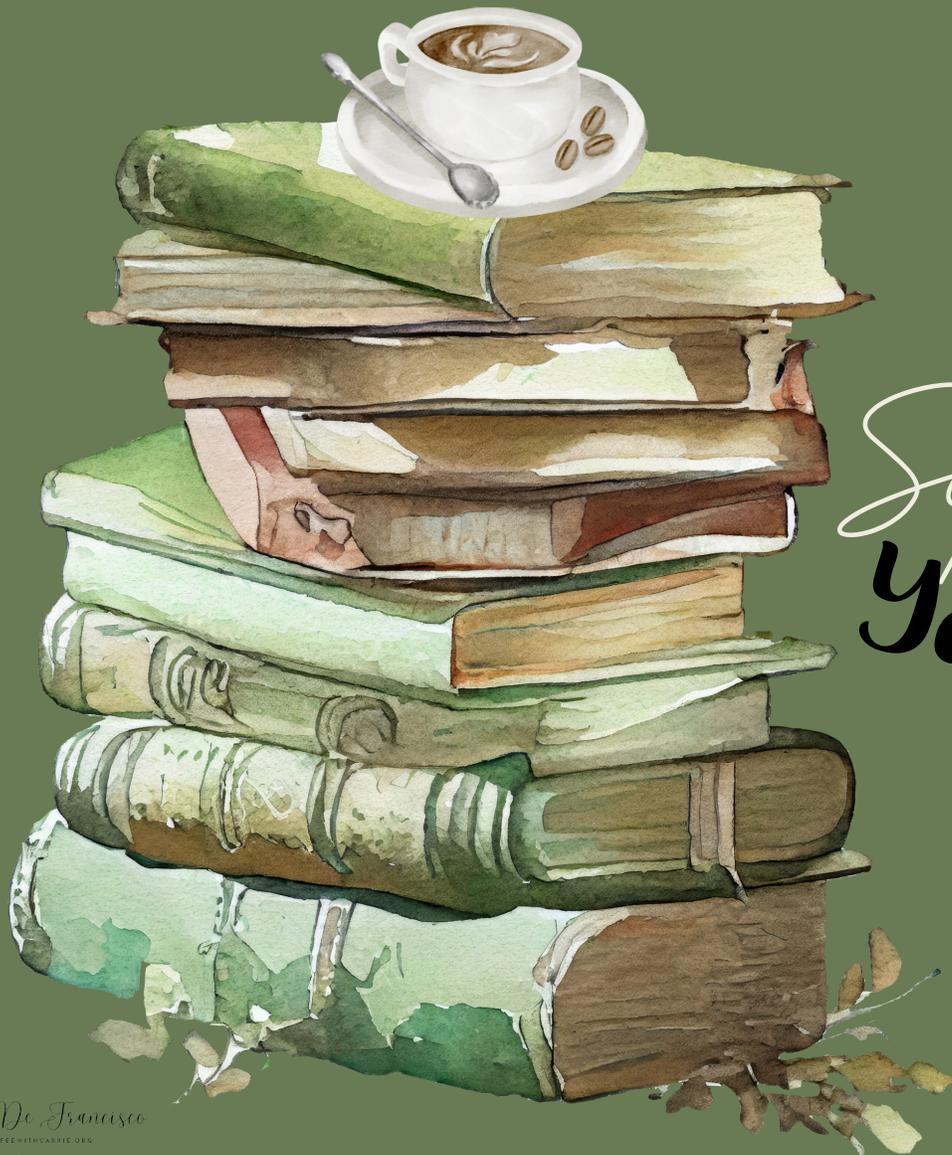


September - May

Morning Time Plans



September
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 4th, 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. 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."](#)



MONTHLY OBSERVANCES

- Hispanic Heritage Month
- National Classical Music Month
- Jewish Autumn Observances of Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), and Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)

HOLIDAYS, HISTORICAL EVENTS, & BIRTHDAYS

- Labor Day: 1st Monday in September
- September 7, 1533: Queen Elizabeth I of England Birthday
- Patriot Day / National Day of Remembrance: September 11
- September 13, 1916: Roald Dahl Birthday (Author of Charlie Chocolate Factory)
- September 15, 1890: Agatha Christie Birthday (Classic Mystery Author)
- Constitution Day: September 17th
- International Day of Peace: September 21
- Autumn Equinox: September 22 or 23
- September 25, 1930: Shel Silverstein Birthday (Famous Children's Poet)
- Michaelmas: September 29

TRIVIAL NATIONAL DAYS

- International Chocolate Day: September 13 (honoring Milton Hershey's birthday)
- National Guacamole Day: September 16
- National Cheeseburger Day: September 18 (third Sunday)
- International Talk Like a Pirate Day: September 19
- National Coffee Day: September 29
- National Inventors Day: September 29



Scripture

Throughout the month, read and discuss various harvest parables. Focus on the memory verse: Ecclesiastes 3: 1

Memory Work

Read, discuss, and memorize Ecclesiastes 3.

Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "Autumn" by Shel Silverstein (found in Where the Sidewalk Ends). Older students can read, discuss, and memorize "Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost.

Art Study

Study the painting, "Me & My Parrots" and other self-portraits by hispanic artist, Frida Kahlo.

Composer Study

Listen to the oratorio "The Seasons" (1801) by Joseph Haydn, known as the "Father of the Symphony." Focus on the "Autumn" section.

Nature Study

Learn about the season of fall and the Autumn Equinox. Observe changes in nature.

Read Aloud

Read chapter books related to some of the monthly themes such as Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder (Preparing for seasonal changes), The Seven Dials of Mystery by Agatha Christie (Christie's Birthday), Treasure Island (National Pirate Day), My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George (surviving different seasons), poetry anthologies by Shel Silverstein (Silverstein's birthday), Shh! We're Writing the Constitution by Jean Fritz (Constitution Day), and/or Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl (National Chocolate Day) or any book by Dahl (Dahl's birthday). Read lots of picture books about autumn such as Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert, Too Many Pumpkins by Linda White, We're Going on a Leaf Hunt by Steve Metzger, and The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin by Beatrix Potter.



DAILY

Read Harvest Parables. Memorize Ecclesiastes 3: 1
Memorize a portion of Ecclesiastes 3 or "Autumn."
Listen to "The Seasons" by Haydn.
Read Aloud from recommended chapter book or picture books.

Week One

Do Week One of Art Study: "Me & My Parrots."
Do Week One of Composer Study: Learn about the Classical Era.
Do Week One of Nature Study: Pick one neighborhood tree to draw in September, January, April, and July. Draw the tree this week.
Week One September Activities (Sept. 1-12th): Read about a few famous hispanic heroes, celebrate Labor Day and/or Rosh Hashanah, have a high tea in honor Queen Elizabeth, and/or do 9/11 activity.

Week Two

Do Week Two of Art Study: "Self Portrait: The Frame."
Do Week Two of Composer Study: Learn about Joseph Haydn.
Do Week Two of Nature Study: Autumn Leaves
Week Two September Activities (Sept 13-19th): Read a few poems by Roald Dahl, write an original mystery story like Agatha Christie , memorize the Preamble, do pirate activity, bake chocolate treats, cook homemade hamburgers, and/or make homemade guacamole.

Week Three

Do Week Three of Art Study: Pick another Frida Kahlo Self Portrait.
Do Week Three of Composer Study: Symphony Orchestras.
Do Week Three of Nature Study: Autumn Equinox
Week Three September Activities (Sept 20-26th): Celebrate Yon Kippur, make peace craft, and/or read Shel Silverstein poems and write a few original silly poems.

Week Four

Do Week Four of Art Study: Create Your Own Self Portrait.
Do Week Four of Composer Study: Listen to symphonies by Haydn.
Do Week Four of Nature Study: Trees and Seed Pods
Week Four September Activities (Sept 27- 30th): Celebrate Sukkots and Michaelmas, create a new invention, and/or get a kid-friendly coffee treat at your local coffee shop.



Memorize

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens. - Ecclesiastes 3:1

Read Matthew 13: 1 - 23 Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."....

Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Read Matthew 24:32-35. Parable of the Fig Tree

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Memorize

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens. - Ecclesiastes 3:1

Read Matthew 13: 24- 43 Parable of the Weeds

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

"The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

"An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

"No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Read Luke 12:13-21. Parable of the Rich Man & His Harvest

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Ecclesiastes 3

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.



Autumn



In autumn
 the leaves fall
 and the wind blows
 and the squirrels gather nuts
 and the children jump in piles of leaves
 and the air smells like apples and smoke from chimneys
 and everything feels cozy
 and ready for winter.

Shel Silverstein
 From the book *Where the Sidewalk Ends*



Nothing Gold Can Stay



Nature's first green is gold,
 Her hardest hue to hold.
 Her early leaf's a flower;
 But only so an hour.
 Then leaf subsides to leaf.
 So Eden sank to grief,
 So dawn goes down to day.
 Nothing gold can stay.



Robert Frost
 1923



Franz Joseph Haydn

March 31, 1732 - May 31, 1809

Born in Austria

Classical Period

Franz Joseph Haydn was known as the “Father of the Symphony.” He helped develop new musical forms, like the string quartet and the symphony. The Classical Period started around 1750 and includes composers like Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. Orchestras went through great changes: harpsichord or organ were no longer their musical foundation and wind instruments such as the horn, trumpet, clarinet, flute and oboe joined the strings to create a new, distinctive sound. The orchestral set-up led to the era’s most important type of music, the symphony. The Classical Era was dominated by its two greatest composers, Haydn and Mozart.





Frida Kahlo

"Me & My Parrot"

1941

Self Portrait, Oil on canvas

Week One

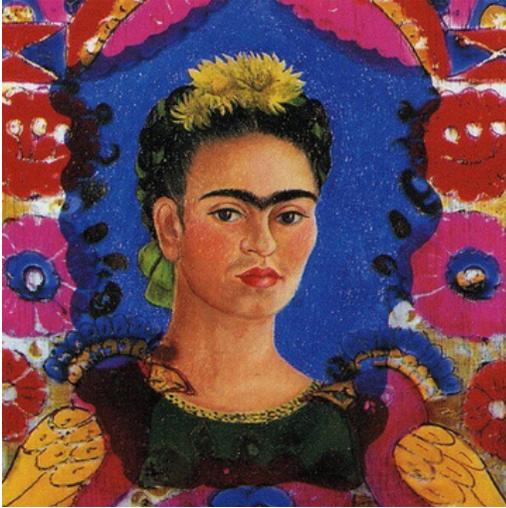
- 1). Print in color "Me & My Parrot."
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the painting from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the painting. Where is it? What is happening in it? When was it? Who is in it? What do you like about it? etc.

Week Two

- 1). Print in color "The Frame: Self Portrait."
- 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. Where is it? What is happening in it? When was it? Who is in it? What do you like about it? etc.
- 6). How is it similar and different from the first painting?







Frida Kahlo

1907- 1954

Mexico City, Mexico

Surrealism & Self Portraits

Week Three

- 1). Pick another Frida Self Portrait to print and study.
 - Self Portrait with Hummingbird
 - Self-Portrait Dedicated to Leon Trotsky.
 - Self Portrait in Velvet Dress
 - Self Portrait: Time Flies
 - Self Portrait with a Monkey.
- 2) Do the art study like the previous two. Discuss which ones they liked or didn't like.

Week Four

Create your own self portrait. Draw or paint yourself. For fun, add your pet or your favorite animal in the drawing. Then create a colorful "frame" for your self portrait.

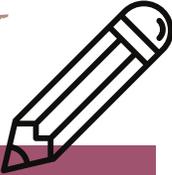


Nature Journaling

Observe and Draw Leaves and Trees



Neatly on the top of the page, copy the common name and Latin name of each tree you drew.



Draw Fall Trees
Tutorial



Watercolor Leaves
Tutorial



Suggested Science Activities

Preserving Leaves

Collect samples of colorful leaves and place the leaves between sheets of wax paper. Set the iron to a hot setting. Cover the layers of wax paper with a couple sheets of newspaper and iron them.

Chlorophyll Activity

When leaves on a tree are still green, cover part of a leaf with aluminum foil. Use masking tape to tape the foil to the leaf. When leaves on the tree change color, remove the foil and see the colors underneath.

Photosynthesis Activity

Put a ziploc bag around a leaf still attached to a tree. Secure it with a rubber band. At the end of the day, check the bag. You will see water accumulating in the bag.

Leaf Rubbing

Place a sheet of tracing paper over the leaf. Use a soft pencil or a crayon and gently rub over the tracing paper until the outline of the leaf shows through. Add additional leaves and use different colors for a nice effect.

Tree Observation

Pick one tree in your yard or neighborhood to draw. Date it. Three months later, observe how it has changed and draw it again. Do the same three months later.

Egg Equinox Myth

Some believe it is easier to balance an egg on the equinox. Pick an egg and gently try to stand it on its narrower end. Hold it carefully, release slowly once it feels steady. Is it easier to do on September 22nd?

Seed Pod Scavenger Hunt

Walk around your neighborhood or in a local park. Collect different seed pods. Draw in your nature journal. Use to make a table centerpiece.



Suggested Activities

Labor Day (the first Monday in September) is a great opportunity to celebrate American workers, reflect on the history of the labor movement, and appreciate the value of hard work—while having some fun!

Community Helper Thank You Cards

Brainstorm different jobs people do every day (teachers, firefighters, doctors, grocery workers, construction workers, etc.) and how their labor keeps society running. Write thank-you notes for workers you know (or deliver them to local helpers like mail carriers or baristas).

Volunteer or Community Service Mini-Project

As a family, do a small act of service—like cleaning up a local park, helping a neighbor, or donating items—to experience "labor for good." Discuss how volunteering connects to honoring workers' contributions.

Family Picnic or Backyard BBQ

Plan a relaxed outdoor picnic (classic Labor Day vibe) and turn it educational by having everyone share one thing they "labor" at (schoolwork, chores, jobs) and why it matters. Don't forget to thank the cook!

High School Topics:

- Research the Industrial Revolution in the United States. Learn about child labor laws and the origins of worker unions. Read about influential leaders and advocates such as Cesar Chavez*, Teresa Romero*, Mother Jones (Mary Harris Jones), and Jimmy Hoffa. (* Notable hispanic leaders)
- Read, discuss, and analyze Walt Whitman's poem, "I Hear America Singing." Use the attached worksheet.



"I Hear America Singing" by Walt Whitman (1900)

*I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat,
the deckhand singing on the steamboat deck,
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench,
the hatter singing as he stands,
The woodcutter's song, the plowboy's on his way in the morning, or at noon intermission or at sundown,
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or washing,
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,
The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly, Singing with open
mouths their strong melodious songs.*

Brainstorm a list of jobs that are common in America today. Once you have created a list of at least 10 jobs, begin brainstorming images of what it sounds like and looks like to work in and at these jobs. Then update Whitman's poem. Create a new one using modern day jobs.

21 CENTURY JOBS	IMAGERY ASSOCIATED WITH JOB

Suggested Activities

Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) is a beautiful time to celebrate renewal, reflection, sweetness for the year ahead, and key traditions like hearing the shofar, eating symbolic foods (simanim), and wishing "Shana Tova" (a good year).

Apple & Honey Tasting and Symbolic Foods Exploration

Dive into the tradition of dipping apples in honey for a "sweet" new year. Prepare a tasting station with different apple varieties, honey types, and other simanim (symbolic foods). While tasting, discuss what each food symbolizes and why we hope for a sweet, fruitful year.

Simanim: (Using foods whose names are puns on desired outcomes for coming year.)

- Pomegranates: A year filled with merits (symbolized by the many seeds).
- Black-eyed Peas or Beans (Rubia): A wish to increase merits.
- Beets (Silka): A prayer that adversaries be removed.
- Gourds/Squash (Kara): A prayer that the verdict be torn up.
- Fish or Ram's Head: A wish to be "the head and not the tail," signifying leadership and initiative.

Make Your Own Shofar

Learn about the shofar (ram's horn blown to awaken the soul for reflection). Make a pretend one from a cardboard tube (decorate with paper, foil, or paint) or try blowing into a rolled-up paper cone. Read Sammy Spider's First Rosh Hashanah.

High School Topics:

- Learn about the Jewish New Year or Feast of Trumpets in the Old Testament: Leviticus 23:23-25, Numbers 29:1-6, Numbers 10:2-10, Ezra 3:1-6 and Nehemiah 8:1-12.



Host a High Tea

Cucumber Sandwiches

A traditional English tea consists of Cucumber Mint Sandwiches.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cucumber- peeled and thinly sliced
- fresh mint- finely chopped
- fresh dill-finely chopped
- soft butter
- white bread
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened



DIRECTIONS:

1. Mix the fresh mint with softened cream cheese. Mix fresh chives with butter.
2. Spread butter mixture on one piece of bread and cover with a few slices of cucumbers.
3. Then spread the cream cheese mixture on the other piece of bread and add on top.
4. Remove the crust and cut into diagonals.



Honey Lavender Sun Tea

DIRECTIONS

- Securely place lavender buds into a cheesecloth or tea infuser for loose teas.
- Place 1 cup of honey, 8 earl grey tea bags, lavender tea buds, and 12 cups of water in a gallon jar and fill it with water.
- Loosely put a cover or cap on the jar and place the jar in direct sunshine.
- Steep tea for 3 to 4 hours (do not exceed 4 hours)
- Serve with hot (or iced) with an extra drizzle of honey and a sprig of fresh lavender for garnish.



Suggested Activities

Patriot Day (September 11) is a solemn occasion to remember the events of 9/11/2001, honor the victims, celebrate the heroism of first responders and everyday people, and reflect on themes of unity, resilience, patriotism, and service.

Read Age-Appropriate Books and Discuss Heroes

Choose gentle children's books like Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey by Maira Kalman (about a retired fireboat helping on 9/11), 14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy (a story of kindness from Kenya to the U.S. after 9/11), or The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordicai Gerstein. Read together, then talk about what makes someone a hero. Kids can draw their own "hero" or write/draw a thank-you note to a first responder.

Moment of Silence and Patriotism Flag Activity

At 8:46 AM (time of first plane impact) or at 9:59 AM (time first tower collapsed), hold a family moment of silence while playing soft patriotic music like "God Bless America". Then, make or decorate small American flags (paper, craft sticks, stars/stripes). Place them in a window/yard. Discuss the reflecting pools and "Never Forget" message.

High School Topics:

- Using reliable sources like the National September 11 Memorial & Museum website (911memorial.org), the 9/11 Commission Report (available free online), PBS LearningMedia, or Pew Research Center reports, research the events of the day, the aftermath, and the resulting societal changes.
- Create a timeline of the day using drawings or printed images.
- Explore the National September 11 Memorial & Museum website (911memorial.org) for videos, survivor stories, or virtual tours.
- Explore the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the PATRIOT Act, airport security changes (TSA), or the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Read The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11 by Garrett M. Graff

Suggested Activities

Constitution Day (September 17) celebrates the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787 and celebrates America's founding document, government structure, rights, and civic responsibilities.

Watch Schoolhouse Rock Videos and Sing Along

Search YouTube for the classic animated series from the 1970s. Watch the following:

- ["The Preamble"](#)
- ["The Constitution"](#)
- ["Three-Ring Government"](#) (explains separation of powers: legislative, executive, judicial branches)

Play Educational Board Games Focused on the Constitution and Elections

Get your hands on two family-favorites:

- [Constitution Quest](#)
- [Election Night!](#) (by Semper Smart Games)

Memorize the Preamble, Bill of Rights, and/or US Presidents

Use the attached handout for help.

High School Topics:

- Play iCivics' free online games like ["Do I Have a Right?"](#) (run a law firm defending Bill of Rights cases) or ["Branches of Power"](#) (control all three branches). Or [Annenberg Classroom's "That's Your Right" card game](#) for Bill of Rights scenarios.
- Read the Constitution. List the duties of each branch. Read [The Know Your Bill of Rights Book: Don't Lose Your Constitutional Rights--Learn Them!](#) by Sean Patrick.
- Research the platforms of the Republican Party, Democratic Party, and Libertarian Party. With which one do you align? If you are 18, register to vote.



The Preamble

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



James Madison~ Father of the Constitution
Written in 1787, ratified in 1788,



The Bill of Rights

1st Amendment: freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of assembly, and the right to protest.

2nd Amendment: the right to bear arms

3rd Amendment: soldiers cannot take over a home during war or peace

4th Amendment: protection from unreasonable and unlawful search and seizure of property.

5th Amendment: a person cannot be forced to serve as a witness against himself when accused of a crime

6th Amendment: provides a speedy and public trial by jury

7th Amendment: allows a trial by jury to be held for certain civil disputes.

8th Amendment: no cruel and unusual punishment.

9th Amendment: no one's Constitutional rights should be used to infringe upon the rights of another citizen

10th Amendment: provides each state with powers that are not specifically assigned to the nation's government in the Constitution.

Suggested Activities

International Talk Like a Pirate Day is celebrated every September 19—a silly, parodic holiday created in 1995 by two friends (John Baur and Mark Summers) during a racquetball game where one yelled "Aarr!" in pain

Master Pirate Lingo

Start the day with pirate greetings ("Ahoy, landlubber!" instead of hi) and challenge everyone to speak only in pirate talk—no regular English allowed (or face walking the plank... aka doing a silly penalty like 10 push-ups). Learn key phrases from sites such as [Pirate Translator](#).

Learn About Real Pirates

Discuss real pirate history (Golden Age of Piracy ~1650-1730 and famous figures like Blackbeard or Anne Bonny). Kids can research one real pirate and share facts in pirate speak.

Treasure Hunt Adventure with Clues and Maps

Create a pirate treasure map. Hide "treasures" (candy, small toys, coins) around the house/yard/park with riddles written in pirate lingo (e.g., "X marks the spot by the mighty oak, ye scurvy dogs!").

Watch Pirate Movies

- Muppet Treasure Island (1996) Rated G
- Blackbeard's Ghost (1968) Rated G
- Treasure Planet (2002) Rated PG
- Hook (1991) Rated PG
- The Princess Bride (1987) Rated PG- While not purely pirate-focused, it features memorable pirate scenes
- Blackbeard the Pirate (1952) Rated PG
- Pirates of the Caribbean Series with Johnny Depp Rated PG13



Suggested Activities

Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) is the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, focused on reflection, repentance (teshuvah), forgiveness, prayer, fasting, and making amends. It emphasizes personal growth, kindness, and starting fresh. It concludes the Ten Days of Awe (starting with Rosh Hashanah).

Storytime with Jonah and the Whale

Read the biblical story of Jonah (the haftarah reading for Yom Kippur afternoon), which teaches about repentance, God's mercy, and how even reluctant people can change.

Kindness Chain of Good Deeds

Create a paper chain. On each paper strip, write or draw acts of kindness to do (e.g., "Help a sibling," "Say thank you more," "Share toys"). Talk about how Yom Kippur is a time to reflect on mistakes and commit to being kinder. "Teshuvah" isn't just saying sorry, but changing behavior.

Break-the-Fast Family Meal and Reconciliation Sharing

Traditionally, Jews participate in a 25 hour fast the day before Yom Kippur. Plan a simple, dairy/light meal for after sunset on Yom Kippur: bagels, cream cheese, eggs, fish, fruits, and sweets). During the meal, go around and share "Who might we say sorry to?"

High School Topics:

- Learn about Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur in the Old Testament. Leviticus 16 provides the most detailed ritual instructions, and Leviticus 23 outlines its place in the calendar of appointed feasts.



Suggested Activities

International Day of Peace (also known as World Peace Day) is observed every year on September 21, established by the United Nations to promote peace, non-violence, and ceasefires worldwide. Celebrating World Peace Day complements Yon Kippur.

What Is Peace?

Read how God's Word defines peace (Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:18, Hebrews 12:14, John 14:27, Isaiah 26:3, Colossians 3:15, & Ephesians 4:31-32). Discuss what peace might look like (inner calm, no fighting, kindness to others, etc.). Ask "How can we be peacemakers?" Brainstorm peaceful ways to resolve conflict (Matthew 18:15-17, Matthew 5:23-24 & Proverbs 15:1).

Moment of Silence & "Peace Wave" at Noon

Join the global tradition. At 12:00 PM (local time), observe a minute (or more) of silence for peace. Many people worldwide do this simultaneously to create a "Peace Wave" around the planet.

Origami Peace Cranes or Dove Crafts

Fold origami paper cranes (inspired by [Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes](#) story) or make doves (a universal peace symbol). [TUTORIAL VIDEO](#)

Peace (Or Prayer) Walk

Take a family/neighborhood walk while wearing white or blue (peace colors). As you walk, pray for your neighbors and pray for peace (in your home, your church, your country, and the world).

Paper Plate Peace Signs

Create the peace symbol outline using painter's tape (one vertical line down the middle, then two diagonal lines branching out from the center) on a paper plate. Paint over the plate in bright colors. Peel off the tape to reveal the white peace symbol. Punch a hole at the top and add yarn to hang as a mobile or decoration.

What is Sukkot?

Sukkot is a week long Jewish holiday that celebrates the fall harvest. It is one of the most joyful festivals in Judaism, meant to bring families, friends and communities together.

Model for Thanksgiving

The American holiday of Thanksgiving likely has its roots in the Jewish tradition of giving thanks to God, and some historians believe that the early Pilgrims derived the idea for the holiday from the Biblical festival of Sukkot, often called "Tabernacles."



Sukkot and Thanksgiving share several similarities, both in their themes and practices:

Harvest Celebration: Both holidays are harvest festivals. Sukkot celebrates the gathering of crops and the bounty of the earth, similar to Thanksgiving, which originated as a harvest celebration to give thanks for the year's crops.

Thankfulness: At the core of both holidays is a spirit of gratitude. Sukkot involves giving thanks to God for the harvest and for protection during the Israelites' time in the wilderness. Thanksgiving centers on expressing gratitude for the blessings of the past year, particularly for food and family.

Community and Family Gatherings: Both holidays emphasize spending time with family and community. During Sukkot, families invite friends and relatives to share meals in the sukkah (a temporary structure), just as many Americans gather with family and friends for a Thanksgiving feast.

Festive Meals: Food plays a central role in both celebrations. Sukkot involves festive meals that include traditional foods, while Thanksgiving is known for its elaborate meals featuring turkey, stuffing, and various sides.

Symbolic Practices: Both holidays have symbolic practices. Sukkot includes the shaking of the lulav (a palm branch) and etrog (a citron fruit), representing the bounty of the harvest, while Thanksgiving often features traditions such as expressing what one is thankful for before the Thanksgiving meal.

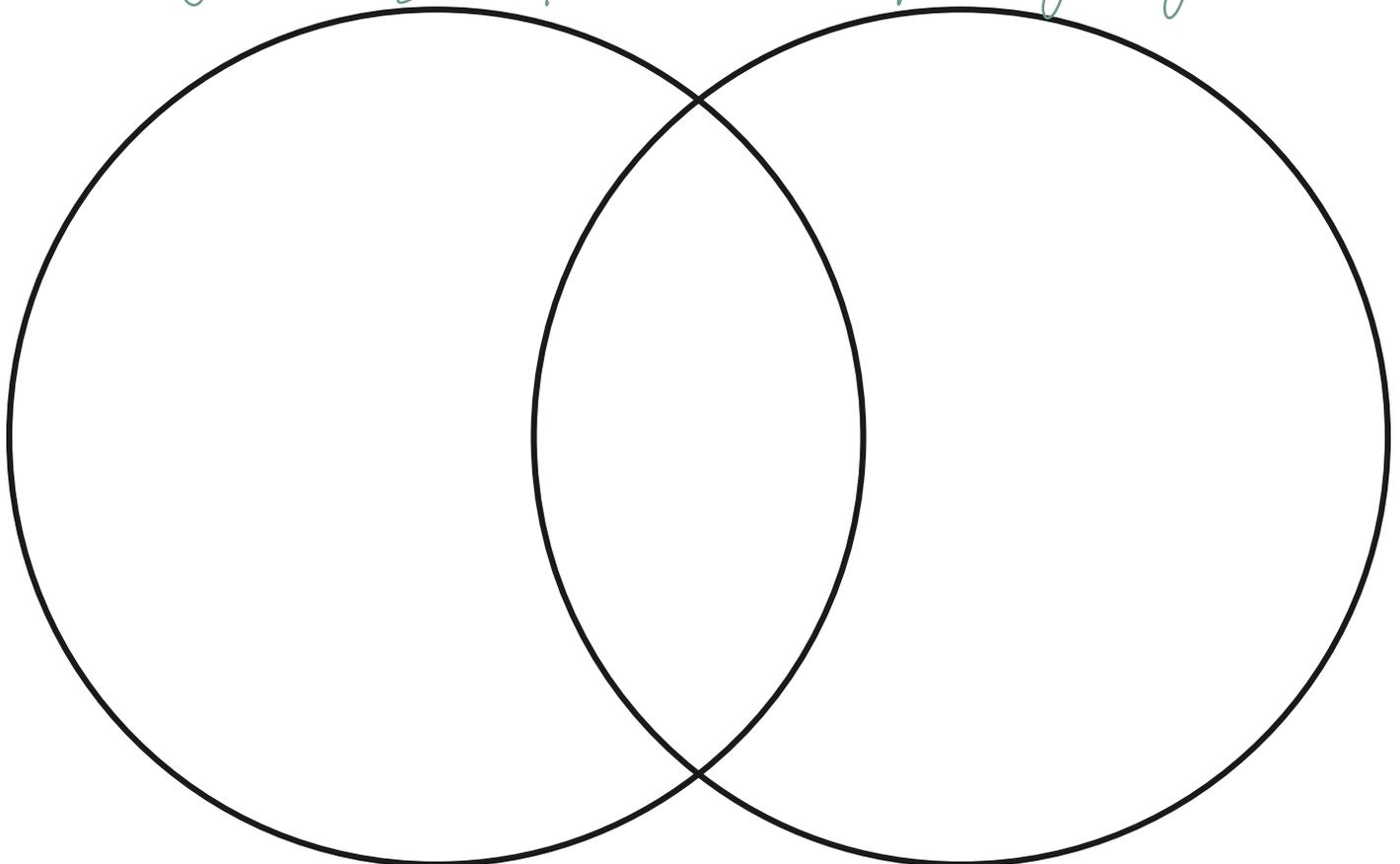
Sukkot & Thanksgiving

As a family, read about Sukkot (or the Feast of Tabernacles) in the Bible: Deuteronomy 6:13-15, Leviticus 23:34-44, Nehemiah 8:13-18, Zechariah 14:16-19 and Exodus 23:16. Read to younger students the picture book, Sukkot Is Coming! and Give Thanks to the Lord by Karma Wilson and/or An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving by Louisa May Alcott. Compare the Jewish tradition of Sukkot to your family's Thanksgiving celebration.



Jewish Sukkot

Our Thanksgiving



Suggested Activities

Michaelmas (September 29) is a Christian feast day honoring Saint Michael the Archangel, celebrating his role as a protector, warrior against evil (from Revelation 12:7-9, where Michael defeats the dragon/Satan), and leader of heavenly armies. It's also tied to autumn themes: the end of harvest, courage facing challenges, and bravery. In some traditions, it's marked with dragon-slaying stories, angelic imagery, feasts, and fun activities symbolizing good triumphing over evil.

Michaelmas is also one of the four quarter days in medieval/early modern England (and parts of Ireland/Wales) people settled accounts, paid debts, hired servants, and handled legal/financial matters, ensuring nothing lingered unresolved. This is tied to the harvest's end providing a natural "reset" point in the year.

Debt-Settling Activity

Spend the day (or week) paying back any debts. Do you own your sister something? Give back something you borrowed (or replace it if lost or broken). Is there a promise you haven't fulfilled? Renegotiate chores and payment. If someone owes you something, release him from paying it.

Dragon-Slaying & Storytime

Read the story of Saint Michael battling the dragon (from Revelation 12, Daniel 10, 2 Kings 6:15-16 or picture book about St. George). Discuss courage, standing up to bullies/evil, and how Michael represents protection. For fun, make or buy a dragon piñata. "Slay" it with wooden swords or bats.

Michaelmas Obstacle Course

Set up an obstacle course as "Michael's battle" (jump over "dragon tails," crawl under "gates of heaven", Sword Swing Balance Beam, "run through fiery furnace"- red / orange tissue paper or scarves on the ground to create a "fiery" path, etc).





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



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homeschooling? Sit
down, relax, and book a
coffee date with Carrie.

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