

# Hatch Patch Creations

*From Our Home To Yours*

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## Ezra Taft Benson “Freedom Fighter” Family Home Evening Packet



### Contents:

Story, Picture Sheets, Activity, Quote, Treat Recipe

\$5.00

# President Ezra Taft Benson Freedom Fighter Family Home Evening Packet

## Home Evening Outline

- Opening Prayer
- Opening Song
- Scripture Story
- Game
- Closing Song
- Closing Prayer
- Refreshments

**Suggested Songs:** "We'll Bring The World His Truth", pg. 172 (Childrens)  
"We Thank Thee, O God, For A Prophet", pg. 19 (Hymn)  
"Scatter Sunshine", pg. 230 (Hymn)

**Scriptures:** D&C 1:38

**Story:** Color graphics with markers, colored pencils, chalks, etc.  
Use flannel, or laminate and cut out  
and place magnets on back of graphics, etc.

## Peanut Butter Bars

### Ingredients

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup margarine
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup peanut butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 cups oatmeal

### Topping Ingredients

- 1 cup whipped peanut butter
- Chocolate frosting

**Directions:** Cream together sugar, brown sugar and margarine until smooth. Add eggs, peanut butter and vanilla and mix well. Add all dry ingredients and mix well. Spread mixture on a greased cookie sheet. Bake in a 375 degree oven for eighteen to twenty minutes. Cool ten minutes. Spread with 1 cup of whipped peanut butter. Let setten more minutes and spread with chocolate frosting. ENJOY!

*Thanks to Diane Tulak of Ontario, California  
for sharing this wonderful recipe with us!*

**Game:** Preparation - There are two sheets of paper for the "Prophetic Pursuit" game board. Take the "Start" and "Finish" sheet, and with a ruler and sharp blade, line up the ruler on the far right-hand side of the sheet with the edges of the game spaces, and cut a vertical line from top to bottom. Then place that sheet, overlapping it on the other remaining sheet of the game board and line up. Tape or glue edges down on the back side. Color as desired and laminate. Color, laminate and cut out game tokens. Laminate and cut out the trivia cards. You will need a die for the game. If you have previously purchased any of the "prophet" packets, you may combine the trivia game cards from all packets to form one larger game. Every month a new prophet packet will be released so that you may add additional cards to your existing game.

**Play** - The object of the game is to be the first team to get all three tokens from the "Start" to the "Finish". Divide the family into two, three or four teams and give each team three tokens. Determine which team will go first. Place the trivia cards face-down on the draw pile. The first team rolls the die but it does not yet move any game tokens. An opposing team draws a card and reads the trivia question to the first team. If the team answers the question correctly, it can move one of the tokens the amount shown on the die, or split the amount between two tokens. Its turn continues until it misses a question. If a question is missed, an opposing team can challenge. If the challenging team answers correctly, it can steal the amount on the die, and move one of its tokens. If it misses the question, it has to send one of its tokens back to the "Start" position. Once a token makes it to the finish, it cannot be taken out. Two players may occupy the same space at one time. The game ends when a team successfully gets all three of its tokens to the "Finish" space. If you run out of cards before play has ended, turn the pile of discarded cards over and place in the draw pile. © 2004 Hatch Patch Creations

# Ezra Taft Benson

## "Freedom Fighter"

The thirteenth president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was Ezra Taft Benson. He was known the world over for his religious beliefs and for his great love of freedom. He was an avid politician and fought for many causes during his long life. He was a no-nonsense man who stood for honesty, integrity and courage. He displayed all three characteristics.

President Benson was born on August 4, 1899 in Whitney, Idaho to George and Sarah Dunkley Benson. Ezra was the first child in a family of eleven children. His birth was considered to be a miracle by family and friends. Ezra weighed eleven pounds at birth. He was born lifeless, and was laid aside as the doctors attended to his mother. Ezra's two grandmothers took him and began bathing him alternately with cold and warm water. After a few minutes, little Ezra began to cry. A true miracle!

Ezra's parents named him after his great-grandfather, Ezra T. Benson, who was an apostle for the Church and came with the first pioneers in July of 1847 to the Salt Lake Valley. Little Ezra was often called "T" by family and friends.

Ezra Taft Benson grew up on his father's farm, and at a very early age learned to milk cows, plow the fields and thin sugar beets. He could drive a team of horses at the age of five. He was taught to work very hard. When Ezra turned eight years old, he began grade school and later attended the Oneida Stake Academy when he was fifteen. When he graduated in 1918, he was the Scoutmaster there. He entered his Scouts in a choral competition and won the Cache Valley Chorus Championship. After a short time studying at Utah State Agricultural College, which is now Utah State, he enlisted in the military to serve in World War I.

In 1921 when the war was over, Ezra was called on his mission to Great Britain. He was a great missionary. When he returned to the states, he enrolled at Brigham Young University. There he became the president of the Agriculture Club and the Men's Glee Club, not to mention being given the honor of most popular man on campus. He majored in animal husbandry and graduated with honors.

President Benson met his true love Flora Smith Amussen and married her in the Salt Lake Temple on September 10, 1926. She had earned many distinctions in her short life as well. She also attended Utah State Agricultural College and was the vice-president of the student body. She also won the women's singles tennis championship and served a mission to the Hawaiian Islands. They later became the parents of six children: Reed, Mark, Barbara, Beverly, Bonnie and Beth.

After receiving a master's degree in economics from Iowa State College, he returned to the family farm and was appointed economist/extension specialist. His vast knowledge and experience in farming helped him to help other farmers and ranchers in the area. Seven years later in 1939, Ezra, Flora and their children moved to Washington D.C. where he became the executive secretary of the National Council of Farmer's Cooperatives. This job required him to travel a great deal but he still found time to act as the President of the Washington D.C. Stake. He served in this calling from 1940 to 1943 when he was called as an apostle of the Church on October 7, 1943.

An unusual thing happened a few years later. In 1952 Elder Benson was called by the President of the United States, Dwight Eisenhower, to be the next Secretary of Agriculture. The Prophet of the Church at that time, David O. McKay, felt that Ezra should accept the position and so he did. For eight years he worked for the government of the United States.

President Benson met important heads of state such as Chiang Kai-shek (Former leader of the Republic of China and later the leader of Taiwan), Nehru (Prime Minister of independent India), Khrushchev (Soviet Communist leader), King Hussein (of Jordan) and David Ben-Gurion (Prime Minister of Israel). He became known as a great religious man and did the Church a wonderful service by acknowledging it to the world. He was known for his integrity and for his religious convictions and earned great respect.

Ezra Taft Benson was passionate about his dislike of Communism. He hated all forms of tyranny. Most of his talks in church meetings were geared toward freedom and democracy. He was a man of strong convictions and had the courage to let everyone know how and what he believed.

In December 1973, President Benson became the president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. During his years serving the Church, Ezra received many honors and awards. He was given the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope and Silver Buffalo awards for scouting, and served on their National Executive board. He was presented with the highest award in the world for scouting on April 1, 1989, which was the Bronze Wolf. When President Benson turned ninety years old, he was named to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal by the President of the United States and this marked him as a very distinguished person.

On April 6, 1986, Ezra Taft Benson was sustained as the Prophet of the Church. He began that very day to encourage the Saints to read the Book of Mormon. This became his motto during his presidency.

President Benson was eighty-six years old when he became the thirteenth president, which made him the second oldest man to ever be called as prophet. He was a great fighter for freedom but also a generous giver. Once, he personally gave ten million dollars to President Ronald Reagan to buy food for the hungry people of the world.

While serving as Prophet, Ezra Taft Benson dedicated both the Denver, Colorado temple and the Frankfurt, Germany temple.

Some of Ezra Taft Benson's most famous pieces of advice were: "You cannot do wrong and feel right. It is impossible!" and "No empty chairs in the family circle" speaking of continuing life beyond death.

President Benson died on May 30, 1994 at the age of ninety-four. He had served eight and a half years as President of the Church.

President Benson was a lover of God, his family and his country. He was a great example to the Church and to the world. We owe a great deal to this strong and faithful Prophet of the Lord.

## **DISCUSSION**

- Why do you think that President David O. McKay felt it was important that Ezra Taft Benson accept the position of Secretary of Agriculture?
- What do you think it would have been like to be the oldest of eleven children?
- As a young boy, Ezra was given a lot of responsibilities on the farm. How was his experience on the farm able to teach him how to work hard?

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

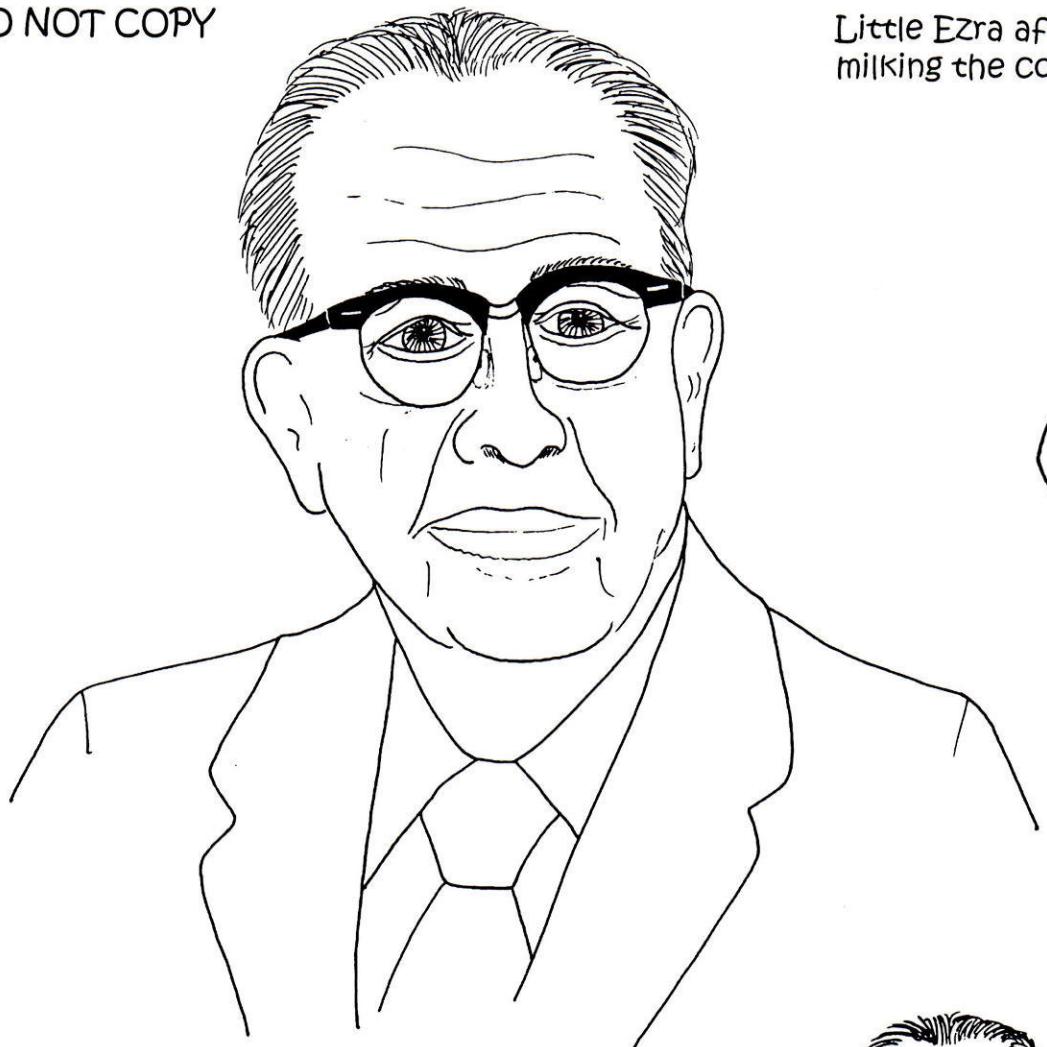
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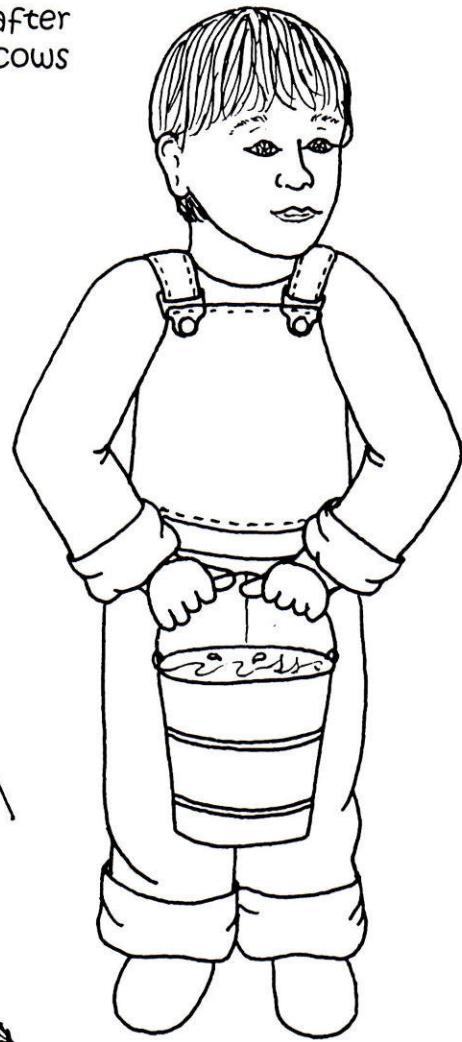
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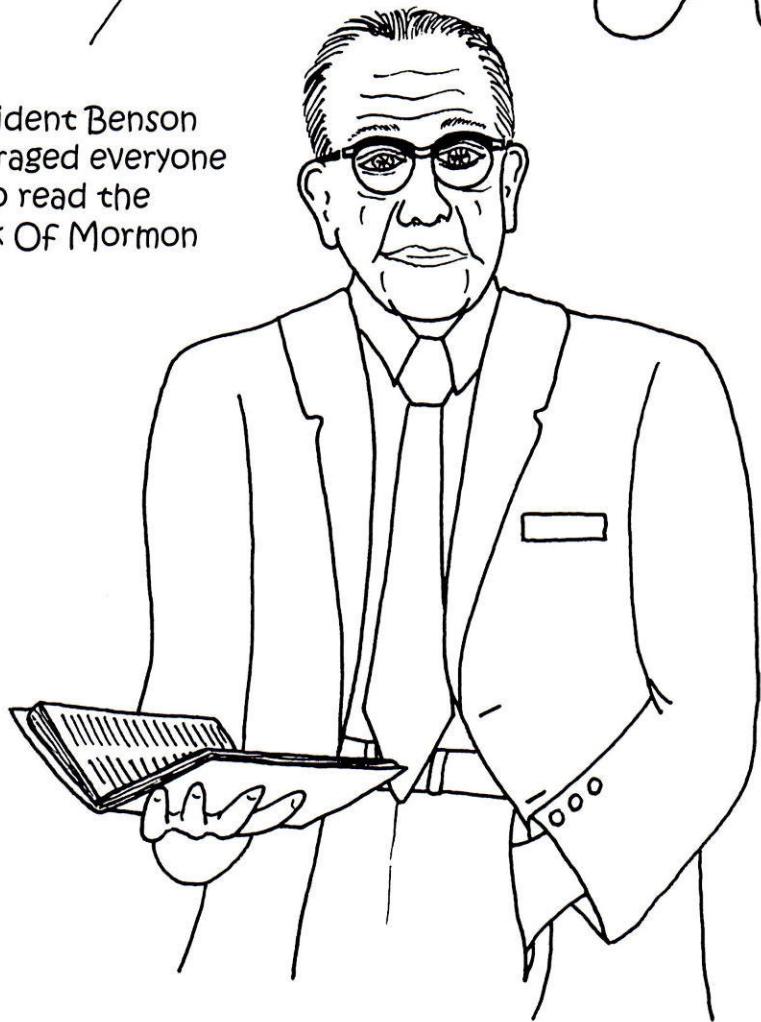
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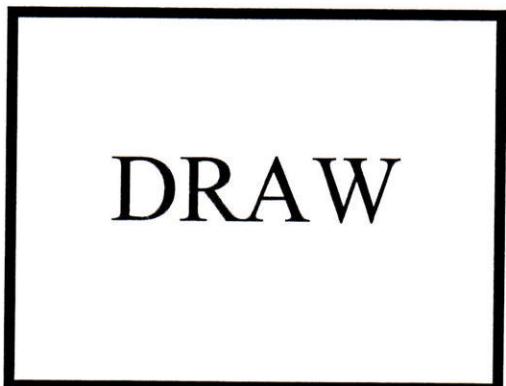
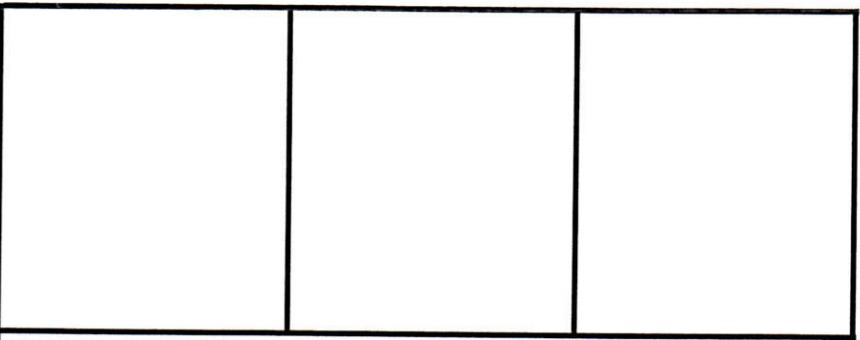
Little Ezra after  
milking the cows



President Benson  
encouraged everyone  
to read the  
Book Of Mormon



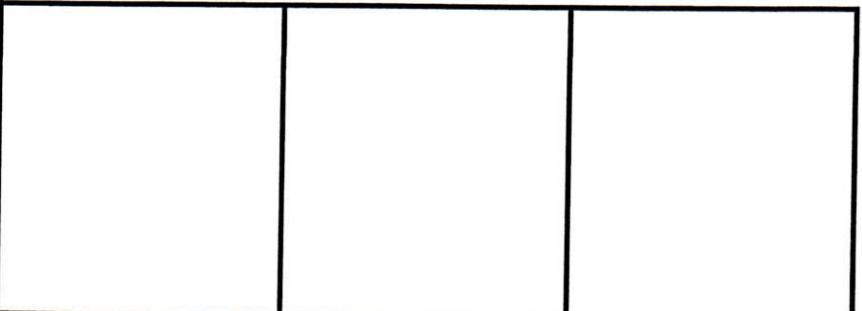
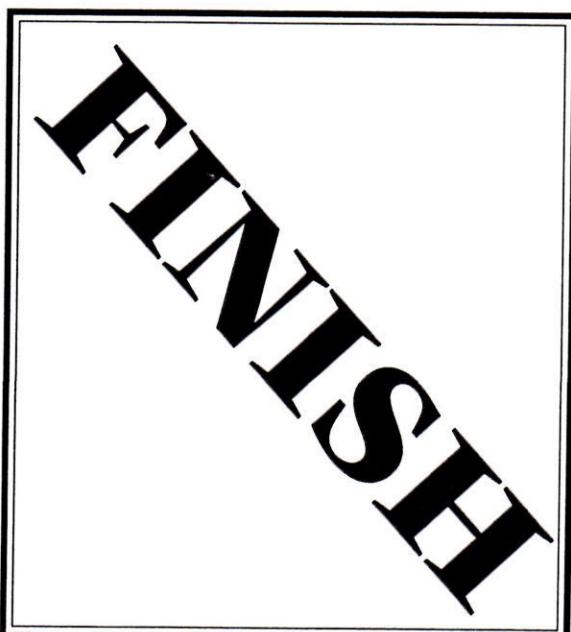
Ezra as a World War I Soldier



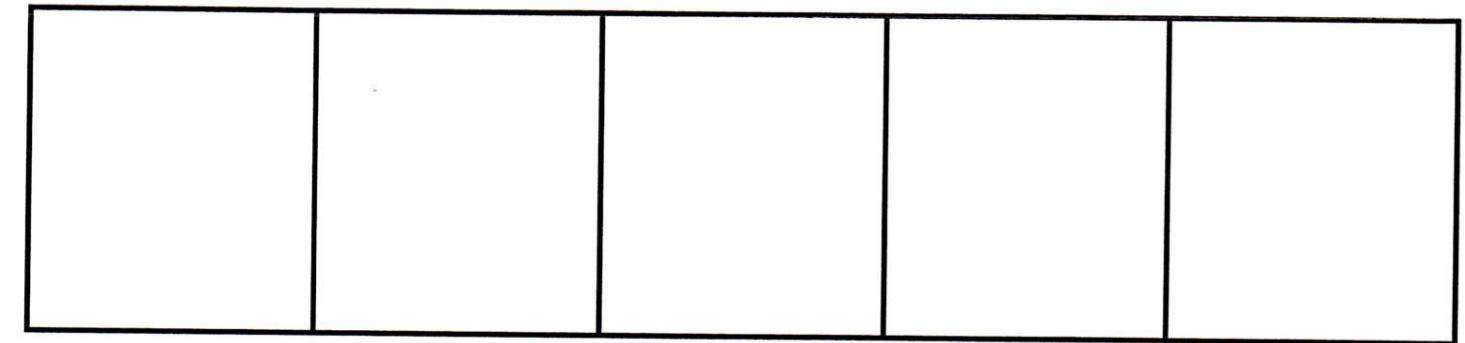
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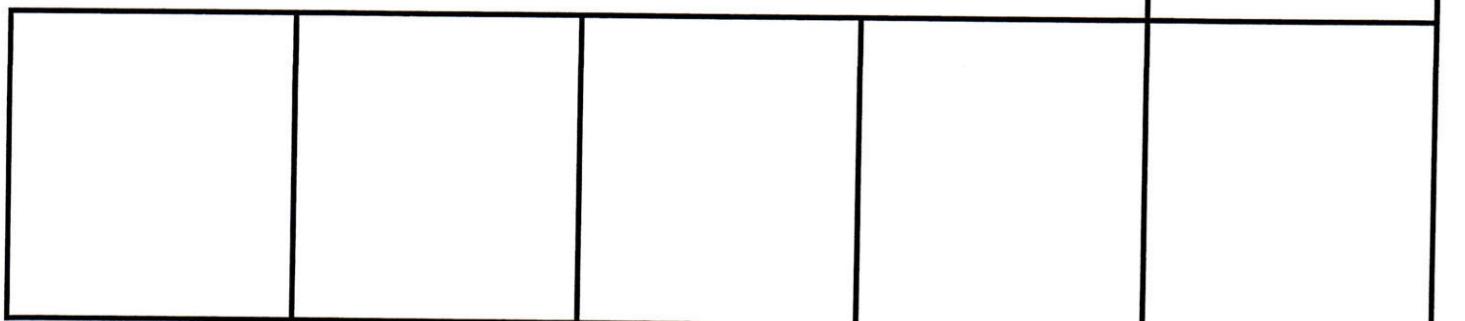
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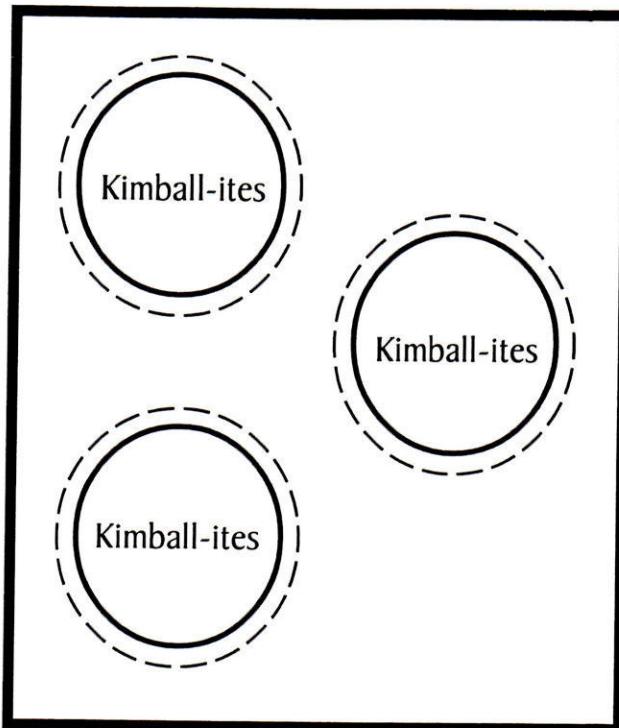
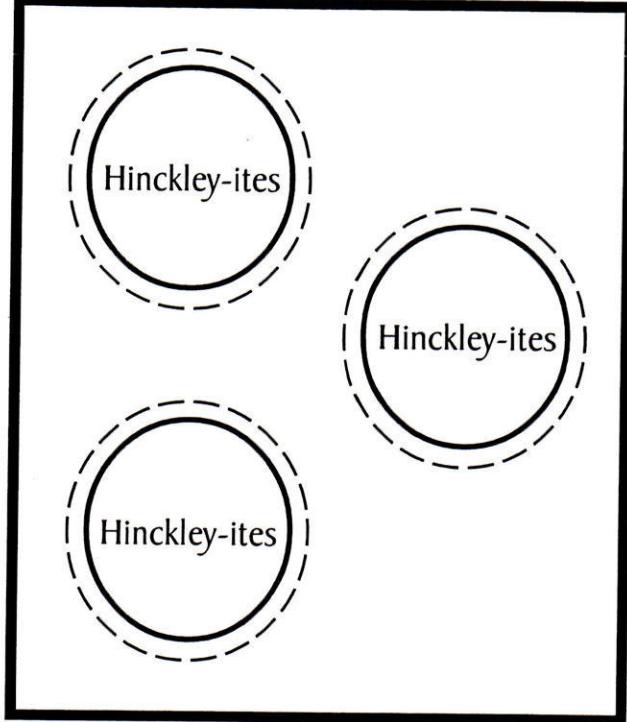
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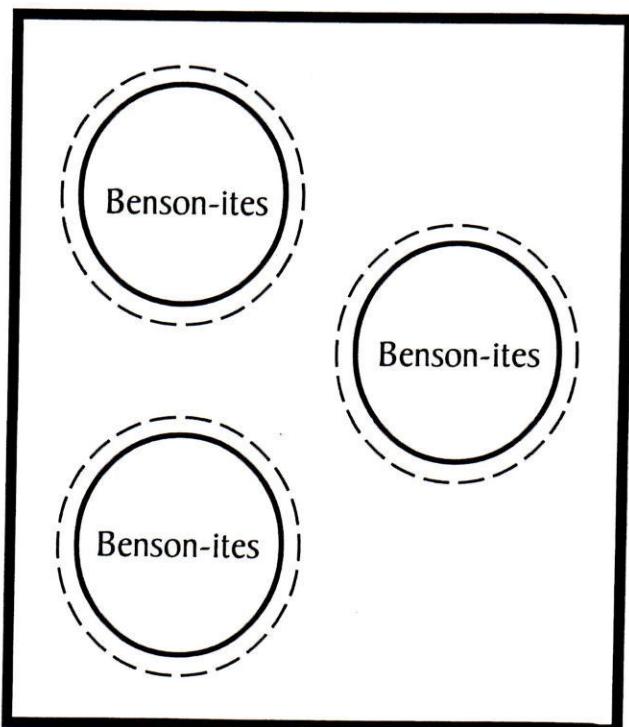
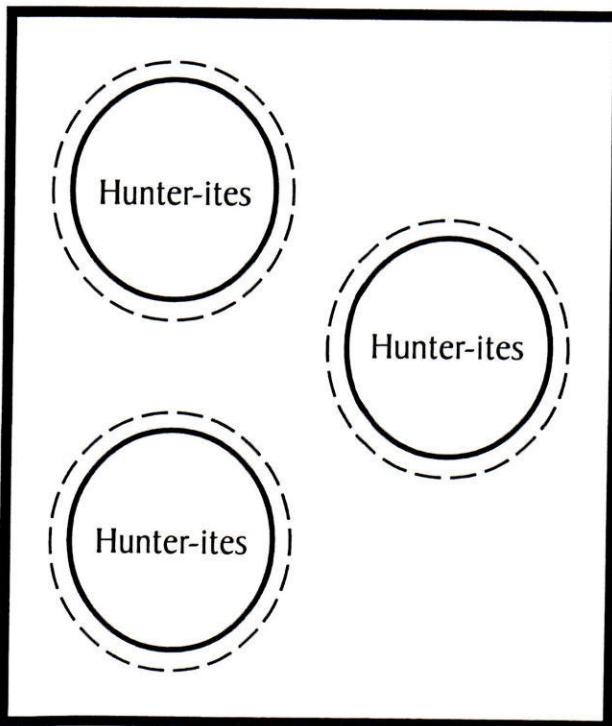


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# Game Tokens

Every few months, a new “Prophet of God” packet featuring one of the past prophets of the Church will be released. Each packet will contain a new set of trivia cards to add to the “Prophetic Pursuit” trivia game. Once all prophet packets are collected, you will have an entire trivia game with questions about each prophet of the Church.

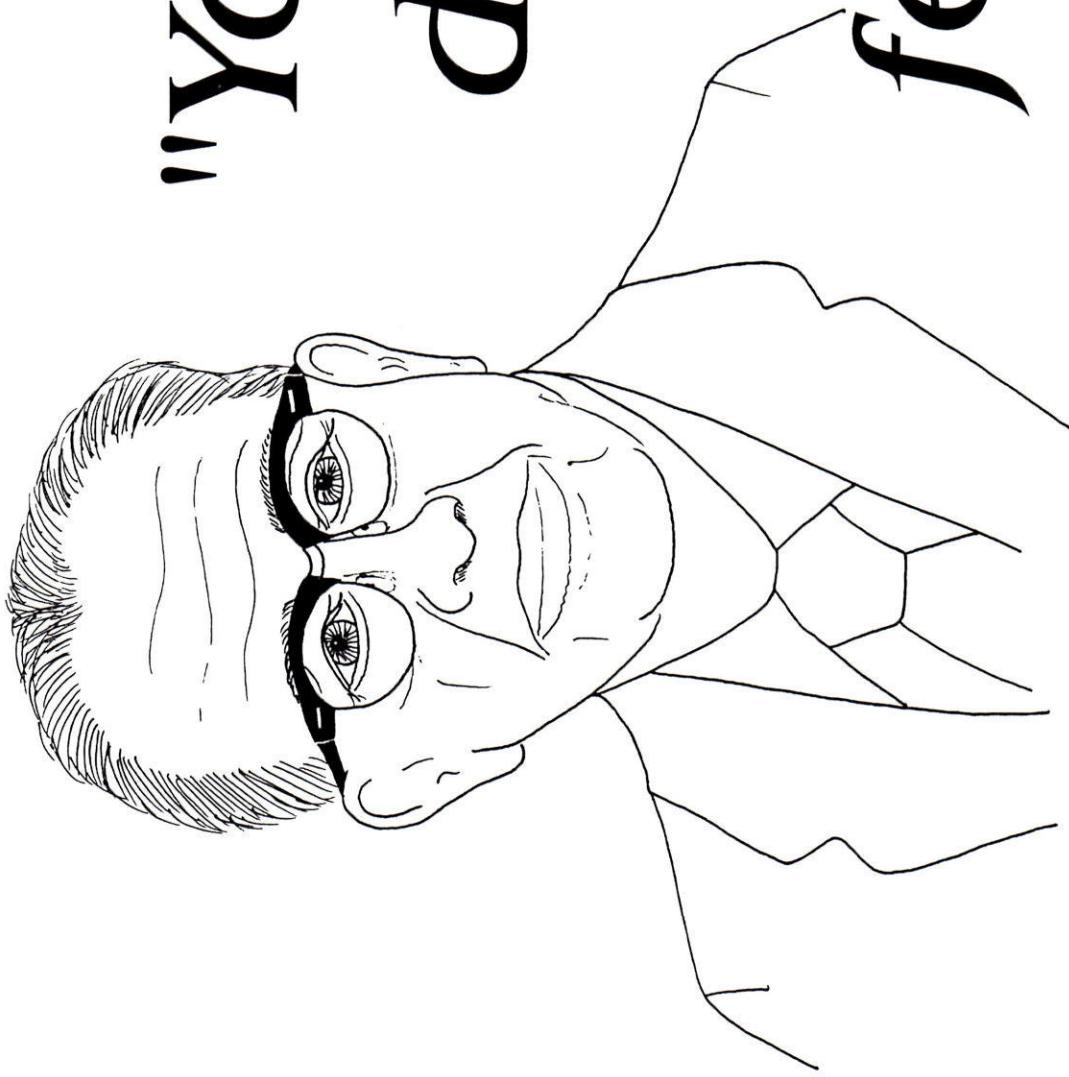


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| <h2>DATES, TRAITS &amp; MATES</h2> <p>Where was Ezra Taft Benson born?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>Whitney, Idaho</i></p>                  | <h2>HISTORY</h2> <p>This Prophet was born lifeless weighing eleven pounds. He was set aside and left for dead, but his two grandmothers began bathing him alternately with warm and cold water. They saved his life. Which Prophet was this?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>Ezra Taft Benson</i></p> | <h2>HISTORY</h2> <p>Ezra Taft Benson was called to serve in what mission in 1921?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>The Bronze Wolf</i></p>                         |
| <h2>FAITH-PROMOTING EXPERIENCES</h2> <p>What did Ezra Taft Benson do to help others?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>He helped others.</i></p> | <h2>HISTORY</h2> <p>On what date was Ezra Taft Benson sustained as the new Prophet of the Church?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>April 6, 1986</i></p>   | <h2>HISTORY</h2> <p>Who was the thirteenth president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>Ezra Taft Benson</i></p> |
| <h2>PROPHETIC PASTIMES</h2> <p>What did Ezra Taft Benson do to help others?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>He helped others.</i></p>          | <h2>DATES, TRAITS &amp; MATES</h2> <p>On what date was Ezra Taft Benson sustained as the new Prophet of the Church?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>April 6, 1986</i></p>   | <h2>HISTORY</h2> <p>Who was the thirteenth president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>Ezra Taft Benson</i></p> |
| <h2>HISTORY</h2> <p>What did Ezra Taft Benson do to help others?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>He helped others.</i></p>                     | <h2>HISTORY</h2> <p>When did Ezra Taft Benson receive his degree from Iowa State College?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>The Hawaiian Islands</i></p>  | <h2>HISTORY</h2> <p>When did Ezra Taft Benson receive his degree from Iowa State College?</p> <p><b>A:</b> <i>Eighty-six</i></p>                      |
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| <p><b>DATES, TRAITS &amp; MATES</b></p> <p>Ezra Taft Benson died in Salt Lake City on what date?</p> <p><b>A: May 30, 1994</b></p>     | <p><b>PROPHETIC PASTIMES</b></p> <p>At the age of five, this young Prophet was given the responsibility of driving a team of horses?</p> <p><b>A: Ezra Taft Benson</b></p>   | <p><b>HISTORY</b></p> <p>What was Ezra Taft Benson's mother's name?</p> <p><b>A: Sarah Dunkley Benson</b></p>                   | <p><b>DATES, TRAITS &amp; MATES</b></p> <p>What was Ezra Taft Benson's nickname?</p> <p><b>A: "T"</b></p>                                 | <p><b>"JUST DO IT"</b></p> <p>How many children did Ezra Taft Benson and his wife Flora have?</p> <p><b>A: Six</b></p>                   | <p><b>HISTORY</b></p> <p>Which President of the United States called Ezra Taft Benson to be the Secretary of Agriculture?</p> <p><b>A: Dwight D. Eisenhower</b></p>  |
| <p><b>DATES, TRAITS &amp; MATES</b></p> <p>Ezra Taft Benson died in Salt Lake City on what date?</p> <p><b>A: Ezra Taft Benson</b></p> | <p><b>PROPHETIC PASTIMES</b></p> <p>As a young boy, Ezra Taft Benson was given many chores to do on his family farm. Name one of them.</p> <p><b>A: Milk the cows, plow the fields, thin sugar beets and drive the team of horses.</b></p> | <p><b>HISTORY</b></p> <p>What was President Ezra Taft Benson's father's name?</p> <p><b>A: George Benson</b></p>                | <p><b>DATES, TRAITS &amp; MATES</b></p> <p>Who did Ezra Taft Benson marry on September 10, 1926?</p> <p><b>A: Flora Smith Amussen</b></p> | <p><b>HISTORY</b></p> <p>How many years did President Benson serve as Prophet of the Church?</p> <p><b>A: Eight and a half years</b></p> | <p><b>HISTORY</b></p> <p>At the age of ninety, this Prophet was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by the President of the United States. Which Prophet was this?</p> <p><b>A: Ezra Taft Benson</b></p> |
| <p><b>DATES, TRAITS &amp; MATES</b></p> <p>Ezra Taft Benson died in Salt Lake City on what date?</p> <p><b>A: Ezra Taft Benson</b></p> | <p><b>PROPHETIC PASTIMES</b></p> <p>As a young boy, Ezra Taft Benson was given many chores to do on his family farm. Name one of them.</p> <p><b>A: Milk the cows, plow the fields, thin sugar beets and drive the team of horses.</b></p> | <p><b>HISTORY</b></p> <p>This man was ordained an Apostle on October 7, 1943. Who was he?</p> <p><b>A: Ezra Taft Benson</b></p> | <p><b>"JUST DO IT"</b></p> <p>How old was President Benson when he died?</p> <p><b>A: Ninety-four</b></p>                                 | <p><b>HISTORY</b></p> <p>How old was President Benson when he died?</p> <p><b>A: Ninety-four</b></p>                                     | <p><b>HISTORY</b></p> <p>Which President of the United States called Ezra Taft Benson to be the Secretary of Agriculture?</p> <p><b>A: Dwight D. Eisenhower</b></p>  |

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***It is impossible!"***

**Ezra Taft Benson**

