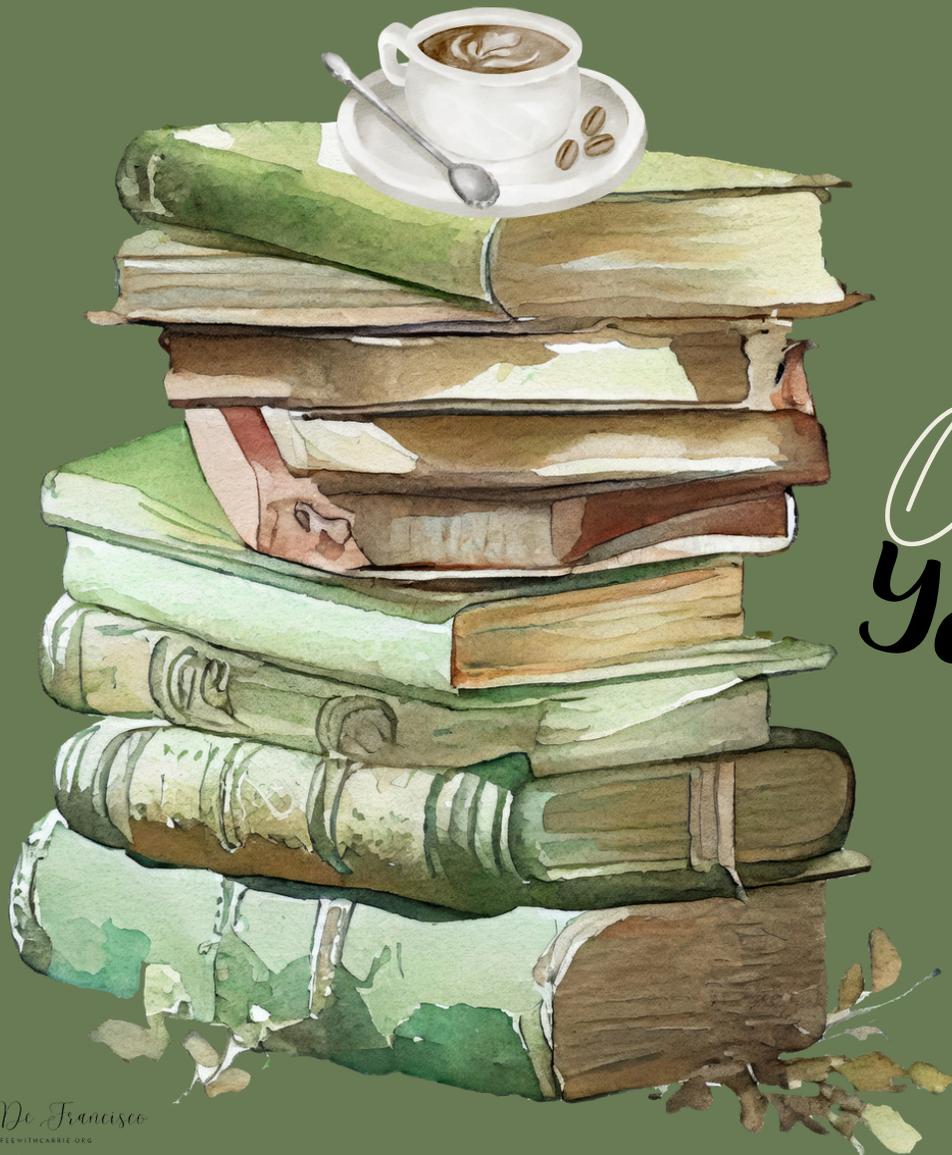


September - May

# Morning

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# Time Plans



October  
Year 5

# Welcome,



Grab a fresh cup of coffee, kick back, and relax for a cozy coffee break with me. Today, let's chat about Family-Style Learning through easy Morning Time routines. Our family discovered that the most straightforward approach to homeschooling was learning together as much as possible. The best way we found to make that happen was by carving out dedicated morning time each day for shared Bible study, memory work, and humanities.

We simply called it family time at our house, but you might know it as Morning Time, Circle Time, Table Time, Basket Time, or something close to that. It doesn't even have to happen in the morning!

Every morning, we'd start with breakfast and devotions around the table. Then we'd move to the couch and floor in the living room for our group lessons. I'd read aloud to the children while they sketched, built with hands-on materials, or worked on a craft. After talking about the reading, we'd move into memory work, enjoy some poetry, sing a folk song or hymn, journal, play a quick game (often math-focused), study an artist or composer, add to our nature journals, talk about current events or history, perhaps run a simple science experiment, and occasionally dip into Shakespeare. Of course, we didn't tackle everything every single day! Following devotions and our read-aloud, we'd pick just 2 or 3 of those activities to do together before pausing and shifting to individual work.

In this collection, I've put together the Morning Time Plans our family used over the years. Each monthly plan suggests topics to read, discuss, memorize, learn, teach, observe, and do. Feel free to pick what resonates with your family and skip whatever doesn't. Every month is designed as a simple "grab and go" setup. Scripture passages, memory verses, poetry selections, and art studies are ready to print. I've included links for music appreciation and nature studies. All that's left is gathering some great picture books and chapter books (I'll suggest some favorites of mine), printing the essentials, and diving in.

For extra tips on making the most of these Morning Time Plans, check out Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #130, "Simple Homeschool Solutions: Let's Get Loopy!"](#)

May the Lord richly bless your homeschool journey for His glory!

— Carrie —  
**DE FRANCISCO**



## Monthly Observances & Holidays

Seasonal Morning Time Plans (Year Five) focuses on seasonal holidays and monthly observances throughout the year. Each month, use the list to celebrate and learn about national holidays, monthly observances, and notable days in history. On notable days, our family often took a break from formal lessons to participate in "theme days." For example on May the 4<sup>th</sup>, we learned about space in honor of Star Wars (May the Forth Be With You) or on March 15 we learned about mathematical pi (3.15). Check out [Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #267 "Use Theme Days"](#) for more ideas. Some weeks, we took a break from our formal curriculum and did mini unit studies to celebrate international holidays or national month's of observances, such as National Classical Music Month, Constitution Day, or Spring Equinox. For more ideas on unit studies, listen to [Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #268, "Homeschool Rabbit Holes: Rabbit Trails and Unit Studies"](#). Each month, I share suggested holidays to learn about. Included is a description of the holiday along with suggested activities with links.



## Read Aloud Time

This is the heart and soul of your family-style learning and morning time. It doesn't really matter which classics or picture books you read; the idea is to spend at least 20 minutes a day reading aloud to your children. However, it is a time (and sanity) saver to read to the entire family books about the topics you are studying in history, science, art, and music. In each month, I suggest a few particular classics to read and give links to recommended picture books to read, however, I don't want to add any extra stress to your planning. I often found I could go to the library at the beginning of the month with only a list of topics I wanted to cover, and I could find an abundance of picture books to check out. I personally made more work for myself trying to find the exact books recommended in teacher guides and boxed curriculum. Start with the suggested books in each month's Morning Time Plans and then check out or purchase any other treasures you find along the way.



## Art Study

Print in color the masterpiece for the month. In our morning time plans, we scheduled two weeks for our art and artist study. If you would like to learn about the artist and his/her work once a week during the entire month, then search the internet for 2-3 other masterpieces by the artist. The first week, start with the masterpiece given in the Morning Time Plans. Then each of the following weeks, focus on a different masterpiece by the same artist. Use the same procedure described in the Morning Time Plans on the Art Study pages. Since we purposefully chose famous artists, it will be easy to research the artist on the internet and to find quality picture books at your local library about each artist to dig deeper into his/her life and works. I highly recommend building your own home library of artist picture books. Check out some of our favorite artist picture book series: [The Katie Books](#) by James Mayhew, [Anholt's Artists Books For Children](#) by Laurence Anholt, [Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists](#) by Mike Venezia, and [Smart About Art books](#). We also invested in as many art card and board games as we could find. It was a great way to review artists we have learned about and to introduce new artists not yet covered. For more information on how to do simple art studies, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #15: "Let's Talk Art Studies: What Are They and How To Start."](#)

## Nature Study

At the beginning of the year, let each child pick out a new drawing journal. This will be his/her nature journal for the year. Each week, nature study suggestions and activities are given in the Monthly Morning Time Plans. Feel free to do some, all, or none of them. You can use the activities to supplement whatever you are already doing in science, or they can be your sole science "curriculum" for the year. In the Nature Study section of the Morning Time Plans, drawing, painting, and watercolor instructions, videos, and links are given. The primary objective of doing nature studies is to appreciate God's handiwork in creation, to improve observation skills, to inspire curiosity, and to get outside. Creating Instagram-worthy journal pages is not the goal. After spending time in nature and drawing something that piqued your child's interest, you can stop there. However, if you want to include more, give your child a verse, poem, or inspirational quote to copy next to his/her drawing. If your child is older, he/she can research the item drawn and write facts about it next to his/her drawing or they can spend time labeling the parts of their drawing. For writing, teens can write a few paragraphs about the item drawn. The goal is to observe and enjoy nature. For simple ways to incorporate Nature Studies in your week, listen to past Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast episode.



## Composer Study

Create a playlist of the composer of the month. Start with the musical piece or symphony listed in the Monthly Morning Time Plan. Spend one week learning about the composer, his or her life, the musical era of his/her work, and one or two musical pieces suggested in the plans. Use your playlist throughout the month. Use it as background music when playing, drawing, cooking, eating, driving, cleaning, and resting. The idea is to infuse your family's day with beautiful music. Just listen and enjoy. Eventually, your children will begin to recognize the composer's style or the style of a particular musical era. For fun, use the website [classicsforkids.com](http://classicsforkids.com). It is full of music theory, orchestra, and instrument online games, music from around the world, and information about composers and their works.



## Math & Gameschooling

While we incorporated math and games into our morning time routine, I did not include these two topics in this round of Morning Time Plans. While math was usually what my children did during their independent work or one-on-one with me later in the day, I did incorporate math during our morning time through picture books and/or games. Over the years, I collected quality math picture books to include in our home library. There is an abundance of picture books that teach counting, shapes, and adding skills so I only purchased the ones my kids loved to read over and over again. Then each month, I would get from the library a ton more. New ones come out every year. Surprisingly, there are a ton of math picture books that teach higher-level math skills such as fractions, multiplication, division, probability, decimals, measurement, ratio and proportions, geometry, and even algebraic concepts. Some of my favorite math picture book series are *The Pigs Will Be Pigs* by Amy Axelrod, *The Sir Cumference Series* by Cindy Neushwander, *Count Your Way Through Country Series* by James Haskins, *The Charlesbridge Math Adventures* by various authors, and problem-solving picture books by Greg Tang and Marilyn Burns. Listen to [Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #19 "Math Morning Time: Tame Those Math Tears and Fears."](#)



*October*

## MONTHLY OBSERVANCES

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- ADHD Awareness Month
- National Pasta Month

## HOLIDAYS, HISTORICAL EVENTS, &amp; BIRTHDAYS

- October 2: Mahatma Gandhi Birthday (1869)
- German Reunification: October 3, 1990
- October 13: Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples' Day
- October 13: Margaret Thatcher Birthday (1925, UK Prime Minister)
- Cuban Missile Crisis: October 16-28, 1962
- Surrender at Yorktown: October 19, 1781 (End American Revolution)
- October 27: Theodore Roosevelt (1858, US President)
- October 31: Reformation Day
- October 31: Halloween

## TRIVIAL NATIONAL DAYS

- October 1: World Vegetarian Day
- National Pumpkin Seed Day: First Wednesday
- National Taco Day: October 4
- Mad Hatter Day: October 6
- Photocopying (xerography) patented: October 6, 1942
- Ballpoint pen patented: October 30, 1888
- National Knock Knock Joke Day: October 31
- National Magic Day: October 31



## Scripture

Throughout the month, read and discuss the Beatitudes.  
Focus on the memory verse: Matthew 5:9

## Memory Work

Read, discuss, and memorize the Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1-12

## Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize the poem, "In 1492". Older students can read and discuss "The Raven" by Edgar Allen Poe.

## Art Study

Study the painting, "Autumn Leaves" by Georgia O'Keefe and learn about the artist.

## Composer Study

Listen to "Four Seasons" composed by Vivaldi and focus on the section, "Autumn." Learn more about the composer.

## Nature Study

Learn about "spooky" plants and animals: spiders, bats, owls, ravens, and venus fly trap.

## Read Aloud

Read chapter books related to some of the monthly themes such as Coraline by Neil Gaiman, The Witches by Roald Dahl, Witch of Blackbird Pond or Julie of the Wolves by Elizabeth George Speare, The Story of Martin Luther: The Monk Who Changed the World by Kennedy, Being Teddy Roosevelt: A Boy, a President and a Plan by Mills, Pedro's Journal: A Voyage with Christopher Columbus by Ann Turner, Who Was Gandhi? by Dana Meachen Rau, Niagara Falls, Or Does It? by Henry Winkler, Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, Harry Potter by R.K. Rowling, and Island of Blue Dolphins or Sing Down the Moon by Scott O'Dell.

Read lots of "Knock Knock" joke books and picture books about spiders, bats, owls, and pumpkins. Read a few books about kids with lots of energy and impulsive behavior such as the No David Series by Shannon, Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss, and A Dragon With ADHD series by Herman.



## DAILY

Read Matthew 5, focusing on The Beatitudes. Memorize Matt 5: 9.  
Memorize a portion of "In 1492."  
Listen to "Four Seasons" by Vivaldi.  
Read Aloud from recommended chapter or picture books.

## Week One

Do Week One of Art Study: "Autumn Leaves"  
Do Week One of Composer Study: Learn about Vivaldi.  
Do Week One of Nature Study: Bats  
Week One of October Activities (Oct 1st-10<sup>th</sup>): Learn about ADHD, make homemade pasta, listen to Ronald Reagan's speech "Tear Down This Wall," sort, classify, and draw different fruits and vegetables, do pumpkin seed experiments, host a Mad Hatter Tea Party, and make tacos.

## Week Two

Do Week Two of Art Study: "The Red Maple at Lake George"  
Do Week Two of Composer Study: Listen to "Autumn."  
Do Week Two of Nature Study: Spiders  
Week Two of October Activities (Oct 11th-17th): make Native American craft, do "Prime Minister Or President" activity, and learn about Cuban Missile Crisis.

## Week Three

Do Week Three of Art Study: "Autumn Trees"  
Do Week Three of Nature Study: Owls & Ravens  
Week Three of October Activities (Oct 18th-24th): Compare and contrast Hinduism to Christianity and do a few American Revolution activities.

## Week Four

Do Week Four of Art Study: Create an Original Autumn Leaves.  
Do Week Four of Nature Study: Venus Fly Trap  
Week Four of October Activities (Oct 25th-31st): Learn a few "magic" slight-of-hand coin or card tricks. Watch Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (Part 2), practice calligraphy with a ballpoint pen, and do one (or all) of the Reformation activities. If you celebrate Halloween, make homemade costumes, carve a pumpkin, watch a few movies such as Coraline, It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown, or Addams Family, and/or organize a "Trunk & Treat" event at your church or with your homeschool community.



## Memorize

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.  
Matthew 5:9

## Read Matthew 5: 1-12 (The Beatitudes)

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you."

\*\* Read the rest of Matthew 5 during the month.\*\*



In 1492

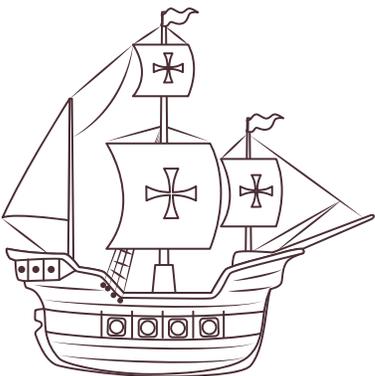
In fourteen hundred ninety-two  
Columbus sailed the ocean blue.  
He had three ships and left from Spain;  
He sailed through sunshine, wind and rain.  
He sailed by night; he sailed by day;  
He used the stars to find his way.  
A compass also helped him know  
How to find the way to go.

Ninety sailors were on board;  
Some men worked while others snored.  
Then the workers went to sleep;  
And others watched the ocean deep.  
Day after day they looked for land;  
They dreamed of trees and rocks and sand.

October 12 their dream came true,  
You never saw a happier crew!  
"Indians! Indians!" Columbus cried;  
His heart was filled with joyful pride.

But "India" the land was not;  
It was the Bahamas, and it was hot.  
The Arakawa natives were very nice;  
They gave the sailors food and spice.  
Columbus sailed on to find some gold  
To bring back home, as he'd been told.

He made the trip again and again,  
Trading gold to bring to Spain.  
The first American? No, not quite.  
But Columbus was brave, and he was bright.



October



Artist: Georgia O'Keefe, American, 1887-1986

Autumn Leaves, Lake George

1925

Oil on canvas

## Week One

- 1). Print in color "Autumn Leaves, Lake George."
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the painting from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the painting. What is it? Which season is it? What do they like about it? What colors do they see? What does it remind them of?

WATCH

## Week Two

- 1). Learn about the artist Georgia O'Keefe.
- 2). She created twenty-nine leaf pictures between 1922 and 1931, all based on the leaves she collected at Lake George.
- 3). Notice she painted large-scale impressions of flowers and plants.
- 4). Look at several leaf paintings by Georgia O'Keefe. Which one do you like best?





October



Artist: Georgia O'Keefe,  
American, 1887-1986

PRESS LEAVES

WATCH

## Week Three

- 1). Look at "Autumn Trees- The Maple."
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the painting from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the painting. What is it? Which season is it? What do they like about it? What colors do they see? What does it remind them of?

## Week Four

For fun, create your own original "Autumn Leaves" collage. O'Keefe zoomed in close on fallen leaves, magnifying their shapes, veins, and overlapping forms while using rich fall colors—earthy reds, oranges, golds, browns, and lingering greens. Collect leaves of different shapes and colors. Large leaves work best. Create a "Magnified Leaf Collage" in three different ways. (1) Using different warm, fall colors, create leaf rubbings of each leaf found. Make sure you overlap them like O'Keefe did to add depth. (2) Press and preserve the leaves. Arrange them on a piece of paper. When you like the arrangement, glue them into place. (3) Place one leaf on your drawing paper and draw it super big to fill most of the paper. Add veins and details. Color in with oil pastels, crayons, or markers. Add smaller leaves if you want.



*October*

Antonio Vivaldi

March 04, 1678 – July 28, 1741

Born in Venice, Italy

Antonio Vivaldi's father taught him to play the violin, and the two would often perform together.

Antonio continued to study and practice the violin, even after he became a priest. He was called the "Red Priest" because of his flaming red hair.

Vivaldi spent most of his time writing music and teaching. He taught at an orphanage for girls, and people came from miles around to hear Vivaldi's talented students perform the beautiful music he had written.

Vivaldi wrote concertos, operas, church music and many other compositions. In all, Antonio wrote over 500 concertos. His most famous set of concertos is The Four Seasons.

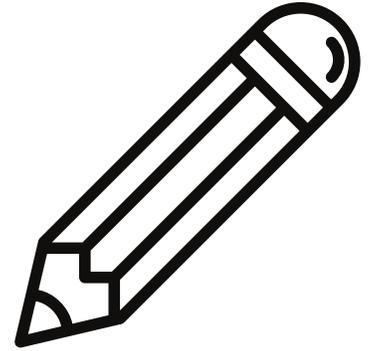
[LEARN MORE @Classics for Kids.com](https://www.classicsforkids.com)



—Carrie—  
DE FRANCISCO



Week One  
Draw Any Bat



Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a picture of any bat. Even though bats can fly, they are not birds; they are mammals. Take your time and add details that are unique to that bat. How do these adaptations help the animal survive in the wild.

Step 2: Copy the common name and Latin name neatly onto the top of the page.

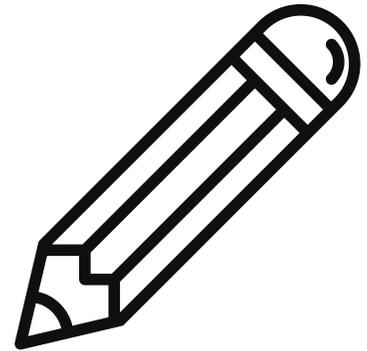
Step 3: Label the parts of the bat.



WATCH



Week Two  
Draw Any Spider



Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a picture of any spider. Arachnids have two body parts and 8 legs. Take your time and add details that are unique to that spider. How do these adaptations help the animal survive in the wild.

Step 2: Copy the common name and Latin name neatly onto the top of the page.

Step 3: Label the parts of the spider.

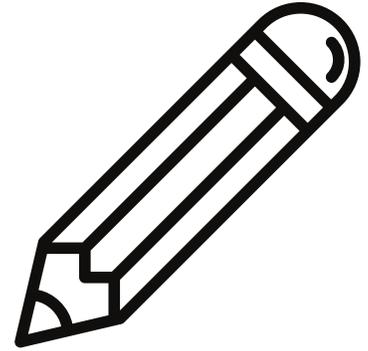
\*\*To also highlight and celebrate the invention of the ballpoint pen (October 30th), use a Pilot G2 05 pen (or any ballpoint pen that isn't waterproof).

After you draw the spider, use a paintbrush dipped in water to outline your spider. It will fill in the space and look like you "watercolored." Watch the video for directions.\*\*



WATCH

Week Three  
Draw Any Owl



Step 1: In your Nature Journal, draw a picture of any owl. Owls are birds of prey and mostly nocturnal. Take your time and add details that are unique to that owl. How do these adaptations help the animal survive in the wild.

Step 2: Copy the common name and Latin name neatly onto the top of the page.

Step 3: Label the parts of the owl.

\*\*If your teen is reading Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven," have him observe, research, and draw ravens instead of owls.\*\*



WATCH



## Suggested Science Activities

### Spray Paint Spider Webs

In the morning, search for spider webs. The dew on the webs will help them stand out. If you search in the afternoon, bring a water spray bottle. When you find a spider web, spray it with water so you can see it better. For fun, carefully spray it with a white spray paint can. You will see all of the intricate designs in the web.

### Bat Echolocation Game (Marco Polo in your backyard)

Have one child stand in the center of the yard blindfolded. To test their ability to locate sound, move about the yard clapping your hands. Each time you clap, the child should turn and face the direction that he thinks the sound is coming from. To play the game, the "bat" tries to find and catch other players. The "bat" claps once and the players clap twice. This helps the "bat" locate and catch other players.

### Owl Pellets

Learn about owls and the little critters they eat by doing an owl pellet dissection! Pull apart a real owl pellet and uncover the bones inside. Order an [Owl Pellet Dissection Kit](#) from [Home Science Tools](#).

## WATCH

### Venus Fly Trap Observation

Venus Fly Traps are carnivorous (They eat live animals). Watch a few videos of how a Venus Fly Trap catches its prey. [Order a plant and observe.](#)

National Pasta Month is celebrated every October in the United States. It's a whole month dedicated to enjoying, cooking, and appreciating one of the world's most versatile and beloved foods—pasta! You don't need a pasta machine. You can roll out the dough, and with a knife, cut it into pasta ribbons.

## Homemade Pasta

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups of semolina flour
- 2 large eggs whisked
- 2 tbs of water
- 3 tbs of olive oil
- 1/2 tsp of salt



### DIRECTIONS

1. Put the flour on a work surface in the shape of a circle. Make a well in the middle.
2. In a bowl, mix the water, eggs, salt, and olive oil all together. Pour this into the flour well.
3. Using a fork, slowly pull the flour into the egg mixture until it's all mixed together.
4. Using your hands, form this into a stiff dough. Knead the dough for 10 minutes until it is elastic. You might need to add drops of water along the way.
5. Form the dough into a ball and wrap it tightly in plastic wrap. Let the dough sit on the counter in a warm place for at least 30 minutes.
6. Use a pasta machine to roll out and cut your pasta or roll it out by hand with a rolling pin on a lightly floured surface and cut into pasta ribbons.
7. Cook the pasta in a large pot of briskly salted water for just a minute or two.
8. Serve with your favorite sauce.



## Types of Pasta

- Spaghetti: classic long, thin strand, in Italian it means "little strings."
- Penne: tubular with angled ends, penne means "quills" or "feathers"
- Fettuccine: flat, wide ribbons, fettuccine means "little ribbons"
- Farfalle: bow-tie or butterfly pasta, fun for salads or kid-friendly meals
- Rigatoni: large, ridged tubes, rigatoni means "ridged"



## Suggested Activities

World Vegetarian Day is celebrated every year on October 1, kicking off Vegetarian Awareness Month throughout October. It promotes the joys and health benefits of eating a healthy diet full of plant-based foods.

### Try a New Vegetarian Recipe or Meatless Meal

Cook or order something plant-based you've never tried—like a hearty veggie stir-fry, potato tacos, or a colorful salad bowl. Make it a family challenge: everyone picks one new veggie ingredient!

### Rainbow Fruit Or Veggie Tray

Pick veggies (or fruits) representing the different colors of the rainbow. i.e. red tomatoes, orange peppers, yellow squash, green celery, purple/bluish cauliflower, and purple carrots. Arrange them in the shape of a rainbow. Serve with hummus, guacamole, or ranch dip. Another fun alternative is to create “rainbow” fruit or vegetable kababs.

### Go on a Produce Hunt

Head to a local farmers' market and pick out 5–6 colorful fruits/veggies you've never eaten before. Or send your kids into the grocery on a “color” or “shape” produce scavenger hunt.

### High School Topics:

- Research different herbs and their health benefits. Make a dish using a few new herbs or seasonings.
- Research pescatarian, vegetarian, and veganism. What is the difference? What are the health benefits (and health risks) of each?
- Research “God’s Pharmacy” or Doctrine of Signatures. Can you find other examples not shown in the image?



## God's Pharmacy Is Amazing!

The "God's Pharmacy" beautifully illustrates how certain fruits and vegetables resemble the body parts they support, suggesting a divine or natural design where nature provides visual clues to their health benefits for specific organs.

	A slice of carrot looks like a human eye & it greatly enhances blood flow of the eyes.	
	A tomato has 4 chambers & is red just like the heart. A tomato is loaded w/ Lycopine that is pure heart & blood food.	
	A walnut looks like brain & helps develop more than 3 dozen neuro Transmitters to enhance brain functions.	
	Grapes hang in a cluster that has the shape of the heart. It looks like blood cell & profound in blood vitalizing food.	
	Beans kidney shaped and they heal and maintain kidney function.	
	Sweet potatoes look like the pancreas and actually balance the glycemic index of diabetics.	
	Celery, this food specifically target bone strength & more look just like bone.	
	Citrus fruits, look just like mamary glands of the female & actually assist the health of the breast & the movement of lymph in & out of the breast.	

## Hinduism & Christianity

Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 in India. He was a pivotal figure in the Indian independence movement. He lived primarily in India after returning from South Africa in 1915, where he developed his philosophy of non-violent resistance (satyagraha). Gandhi was a devout Hindu who deeply believed in ahimsa (non-violence), truth (satya), self-discipline, simplicity, and equality for all people regardless of caste, religion, or gender. He is best known for leading India to independence from British rule through peaceful civil disobedience campaigns, such as the Salt March of 1930 and the Quit India Movement of 1942, which earned him the title "Father of the Nation." Gandhi was tragically assassinated on January 30, 1948.

### Hinduism

- Polytheism: Worship of many deities (e.g., Brahma the creator, Shiva the destroyer, Devi, Ganesha, etc.)
- Brahman: One forever spirit that is everywhere and in everything. It's the source of all life and the universe.
- Karma: Every action you do (good or bad) comes back to you someday.
- Samsara (Reincarnation): Cycle of being born, living, dying, and being born again. Souls are reborn as something else until they reach Moksha.
- Ahimsa: Never hurt any living thing. This is why many Hindus are vegetarian.
- Vedas Sacred Texts: Four collections of hymns, prayers, rituals, and wisdom.

### Christianity

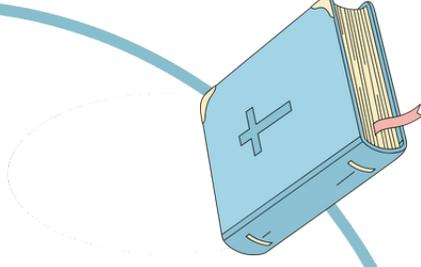
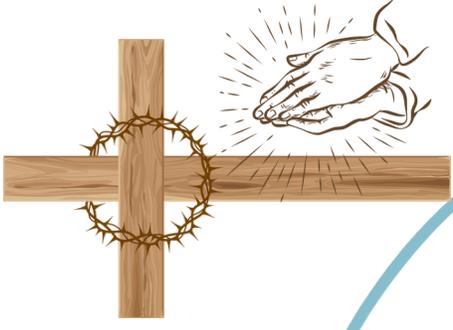
- Monotheism: Worship of one true God in three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).
- Eternal Life: Saved by Grace not works, believe in Jesus, who paid the penalty for your sin.
- God is the ultimate creator of all things. Believers are His children. His Spirit lives within us but we are not gods like Him.
- Golden Rule: Love your neighbor as yourself.
- Bible: One sacred texts, God-breathed, inspired by the Holy Spirit
- One Death: Man is appointed to die once.
- \*\*Share your faith and your church's beliefs with your child. Then compare Hinduism with Christianity.\*\*



# Compare & Contrast

HINDUISM

CHRISTIANITY



## Suggested Activities

Here are several fun, family-friendly experiments and activities using pumpkin seeds to celebrate National Pumpkin Seed Day (First Wednesday in October).

### **Dancing Pumpkin Seeds Experiment**

Fill a clear glass halfway with water, add a handful of clean, dry pumpkin seeds, then slowly pour in about 1 cup of white vinegar. Watch the seeds "dance" up and down as carbon dioxide bubbles form and pop on their surfaces!

### **Sprouting Pumpkin Seeds**

Soak some pumpkin seeds in water overnight (This helps with germination). Place damp paper towels in zip-top bags, add 5–10 seeds per bag, seal/tape to a sunny window, and label with dates. Watch them sprout. Once they do, plant them in your yard. Fresh pumpkins will be ready to harvest next October.

### **Dyed Pumpkin Seed Mosaic Art**

Dye clean seeds with food coloring or liquid watercolors. Mix in zip bags with food coloring and let dry on paper towels. Create a "mosaic" by gluing the colorful seeds onto paper shapes such as pumpkin or leaf outlines. You can do the same thing with pasta for Pasta Month. Instead of water, use rubbing alcohol and food coloring.

### **Roasted Pumpkin Seeds**

Dry the seeds thoroughly. Toss the seeds in a bowl with 1–2 tsp of oil and your chosen seasonings until evenly coated.\*\* Spread in a single layer on the baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Roast for 15–25 minutes at 350, stirring every 5–8 minutes for even browning.

Seasonings: (1) salt, pepper, & garlic powder (2) melted butter, cinnamon, & sugar, (3) chili powder, paprika, cumin & garlic powder (4) soy sauce, ginger, & garlic powder



# Mad Hatter Tea Party

October



*“The Mad Hatter asked, ‘Why is a raven like a writing desk?’  
When Alice gives up trying to figure out why, the Hatter admits  
‘I haven’t the slightest idea!’”  
~Alice in Wonderland*

Don't be late for this important date. It is time for an Alice in Wonderland Tea party. Make your favorite sandwich, cut the crusts off, and slice into triangles. It can be a PB&J, grilled cheese, ham and cheese, or a traditional cucumber sandwich. At your Mad Hatter Tea party, wear different kinds of hats. Celebrate everyone's "Unbirthday" with cake and ice cream. Read aloud Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll poems, a book of riddles by Lewis Carroll or recite the Jabberwocky poem without laughing. Make a batch of Cheshire Cat's Purple "Disappearing" Tea. Label everything with "Eat Me" and "Drink Me" signs.

## Disappearing Tea

Use butterfly pea flower tea for color-changing magic.

- Ingredients: Butterfly pea flower tea bags (or loose) Hot water + squeeze of lemon (turns from blue to purple/pink!) Optional: Add honey or a splash of milk.
- Steps: Brew strong. Watch the color shift when lemon is added.



## Recommended Books to Read

- **Poetry for Young People: Lewis Carroll** by Edward Mendelson
- **The Jabberwocky** by Lewis Carroll & Red Barn Kitchen Designs (Illustrator)
- **Alice's Puzzles Through the Looking Glass: A Frabjous Puzzle Challenge Inspired by Lewis Carroll's Classic Fantasy** by Jason Ward



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## Suggested Activities

Indigenous Peoples' Day is observed on the second Monday in October as a holiday honoring the histories, cultures, resilience, and contributions of Native American. Some celebrate it with Columbus Day or as an alternative.

### Corn Cob Printing (Maize)

Use corn cob as a stamp for colorful fall patterns, honoring maize's importance. Cut the cob in half. Roll the cob in paint. Then roll it on white construction paper. Let the first color dry. Do it several more times with different colors.

### Make Simple Fry Bread

Open a can of Pillsbury biscuits. Roll each one flat. Fry in hot oil 1–2 minutes per side until golden brown and puffed. Flip with tongs. Drain on paper towels. Serve hot: Enjoy plain, with butter, honey, or jam.

Make Corn Husk Dolls

WATCH

### Read Aloud Native American Stories

- [The Rough-Face Girl](#) by Rafe Martin
- [The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush](#) by Tomie dePaola
- [The Legend of the Bluebonnet](#) by Tomie dePaola
- [Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story](#) by Kevin Noble Maillard
- [How Chipmunk Got His Stripes](#) by Joseph Bruchac
- [The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses](#) by Paul Goble

### High School Topics:

- Examine Columbus' 1492 arrival and its positive and negative effects on Native American tribes such as diseases, land conflicts, religious conversions, etc.
- Read Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal policy and speech. How did it lead to the "Trail of Tears"? Do you agree or disagree?
- Research prominent Native American leaders.



## Play POTUS or PM

Compare the roles, powers, and decision-making authority of a US President (in a presidential system with separation of powers) and a UK Prime Minister (in a parliamentary system where the PM leads the majority party in Parliament). The game highlights key differences like the POTUS' independent election and veto power vs. the PM's reliance on parliamentary support and easier legislative control.

### Directions:

1. Split into two teams: POTUS (US President) and PM (Prime Minister).
  2. Read each scenario. Players respond with "I can do that because..." or "I need approval..."
  3. If the player is correct, he/she earns two points. If the player is incorrect, he/she loses one point. If a player has the ability to do something but does not answer, he/she loses a point. Some answers are "both" and a few are "neither."
- \*\*If playing with high school students, players get bonus points if they can explain why an action can or cannot be taken.\*\*

## Post Game Activities

### Debate Tie-In

After the game, debate "Which system gives more effective leadership?" or "Is the US President's independence a strength or weakness?" "Which would you rather be?"

### Compare and Contrast

Create a Venn diagram to compare the similarities and differences between the two. For example, foreign policy, military command, veto powers, pardons, cabinet members without confirmation, terms, etc.



## POTUS or PM Game

1. Declare war on another country without parliamentary/Congressional approval. (PM)
2. Veto a bill passed by the legislature and force a supermajority override to pass it. (POTUS)
3. Appoint cabinet ministers without needing legislative approval. (PM)
4. Negotiate and sign a major international treaty on their own authority. (POTUS)
5. Issue an executive order or directive to implement policy without new laws. (BOTH)
6. Lose their position if the legislature passes a vote of no confidence. (PM)
7. Act as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and deploy troops overseas. (BOTH)
8. Introduce and push through major legislation more easily because they lead the majority party. (PM)
9. Grant pardons or reprieves for federal crimes (except impeachment cases). (POTUS)
10. Represent the country at international summits as both head of government and head of state. (BOTH)
11. Has a fixed term (POTUS)
12. Elected directly by the people (through electoral college). (POTUS)

### Bonus Advanced Play:

11. Call a snap election to renew their mandate. (PM)
12. Fill a Supreme Court vacancy with a nominee who must be confirmed by the Senate. (POTUS)
13. Chair cabinet meetings and set the government's daily agenda. (BOTH)
14. Oversee the civil service and government agencies directly. (BOTH)
15. Be removed via impeachment and trial process. (POTUS)



## Suggested Activities

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, the American colonist declared their independence. On April 19, 1775, the American Revolution began. On October 19, 1781, British General Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington declaring America the victor. The Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783, officially ending the war and recognizing U.S. independence.

### "Taxation Without Representation" Simulation

One person is the "British King/Tax Collector" who announces silly taxes (e.g., "M&M tax" on candy, "homework tax" on schoolwork, "fruit tax" on healthy foods). Others are colonists who must "pay" with tokens (or real coins). Every time a "colonist" uses or eats a taxed object, he/she must pay the King.

### 13 Colonies Become 13 United States

Draw and label the original 13 colonies when they became the first 13 states.

### Read Aloud American Revolutionary War Stories

- They Called Her Molly Pitcher by Anne Rockwell
- Ben and Me by Robert Lawson
- Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
- Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution by Avi
- A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette, Revolutionary War Double Agent by Anne Rockwell
- Yankee Doodle America: The Spirit of 1776 from A to Z by Wendell Minor

### High School Topics:

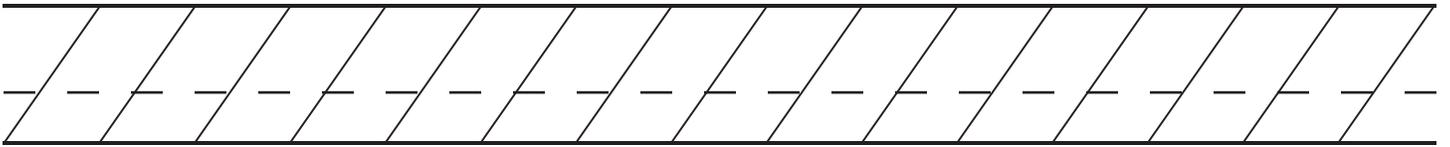
- Research the Treaty of Paris. When and where was it signed? Who was there? What were the final terms?



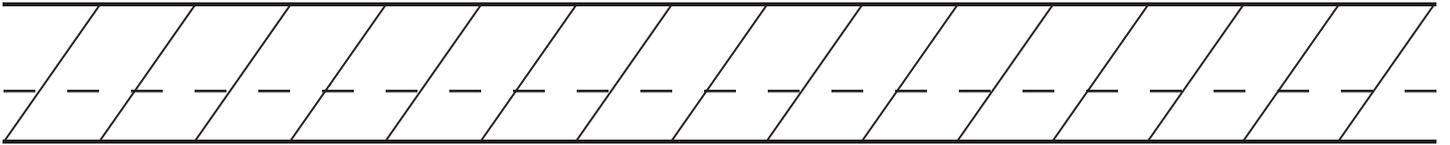
## Suggested Activities

Use a ballpoint pen to practice calligraphy.

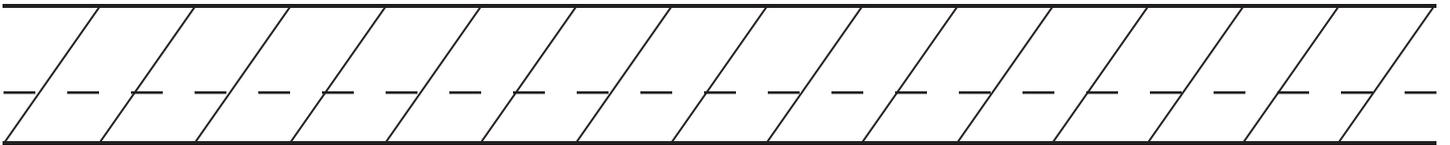
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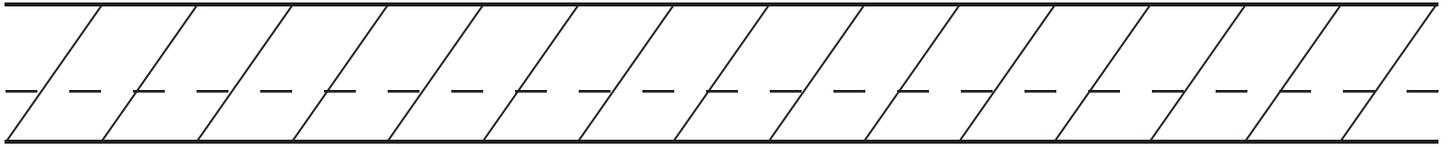
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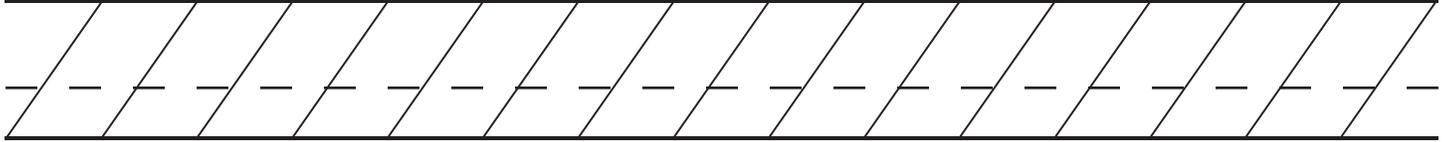
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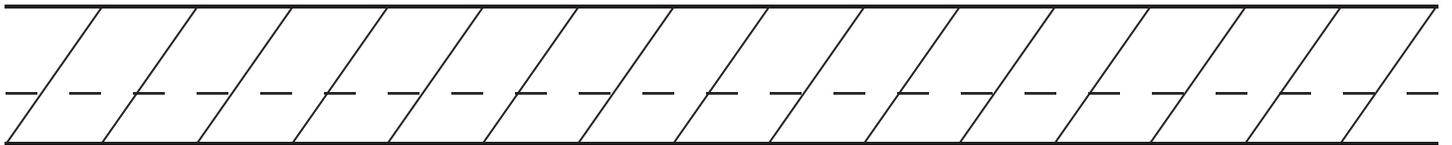
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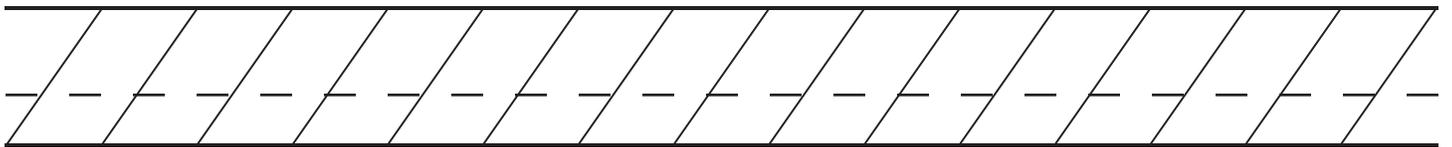
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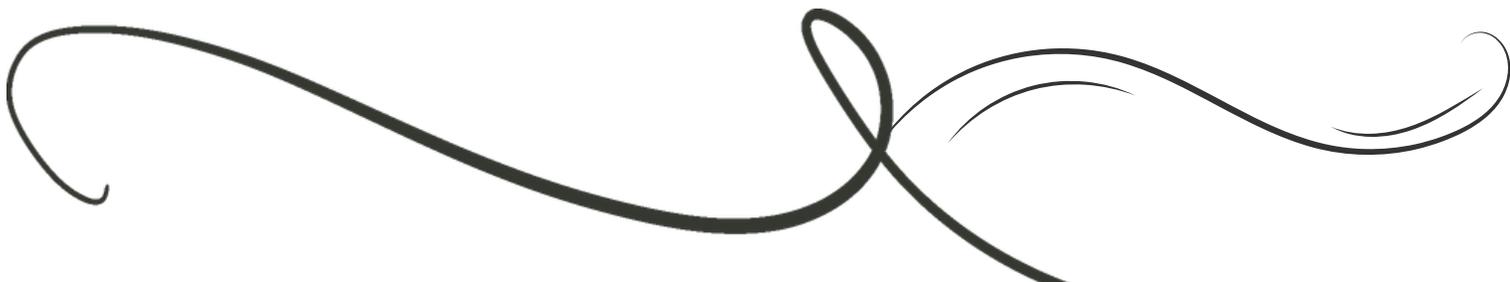
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Write a letter to a friend in calligraphy.  
Add captions in your nature journal in calligraphy.  
Copy this month's memory verse in calligraphy.



## Suggested Activities

October 31<sup>st</sup> is Reformation Day, which commemorates Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the church door in 1517, sparking the Protestant Reformation.

### Nail the 95 Theses to the Door

Write or print simple "theses" (key truths like "We are saved by grace through faith" or short Bible verses about salvation). Kids take turns "nailing" them on a door (or wall). For added fun, write them on separate sheets of paper using calligraphy.

### Color Luther's Rose

Martin Luther designed a special symbol called the Luther Rose (a rose with a cross, heart, and crown). [Print free coloring pages](#) of the Rose and color it while learning its meaning: black cross for suffering, red heart for faith, white rose for joy in salvation, blue background for heaven, and gold circle for eternal glory.

### Sing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Luther wrote this famous hymn ("Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott") as a bold declaration of God's protection. [Play the hymn and sing along](#). For extra fun, build a simple "fortress" with blocks, Legos, or cardboard—label it with words like "Faith," "Grace," or "Scripture." Discuss how Luther used music to teach Bible truths.

### High School Topics:

- Research the Martin Luther. As a Catholic monk, what did he think needed to be changed or emphasized in the church?
- List all 95 Theses. Explain each one. Find scripture passages to support Luther's argument.
- Research other prominent leaders in the Protestant Reformation.





# Don't forget to check out other *Coffee With Carrie* RESOURCES



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