

# Passport to Learning

## Morning

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## Time Plans



Travel  
UNIT

Welcome,



Pour yourself a cup of coffee, put your feet up, and take a little coffee break with me. Let's talk about Family Style Learning using simple Morning Time plans. Our family found the simplest way to homeschool was to learn as much as we could together as a family. We found the easiest way to do this was by setting time aside each morning to do our Bible, memory work, and humanities together. In our home, we called it family time; you may call it Morning Time, Circle Time, Table Time, Basket Time, or something similar.

Each morning, our family would gather at the table for breakfast and devotions. Then we would congregate on the couch and floor in our family room for our family-style lessons. I would read aloud to the kids while they drew something, built something, or created something with their hands. After discussing the book or chapter we read, we would work on memory work, read some poetry, learn a folk song or hymn, write in our journals, play a game (usually math-related), learn about an artist or composer, draw in our nature journals, discuss current or historical events, do some map work, maybe do a science experiment, and from time to time, read a little Shakespeare.

Did we cover all of these things each day? No way! After family devotions and read-aloud, we would do 2 or 3 of the things mentioned as a family before taking a break and moving on to independent work. In this resource, I have compiled for you our Morning Time Plans we did over the years. Each monthly plan suggests topics to read, discuss, memorize, learn, teach, observe, and do.

Use what you like and what appeals to your family. Skip the rest. Each month is "grab and go." Scripture, memory work, poetry, map work, and art prints are printer ready. Links are provided for geography, art, science, and music studies. All you need to do is collect picture books and chapter books to read (I share some of my favorites), print what you need, and start. For more ideas on how to use Morning Time Plans, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #130, "Simple Homeschool Solutions: Let's Get Loopy!"](#)

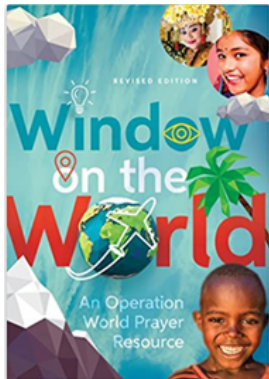
May the Lord bless your homeschooling adventures for His glory,

— Carrie —  
**DE FRANCISCO**



## Family Devotions

Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will be "traveling the world." As you "travel," spend each week praying for missionaries around the world. Pray for the people and cultures around the world that do not know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Learn about different world religions and compare them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I recommend using the book, Window on the World: An Operation World Prayer Resource (WOW) by Operation World Resources and edited by Molly Wall and Jason Mandryk. From, October through May, I will suggest countries and cultures to read about from this book during your family devotional time.



## Map Work

Create a Map Work Binder for each child (or add these pages to their Memory Work Binder). Each month, print the maps to be learned and memorized. Print one blank map and one labeled map for each child. Place the blank map and labeled map back to back inside a sheet protector. Then place each sheet protector into the Map Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase Transparent Menu Covers. For younger students, print extra copies of the labeled maps to use as coloring sheets. Each day, trace with a dry-erase marker the labeled map. Once or twice a week, try to label the blank map. Once the country or continent is memorized, try drawing and labeling it from memory. Each week, pick a country to read about in Children's Atlas of God's World (CAofGW) by Froman or in The Travel Book Atlas (TB) by Lonely Planet. For example, if the monthly continent focus is South America, then pick 3-4 countries to read about that are located in South America. For more ideas on how to "travel the world" and do simple map work, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #69, "Passport to Learning."



## Read Aloud

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 that are related to the topics you are studying in history, science, art, and music. Each month, I suggest a few classics to read as well as give links for recommended picture books. Don't let my recommendations add 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 packed 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.

## Math Morning Time

Math and games were a consistent part of our morning time routine. 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. Each month, recommended math picture books will be given to read aloud during your morning time. 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. This year while "traveling the world" during Morning Time, I highly recommend using the [Count Your Way Through Country Series](#) by James Haskins. Listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #19 "Math Morning Time: Tame Those Math Tears and Fears."](#)

Check out my [Math Games PlayList](#) at my Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Help YouTube Channel. I share over a dozen simple math games you can play with a deck of cards or a pair of dice. There are games for all math levels, including algebra.



## Memory Work

Create a Memory Work Binder for each child. Each month, print the scripture memory verse, poem, song, maps, and/or passages suggested for memorization. Print one of each for each child. Place the memory work pages inside sheet protectors. Then place each sheet into the Memory Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase [Transparent Menu Covers](#). When you read, recite, or memorize verses, poems, or passages, they are easy to find and use. You can also use dry-erase markers to highlight or underline keywords. For more ideas on how to incorporate memory work into your days, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #116, Memory Work: A Podcast To Remember](#).

## Poetry

My kids did not enjoy poetry so I had to be intentional about including it. I did this by including at least one poem and one poet in our Morning Time Plans each month. Because this was not an area of interest for my children, I made sure I kept poetry time light and enjoyable. Keep it simple. Read the poem with your family and simply enjoy it. It's really that easy! If you want, ask your children to close their eyes while you are reading the poem. Then after, they can narrate what they pictured in their minds, or they can draw an illustration that goes with the poem. Ask what they liked about the poem and what they didn't like. Focus on a new vocabulary word heard in the poem. If you have time, print the poem and place it in your child's Memory Work Binder. Each day or each week, recite the poem and memorize it line by line. For fun, read the poem with different accents. With older kids, you can analyze the rhyming pattern (if there is one). Teens can look for literary devices in the poem such as personification, alliteration, similes, and onomatopoeia. If your child loves to write, then try creating a few original poems about the same topic or using the same rhyming scheme. I honestly think poetry should be read for enjoyment; it doesn't need to be over-analyzed. For more ideas on how to have fun with poetry, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #93, "Poetry Tea Time."](#)



## 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.

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. 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.

## 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 to use. 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 many art and artist card games and board games to play during our Morning Time. 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."](#)

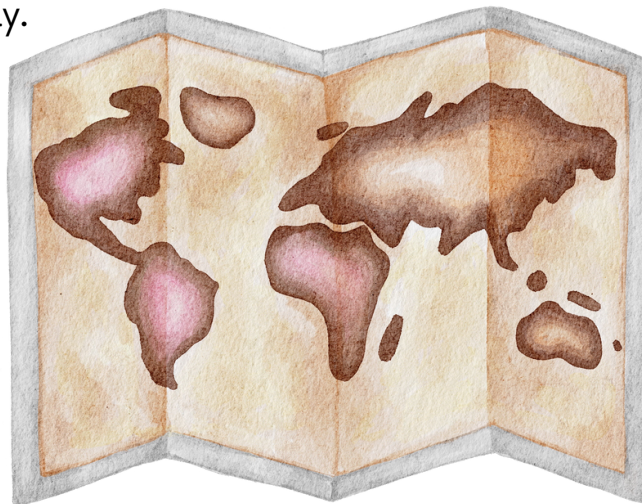
## Music Study

In this year's Morning Time Plans, I combined Composer Studies with Folk and Hymn Studies. You can learn a lot about a culture or time period by singing, listening to, and learning American folk songs and folk songs from around the world. In addition, traditional church hymns are full of biblical truths, doctrine, and bible verses. While listening to, singing, and discussing lyrics of traditional hymns, your family will be learning about God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In September and December, I include a composer study. During the remaining months, your family will learn a new folk song or hymn related to the places and cultures discussed that month.

For a 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 a folk song or hymn study, print the folk song or hymn for each child and place it in his/her Memory Work Binder. Each morning, start with family devotions and worship by singing the hymn together. For fun, listen to and sing the suggested folk song from another country during Morning Time or throughout the day.



# April Morning Time Plans



Travel  
Middle East



## Scripture

Pray for Israel, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan in the WOW book.  
Read about Islam and Judaism in WOW Book.  
Throughout the month, read Psalm 1.  
Focus on the memory verse: Psalm 1:3

## Map Work

Learn and memorize Middle East Countries & Capitals. Older students should draw and label the Middle East from memory.  
Read about West Asia (60-64) from CAofGW or visit [Kids World Travel](#) website.

## Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "[Psalm 1](#)" by King David.

## Art Study

Study the painting, "[Olive Trees](#)" and learn about the artist, Vincent Van Gogh

## Music Study

Listen to and learn the Jewish folk song, "[Hava Nagila](#)."

## Nature Study

Learn about the wildlife of the Desert Biome.

## Math Work

Read the [Sir Cumference Math Series](#) by Cindy Neuschwander  
Read [Count Your Way Through the Arab World](#) and [Count Your Way Through Israel](#) by Jim Haskins (out of print)

## Read Aloud

Read Bible stories from Genesis in [The Child's Story Bible](#) by Catherine Vos (or any other illustrated Children's Bible) as well as picture books about the desert. Read aloud from one of the following chapter books: [Arabian Nights: Retold from the Classic Tales \(Classic Starts\)](#) by Woodside or [Number the Stars](#) by Lois Lowry. **\*\*It is hard to find unbiased picture books about Israel and Islamic countries. It is best to read from God's Word on this topic.\*\***

## Cultural Connections

In the kitchen, make Latkes (Israel), Humus (Middle East), falafel (Middle East) and Lebanese Rice. Arabic numbers were invented in the Middle East, the concept of zero (or a placeholder) was invented in Babylon (Iraq) and the Father of Algebra was a Muslim named Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi. Discover patterns in numbers, play the traditional Israeli game, Dreidel, and learn how to play Dama (a version of Chess & Checkers).



Artist: Vincent Van Gogh

1889

"Olive Tree Series"

Oil on canvas



## Week One

- 1). Print in color or view it [online](#).
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the art work 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? What do you notice? What do they like about it?

## Week Two

- 1). Learn about the French artist, Vincent Van Gogh.
- 2). Look at several Olive Tree paintings created by Van Gogh. He painted a series of olive trees using different lighting and textures. What similarities do you notice in the Olive Tree paintings? What are a few differences? Which one do you like best?
- 3). In the early part of his career, van Gogh used a lot of dark colors such as browns and dark greens. In 1886, Vincent moved to Paris to learn from Impressionist painters such as Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, and Camille Pissarro. During this time, Van Gogh began to use brighter colors and thicker brush strokes.



# The Olive Tree



# The Olive Tree



## Cuisine Spotlight: Israel

These hot, crispy, oniony potato pancakes are a must for Hanukkah but perfectly acceptable other times of the year. Serve with applesauce, sour cream, or smoked salmon.

### Latkes

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 medium russet potatoes, peeled
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon grated onion
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup oil for frying (preferably peanut)



#### DIRECTIONS

1. Grate peeled potatoes (either by hand or with a food processor attachment.). Place shredded potatoes in a cheesecloth and wring, extracting as much moisture as possible. (You can also use a clean dish towel.)
2. Measure 2 cups shredded, drained potatoes and place into a medium bowl. Add egg, flour, onion, and salt, and stir until well combined.
3. Heat oil in a large, heavy-bottomed skillet over medium-high heat. Place large spoonfuls of potato mixture into the hot oil, pressing down on them to form 1/4- to 1/2-inch-thick patties. Cook until golden brown, 4 to 5 minutes. Flip and repeat on the other side.
4. Remove to a paper towel-lined plate to drain while you cook any remaining latkes. Serve hot.



## Cuisine Spotlight: Middle East

This is a fun recipe to make with little children. They love rolling the dough into balls.  
This recipe is vegan too!

### Falafel

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 15-ounce can chickpeas (rinsed, drained and patted dry)
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 medium shallots, minced
- 2 Tbsp sesame seeds
- 1 1/2 tsp cumin (plus more to taste)
- 1/4 tsp each sea salt and black pepper
- 1 healthy pinch each cardamom and coriander (optional)
- 3-4 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 3-4 Tbsp oil for cooking



#### DIRECTIONS

1. Add chickpeas, parsley, shallot, garlic, sesame seeds, cumin, salt, pepper (and coriander and cardamom if using) to a food processor or blender and mix/pulse to combine until thoroughly combined. It should be a crumbly dough, not a paste.
2. Add flour 1 Tbsp at a time and mix to combine until no longer wet and you can mold the dough into a ball without it sticking to your hands.
3. Transfer to a mixing bowl, cover, and refrigerate for 1-2 hours to firm up. Don't skip this step.
4. Once chilled, scoop out rounded Tablespoon amounts and gently form into 11-12 small discs.
5. Heat the oil. Add only as many falafels as will fit very comfortably in the pan at a time - about 5-7. Cook for a total of 4-5 minutes, flipping when the underside is deep golden brown.

## Cuisine Spotlight: Lebanon

Lebanese Rice is a staple Middle Eastern side dish that is made with only three ingredients: rice, vermicelli noodles and olive oil!

### Lebanese Rice

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups long-grain white rice
- 1/2 cup vermicelli pasta
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- dash cinnamon optional
- parsley optional, for garnish



#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Rinse the rice with cold water until the water runs clear. Drain well and set aside.
2. In a medium non-stick pot, heat the olive oil on medium heat. Add the vermicelli pasta and cook, stirring frequently until all the vermicelli is a deep golden brown color. Be careful not to burn it.
3. Transfer the rice over the cooked vermicelli and stir to combine. Coat the rice with the olive oil. Season with salt and a dash of cinnamon, if desired.
4. Add 4 cups water and bring the mixture to a boil. The water will reduce in the process. Reduce the heat to low, cover the pot, and cook for 15 minutes.
5. When the rice is fully cooked, remove from the heat and allow the rice to steam for 5 minutes. Then uncover and fluff with a fork.
6. Serve warm with fresh parsley, and toasted nuts, if desired.



# Cuisine Spotlight: Middle East

## Hummus

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (15-ounce) can chickpeas
- 1 large lemon
- 1/4 cup well-stirred tahini
- 1 small garlic clove, minced
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for serving
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- Salt to taste
- 2 to 3 tablespoons water or aquafaba (liquid from chickpea can)
- Dash ground paprika for serving



### DIRECTIONS:

1. In the bowl of a food processor, combine the tahini and lemon juice and process for 1 minute. Whip or "cream" the tahini to make the hummus smooth and creamy.
2. Add the olive oil, minced garlic, cumin, and a 1/2 teaspoon of salt to the whipped tahini and lemon juice. Process for 1 minute.
3. Open, drain, and rinse the chickpeas. Add half of the chickpeas to the food processor and process for 1 minute. Scrape sides and bottom of the bowl, then add remaining chickpeas and process until thick and quite smooth; 1 to 2 minutes.
4. Taste for salt and adjust as needed. Serve hummus with a drizzle of olive oil and dash of paprika.





# Dreidel: Jewish Game

The dreidel game is a Hanukkah tradition. It was created as a way for Jews to study the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

## MATERIALS:

- 1 dreidel per team
- 15 tokens (pennies, counters, or other small objects) per player

## MAKE A DREIDEL

- Print the template.
- Draw the four Jewish symbols on each side. (See below)
- Fold and tape together

\*\*Purchase a dreidel. [CLICK HERE.](#)



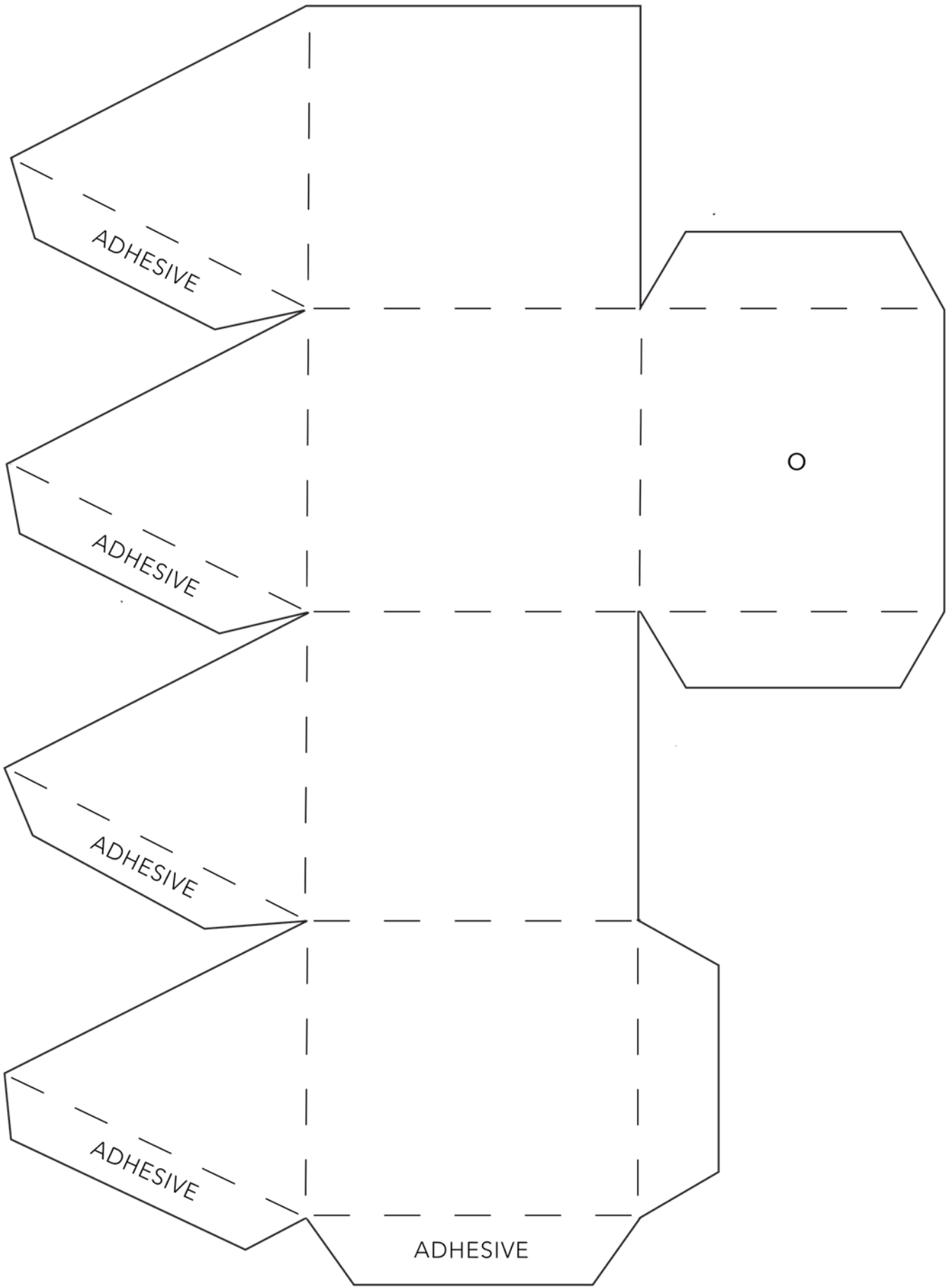
## INSTRUCTIONS

1. At the beginning, each player puts two tokens into the center of the circle, the "pot."
2. Starting with the youngest player and then proceeding clockwise, each player takes a turn spinning the dreidel like a top. The letter that is facing up when the dreidel stops spinning tells the player what to do. See the key below.
3. When a player loses all of his tokens, he is "out" of the game. The last player remaining in the game is the winner.

### Dreidel Symbol Key

	<p>Gimmel – “Get” - Take everything from the pot in the center. Each player places two more tokens in the pot to replace the pot loot.</p>		<p>Hay – “Half” – Take half of the tokens from the pot. What will you do if there are an odd number of tokens? Decide on a solution, and use this rule throughout the game.</p>
	<p>Shin – “Share” – Put two of your tokens into the pot in the middle.</p>		<p>Nune – “Nothing” – You do not give or receive any tokens. You simply lose this turn, and the dreidel moves to the next player.</p>





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## Magic Square

In a magic square, every row, column, and each of the diagonals add up to the same total.

The numbers 1 to 9 are placed in the small squares in such a way that no number is repeated and the sum of the three digits column-wise, row-wise and diagonally is equal to 15.




## Easy Magic Square

Fill in grids so that each column, row and diagonal add up to the given sum.

The sum is 15.

2		
	5	3

The sum is 60.

32		
		28
		8

The sum is 30.

	10	6
12		

The sum is 60.

		16
28		
24		



# Advanced Magic Square

Fill in grids so that each column, row and diagonal add up to the given sum.

The sum is 34.

			1
	11		14
3	10		
	5	9	4

The sum is 102.

48			
	30	33	24
			36
	45	42	3

The sum is 136.

		48	4
8			56
	40		
	20	36	16

The sum is 102.

	42		
36	21	18	
24	33		
39			48



## Play with Patterns

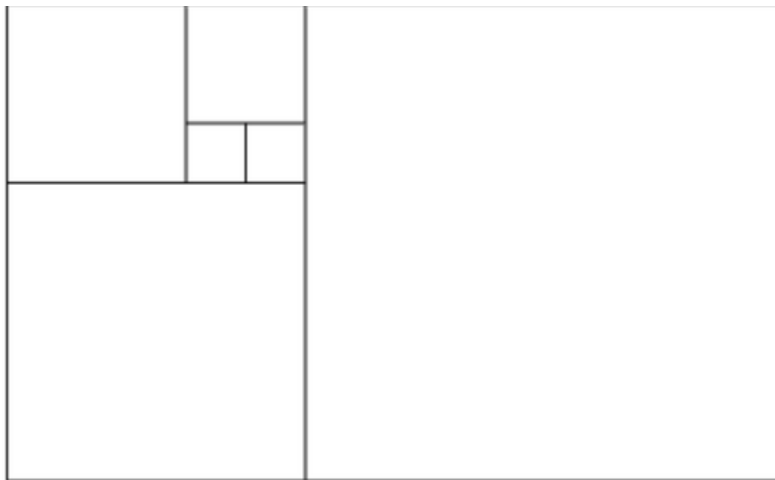
What is the Fibonacci sequence? The Fibonacci sequence is a pattern of numbers that build on the previous ones by adding them together.

**1 , 1 , 2 , 3 , 5 , 8 , 13 ...**

**Can you guess what number comes next?**

**What are the next five numbers ?**

**Do you notice the pattern?**



*These Fibonacci Puns will help you figure out the pattern.*

My friend claims that understanding a Fibonacci sequence is hard, but I disagree.

**It's as easy as 1, 1, 2, 3.**

Just got my ticket to the Fibonacci convention!

**I hear this year is going to be as big as the last 2 put together.**

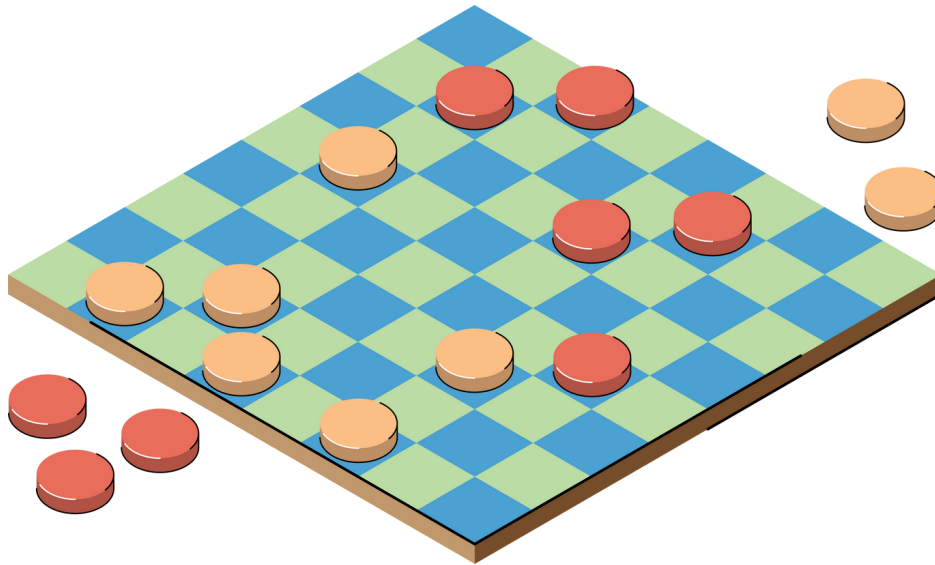
Why was Fibonacci afraid of 5?

**Because 5 8 13!**



## Dama

Dama is a middle eastern version of checkers. Pull out your checker board and play. If you don't have a checker board, play [ONLINE](#)



## Algebra Puzzles

$$\text{Banana} + \text{Banana} = 30$$

$$\text{Apple} + \text{Apple} = 20$$

$$\text{Watermelon} + \text{Watermelon} = 8$$

$$\text{Banana} + \text{Apple} \times \text{Watermelon} = ?$$



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check out other  
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RESOURCES



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BOOK



[Just Breathe \(and Take a Sip of Coffee\):  
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Travel Plans



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OCTOBER: North America & Canada

NOVEMBER: South America

DECEMBER: Europe

JANUARY: Mexico & Central America

FEBRUARY: Asia

MARCH: Asia and India

APRIL: Asia and Middle East

MAY: Australia, New Zealand & Oceania

SUMMER: Africa & Antarctica



—Carrie—  
DE FRANCISCO

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