



TMES

Summer Activities



Summer Math Activities

Help students maintain their math skills and keep them thinking in numbers all summer long.

For Grades K-3:

Shopaholic: What can you buy for \$5 at the corner store? From the ice cream truck? In a hardware store? At the beach?

Change it up: Start collecting change in a jar on the first day of summer. On the last day, estimate your change, count it, and plan a special purchase.

Summer patterns: Create patterns using summer items (popsicle sticks, shells, flowers). Or, draw patterns in the sand or dirt using a stick or your hands. See how long you can carry out your pattern — along the length of the sandbox, or across the grass.

Napkin fractions: Fold paper towels or napkins into large and small fractions, from one-half to $1/16$. Use markers to label and decorate the different fractions.

Design hunt: Keep an eye out for shapes, patterns, and designs when you're out and about. You never know what you'll find in the architecture at the airport, the shopping mall, or even the grocery store.

100% delicious: Use ice cream to make fraction sundaes. Can you make an ice cream sundae that is one-half vanilla and one-half chocolate? What about one-third chocolate, one-third vanilla, and one-third strawberry? Can you cover a scoop of ice cream with one-quarter each nuts, sprinkles, cookie crumbs, and gummy bears? Or can you eat a bite of ice cream that is one-half chocolate, one-half vanilla? For older children, calculate the percentage of each ice cream flavor in the sundae.

For Grades 4-8:

Record-breakers: Use a stopwatch to time yourself running, roller blading, swimming, or biking. Then try to beat your time. Be sure to keep the distance you're moving the same for each trial. Graph the results. (You may need a partner for this.)

Where will you be? Using a map, calculate where you will be if you travel 20, 50, 100, or 1,000 miles from home.

How many ways? As you're exploring your neighborhood during the summer, how many routes can you take to the school, the grocery store, the mall, or your friend's house? The catch: No backtracking, and you must take a new route each time.

Let's eat: Prepare a meal or dish for the family. Before you go to the supermarket, find a recipe, write what you need and how much. At the supermarket, choose the best-priced option.

Summer Reading Activities

These ideas will keep kids engaged in reading, writing, and thinking creatively even on the hottest days.

Water writer: Using a pail of water and a brush, have kids write words on the blacktop or sidewalk.

Sell summer: Tell kids: Try a new product or activity and write about it. How would you describe it? Would you recommend it? Create an advertisement to sell it to others.

Plan a trip: Have kids use the Internet, travel guidebooks, brochures, and maps to plan a dream day, weekend, week, or month-long trip.

Summer sleuth: Have kids follow a story in a newspaper during the summer, or investigate a local story (e.g., an upcoming fair). Tell kids: Write about the event as it unfolds so that you have it documented from start to finish.

Play it: Take an adventure book with a clear plot (The Phantom Tollbooth, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, etc.) and invent a board game based on it.

Comic strip: Write a comic strip about a fictional character or yourself. See how long you can keep the strip going. Read classic comics for inspiration.

Summer Science Fun

Summer is the perfect time for children to explore their extracurricular interests, like science. Here are some activities that will have children hypothesizing all the way to September.

Map the weather: Keep a running log of the weather. Include temperature, humidity, clouds, precipitation, wind, air pressure. Can you predict what the weather will be tomorrow?

Invent a recipe for a summer drink and share it with your friends. For example, the Citrus Sizzler: $1/2$ cup Sprite, $1/2$ cup pineapple juice, 1 spritz lime juice.

Museum gallery: Collect pinecones, rocks, shells, or other natural objects to organize, categorize, and label. Present your own natural history museum.

Hot-weather inventor: Design an invention that you can use during summer. Some ideas: sunglasses that change color from red to yellow to blue, or a new beach toy.

Answer a question: How long does it take an ice cube to melt outside in the summer heat? In the refrigerator? In an air conditioned room? Float or sink: In a pool or the bathtub, hypothesize which items (soap, dry sock, bottle of shampoo, rock, etc.) will float or sink. Test your hypotheses.

Great Books in the Movies

These movie releases of favorite children's titles will keep you entertained all summer long:

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins: Enter into the post-apocalyptic world of Panem, and watch as Katniss enters a fight-to-the-death in the Capitol's Hunger Games.

The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling: Pick your favorite title from the series or watch all seven years of Harry's adventures as the Boy Who Lived.

Nancy Drew by Carolyn Keene: The ever-perky, resourceful young detective stumbles across a long-unsolved crime.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan: Young Percy Jackson realizes his true roots and begins a quest to stop a war between the gods of Greek mythology.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis: This live-action and computer-enhanced version takes the classic story to a new level.