

Maggie Hogan's Bright Ideas Press E-Zine

Welcome to the February 2008 edition. I hope you find the following information useful, as you spend time teaching and enjoying your children!

From Maggie to You - lessons from a penguin . . .



Meet “Bip.” Bip is our office penguin. I guess I’d better explain! Have you heard of Flat Stanely or Flat Travelers? (*If not, go here http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flat_Stanley) My husband Bob and I have a friend named Craig who just returned from a business trip to Antarctica! How cool is that?! (hehehe) We asked Craig to bring our stuffed penguin with him and take pictures of Bip exploring Antarctica. Craig, father of two young children, not only obliged, he bought his own kids penguins as well. Our Bip saw living penguins, spent the night in the Lunar Habitat, and rode on the enormous, 50-seat Antarctica transport bus, called, “Ivan the Terra bus”!! He didn’t make it all the way to the South Pole, but he reports back that yes, indeed, there is actually a “pole” planted at the South

Pole!

What was Craig doing in Antarctica? He was there as part of a joint project between NASA and Craig’s employer, ILC of Dover (they make space suits and more!). Craig went to help set up the Lunar Habitat for testing. Below is a snippet from the NASA press release and here is the link for the entire press release:

<http://www.brightideaspress.com/nl/resources/208744.pdf>



From The NASA Press Release:

Inflatable Habitat Research

“When NASA astronauts explore the moon starting in 2020, they’ll stay for about a week to start out and then gradually lengthen their visits as an outpost takes shape. At first, they’ll take everything they need in their lunar landers, but longer stays will require more support than one lander can deliver.

The overall objective of this joint project is to design, construct, and test a proof-of-concept inflatable structure, focusing on how easy it is to deploy and how durable it is in an extremely harsh environment – Antarctica.

The test inflatable habitat will be used as an integral part of McMurdo Station, the National Science Foundation’s logistics hub in Antarctica.”

Our e-zine this month is going to focus on geography, science, history and current events in Antarctica. I’ve rounded up great information for you, links to awesome pictures, recipes, and a fun craft as well.

Here is a link to our website where I’ve included the BEST I could find in internet sites for this study!
Have fun!

[Links Page](#)

Antarctica Fact File

(taken from *The Ultimate Geography & Timeline Guide* by Maggie Hogan and Cindy Wiggers)

- Size (in relationship to other continents): fifth largest
- Area: about 5,400,000 square miles
- Highest point: Vinson Massif – 16,860 feet
- Biggest glaciers: Lambert, Amundsen, and Beardmore
- Snowfall: about twenty-five inches a year at the coast; only two inches a year on the plateau
- Lowest Temperature: -128.5 F at Vostok Research Base in 1983
- Volcano: Mr. Erebus, on the bottom tip of the Ross Ice Shelf
- Number of countries: none, although several countries lay claim to parts of the continent

Discover this!

1. Which two continents are smaller than Antarctica?
2. What type of climate does it have?
3. What lives there?
4. List several penguin species that live there. Draw one.
5. What are krill? What animals feed on it?
6. How much of the world’s entire supply of fresh water is in its ice and snow?
7. Who led the first expedition to the South Pole?
8. In what year did this expedition take place?
9. Is there really a “pole” at the South Pole?
10. What are some things scientists are learning about in Antarctica?
11. What kind of rocks are scattered all over Antarctica?

On a blank outline map of Antarctica, (see links for maps) label the following places:

1. Put brown “X’s” on the Transantarctica Mountains
2. Color the Ross Ice Shelf yellow

3. Mark McMurdo Station with a red dot
4. Color the Antarctic Peninsula light green
5. Identify the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans and the Weddell Sea
6. Circle the Lambert Glacier
7. Put a “+” by the South Pole

Current Events - this is most suitable for upper levels (see links for more info)

Read about the Antarctic Treaty, signed by 12 countries in 1961. In 1991, a moratorium on what was signed by the same 12 countries? Why?

Read more about one of the following controversial issues affecting Antarctica today:

1. Claims to Antarctica by a variety of nations
2. Oil & mineral rights
3. Tourism

Lastly, round-out your studies with dinner and a movie. (Hogans LOVE to finish projects with dinner and a movie! LOL!) I recommend the following menu and “March of the Penguins.”

- Volcanic rocks served over the ice-shelf (aka Swedish meatballs over mashed potatoes)
- Or “Frozen dinners” hehehe (my dh’s suggestion)
- Iceberg lettuce salad
- Iced tea
- Snow-cones or Hostess Snowballs for dessert (yummy!)

‘Real’ recipes and a blog from a chef in Antarctica can be found on my links page!

** There are homeschool yahoo groups that participate in Flat Travelers projects as well.

I LOVED both of these books about Shackleton – highly recommended!

[*Ice Story: Shackleton's Lost Expedition*](#) by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel for upper level

[*Spirit of Endurance: The True Story of the Shackleton Expedition to the Antarctic*](#) by Jennifer Armstrong and William Maughan for the entire family

Our company, Bright Ideas Press, has not put out a real catalog for several years now. Part of the problem is that I got bored with the way it looked and lost interest in it. (OT – I get bored easily! LOL!) After a lot of brainstorming with my pal Melissa we’ve come up with a great new ‘look’ for our catalog that I think will actually be useful to parents and interesting enough to hang on to. Here’s where you come in:

The look will be similar to scrapbook pages – a peek, if you will, into the lives of real homeschool families who USE our products. We are looking for a digital scrapbook page of your family using, in some way, The Mystery of History. The page needs to include pictures of kids/family having fun and being involved with the book. This could be read-aloud time, activity making, field trip, or anything that you have done with this book that others would look at and say, Wow! I want that for MY family! There needs to be enough journaling on the page to describe what you are doing – and hopefully how much everyone is enjoying it.

Rules:

- Must be using, or have used in the past, the product(s) you scrapbook
- Deadline: Feb. 15th
- Format: jpeg
- Permission granted for us to use this page in whatever advertising medium we choose (catalog, website, etc.)
- Curriculum published by Bright Ideas Press must be a large factor in the theme of the page

Rewards!

Winning entries receive a coupon for \$50.00 worth of any product PUBLISHED by Bright Ideas Press.

Books published by BIP include:

- The Mystery of History series
- The All American History series
- The Christian Kids Explore series (Biology, Earth & Space, Chemistry, Physics)
- Hands-On Geography
- Gifted Children at Home
- The Ultimate Geography & Timeline Guide (we are co-publishers)
- Writer’s Workshop: Step-by-Step (e-book)
- From Basic to Baghdad - A Soldier Writes Home

Updates on Bright Ideas Press Products

1. All American History Volume 2
2. The Mystery of History Volume 3
3. Young Scholar’s Guide to Classical Composers

All American History Volume 2

Well folks, I have good news! Both the Reader and the Student Activity Book are at the printers. We

hope to have them in our warehouse by mid-February. If you would like to be on the list for an email alerting you that the books are HERE and ready to ship, please email: contact@BrightIdeasPress.com and ask to be on the AAH 2 list. The Teacher's Guide should be off to the printer by next week.

In the meanwhile, if you go to our yahoo group and check the files section, you will be able to download the first 2 units (16 weeks) worth of activity pages and Teacher's Guide. You'll have to email us for the Reader pages though as the files are too big to post. Thank you for your kind understanding. I cannot tell you how it grieves us to cause delays and readjustments to your schooling plans – as if homeschooling isn't hard enough as it is!

The Mystery of History series Volume 3

The files are at our graphics design company! The cover is done, the artwork is mostly purchased and the lay-out has begun. Volume 3 has been divided into two books, for several reasons. One, because of our desire to print in color; two, the length of the book; and three, for ease-of-use. The Reader will be hard-bound and full color. The Companion Guide will contain all the teacher information, the book resource lists, the activities, quizzes, etc. Basically, it is everything except for the lessons. The Companion Guide will be available both as a book and as a CD-rom.

If you wish to receive updates and WORD files, quarter by quarter, later this month, please join the MOH 3 yahoo group.

Young Scholar's Guide to Composers

Did you know that we have been working on a new series here at Bright Ideas Press? The first book, Composers, is due out in 2008. If you're like me, I wanted to include this kind of study with my boys but had no idea of what to do or where to start since I had no musical training worth mentioning. I teamed up with my dear friend Melissa ---<http://www.homeschoolblogger.com/MelismaTo4/> and we think we've found just the right format to use. It's now in the hands of a wonderful editor. Stay "tuned" for more info!

*Cathy Duffy Top 100 Picks

See the books that Cathy loves: The Mystery of History Series and The Christian Kids Explore Series at www.BrightIdeasPress.com

Check out our Yahoo Groups!

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Whole_HOG/ (join us as we share geography ideas)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AllAmericanHistory> (Our American History series)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HSGifted> (Homeschooling gifted children)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysteryofHistory1>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysteryofHistory2>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysteryofHistory3>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysteryofHistoryHS> (Using *The Mystery of History* with high schoolers)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChristianKidsExploreBiology> (Covers all of our *Christian Kids Explore* books)

We appreciate you, our customers.

Feel free to contact us:

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Come visit my blog:

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Happy Trails,

Maggie Hogan