

Homework Menu #3



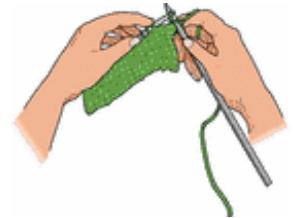
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Directions: For homework this month you will be working on and completing projects of your choice. Below is a list of projects that you may choose from. If you have an idea of your own which is not listed, check with Russ for permission to try it. As you complete each project you will have a chance to share it with your classmates. Some projects may take more time than others to finish. To keep track of the time you spend on your homework projects, you and your parents will complete a homework time sheet that is to be turned in each Friday. When you finish one project, begin working on your next project as soon as you can. All projects will be due no later than the nearest Friday to the end of the month. At that time a new menu will be given out.

Focus of the Month: Hobbies

Skills included: Reading comprehension; interpreting/infering; data collection & research; oral and written communication; artistic representation; persuasive writing/presentation; interviewing skills.



Special Notes: The following definitions should help you clarify what the difference is between a hobby, a game, and a sport. Remember that your projects for this month should be focused on hobbies and not games or sports.

- **Hobby** n. activity or interest that is undertaken for pleasure or relaxation in one's spare time.
- **Game** n. form of mental or physical play, governed by specific rules, and testing the skill, endurance, or luck of the participants.
- **Sport** n. any game that requires physical activity and involves a degree of competition.

These definitions come from the Macmillan Dictionary for Students, William D. Halsey, Ed. (1984) Macmillan Publishing Co., New York.



Project Menu:

- People enjoy doing a lot of different types of things in their spare time. I used to have lots of different collections. A couple of my strangest ones included a fur collection and a bird nest collection (my father used my bird nest collection to start a fire one day, boy was I angry about that). Find out what other people do for hobbies and then choose one that you think is quite unique. Create a presentation about it to share with the rest of the class. It may take the form of a poster, an oral report, or even a "how-to" movie.
- Research what other people do for hobbies. You may want to use the Internet, go to the library, or talk with you parents or grandparents. Make a long list of the different types of hobbies you discover. Choose one of them to start as a new hobby for yourself. Bring a sample of your new hobby to school or show us a skill that you use with your new hobby. Be sure to prepare a short presentation that explains what your new hobby is and why you have chosen it.

□ Perhaps you have a hobby that you are already doing, one that you truly enjoy. Create a lesson about your hobby to teach to the rest of the class. Be sure to include an introduction to the hobby and information about it or a demonstration of some of the skills needed to practice your hobby, and include a way for everyone to briefly "try their hand" at participating with your hobby. You may even want to give a short quiz or worksheet that will show what everyone learned from your lesson.

□ Many times parents or grandparents practice hobbies that they have been doing for a long time. (for instance I have a coin collection that I began while I was in elementary school). Interview someone about a hobby that they really enjoy and that they have been doing for a long time. Find out as much as you can about the hobby, what is needed to participate in it, and why that person has chosen to do the hobby. Share with the rest of the class everything you have learned from your interview.



□ Hobbies are fun. Use your knowledge about a specific hobby to create a persuasive display that can be posted somewhere in our school. Make your display colorful and eye-catching. Include enough information about the hobby to allow interested people to get started with it. Also be sure to list several places they can go to get more information. Bonus idea: make a computer slide show, PowerPoint presentation, or video "infomercial" instead of a display.



□ Other: _____

Expectations: It is expected that chosen projects will be finished completely, neatly, and in a timely manner. It is also expected that students will gain a depth of understanding about their project's topic upon completion. Further, while students are encouraged to work on one project at a time, it is entirely possible for students to complete any number of projects in the timeframe given. Students should also remember to keep homework interesting by challenging themselves to learn as much as possible and to do the best work they can.

Important: These projects will likely require mutual involvement of students and their parents. To ensure the quality and depth of understanding expected, they likely cannot be completed in one evening prior to the due date. Each student will have to use their time wisely, doing a little bit at a time until a project is complete. Use the Project Planning Form to help you successfully complete your project on time.

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