



Special Edition



ARMY EUROPE SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER

SKIP the dreaded “summer brain drain” !



Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer! Skip the learning lag that happens to some children during summer vacation with a few fun activities that will reinforce skills and keep your kids ready and raring to go when back-to-school season comes around!

On the following pages are a just a few helpful resources and ideas that you can alter to match your child’s grade level to keep the learning going all through the summer! There’s even a link to the new DoDEA Summer Learning Program!

Have fun this summer, but skip the brain drain!



Know your SLO! [Find a SLO at any military installation worldwide.](#)

Language Arts (reading, writing, grammar, spelling, punctuation, vocabulary)

Everyone KNOWS that the more kids read, the better they get at it, and the more they like it! We all enjoy things we are good at more than things we struggle to do. Summer is a wonderful time to slow down and read for pleasure since there aren't any homework papers to worry about!



- ◆ Part of good reading comprehension is the ability to imagine in the mind's eye what the author is describing. This is why the transition to "picture free" books actually enhances comprehension. **"Mind's Eye"** is an easy game you can play anywhere! Tell your kids you are imagining something, for example a cow. Then ask your children to close their eyes and "see" a cow. Have them describe the cow they imagined. What color was it? Did it have horns? A bell? Was it in a field or a barn or somewhere else? Was it alone? Children will begin to associate details of a description with a clearer picture and get practice with running images in their head which is exactly what happens when we read. This game will increase reading comprehension and descriptive writing abilities!
- ◆ Get writing practice by sending postcards home to relatives written by the kids! Kids can describe their summer adventures. Discuss greeting, body and closing. Write a postcard to send to SPACE!. [Blue Origin](#) will send your child's card to space and back!
- ◆ Reading, spelling, and vocabulary all benefit when kids know their [Roots & Affixes](#).
- ◆ Play games with [prefixes and suffixes](#) to expand vocabulary. With [Word wall](#) you can also create your own games!
- ◆ Have your child read YOU a bedtime story. Record one for grandparents back home!
- ◆ Offer to rent a book-based movie after a child has read the book. Family night fun!
- ◆ Become a Pen Pal to someone back home or anywhere ! Pick a classmate before school is out!
- ◆ Host a weekly game night! Scrabble, Boggle, Wheel of Fortune, all these games enhance spelling and vocabulary skills.
- ◆ Watch a foreign movie and read the subtitles; Reading plus learning another language and culture in one fell swoop!
- ◆ Here's a neat trick that will turn your child into a regular night reader. This is especially great for independent readers. For the reluctant sleeper or reader, offer two bedtimes: #1: In bed and lights out #2: In bed and reading with lights out a half hour later than option #1. It will create a regular reading habit, and kids will even view reading as a reward or privilege.
- ◆ Have your kids see YOU read. Children model what they see! Hang out on the couch or lawn chairs with your child and enjoy some quiet parallel reading time!
- ◆ Consider using audio books during long trips, while doing household chores. These can make the time fly and get kids used to being engaged in a story. MVR libraries offer audio books for free!

Resources to Encourage Summer Reading

- ◆ [Book Taco](#) is a FREE reading motivation program for children in grades K-8. Children create their own book lists from over 7,000 recommended titles, take multiple choice quizzes on the books they've read, and earn points and prizes for their literary success. There is a paid premium membership with more features, but the basic plan is free.
- ◆ [OverDrive](#) gives you free computer or smartphone access to millions of eBooks and audiobooks from thousands of libraries across the nation! What a great way to pass the time on long summer road trips!
- ◆ Take the [Scholastic summer reading challenge!](#)
- ◆ [Magic Keys](#) Children's Storybooks online
- ◆ [Reading Rockets](#) launching young readers!
- ◆ Develop the habit of a weekly trip to the post [MWR library](#) to select books!
- ◆ You can also download audio books from the [MWR library](#) for travel time!
- ◆ [Libby app](#) Lets you download ebooks and Audio books

Language Arts LINKS:

[Slime Kids Grammar](#)

[Games Read Write Think](#)

[Room Recess Turtle](#)

[Diary](#)

[Journal Buddies](#)

[Read Write Think](#)

[ReadWorks](#)

[ABCYa](#)

[OxfordOwl](#)

[StorylineOnline](#)

[GrammarBytes](#)

[StoryJumper](#)

[FunFonix](#)

[Storybird](#)

[Spelling Shed](#)

[Merriam-](#)

[Webster](#)

[Dictionary &](#)

[Thesaurus](#)



SUMMER

READING PROGRAM

Enjoy a summer of investigation and exploration!



PLANT A SEED, READ!

The benefits of summer reading are clear. National research finds that students who participate in library summer reading programs scored higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year than those who did not participate.

The mission at DoD-MWR Libraries is to provide the resources and experiences to bridge this summer gap, while inspiring literacy and life-long learning!! Encourage and support a love of reading in your child!

For more information, please contact your [installation MWR library](#).

PLANT A SEED, READ



DoD MWR LIBRARIES
SUMMER READING PROGRAM
on Military Installations Worldwide



Nurturing the Force, One Chapter at a Time.

Gear Up for the DoD Summer Reading Program – Plant a Seed, Read!

Whether you're stationed across the globe or currently deployed, your next great adventure is just a page-turn away. This summer, the DoD Summer Reading Program is bringing the library to you—no matter your coordinates.

Read Anywhere. Win Everywhere.

Staying connected to home and keeping your mind sharp is mission-essential. We've made it easier than ever for remote and deployed service members to join the ranks of readers worldwide.



Access Thousands of Titles: From the latest thrillers and best-selling non-fiction to professional development, access our massive digital collection via the DoD MWR Virtual Library.



Log Your Progress: Track your reading minutes through the Beanstack app or website.



Stay in Touch with Family: Those back home can take part, too. You can compare minutes read, track badges earned, and challenge each other to read more.

How to Deploy Your Reading Mission:

1

Register: Visit <https://www.beanstack.com/dod> or download the Beanstack Tracker app.

2

Select Your Library: Find your home installation. Not on the list? You can go here: www.DoDVirtualSRP.org.

3

Track Your Minutes Read: E-books, audiobooks, and physical books all count toward your goal.

4

Stay Connected: Share what you're reading with your unit and family back home.



Scan QR code or
visit [beanstack.com/dod](https://www.beanstack.com/dod)

Science

- ◆ Grow a garden. It's a great science lesson and can encourage a love of nutritious foods . Use pots on the balcony or windowsill if you don't have a yard. Have the kids help make nutritious meals from their harvest.
- ◆ There are numerous learning opportunities at the beach. Discuss the sun, how shadows move during the day, what sand is, collect seashells and discuss their original purpose. Bring a colander to a tide pool to hold in the water and safely house little sea animals you find for viewing before you send them home.
- ◆ Try [Earthcaching!](#) It's the earth science version of Geocaching.
- ◆ You can literally fill an afternoon with baking soda, vinegar, bottles, & balloons!
- ◆ Take a hike! Bring containers to collect "samples" (bugs, leaves, rocks, moss) [iNaturalist](#) is a free app that will help you identify the plants, bugs, and animals you see!
- ◆ Seeing all the masks these last few months due to COVID19, might make it a good time to read a book, watch a video, or talk about germs and how hygiene is important. BONUS: They might be better about washing up on their own!
- ◆ Go fishing. Try out a cool website called "[Find a Fish](#)" to identify and learn about the types of fish you catch.
- ◆ Star gazing! Point out constellations. BONUS: Tell a bedtime story of mythological characters in constellations.
- ◆ Check out a science experiment book from the library or online. Most supplies are readily available at home. Your little scientist will gain some confidence if he is allowed to read, follow directions and conduct an experiment on his own. You might be fueling a future career! Just double check for safety before the kids begin. Keep a composition book handy for sketching and recording results. Share them with the family at dinner or before bedtime.



Science LINKS:

[Discovery Education](#)

[Ed- Heads](#)

[Neuroscience](#)

[How Stuff Works](#)

[Science 360](#)

[NASA Visualization Explorer](#)

[NASA Eyes](#)

[Fizzics Education](#)

[Cells Alive!](#)

[Science Fair Projects](#)

[Earthquakes For Kids](#)

[Genetic Science Learning Center](#)

[Smithsonian Air & Space Museum](#)

[Frontiers for Young Minds](#)

[Smithsonian Natural History Museum](#)

[Home Science Tools](#)

[Blue Origin Club for the Future](#)

[Happy Scientist](#)

[Science Buddies MS](#)

Mathematics

- ◆ Build a tree or bird house. Skills: taking accurate measurements, angles, adding and subtracting fractions and decimals. Science bonus: Junior Audubon member!
- ◆ At the commissary, have your kids collect and weigh the produce, select the “best deal”, estimate total cost, calculate savings with coupons and figure percentage discounts. (Maybe spend the savings on an ice cream cone?)
- ◆ Make your child the navigator during a road trip. (Hide your Navigator!) Have them calculate distance on a map, estimate time needed to travel based upon speed.
- ◆ Have children follow a recipe. Lots of math in measuring ingredients and fractions especially if you reduce the number of servings you are making. Bonus: Reading for information!
- ◆ Use the hot weather to practice learning liquid measurements. How many cups make a gallon? Do the same with metric measurements. Compare liters and gallons. Be sure to “spill” some of that nice cold water to make it fun
- ◆ Teach your kids to sew. (Or learn with them!) It’s a great way to learn measurements and have fun!
- ◆ License plate game for road trips; Add all the digits on a license plate; highest # wins!
- ◆ Have fun learning liquid measurements in the back yard... spills are OK and fun!
- ◆ Board game night! Counting out money is an important life skill. Make your child the banker!
- ◆ Shoot some pool. Learn about geometric angles. Bonus: measuring & categorizing angles
- ◆ Lemonade stands are classic opportunities for learning business, understanding overhead and profits, and just counting change. With COVID 19 restrictions, you will need to be sure you aren’t in violation of any local or command requirements.



Math Links and Apps:

[Math Counts](#)

[Math Playground](#)

[Math.com](#)

[Math is Fun](#)

[Multiplication.com](#)

[Math Snacks](#)

[Prodigy Math](#)

[Math TV](#)

[Online Math](#)

[Hooda Math](#)

[Math Blaster](#)

[Educational Fractions Games](#)

[Pizza Fractions](#)

[Math Playground](#)

[RodoCodo](#)

[CodeClub](#)

[Pet Bingo](#)

[Cool Math Games](#)

[Scratch Jr.](#) (coding)

[Ms. Math Moves You](#)

[Math Alive](#)



Social Studies (History , Civics, Geography)

- ♦ OK, people, we are in EUROPE! TRAVEL!! It seems history is everywhere here, and you might investigate your town or village to learn some interesting facts! We are lucky enough to be surrounded by living history and museums with items older than the USA! Take advantage of it. Double down on the learning by reading or discussing unique historical facts about where you are going.
- ♦ With today's computers, you can "cut & paste" your way to a cool treasure hunt. Print out photos of things to look for during an excursion. Souvenir purchase contingent upon finding items listed !
- ♦ A presidential election year is a great time to learn about the election process. Have kids track delegates per candidate. Bonus geography lesson when you use a US map to indicate delegate commitments by state. Math bonus when you create a graph using delegate counts by state or candidate. Have them help mail your absentee ballot!
- ♦ Study landforms by CLIMBING some of them! Teach orienteering along the way. Have a compass ready. Explain how a compass works as you use it. Topographic and contour map phone apps can also enhance learning.
- ♦ If possible, visit sites of famous historical events. Read a book or watch a movie about the event before the trip.
- ♦ Visit a museum or if you can't visit one in person, try some online virtual tours. Some museums created virtual tours during COVID which may still be up. Take advantage of them.
- ♦ Post a world map in your child's room and have them mark off states and countries visited. You can also set one up of the new country you live in and mark off cities and places visited. This may spur them to want to visit even more places!
- ♦ Try your hand at an art history project. [Make stained glass](#) after visiting and viewing some of the amazing stained glass found in churches across Europe. There's probably one right near your home! Do a [brass rubbing](#) (AKA tomb or [gravestone rubbing](#)) at church tombs or graveyards. (creepy, but cool) Investigate history of the church or families by talking to church officials. Ask permission from them before making your rubbing.
- ♦ If you live off post and have local national neighbors with kids, consider joint excursions to parks or just to town. You'd be surprised how much kids pick up on local culture from spending time with other children. It might be a good opportunity to learn a few words in the language.

Social Studies LINKS:

[Ben's Guide to US Government](#)

[World Atlas](#)

[50 States](#)

[iCivics](#)

[Social Studies for Kids](#)

[Ancient Civilizations](#)

[Seterra – map quiz site](#)

[13 US History](#)

[Ancient Civilizations Wordwall](#)

[Toporopa](#)

[Kids World Travel Guide](#)



Mixed Topics Online Skills Reviews for Students

Teens love computers and phone apps. They are better with them than many adults. Admit it, you've asked your kid to help you find how to do something on your laptop! Computers are a wonderful way to keep skills sharp and learn new ones too. Online programs will continue to be important in the lives of our children. Below are some resources in mixed topics to support kids through high school.



Mixed Topic APPs & Links for K-8:

[Quizlet](#)

[Mr. Nussbaum Ducksters](#)

[KhanAcademy](#)

[FunBrain](#)

[Turtle Diary](#)

[Discovery Education](#)

[PBS Learning](#)

[Worksheetworks](#)

[Soft Schools](#)

[123Homeschool4Me](#)

[Sheppard Software](#)



Preschool Learning Games [SplashLearn](#)

Mixed Topic APPs & LINKS for MS/HS:

[Khan Academy](#)

[Hippocampus](#)

[NEOK-12](#)

[PSAT 8/9](#)

[March2Success](#)

[ASVAB Test Bank](#)

[SAT Practice Tests](#)

[Free ACT Academy](#)

[MIT OpenCourseWare](#)

[Modern States](#)

[Discovery Education](#)

[Study.com](#)

[PBS HS resources](#)

[IBM SkillsBuild](#)

[CrashCourse](#)

[SoftSchools](#)

[Splash Learn](#)

Learn a new language!

Give your child the world! Spend time learning a new language this summer! Living in Europe is a great opportunity to practice your skills with native speakers!

[Digital Dialects](#)

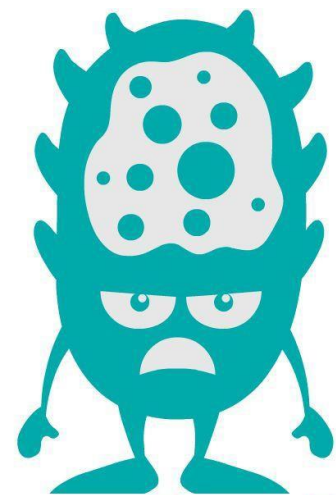
[Duolingo](#)

[Busuu](#)

[Lingohut](#)



Beating Summer brain drain one beautiful summer day with your kids at a time!



SUMMER BRAIN DRAIN

Access your [School Liaison Officer](#) for information, assistance, and referral on school issues to include: school transition, youth sponsorship, deployment support, home schooling, special needs, college & career planning, and more!