



Practical, Fun and Affordable History, Geography and Science Resources!

## July 2010 Bright Ideas Press E-Zine from Maggie Hogan

Hello Friends!

July is here and school is out! (Well, for some of us anyway). This is the time to get a little bit of extra sleep, or maybe stay up late and look at the stars. I know that I will be enjoying the time to sit on my deck and catch up on some quality time with my family and my books. Here's a few things we thought you'd enjoy this month!

### **Amazingly Awesome Super Fantastic SALE!**

First off, we've got a 4th of July sale – **all paperbacks and hardback books** that we publish will be **20% OFF** from **July 1st – July 9th!** Just use the code **FIREWORKS** when you check out. That mean *The Mystery of History*, *All American History*, *Christian Kids Explore Science*, *A Young Scholar's Guide to Composers*, and more are all on sale!

Second, this whole month, we've marked down Folderbooks for **The Mystery of History** – the downloadable folderbook packs are now \$12/quarter (was 15) or \$32/whole year (was 40). Or, can get the whole year on CD for \$40 (was 50)!

### **Things to Celebrate in July!**

July has some really great things to offer. Here are a few helpful hints; fireworks, American flags, and choruses of God Bless America—that's right; it must be time for the 4th of July! What a great holiday! It is time for us to reflect on our wonderful country and look back at

all of our struggles and how far we have come as a nation. Why not take some of those fun recipes and make them red, white, and blue themed? And while you're at it, check out these fantastic websites all about this special day.

<http://www.history.com/videos/fourth-of-july-history#fourth-of-july-history>

Where is a better place to learn about history than History.com? This short video is packed with information all about how we gained our independence and how the celebration came to be. Mom and Dad this video is great for you, and maybe some of the older children at home would really appreciate this as well.

<http://www.history.com/videos/fourth-of-july-history#history-of-independence-day>

Another great video from History.com, it is still great for the older ones in the house, but could definitely be appreciated by pre-teens.

<http://www.kidsturncentral.com/holidays/july4.htm>

Here's a great one for the kids, a brief history of what this holiday is all about with some really fun activities for them to do as well!

<http://www.independencedayfun.com/>

This website is also great for kids- it is jam packed with lots of crafts and activities for them to do, but also has a spot where they can learn the history behind it all.

While Independence Day is easily the most well known holiday this month, there are actually a lot of other fun things to celebrate as well.

- **July 2nd** - The first Zeppelin flew in 1900. If you don't know what a Zeppelin is (and don't worry, I didn't either) it is a German airship that was used in WWI.
- **July 4th** - is not just for Independence apparently. It is also Tom Sawyer Fence Painting Day. You can use this how you see fit, whether you'd like to do some fence painting of your own or maybe just spend some time reading the classic story.

- **July 8th** –The Liberty Bell cracked in 1835 while being rung at the funeral of John Marshall, this plays perfectly into learning all about our country’s history.
- **July 11th**- is Cheer Up the Lonely Day, so bring cookies to the elderly neighbor down the street or maybe go visit a hospital. Even just sharing a smile with someone who doesn’t have one is a good way to celebrate.
- **July 14th**- is Bastille Day; learn about the French Independence Day!
- **July 16th** - Apollo 11 lifts off on its voyage to the moon in 1969.
- **July 24th**- is Amelia Earhart day. Learn all about this courageous woman who did things that were at the time unthinkable.
- **July 31st** – The first US Patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins in 1790.

### **NEW: Literature Guides**

We got such a good response from families using the Literature Study Guides included in Illuminations, we decided to start selling some of our favorite study guides separately. Now you don’t have to buy Illuminations to get wonderful literature study guides! 3-8th Grade and Highschool study guides are now available for around \$14. [Click Here](#) for more info! We’ll be adding more over the next few months, so be sure to check back often.

These study guides contain a reading schedule, discussion questions, vocabulary, hands-on projects, and much more. Use the coupon code **LoveMyLit** for **20% Off** your first study guide! You can view a sample [here](#), on the Illuminations sample page. Each level has a sample study guide or two. Enjoy!

### **Summer Fun and Recipes!**

July’s holidays are great, but they aren’t the only things that make this month pretty neat. For one, it is HOT! I mean, it’s the kind of hot that makes you want to cling to the air conditioner, but we all know how expensive that can be. So how about some awesome ways to cool off, save money, and still enjoy the beautiful sunny days that God has given us?

- **Awesome, inexpensive way to cool off #1:** Old fashioned sprinkler/hose day. This is a personal favorite of mine from childhood. Basically...you get to run wild and get wet at the same time. It was bliss. (**BONUS:** If you have a trampoline with the net around like I did, you can wedge the hose into the net so it will stay upright and spray without someone having to hold it... it is like having your own water park in your back yard!)  
**Cost:** Assuming you already own a hose, a sprinkler is probably under \$20.
- **Awesome, inexpensive way to cool off #2:** Water balloons! These are great. Parents, if you have younger children you're going to have to help them a lot; these things are pretty hard to tie. I have always been a fan of water balloon hot potato, (in which the "loser" has to get the balloon popped over their head) but, it is only the runner up to water balloon dodge ball, which is the champion of water balloon games.  
**Cost:** Pretty cheap, under \$5 for one pack.
- **Awesome, inexpensive way to cool off # 3:** Slip N Slide. This has been around for quite a while and it is still as popular as ever. It is a pretty self explanatory game, but there are a few things to be wary of. First, choose a very grassy area and make sure that it is free of rocks. I would suggest giving the ground a good raking. Then get the area pretty soaked beforehand, that way the ground is already soft. (**BONUS:** Add a little bit of dish soap to the water and you have either a really fun bath or just a really slippery slide).  
**Cost:** Around \$20, unless you feel like going deluxe, then it's more.
- **Awesome, inexpensive way cool off #4:** Find a friend with a pool. I have never owned a pool, but I have always had great friends who did. Pool games are endless; there are mermaid games, boat games, and even good 'ol sharks and minnows can provide lots of fun. The best part of a pool is that it really lets a kid's imagination run wild. It is amazing to see what sort of games and scenarios they will come up with.  
**Cost:** Free! (But maybe you'd like to bring some popsicles or

fruit salad as a thank you).

- **Awesome, inexpensive way to cool off #5:** Go to the beach! (Or lake, river, pond, basically your closest body of water). These sorts of trips do not have to be expensive; the first tip is to go to a fairly unpopular spot. The state of Delaware has about 10 major beaches, but there are so many other little beaches that don't get much attention from tourists and are therefore the perfect little spot to bring your family. With some packed lunches and some beach toys (think a beach ball, shovel, and pail) an afternoon of relaxing fun can easily be had.  
**Cost:** Essentially nothing, though maybe gas and parking fees will have to be factored in, depending on how far away your body of water is.

So, after all of that fun in the sun, your little ones are sure to be hungry. But why should the fun stop here? Invite them into the kitchen and let them help make some yummy fruity treats!

- **Mini Fruity Pizzas:** This is pretty simple and super fun. Start off with some sugar cookie dough, using whatever recipe you prefer. After refrigeration, divide up the dough into as many portions as needed, but make sure that they are at least the size of a very large cookie, and bake normally. Once they are done, let them cool and use softened cream cheese, or thick jam as "sauce". Then use your favorite fruits as toppings! Optional: powdered sugar sprinkled on top.
- **Fruity Fizzy Drinks:** This is so easy and can be done so many ways. Get any kind of a fizzy drink; it could be Sprite, 7 Up, or for the less sugary route, seltzer water. Then add your favorite packet of Kool-Aid. (Make sure that you check to see if the Kool-Aid needs to have sugar be added, otherwise your bundle of joy might not be so joyful). Also, some cut up fruit could work great in the drinks, like chopped up oranges or maybe Maraschino cherries.
- **Fun Fruit Smoothies:** Yum! These are delicious, and can also be done in so many different ways. This recipe can be tweaked depending on your (or your child's) taste buds. I'd say start off with about a dozen ice cubes and put them in your blender, then

add some vanilla ice cream (maybe about a cup). You can substitute milk and sugar if you don't have any ice cream though, about a ½ cup of each. Then add a ½ tsp of vanilla extract. Experiment by adding different fruits. I like banana and pineapple mixes, with a bit of coconut too. You could add some fruit concentrate or just put the actual fruit itself in. Blend, pour into a glass and maybe add some chopped fruit to make it look nice.

- . **\*\* Bonus:** Let your kids play chef. Get them some index cards and let them write down their recipes and give them fun names. As the summer goes on you can continue to add recipes until they have a collection to be proud of.

## **Back to School Contest!**

As the month comes to a close, it's (almost) time to start thinking of going back to school. So what do you do to prepare for that moment? Do you have any helpful hints or tricks for getting your kids back into school mode? Let us know, and if you win, it will be published in the August E-Zine! Not to mention that you'll also win a Christian Kids Explore Science book of your choice!

## **So Long!**

Thanks for spending some time with us. We hope to hear from you soon!

-Tyler Hogan and the BIP Staff

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[www.BrightIdeasPress.com](http://www.BrightIdeasPress.com)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Illuminations1> (come find out more about it!)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IlluminationsYear2>

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Whole\\_HOG/](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/MysteryofHistoryHighSchool> (Using *The Mystery of History* volumes with high school students)

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