



The Mini Page

Next Week:
Our states:
Mississippi

Issue 34, 2024

Founded by Betty Debnam



Homework Heroes

photo by © Berniephillips | Dreamstime.com

Most students head back to school in August or September. During the summer vacation, your study skills may have become a bit rusty.

This week, The Mini Page offers some tips to help you with your homework.

Why is there homework?

- Teachers assign homework in order to:
- reinforce what you are taught in school so that the knowledge stays in your mind.
 - exercise the brain.
 - teach responsibility.
 - review things you have already learned so that your skills stay fresh.



photos courtesy U.S. Department of Education

Homework is usually related to what you've been learning in school. For example, if you learned fractions in math class, then your homework will probably be to practice problems with fractions.

Making homework easier

- Here are some tips to make doing your homework as rewarding as possible.
- Take a short break after school. Get a snack and relax a bit. But do not let yourself get so interested in doing other activities that

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it is hard to begin your homework.

- Set up a study pattern that works for you, then stick to it.
- Gather everything you need before you start. Have all your paper, pencils, books and other supplies together at the start.
- Find a comfortable place to study. Some students like to work in the same place each day. Be sure you are not too hot or too cold, and find a place with good lighting. Choose a comfortable place to sit, or lie on the floor or on your bed.
- Turn off the TV. For most kids, television is a big distraction. Don't watch it until your homework is finished.
- If you have a cellphone, put it away. It can distract you while you're trying to study. Texts, emails and social media pull your attention away from your work and make it hard to focus.



Before you begin studying, silence your phone and leave it in another room. When your work is done, you can reward yourself by checking your phone!

Get organized

Learning to be organized will help you have the tools you need to do your homework well and on time.

- Use a planner. This can be a special book that your teacher gives you or just a spiral notebook. For each subject, write down the details of your homework for the day, including:
 1. Textbook page numbers and problem numbers that are assigned;
 2. Tools you'll need at home, such as art or math tools or textbooks;
 3. When the assignment is due;
 4. Special details, such as if the assignment is to be typed or put in a folder.
- Do the most difficult homework first. If math is your hardest subject, tackle the homework while your mind is fresh. Then move on to your easier subjects.
- Pack your backpack in the evening, after homework. Don't leave this task until morning, when you may be in a rush.
- Keep your school subjects organized in folders or sections of a binder.



Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPhomework2

At the library:

- "Learning to Learn: Strengthening Study Skills and Brain Power" by Gloria Frender

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of homework help are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- ASSIGN, BINDER, BREAK, DIFFICULT, DISTRACTION, FOCUS, HELP, HOMEWORK, LIGHTING, PLANNER, REINFORCE, REVIEW, SCHOOL, SKILLS, SNACK, STUDENT, STUDY, SUPPLIES, TEACHER.

N O I T C A R T S I D N M K L
S T U D Y E T K L I P G S R O
N Z C W H N I I F L W I U O O
A F D C E L G F E E V S C W H
C I A D L H I H I F Y S O E C
K E U S T C G V J R A A F M S
T T E I U R E N N A L P L O N
S W N L X R B I N D E R A H A
T G T A M E C R O F N I E R S
Q B R E A K S E I L P P U S G

Cook's Corner

Spicy Baked Potato

You'll need:

- 1 medium-size potato
- 2 teaspoons margarine or butter
- 1/2 teaspoon taco seasoning
- 2 tablespoons shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese

- 1 tablespoon low-fat sour cream
- 1 tablespoon chunky salsa
- 1/2 cup black beans, drained and rinsed



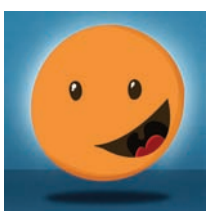
* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Wash and dry potato. Poke holes in it with a fork. Cook potato in microwave for 6 to 7 minutes on high.
2. Cut potato in half lengthwise; allow to cool slightly. Scoop potato pulp into a medium-size bowl. Mix and mash in butter, taco seasoning, cheese, sour cream and salsa.
3. Place mixture back in potato shell; microwave for 45 to 50 seconds.
4. Top with black beans. Serves 1.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. make cloth from thread (5) _____
2. take for a little while (6) _____
3. try to win (7) _____
4. small house (7) _____
5. warning (5) _____
6. ability (5) _____
7. below this floor (10) _____

PE	ILL	AVE	COT
SK	TAGE	DOW	ALE
ROW	WE	COM	IRS
TE	NSTA	RT	BOR

Answers: weave, borrow, compete, cottage, alert, skill, downstairs.

Mini Jokes



Harry: Why did the boy eat his homework?

Helen: His teacher said it was a piece of cake!

Eco Note



Orbiting objects, especially those in the vast and growing constellation of Starlink satellites, could damage Earth's protective ozone layer when they disintegrate upon reentry. A new study finds the spacecraft spew large amounts of ozone-killing aluminum oxide when they burn up in the atmosphere, which could deplete the ozone layer. Even small satellites produce about 65 pounds of the alumina when they burn up. It is estimated that nearly 19 tons of the chemical compound were created by falling human-made objects during 2022 alone.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about good back-to-school habits.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



KidSpot by Dan Thompson 8-24

Criss Crossword
The three picture clues will fit into the grid both ways. Fill in the crossword.

ANS: 1. SPIDERS, 2. APPLE, 3. EARTH.

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