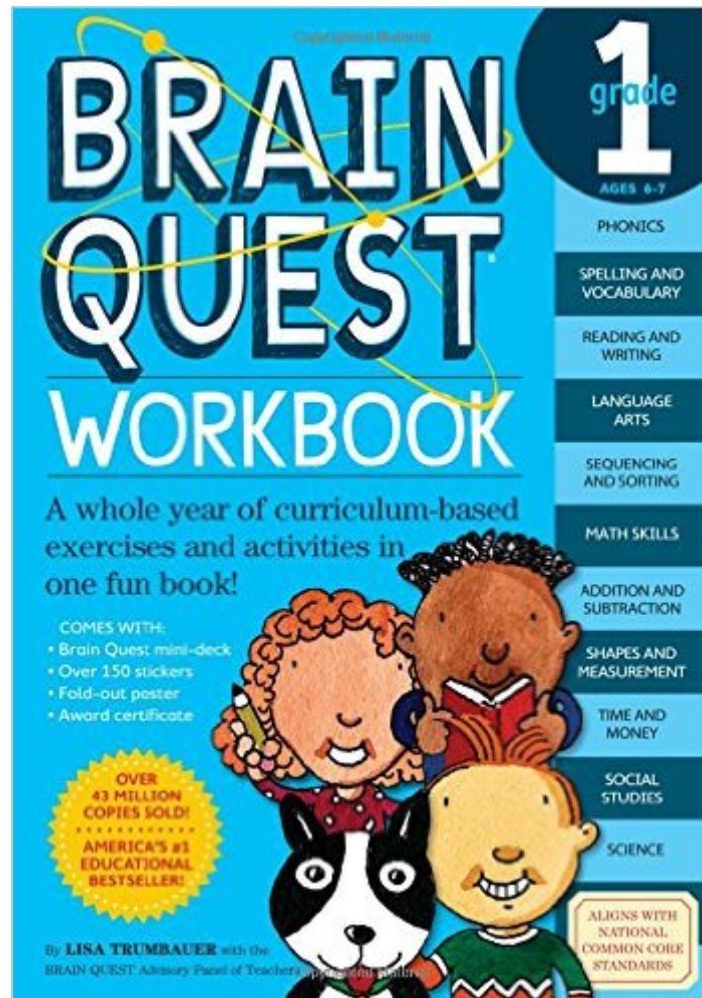


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Brain Quest Workbook: Grade 1



Synopsis

Jam-packed with hundreds of curriculum-based activities, exercises and games in every subject, Brain Quest Workbook: Grade 1 reinforces what kids are learning in the classroom. The workbook's lively layout and easy-to-follow explanations make learning fun, interactive, and concrete. Plus it's written to help parents follow and explain key concepts. Includes phonics, spelling, vocabulary, find the rhyme, addition, subtraction, skip counting, time, money, maps, science, brain boxes, and much, much more.

Book Information

Series: Brain Quest

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Workman Publishing Company; Workbook edition (July 9, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761149147

ISBN-13: 978-0761149149

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.8 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (442 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,669 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Study Aids > Children's General Study Aids #10 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Math #15 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reading & Writing

Age Range: 6 - 7 years

Grade Level: 1 - 2

Customer Reviews

Summary: GREAT! Having gone through what feels like every workbook known to man - or at least Borders, I feel like I can finally stop my quest for the perfect workbook. The book's colors are vibrant, the pictures contemporary, and the content interesting. Topics are color coded and separated by subject: phonics, reading, social studies, science, sequencing, measurements, math. I am really impressed with the mix of different subjects, especially the science, which is often overlooked in workbooks. The topics are age-appropriate, for instance coloring the land masses and oceans of the earth, reading a short passage on the sun and answering questions (e.g. Is the sun a planet or a star?). There is a wide mix of ability levels within each subject, except maybe reading.

The phonics starts very simply (shows pictures and the name, missing the first letter, and a list of a few letters d,f,g and the child writes in the letter it starts with). It then builds up including recognition of ch, sh, th words. I felt the reading section started at a bit higher level than the other sections ("This is a dragon.") already assuming your child has mastered sight words and sounding out. So, struggling readers may want to move back a workbook level (or better yet, get both). The math section is really, really great. It moves from writing numbers to addition and subtraction, carefully showing the different forms that problems are written in (e.g. both horizontal and vertical). First the picture may look something like this $*** + ** = *****$ and your child would write $3 + 2 = 5$. A few pages of practice and the next section would look like $*** + ** = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$, so it is building on task sequencing skills and stepping the child into learning how to decode and solve the problem. Kudos here. The pictures are cute and engaging. Within the measurement section, my daughter especially loved measuring monsters using a ruler (included on the page) - again, nice skill building. This book is amazingly full of a diverse number of activities. At the current price, it is a steal. The quality of the materials is better than a lot that comes home. Cons: The font used is not consistent - in some parts of the book, the a's and g's are those fancy curly-q things that no one actually uses when writing (see the a here). This is difficult for a beginning writer who is trying to write a difficult word (e.g. a picture of a girl eating ice cream - a fill in sentence: "The girl is eating _____. " with a word bank: cookies, gum, ice cream). For a child copying the words for the spelling, it would be better for the letters to be consistent throughout the book and in the form with which we want them to write. The stickers are really not that fabulous - they consist of only a few designs repeated several times (stars, letters, cat, dog). They seem like an afterthought, so I don't mind, but be warned. Some of the sections were a bit brief. There was little to do with each measurement section, so she burned through it in two sittings. But, she's prolific and begs to do her "work". Placement: This is tricky. The material does move from easier to harder, except what I noted about reading, so I would be a little optimistic with your selection so that the material increases with your child and doesn't become too easy. I would pick the level true to your child's highest LEVEL rather than the grade they're in - not too easy, not too hard. A struggling 1st grade reader may need a K book, which will do more for them in terms of content mastery than this book, which assumes they've got it. Our older child has a learning disability, so I'm speaking from experience here - push too hard and too high of a level and they will become unmotivated and will just give up. I like this book because it builds on task sequencing, which I wish we had for our son; however picking the right level is critical. Not too hard! This should be fun and something they can succeed at so they want to do it! If you are thinking about this book, here's what my thoughts were when picking this level: My 4 y.o. "preschooler"

knows a good number of her sight words, all the letters, the names of the oceans and continents. So, I selected the 1st grade book. She is working in it without frustration, and that is the key. She seeks the book out and completes about 5-7 pages in a sitting. Do expect to sit with your child and work with them on some activities, but it should be without frustration. The reading in this book is not a perfect fit for us. She has trouble with sounding out words, and I don't want her to work beyond her comfort level, hence, I will be purchasing the K book as well. There was a lot of reading and writing in the reading section, and it required a child knew all 100 sight words from K, plus could sound out new words, and could form a complete sentence from information they read. Ultimately, I feel this book is absolutely consistent with the breadth of the 1st grade curricula, so should be appropriate for an average just finished K or just starting 1st child. Edit: I forgot to add that the answers are included in the back and that the pictures are all easy to identify. We have some alphabet flash cards that ask you to identify all things that start with "Q" - and then proceeds to show a picture of a quail - you won't find anything that ambiguous in this book.

This workbook's graphics, paper quality and size give it a stimulating, well-made feel. Most pages, though, have only 3-5 problems. The oversized pages could have packed in many more exercises. My daughter can't build up a lot of momentum because she has to learn a new set of instructions every few minutes as she completes pages and moves on. I would have liked more repetition in the form of more exercises per page.

My son is a first grader in a 1/2 "multi-age" classroom in a well-respected public school. This workbook covers almost exactly the kind of skills that he is being taught at school. We use this at home for reinforcement of what he is learning in school. As advertised, this is a "work book", not an activity book. You'll find only a few mazes, dot-to-dots, etc in here. If you are looking for a book to keep your child busy for hours on a long plane ride, you probably want to look elsewhere. But for doing a couple of work sheets at a sitting for extra school practice, it's great! My son likes this book because the pages are colorful, inviting, and have appealing illustrations. The skills and activities are often nearly identical to what comes home in his weekly "homework packet" -- but he's much more engaged by the same work in this book. The quality of the presentation of these workbook pages are sometimes helpful for more than just kid appeal. For example, in the "money" section, the coins are easily recognizable, but that is often not the case in the copied black-and-white homework sheets from school. I think this book is right on target for the "average" first grader in the first half of the school year. It would be a good fit for an average-to-good kindergarten student in the summer

before first grade. It would also be a good fit for a struggling first grader throughout the year. If your child is working even slightly above grade level, I suspect that the Second Grade work book would be a better fit.

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