

About These Activities . . .

Students cut their way into 15 thinking activities in this collection. In every case, youngsters are presented with one page of very specific directions and an accompanying page where the cutting “action” takes place.

For example, in the activity entitled “Side by Side,” students must first cut out two rectangles that contain drawings that are only half complete. Then they must match up the sides of the rectangles until they find two sides that fit descriptions, such as “Lincoln’s hat,” etc. To keep them accountable, each rectangle side has a number, so successful students would write “Sides 3, 5,” for the “answer.”

Exercises such as these, which come from our popular book, *Smart Snips*, are never boring. We think this is due in part to the hands-on nature of the assignments. And besides ... touching, cutting, folding, creasing and turning paper aren’t among the things children get to do every day!

Since the directions are carefully worded, students should be able to work on the challenges independently. We do suggest, however, that you make extra copies of some of the “snipping” pages. This is because some students may occasionally make a false start and have to begin again.

We hope your students will have great fun (and learn some things too), as they do some smart snipping for activities such as “Unlock the Secret,” “Turnovers,” and “Mystery Directions.”