



ACS
INTERNATIONAL
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Summer Learning Resources

A guide for parents

June 2020

Keeping kids occupied during summer holidays can be a challenge, but this summer, many parents are left wondering what to do now that so many usual options are not available. It may come as no surprise that we have also been getting a lot of questions from parents who are concerned about the impacts school closures might have on their children's academic progress.

Naturally, most learning grows in students between fall and spring when they are in school. It's typical to see a slight dip or plateau in achievement scores between the spring of one year and the fall of the next. This dip is usually greater in students whose families are in lower economic groups for whom resources are reduced. This is known in education research as a 'summer slide' or 'summer slump.'

Recent research has projected that the Reading and Mathematics scores we will see in the grades 3 through 8 fall will be lower than in typical years. This is because the normal 'summer slump' in achievement scores may be made worse by the emergency school closures seen this spring. There are some uncertainties about these projections, for example no one knows what the impact of remote learning will be or to what degree social distancing has impacted children's mindsets. These, as well as some other factors, can affect test scores.

Whilst there are some things we can't predict with certainty and won't know for some time to come, we do know a few things we can do to mitigate negative effects and accentuate the positive.

Children need to feel like they --and their families-- can deal with what's happening. We know that one of the best ways to help children is to provide the sense of safety and hope and that their trusted adults model calm and connected behaviours. Remembering to take time for ourselves as caregivers and to ask for help when needed is more important now than ever before.

A full schedule of practice and revision isn't necessary for keeping your child on track over the summer. Instead, encourage your child to engage in interesting activities. Reading, listening to audiobooks, exploring new hobbies, and playing games that call on strategic thinking or mathematics skills--these are all good ways to keep literacy and numeracy skills fresh.

If you'd like a place to start or need more ideas, here are some resources that are organised by age group and subject that are fun ways to keep kids engaged over the break. Your teacher or school may also have shared links to some programs or activity ideas, too. For older students, there may also be summer reading lists or assignments given by your school and this is not meant to replace those.

We have tried to keep the list focused on free resources that align best with our school curricula and ones that we have found particularly good are indicated with a .

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Early Learning (Preschool to Kindergarten)

General Resources



★ Khan Academy Kids is a new app for ages 2-7. Children can learn reading, language, writing, math, social-emotional development, problem-solving skills, and motor development. Open-ended activities and games like drawing, storytelling, and coloring encourage creativity and self-expression. Available on App Store, Google Play, and Amazon Appstore

[Planet Nutshell Early Learning Series](#): Educational animations especially for ages 3-5

[Zero to Three- Parent Favorites](#): A list of most-read resources from a national organization devoted to infants, toddlers, and their families.

[First Five CA](#): A list of fun learning activities to do at home to support babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

[CBeebies](#) helps preschoolers learn whilst they play fun games, watch clips, sing songs and make things with their favourite CBeebies characters and shows

[PlayDough Power](#): Includes a recipe for playdough and fun ideas for talking and exploring with your child.

Literacy and Reading

[Unite for Literacy](#): A collection of audio/picture books that are read aloud to your child.

[Reading Rockets](#)-- Reading Adventure Packs: These downloadable guides offer at-home ideas for books and activities. The guides start at Kindergarten, but most of the books would be appropriate for preschoolers and the activities can be adapted for a range of ages.

[Starfall.com](#): Designed for kindergarten, but many of the early literacy games are appropriate for preschoolers.

★ [Mind in the Making Skill Building Book Tips](#): These free, downloadable resources offer tips for building children's life skills based on classic and diverse children's books. These resources are available in English and Spanish and designed for three age groups, infants and toddlers, preschoolers and school-age.

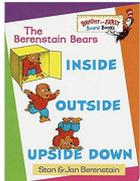
★ [Talking is Teaching](#): "Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" is a public awareness and action campaign that helps parents recognize their power to boost their children's early brain and vocabulary development through simple, everyday actions - like describing things while walking outside, or singing songs together during bath time. Uses books, parent videos, text messaging, social media, and information from expert partners.

Mathematics

The best way to learn math is to play games that involve math, not do 20–30 calculation problems in a row. Try building LEGO, doing jigsaw puzzles, sewing from patterns, knitting, and crocheting. These all build spatial and geometry skills.

★ [Math at Home Toolkit](#): This resource is from a trusted leader in early childhood. It gives practical ideas for everyday math in English and Spanish. Ideas designed for children ages 0-5.

Books and Songs



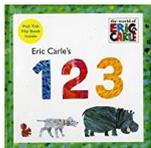
[Inside Outside Upside Down - By Stan and Jan Berenstain + Math Guide](#)

Don't have the book? No worries! View and listen to the book [here](#).



[Circus Shapes by Stuart J. Murphy + Math Guide](#)

Don't have the book? No worries! View and listen to the book [here](#).



[1, 2, 3 by Eric Carle + Math Guide](#)

Don't have the book? No worries! View and listen to the book [here](#).



[Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by + Math Activity](#)

Don't have the book? No worries! View and listen to the book [here](#).



Count to 10 and Back: [1 to 10 and 10 to 1 Song](#)

Count to 20: [1 to 20 Song](#)

Count to 100: [Counting to 100 Song](#)

Singing About Shapes: [Shape Song](#)

More Shapes: [Shape Song #2](#)

Online Games

Counting Games - <https://www.splashlearn.com/counting-games>

Problem Solving - [Peg + Cat PBS Games](#)

Matching Numbers - [Match Numbers to Pictures](#)

Assorted Games - <https://www.education.com/games/preschool/math/>

Printable Games

★ [Zeno Math Games](#): Really fun math games that can build your child's confidence and excitement about math

[Tic-Tac-Toe \(5 to 1\)](#) - (Backwards Counting)

While working with the game board and cards, your child will see and practice how the numbers are ordered verbally and visually. You will also practice counting forward and backward out loud. This will help your child reach the goal of reading numerals and counting backward from five to one.

[Match \(1 to 5\)](#) - (Connecting quantity to symbols)

This activity is a great way for kids to learn how to match quantities and numerals one to five.

[The Pocket Game](#) - (Counting)

Great game with few materials to play at home to help make sense of numbers.

Science

★ [Story Time from Space](#): This is a project of the Global Space Education Foundation. While in space, astronauts are videotaping themselves reading books to the children of Earth. Astronauts on the ISS will also conduct and videotape educational demonstrations designed by Veteran Canadian Astronaut, Bjarni Tryggvason, to complement the science concepts found in the Story Time From Space books – look under the heading “Science Time Videos”.

[San Diego Zoo Live Cameras](#): Families can view live footage of baboons, penguins, polar bears, apes, giraffes, condors, tigers, and more.

[Let's Get Scientific!](#) Discover fun science experiments and watch clips with CBeebies friends.



CodeKarts (4+; iOS/Android app) A pre-coding game for preschoolers, players learn to develop observational skills, concentration, and logic by guiding a car through various tracks.

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Ages 5 to 7 (Kindergarten to Grade 2)

General Resources



★ Khan Academy Kids is a new app for ages 2-7. Children can learn reading, language, writing, math, social-emotional development, problem-solving skills, and motor development. Open-ended activities and games like drawing, storytelling, and coloring encourage creativity and self-expression. Available on App Store, Google Play, and Amazon Appstore

★ [BBC Bitesize for Ages 5-6](#): Features activities and ideas for Maths, English, Science and more!
[BBC Bitesize for Ages 6-7](#)

[BBC Teach: Primary resources](#) aimed for teachers and the classroom, but are suitable for the ambitious homeschooling parent.

★ [Common Sense Media](#) is a fantastic resource for parents trying to find books, TV, movies and games that are appropriate for kids. This link is to their Best for Learning list that is filterable by age up to Teens.

★ [Be a Learning Hero](#) not only has a wealth of activities in reading, maths and life skills from trusted organisations that you can search by subject and grade, it is a website full of resources to inform and equip parents to best support their children's educational and developmental success. Check out the [readiness check](#) for grades K-8 that suggests resources that target your child's learning level.

Literacy and Reading

Learning how to read is different for each child, but we know the best way to improve literacy in young children is to read and talk with them about lots of different topics. Anything can become reading practice; from road signs to items at a grocery store, any reading is good reading! Research shows that the best readers have good background knowledge about their world. The internet and e-books offer a feast of rich literacy opportunities for readers of all levels and ages, but we encourage using some print materials as well.

[Scholastic Learn at Home](#): Reading and comprehension activities for grades K-2

[Khan Academy English Language Arts](#): for Grade 2 and higher

[Neverending Stories](#) is a free storytelling pack from the National Centre for Creative Writing. Aimed at young children, but with advice suitable for all ages, this is crammed with simple tips and suggested activities for fun and engaging storytelling at home.

Mathematics

The best way to learn math is to play games that involve math, not do 20–30 calculation problems in a row. Try building LEGO, doing jigsaw puzzles, sewing from patterns, knitting, and crocheting. These all build spatial and geometry skills.

Kindergarten

Online Games

Math for Love - <https://mathforlove.com/who-we-help-parents-kids/> - Math games and advice

Counting Game - [Okta's Rescue](#) - Check out the exploration questions to ask your child!

Adding to 10 - [Addition Blocks Game](#) - Click on the blocks that add to the numbered block shown.

Sums to 10 - [Ten-Frame Game](#) - Check out the exploration questions to ask your child!

Subtraction Practice - [How Many Under the Shell?](#) - Check out the exploration questions!

Matching Shapes, Numbers - [Concentration Game - Shapes, Numbers, and More!](#)

Assorted Games - <https://www.education.com/games/kindergarten/math/>

Printable Games

[How Much?](#)- (Numbers 1-5)

You and your child will be matching numerals and quantities in order to make a line. You can print out dot cards or use a standard die to roll a quantity and then cover the numeral on the game board with your marker. The goal is to cover three numerals in a row with your counters.

[How Much?](#)- (Numbers 1-10)

You and your child will be matching numerals and quantities in order to make a line. You can print out dot cards or use a standard die to roll a quantity and then cover the numeral on the game board with your marker. The goal is to cover three numerals in a row on the board with your counters.

[Road Trip](#) - (Numbers 1-10)

You and your child can have a lot of fun practicing reading and identifying numerals 1-10. There is no limit on the number of players. You will select a game card, find the correct vehicle on the game board and then read/identify the numerals located in that column as quickly as possible.

[Tic-Tac-Toe \(10 to 1\)](#) (Backwards Counting)

This activity brings the fun of Tic-Tac-Toe to the skill of counting back from ten. You will use the Tic-Tac-Toe Board labeled one to nine and number cards to try to make a line of the three numerals in the proper order. You will take turns picking cards, counting backwards, and placing game markers on your boards. The winner is the first to cover three in a line.

1st Grade

Online Games

Comparing Quantities - [How Many?](#)

Addition Practice - [Alien Addition](#) - Change the range of numbers so it meets your child's needs!

Subtraction Practice - [Minus Mission](#) - Change the range of numbers so it meets your child's needs!

Build Shapes - [Pattern Blocks](#) - Ask your child to make a picture and count the total number of each shape they used or how the shapes are similar or different.

Assorted Games - <https://www.education.com/games/first-grade/math/>

Printable Games

[How Many?](#) - (Problem-Solving)

This activity is a great way to help your child develop different ways to solve problems that involve adding and subtracting! It is a fun way to explore and build strategies for solving problems dealing with adding and subtracting.

[Teacher's Mistake](#) - (No Materials Needed)

This activity is great for quick math practice with sequencing numbers from thirty to one hundred. You can do this anywhere because there are no materials needed! You say a set of numbers in sequence in the range of

thirty to one hundred and leave one number out. Your child has to guess what number you missed. Then your child can have a turn being the teacher and see if you can figure out what number they left out. This is a great opportunity to fit in some fun math practice at any time.

[Go Fish](#) - (Numbers 1-10)

This game is not only fun, but also a great way to help kids learn different ways to make the number ten! This game is played like traditional Go Fish, except that a “match” is two cards that can be added together to make ten.

[Bingo Addition](#) - (Numbers 2-12)

Bingo is a game that everyone can enjoy! This version, however, is a fun way to help kids learn simple addition using the numbers 1-6. Having lots of practice adding these numbers together in different combinations is a great way for kids to begin “internalizing” these facts

2nd Grade

Online Games

Arrays & Repeated Addition - [Matching Pictures and Equations/Expressions](#)

Place Value - [Place Value Basketball](#)

Assorted Games - <https://www.education.com/games/second-grade/math/>

Addition Practice - [Kakooma](#)

Printable Games

[Pyramid \(Make 20\)](#) - (Double-Ten Frames)

Values are represented in many different ways. Your child can practice combining values to make twenty in this fun game based on the card game pyramid. They will be combining values to form twenty from the pyramid in order to discover the mystery card.

[Salute!](#) - (Fluency Practice)

This fun activity is made for groups of three. You will be using mental math strategies to find sums and differences while playing the part of sergeant and soldiers.

[School Day](#) - (Addition & Subtraction Within 100; use of coins)

A classic board game is transformed into an engaging math story about your child’s school day using the concept of tracking money transactions. She or he will be practicing adding and subtracting one and two digit numbers while working their way around a game board, collecting rewards for positive school deeds or paying in the opposite situation. This is a great game to play with your child and an opportunity to model good mathematical practices, and promote important life skills.

[Acing Math](#) - (Multiple Operations)

60 Math Games using only a deck of cards!

[Pepperoni Pizza](#) - (Repeated Addition)

This game builds children’s ability to add repeatedly, which will lead to their ability to multiply in Grade 3. Encourage children to write repeated addition sentences.

[How Close to 25?](#) - (Addition and Subtraction)

Page 4 are the directions and page 5 is the game board. Use coins if counters aren’t available.

Science, Technology, & Engineering

★ [Mystery Science](#) Open and go science lessons for grades K through 5. They have short mini-lessons that are completely digital and full lessons that include an activity. All of the activities are designed to use simple supplies that families will likely already have at home.



[Scratch Jr.](#) (5-7; iOS/Android/Kindle Fire/ChromeBook)

With Scratch Jr., children ages 5-7 can program interactive stories and games to solve problems, design projects, and express themselves creatively on the computer.

Music & Arts

[Chrome Music Lab](#): Explore different features of sound from a computer or tablet. Children can make their own songs and art.

[Listen and Learn Orchestra](#): The Dallas Symphony Orchestra provides short audio files of a variety of instruments. Adult support would be needed to navigate the site.

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Ages 8 to 10 (Grade 3 to Grade 5)

General Resources

★ [Common Sense Media](#) is a fantastic resource for parents trying to find books, TV, movies and games that are appropriate for kids. This link is to their Best for Learning list that is filterable by age up to Teens.

★ [BBC Bitesize ages 7-11](#) has lessons and activities in all subject areas plus a new dedicated TV channel full of learning content, podcasts on BBC Sounds and lots of educational videos on iPlayer.

★ [Be a Learning Hero](#) not only has a wealth of activities in reading, maths and life skills from trusted organisations that you can search by subject and grade, it is a website full of resources to inform and equip parents to best support their children's educational and developmental success. Check out the [readiness check](#) for grades K-8 that suggests resources that target your child's learning level.

Literacy and Reading

[Scholastic Learn at Home](#): Reading and comprehension activities for grades 3-5

[Neverending Stories](#) is a free storytelling pack from the National Centre for Creative Writing. Aimed at young children, but with advice suitable for all ages, this is crammed with simple tips and suggested activities for fun and engaging storytelling at home.

[Khan Academy English Language Arts](#): for Grade 2 and higher

Mathematics

The best way to learn math is to play games that involve math, not do 20–30 calculation problems in a row. Try building LEGO, doing jigsaw puzzles, sewing from patterns, knitting, and crocheting. These all build spatial and geometry skills.

3rd Grade

★ [Khan Academy Mathematics K-8](#) has more structured math lessons by grade. Always free, it's a great resource with high-quality material.

Online Games

Addition Game - [Deep Sea Duel](#) - available in English & Spanish

Multiplication Practice - [Equal Groups - Multiplication Mine](#)

Multiplying by Breaking Apart - [Bunny Times - Area Models](#)

Strategy Game with Factors and Products (Multiplication) - [Product Game](#)

Fractions on Number Lines - [Fraction Game](#)

Addition or Multiplication Practice - [Kakooma](#)

Printable Games

[Composite Cookie Company](#) - **(Building Multiplicative Thinking)**

You are working for the Composite Cookie Company and the orders are coming in! It is fun for kids to pretend to work for a cookie company and also practice their multiplication mental math skills.

[Making Rectangles](#) - (Area & Multiplication)

This activity asks your child to connect the dots with horizontal and vertical lines to find the number of squares that will fit in a given rectangle.



[Pop Drop Move It](#) - (Multiples of 3)

You and your child will use popsicle sticks and markers to toss and solve multiplication problems. This game will keep you moving and multiplying until those three facts “pop” right into your child’s head.

4th Grade



[Khan Academy Mathematics K-8](#) has more structured math lessons by grade. Always free, it’s a great resource with high-quality material.

Online Games

Addition Game - [Deep Sea Duel](#) - available in English & Spanish

Make 24 Game - [4Nums Game](#) or [Make 24](#)

Multiplying by Breaking Apart - [Bunny Times - Area Models](#)

Strategy Game with Factors and Products (Multiplication) - [Product Game](#)

Fractions on Number Lines - [Fraction Game](#)

Addition or Multiplication Practice - [Kakooma](#)

Printable Games

[24 Game](#) - (Multiple Operations)

The object of the game is to make 24. You can add, subtract, multiply & divide. Use all four numbers given on a card, but use each number only once. Kids can then make their own cards to challenge others.



[Acing Math](#) - (Multiple Operations) 60 Math Games using only a deck of cards!

[Worldwide Delivery Service](#) - (Place Value; Multi-digit Numbers to 1,000,000)

This activity challenges students to identify numerals within a given range of numbers and compare and order them from lowest to highest.

5th Grade



[Khan Academy Mathematics K-8](#) has more structured math lessons by grade. Always free, it’s a great resource with high-quality material.

Online Games

Balanced Hangers, Who am I?, Mystery Grid - [Solve Me Puzzles](#)

Matching Game - [Concentration Game - Fractions, Decimals, Multiplication Facts](#)

Addition Game - [Deep Sea Duel](#) - English & Spanish - turn on the decimal feature

Make 24 Game - [4Nums Game](#) or [Make 24](#)

Multiples (Multiplication) - [Number Ninja](#)

Exploring Shapes: [Interactive Quadrilaterals](#)

Addition or Multiplication Practice - [Kakooma](#)

Printable Games

[24 Game](#) - (Multiple operations)

The object of the game is to make 24. You can add, subtract, multiply & divide. Use all four numbers given on a card, but use each number only once. Kids can then make their own cards to challenge others.

★ [Acing Math](#) - **(Multiple Operations)** 60 Math Games using only a deck of cards!

[Fraction Talks](#) - **(Fractions)** Download the PDF. Ask your child to determine what fraction of the whole shape each color represents.

[Four 4s](#) - **(Multiple Operations)**

Using only the number 4, four times, can your child find every number between 1 and 20 using only four 4s and any operation? For added challenge, go beyond 20.

Science, Technology & Engineering

★ [Mystery Science](#) Open and go science lessons for grades K through 5. They have short mini-lessons that are completely digital and full lessons that include an activity. All of the activities are designed to use simple supplies that families will likely already have at home.

[Electric Telepathy's Online Synthesizer, Fluoresynth](#), is quite fun and gently instructive whether one is a committed music-lover or just mildly curious about computer-generated music and effects.

[LEGO Boost](#) (7-12+; iOS/Android) Lego Boost is an app that allows kids to build different Lego models and program them with code. Children can program their models to make sounds and move using drag and drop code.

★ [The Science Museum Group](#) at home resources for ages 7-11 features games and activities from the locomotion, industry and science museums of London.

★ The Exploratorium isn't just a museum; it's an ongoing exploration of science, art, and human perception. Explore our vast [collection of online experiences](#) to feed your curiosity and [education resources](#) supporting online teaching and learning.

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Ages 11 to 13 (Grade 6 to Grade 8)

General Resources

★ [Common Sense Media](#) is a fantastic resource for parents trying to find books, TV, movies and games that are appropriate for kids. This link is to their Best for Learning list that is filterable by age up to Teens.

★ The [V&A Museum's 'Make & do'](#) resources include projects such as crafting your own Mexican-inspired embroidery, sewing a Mary Quant dress or making a Japanese style 'boro' bag.

★ [Be a Learning Hero](#) not only has a wealth of activities for kids in reading, maths and life skills from trusted organisations that you can search by subject and grade, it is a website full of resources to inform and equip parents to best support their children's educational and developmental success. Check out the [readiness check](#) for grades K-8 that suggests resources that target your child's learning level.

★ [Khan Academy](#). Always free, it's a great resource with high-quality material in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Computing, and History.

★ [Wonderopolis](#) is a place where natural curiosity and imagination lead to exploration and discovery in learners of all ages. Each day, they pose an intriguing question and explore it in a variety of ways.

★ [BBC Bitesize ages 11-14](#) has lessons and activities in all subject areas plus a new dedicated TV channel full of learning content, podcasts on BBC Sounds and lots of educational videos on iPlayer.

Literacy and Reading

★ [Scholastic Summer READ-A-PALOOZA](#) is providing students of all ages an exciting at-home reading challenge. Through their safe, free, and fun online destination Home Base, kids can log in and track their reading streaks, earn special rewards, and even donate books to kids. Children document their "reading streaks," or consecutive days that they log into Home Base, instead of counting pages or minutes of reading.

[Goodreads](#) is a great literature community. Try the [Young Adult](#) pages for ages 12+

[Book Riot](#) is another literature site that is a great source for all things reading for all ages.

★ Harry Potter fans that aren't aware of [Wizarding World](#) are missing out. Lots of reading opportunities here.

Mathematics, Science, Technology & Engineering

★ The [V&A Museum's 'Make & do'](#) resources include projects such as crafting your own Mexican-inspired embroidery, sewing a Mary Quant dress or making a Japanese style 'boro' bag.

★ [The Concord Consortium](#) has lots of interactive games that are mathematically and scientifically accurate. Free to use, but you have to register.

[Spangler Science Experiment Library](#): Endless science experiment fun you can do at home using materials from around the house.

★ [Zooniverse](#) is 'the world's largest and most popular platform for people-powered research' and anyone can be a researcher - you don't need any specialised background, training, or expertise to participate in any project. Projects include transcribing the groundbreaking work of [early women astronomers](#), identifying [fish species on paintings](#), helping to discover [mosquitoes from their buzz](#) and more!

★ [The Science Museum Group](#) at home resources for ages 7-11 features games and activities from the locomotion, industry and science museums of London.

★ The Exploratorium isn't just a museum; it's an ongoing exploration of science, art, and human perception. Explore our vast [collection of online experiences](#) to feed your curiosity and [education resources](#) supporting online teaching and learning.

[Swift Playgrounds](#) (8-12; iOS) Swift is a programming language for developing Apple iOS programs and apps. Especially useful for beginner programmers (even those with no Swift experience) Swift Playgrounds lets kids work at their own paces with visually appealing and educational challenges.

[Codecademy](#) lets kids dive right in and take courses that teach you everything from HTML & CSS, JavaScript, and SQL to Bash/Shell, Python, Ruby and C++.

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Ages 14+ (Grade 9 to Grade 12)

Multi-Subject Resources

★ [EdX](#) is an open source MOOC founded by Harvard and MIT. It is home to more than 20 million learners, the majority of top-ranked universities in the world and industry-leading companies. You can take a course in any area of interest online--for free!

★ Aspiring writer? [Catapult](#) publishes award-winning fiction and nonfiction of the highest literary caliber, offers writing classes taught by acclaimed emerging and established writers, produces an award-winning daily online magazine of narrative nonfiction and fiction, and hosts an open online platform where writers can showcase their own writing, find resources, and get inspired.

★ [Curious Minds](#) from Oxford University. Keep your brain active with free online resources, as recommended by tutors and staff at the Department of Continuing Education

[Khan Academy](#). Always free, it's a great resource with high-quality material in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Computing, and History.

[BBC Bitesize ages 14+](#) has lessons and activities in all subject areas plus a new dedicated TV channel full of learning content, podcasts on BBC Sounds and lots of educational videos on iPlayer.

★ [Book Riot](#) is the largest independent editorial book site in North America, and home to a host of media, from podcasts to newsletters to original content, all designed around diverse readers and across all genres.

★ [Zooniverse](#) is 'the world's largest and most popular platform for people-powered research' and anyone can be a researcher - you don't need any specialised background, training, or expertise to participate in any project. Projects include transcribing the groundbreaking work of [early women astronomers](#), identifying [fish species on paintings](#), helping to discover [mosquitoes from their buzz](#) and more!

[The Concord Consortium](#) has lots of interactive STEM activities that are mathematically and scientifically accurate. Free to use, but you have to register.

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