

Virginia is for Lovers

OF SUMMER LEARNING!

Visit the Virginia Department of Education's 2014 Summer Learning website for ideas: www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/summer/

Research shows that children who read for pleasure in the summer do better and forget less when they go back to school. And it's not just in reading. Kids who don't read over the summer can slide backward in all subject areas. This means the summer months and other breaks from school offer great opportunities for families and caregivers to help improve reading and writing. Here are some simple things you can do to develop a lifelong love of reading, writing and learning:

- ♥ Read and write for pleasure.
- ♥ Read the newspaper.
- ♥ Read a book.
- ♥ Write a group letter or e-mail to family or friends.
- ♥ Talk about steps in projects or chores and explain why you're doing them.
- ♥ Review maps for a family trip.
- ♥ Listen to audiobooks in the car.
- ♥ Write notes, make lists.
- ♥ Demonstrate the power of words.

Here are some more ideas to support learning all summer.

Reading

Find A Book

Create a custom list of books at your child's reading level and take the list to your local library or a nearby bookstore.

- ♥ Go to www.lexile.com/findabook/VA and enter the child's grade level.
- ♥ Pick the child's interest categories and view/refine the search results.
- ♥ Print the child's custom reading list and take it with you to your local public library or bookstore.

"Paws to Read"

Contact your local public library to find out more about the Library of Virginia's summer reading program. A list of public libraries in Virginia is available at www.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/ldnd/summer-learning.htm



Day By Day Va

For daily activities related to reading, check out the Library of Virginia's Family Literacy Calendar at www.daybydayva.org.

Mathematics

Summer Math Challenge

For students who have just completed grades 2-5, a free, six-week, e-mail-based math skills program is available by registering at **Quantile Summer Math Challenge** <https://www.quantiles.com/content/summer-math-challenge/>. From June 23 to August 1, parents receive daily e-mails with fun activities and resources designed to help kids retain the math skills learned during the previous school year.



For Kids Math & Science

To find fun activities and interesting information related to math and science, check out www.ipl.org/IPLBrowse/GetSubject?vid=12&cid=3&tid=4278&parent=0

MATHCOUNTS

Find a new math challenge every week and explore the Math Arcade, a collection of math-related games at www.mathcounts.org/resources/problem-of-the-week.

Science

NASA “S’ COOL” Rover

You can help NASA scientists who are very interested in learning how clouds affect our atmosphere. The more we know about clouds, the more we will know about Earth as a system! Visit <http://science-edu.larc.nasa.gov/SCOOL/Rover> to learn more.

NOAA For Kids

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the federal agency that focuses on the earth’s changing environment, predicting weather, exploring the oceans, marine commerce and a lot more. Visit www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/kids/ for links to many explorations from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor and everything in between.

The 4-H Virtual Forest

To find out more about photosynthesis, tree identification, renewable resources and outdoor activities, check out the Virginia Cooperative Extension’s Virtual Forest website at www.sites.ext.vt.edu/virtualforest/.

Science Matters

Students can visit Central Virginia’s PBS website Science Matters at www.ideastations.org/sciencematters for opportunities to explore the natural world around them.



History & Social Science

Capitol Classroom

For information about Virginia’s symbols, emblems, history, General Assembly members, the state capitol and how a bill becomes a law, check out capclass.virginiageneralassembly.gov/

Museums in Virginia

Why not visit one of Virginia’s many museums this summer? Do some virtual exploration about Virginia’s early days at Jamestown and Yorktown (<http://www.historyisfun.org/videos-and-podcasts.htm>), or take an interactive tour of Williamsburg (<http://www.history.org/media/>). You can find a list of all of Virginia’s museums at <http://www.virginia.org/directory/museums/>.

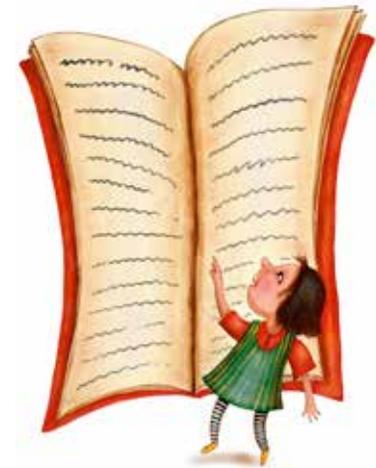
Historic Sites In Virginia

To learn more about the Old Dominion’s historic and historical sites, exhibits, monuments and legendary persons, go to www.virginia.org/historicsites/. Each site has its own unique story, and nearly all have a friendly Virginia face available to share a tale.



The Smithsonian Institution

The world’s largest museum and research complex offers students many opportunities to explore, discover and learn about the arts, nature, people and places too, at www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/index.html



**Keep Learning Alive
in the Old Dominion
This Summer!**



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