Teaching from Home: Government Resources Can Take You from Stressed Out Parent to Best Teacher of the Year Status

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Agenda

• Pre and Post COVID-19 Statistics on Homeschooling
• Ben’s Guide to the U.S. Government
• Tips from a Homeschooling Parent
• More U.S. Government Resources for Homeschooling
• The percentage of students ages 5–17 with a grade equivalent of kindergarten through grade 12 who are homeschooled—the homeschooling rate—has increased over time.

• The homeschooling rate increased from 1.7 percent in 1999 to 3.4 percent in 2012.

• In 2012, there were an estimated 1.8 million homeschooled students in the United States, which is an increase from 850,000 in 1999, when estimates were first reported.
Most of the 300 million schoolchildren currently quarantined in their homes will return to school once the epidemic fades.

Some parents may discover that learning outside of schooling benefited their children and strengthened their family.

Ben’s Guide to the U.S. Government
https://bensguide.gpo.gov/
• Educational content reviewed by volunteers from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) division of ALA.
• Volunteers also created 5 lesson plans based on site content.
About Ben

The inspiration for the Ben character comes from Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), who, like Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, was one of the most important individuals in early colonial and United States history. As a young boy, Ben worked as an apprentice in a print shop and later went on to draft some of the Nation’s most significant documents.

Although he lived before GPO’s founding, his legacy of publishing information lives on in what we do today.

Lesson Plan from the American Association of School Librarians: Who was Ben Franklin? Preparing to use Ben’s Guide.
Welcome to the Apprentice level Learning Adventures!

- **Branches of Government**
  - Learn about the branches of the U.S. Government.

- **How Laws are Made**
  - Learn about what a law is, who makes the laws, and how laws are made.

- **Symbols, Songs, & Structures**
  - Learn about the symbols that represent the United States of America.

- **Election Process**
  - Learn about what voting is and who can vote.

- **Historical Documents**
  - Learn about historical documents that helped shape the U.S. Government.

- **Federal Versus State Government**
  - Learn how the Federal and state governments share power.
The Statue of Liberty is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. The statue, given to the United States by France in 1876, is of a robed female figure representing Libertas, with her right foot on a subdued tyranny. It is inscribed with the date July 4, 1776, the date of American independence. It is a popular tourist site and is among the New Seven Wonders of the Modern World. It is the most popular tourist attraction in the state of New York and has been a symbol of American freedom and democracy. The statue is located in Liberty Island, at the southern tip of the New York Harbor. The statue is 45.33 feet (13.81 meters) tall, with its pedestal standing 154 feet (47 meters) tall. The statue's pedestal, completed in 1903, contains an Immigration Museum. The statue was restored in 1986. Since its re-opening, it has been maintained by the National Park Service. The statue is a symbol of democracy and freedom. The statue is a symbol of American freedom and democracy. The statue is a symbol of American freedom and democracy. The statue is a symbol of American freedom and democracy.
Historical Documents

In these Learning Adventures, we will be learning about important Historical Documents that helped to shape the United States as a Nation. These documents include:

- The Declaration of Independence: 1776
- The Articles of Confederation: 1777 - 1789
- The Federalist Papers: 1787 - 1788
- The U.S. Constitution: 1789
- The Bill of Rights: 1789 - 91
- The Emancipation Proclamation: 1863
- The Gettysburg Address: 1863

Declaration of Independence Facts and Figures

- The 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence included future Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Members of the United States Congress.
- John Hancock, President of the Second Continental Congress and a Governor of Massachusetts, was the first to sign; he used such a large, bold script that people now speak of a "John Hancock" to mean a signature.
- The Declaration of Independence, along with the Constitution and the Bill of

U.S. Constitution Facts and Figures

- The Constitutional Convention met at the State House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, also known as Independence Hall.
- There were 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention; however, only 39 signed the document.
- Twelve of the thirteen states were represented. Rhode Island did not send delegates to the Convention.
- The Constitution became law on June 21, 1788, after two-thirds of the states ratified it.
- Not all the states had ratified the Constitution by April 15, 1789, when George Washington became the first President of the United States.
- George Washington was President of the Constitutional Convention.
Welcome to Branch-o-Mania!

Click the icon ANYTIME for how to play instructions!

Click a game level on the right when you are ready to play!

Game Over

Score: 65
Time: 0:50
Caught: 3
Missed: 3

Try Again!

Learn More
Play Again
United States Congress

Creates Laws

The primary duty of Congress is to write, debate, and pass bills, which are then passed on to the President for approval. Once a bill is approved by the President, it becomes a law.

Consists of 2 Houses

Congress consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. A legislative body with 2 chambers (houses) is called bicameralism.

Terms of 2-6 Years

In the House of Representatives, Representatives are elected for 2 year terms. In the Senate, Senators are elected for 6 year terms.
Federal Depository Library Program

Name: _____________________

4-8

Word Search


Learn More About the U.S. Government at http://govinfo.gov

4-8

Crossword

ROSS

President’s CRUS H is this shape
eagle spellout to the

1. The American Flag has 50 white
2. The Statue of Liberty has a 50
3. The Constitution has the word
4. The United States has a 50
5. The word “ROSS” is the answer

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Learn More About the U.S. Government at http://govinfo.gov

Under ‘Parents & Educators’ Tab for ‘Link to Ben’s Guide from Your Web Site’
Ben’s Guide to the U.S. Government

https://bensguide.gpo.gov/
Tips from Homeschooling Parents
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1. Set a schedule, and stick to a routine.

- 7:30–8am  breakfast, the Pledge of Allegiance, “morning announcements”
- 8–10am  School work with the kids
- 10am–12pm  free time / creative play (coloring, play dough, board games); adult work time
- 12–12:30pm  Lunch
- 12:30–1pm  Recess (take your work outside or send the kids out for some fresh air)
- 1–3pm  School work with the kids
- 3–5pm  Movie or learning apps for the kids; adult work time
- 5–8pm  Family time, dinner, get ready for bed
- 8–10pm  Adult work time
Tips from Homeschooling Parents

2. Create a learning space.

• Designate a special area just for learning.
  • Plan practically (not just Pinterest-worthy)
• Make it comfortable.
  • Proper writing area/desk space
  • A mat to write on!
• Blankets
• Bean bag chairs
• Lap desks
• Ball seats (can be homemade)
• Well-lit
3. Get organized.

- Pens/pencils
- Erasers!
- Wide-ruled paper/scratch paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Chargers
- Some creative ideas:
  - Over the door shoe holders
  - Rolling drawer organizers
  - Repurposed food tins/jars
  - Shower caddies
  - Shoe boxes
4. Tailor your learning schedule to your child.

- Prioritize their greatest needs. That’s the beauty of teaching at home.
- What time of day are they most able to focus?
- What’s their learning style?
  - Zooming with other kids for study
  - Independent reading
  - Note taking/writing repetitively
  - Watching short videos
  - Flash cards
Tips from Homeschooling Parents

5. Think outside the box.

• Mystery jar of options
• Science:
  • Nature walks: plants, birds, insects
  • Virtual tours/events from libraries, museums, aquariums, and zoos (many on social media)
  • Conduct experiments and talk about why reactions happen.
  • Grow a garden.
  • Build a weather station.
• Civics & History:
  • Run a mock election.
  • Pick a historical figure, research them, draw yourself dressed as them, and write your own autobiography.
• Geography:
  • Spin a globe, close your eyes, point, research, and report.
Tips from Homeschooling Parents

5. Think outside the box.

• For the younger ones:
  • What can you count in the house? How many windows/doors? Math with goldfish.
  • Dice game for adding and subtracting.
  • Practice writing with chalk or shaving cream.
  • Let’s see what melts.
  • War card game

• For the older ones:
  • Finish this story…
  • Invent something, and plan out the details.
  • Plan out a business you want to start: ideas, budget, logistics, marketing.
5. Think outside the box.

• Writing:
  • Conversation starters
    • If you had one super power…
    • If you could make a movie…
    • If you won $1,000…
  • Reflections (journaling)
  • Research each type of poetry, and write a poem of each type.
  • Write your own autobiography.
  • Write a diary entry of you as an adult.
  • Interview a grandparent or family elder, and write their biography.
  • Create a comic strip.
Tips from Homeschooling Parents

6. Be forgiving of yourself and your child.

• Give yourself and your children some grace.
• Talk about your feelings.
• Adjust as needed.
• Lean on fellow homeschooling parents.
Resources:

General Sources
Specific Agency Sources
State and Local Sources
Sources in Other Languages
General Sources to Search for Information

Usa.gov is a good place to start with a search by subject, state, or agency. The site can also be changed to Spanish.
A non-profit which provides help and guidance, especially for new homeschooling parents.
Specific Agencies and Government Sites with Educational Resources
Back to School Planning: Checklists to Guide Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers

Updated July 23, 2020

For many families, back to school planning will look different this year compared to previous years. Your school will have new

This site from the State Department offers a list of homeschooling curriculums and organizations which are useful for homeschoolers.

https://www.state.gov/family-liaison-office/education-and-youth/homeschooling-and-online-education/#A4
The Census Bureau offers a program called Statistics in Schools and has revised many of those materials into teaching at home resources.
Educational Resources

Get informed. Get involved. Get inspired. Find realistic simulations and memorable, interactive approaches to court basics that include comparing federal and state courts.

Distance Learning: Civics & Government

Judges and attorneys work with high school students at home and in school as they engage with interactive modules on contemporary issues that teach the relevance of rule of law, separation of powers, judicial independence, and jury
Educational resources

NOAA Education Portal

Science On a Sphere®

NOAA Ocean Today

NOAA Photo Library on flickr
Resources for Teachers

https://www.usgs.gov/science-support/osqi/yes/resources-teachers
Education Resources from the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress offers classroom materials and professional development to help teachers use primary sources from the Library’s vast digital collections.

For Students & Lifelong Learners

Read.gov
Resources and opportunities to celebrate the wonder of reading

Blog: Teaching with the Library of Congress
What the Library of Congress Has for Teachers: Primary Sources and Tools and Techniques to Use Them
Blog Round-Up: Using the Primary Source Analysis Tool
All Posts »
Driving excellence in humanities education

Lesson Plans
Classroom-ready lessons and materials for K-12 education

Teacher's Guides
Resource collections and activity ideas for humanities educators
Homeschooling information - United States Department of State
www.state.gov/resources-office-of-overseas-schools/homeschooling-information/

Homeschooling Resources in the Department of State. Homeschooling and Online Education – FLO Education and Youth Team webpage where you will find ...

Homeschooling and Online Education - United States ...
www.state.gov/family-liaison-office/education-and-youth/homeschooling-and-online-education/

Homeschooling in the U.S. There are no homeschooling education allowances available to child dependents living in the U.S. Home instruction ...

Home School Resources | CDE
www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool_resources

LEAP- One day a week K-12 enrichment program for homeschool students in Northern Colorado. Curriculum library is available for enrolled students to ...

Schooling at Home - Private Schools and Schooling at Home ...
www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/homeschool.asp

In addition there are other resources such as California homeschool organizations and possibly local homeschool groups or meet-ups. The websites for ...
This is an example of a Project of the Puerto Rican Government, which started before COVID-19 to help students with their homework.

http://www.proyectosalonhogar.com/
Additional Resources: Honorable Mentions

• https://climate.gov/teaching
• https://peacecorps.gov/educators/
• https://www.fbi.gov/fbi-kids
• https://www.whitehousehistory.org/classroom-resource-packets
• https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/education/teachers
• http://www.abmc.gov/education
• https://www.solardecathlon.gov/education-resources.html
Thanks for listening today. We hope we have provided some help and some hope for your future teaching efforts as dedicated parents, teachers, and grandparents.