

# Zip Your Lips!

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**Objective:** To learn what an idiom is and how idioms are used.

**Grade Level:** K-4

**Subject(s):** Language Arts

**Prep Time:** < 10 minutes

**Duration:** One class period

**Materials Category:** Classroom

National Education Standards	
Science	
Mathematics	
Technology (ISTE)	
Technology (ITEA)	
Geography	

## Materials:

- Student Sheets
- Pencils
- Crayons or coloring pencils

## Related Links:

Family Education Network—Paint By Idioms

<http://www.funbrain.com/idioms/>

## Supporting NASAexplores Article(s):

Put On Your Thinking Cap

[http://nasaexplores.com/show2\\_article.php?id=03-028](http://nasaexplores.com/show2_article.php?id=03-028)



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*Teacher Sheet(s)*

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## Pre-lesson Instructions

- Duplicate the Student Sheets.
- You may want to read Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish during this lesson.

## Background Information

When teachers use the tongue-in-cheek phrase, “put on your thinking cap,” they’re asking students to concentrate and do their best. We often use phrases that do not really mean what they say. We call these phrases idioms. Idioms are words, phrases, or expressions that you cannot guess the meaning of just by understanding the words in them. This lesson will help students develop an appreciation of the use of idioms.

## Guidelines

1. Read the NASAexplores K-4 article “Put On Your Thinking Cap.”
2. Draw students’ attention to the title of the story. Ask them to share what they think this expression really means.
3. Explain to students what the word idiom means.
4. Ask students to share idioms they have heard.
5. Distribute the Student Sheets.
6. Have students illustrate the idioms as they literally sound.

## Discussion / Wrap-up

- After students have finished illustrating their idioms, make sure they understand what the phrases really mean.
- Have volunteers share their illustrations.

## Extensions

- Create an idiom dictionary. Donate to an English as a second language (ESL) classroom.



# Zip Your Lips!

Student Sheet(s)

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Draw these as they sound. What do they really mean?

<p>Beat around the bush</p>          <p>It means:</p>	<p>Zip your lip</p>          <p>It means:</p>
<p>Keep an eye on</p>          <p>It means:</p>	<p>Hit the books</p>          <p>It means:</p>
<p>Be all ears</p>          <p>It means:</p>	<p>Put a lid on it</p>          <p>It means:</p>

