and write the two-sentence myth behind it.

27. Superhero Self

Draw yourself as a superhero. What's your power, your costume's colors, and your one weakness?

28. An Ant's View

Draw the inside of your desk as seen by an ant: giant pencils, canyon-sized books. Label three things.

29. Flag of a New Country

You discovered a new country. Design its flag, then write what each color and symbol stands for.

30. Comic Strip Morning

Draw a 4-panel comic of your morning routine — but one panel goes hilariously wrong.

■ Think Like a Scientist

Tiny experiments and big questions. Most need zero materials.

31. The Yawn Test

With a partner, one person fake-yawns three times while the other watches. Tally: did a real yawn escape? Switch roles, then graph the class results.

■ Pairs with the video “Why Do We Yawn?” — youtu.be/FtrAB2Jvk6s

32. Navigator Ranking

Birds use the sun, stars, landmarks, and magnetic fields. Rank the four from most to least trustworthy, and write one sentence defending your #1.

■ Pairs with the video “How Do Birds Find Their Way?” — youtu.be/kiqXJy59QJQ

33. Hidden Colors

Look at a green leaf (or a photo of one). Predict what color it would turn in fall, then discuss: where was that color hiding all along?

■ Pairs with the video “Why Do Leaves Change Color?” — youtu.be/7F1Fw5roLME

34. Ramp Race

Prop a book up and roll a pencil down it. Change the ramp height three times — which angle is fastest? Measure with a ruler or count “one-Mississippi.”

■ Pairs with the video “How Were the Pyramids Built?” — youtu.be/poi0_kPEjXM

35. Rainbow Recipe

A rainbow needs exactly two ingredients. Name them, then try making a mini-rainbow with a glass of water and sunlight (or a flashlight).

■ Pairs with the video “What Makes a Rainbow?” — youtu.be/18KSjZuLH00

36. Warm Ear Challenge

Using only classroom scraps (paper, cotton balls, tape), build the warmest ear cover you can in 6 minutes. Test by holding ice — which design wins?

■ Pairs with the video “The Kid Who Invented Earmuffs” — youtu.be/vvf2TbF1NkE

37. Memory Map

Draw a map of our classroom from memory — no peeking. Compare with a partner: what did you both remember? What did everyone forget?

■ Pairs with the video “The Woman Who Mapped the Ocean Floor” — youtu.be/SuzsWzifRkQ

38. Bounce Lab

Drop three different balls from the same height. Which bounces highest? Write your hypothesis before you test.

■ Pairs with the video “Why Do Basketballs Bounce So High?” — youtu.be/Js_ZuZxGGdo

39. Light Code

Fireflies flash patterns to “talk.” Invent your own 3-signal light code with a partner (blink-blink-pause = ?), then send a secret message across the room.

■ Pairs with the video “How Do Fireflies Glow?” — youtu.be/z13twWRgcuY

40. Wall Math

The Great Wall stretches about 13,000 miles. If you walked 10 miles a day, how many days would it take? Show your math.

■ Pairs with the video “Who Built the Great Wall of China?” — youtu.be/pL1iO8CVtYs

■ Morning Challenges

Puzzles, games, and brain workouts to start the day sharp.

41. The 10-Card Tower

Build the tallest free-standing tower you can using exactly 10 index cards. No tape, no glue. Measure the winner.

42. Word Ladder

Turn CAT into DOG, changing one letter at a time — every step must be a real word. Ready for hard mode? Try COLD → WARM.

43. Alphabet Sprint

Pick a letter. In 60 seconds, list an animal, a place, a food, and a famous person starting with it. Most creative list wins.

44. Estimation Jar

How many paper clips are in the jar? Write your guess and your reasoning. Closest guess wins — keep a running tally all week.

45. Two Truths and a Dream

Write two true things about yourself and one dream for your future. The class guesses which one is the dream.

46. Number of the Day

The number is 24. Find five different ways to make it — addition, subtraction, multiplication, anything.

47. Silent Line-Up

Line up in birthday order — without talking, writing, or pointing at calendars. Your class has to invent its own system.

48. Story Chain

The teacher starts with one sentence. Each student adds exactly one sentence. In ten minutes, what story did the class build?

49. Spot the Change

Study the room for 30 seconds, then close your eyes. The teacher changes three things. Open — can you find all three?

50. Gratitude Lightning

You have 60 seconds: write one thank-you note to someone in this school. Deliver it before lunch.

Keep the Launch Going ■

Every ■ activity pairs with a free 5-minute Classroom Blastoff video.



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