



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

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

### Come See Maggie @ Sandy Cove, North East, Maryland

August 20—22, 2010

Maggie will be the keynote speaker for the Homeschool Mom's retreat at this beautiful Christian resort on the Chesapeake Bay! What better way to refresh and get energized at the beginning of the school year? Come spend the weekend with Maggie and friends. And bring your crafts, swimsuit, or reading because this weekend is for YOU!

Workshops include:

- **When Mama Ain't Happy . . .**
- **7 Highly Effective Habits of Happy Homeschool Moms**
- **A Wife's Priorities: For Women Only, Please**

<http://www.sandycove.org/docs/homeschool-moms-retreat.php> for pricing and details.

### BIP Blog Contest Winners

TWO First Place Winners because I couldn't pick just one!! Both Amy and Heather will receive a *Christian Kids Explore* science book of their choice! Go to our blog to read lots more great ideas.

Amy M. says:

"This summer we'll be building a volcano in preparation for our upcoming school year – we'll be using Illuminations for the first time and will be getting more geography than before, so we'll have the volcano as the centerpiece for our school year kickoff party! Invite all

our friends, grill out some food and of course, blow up our volcano  
Thanks for offering these contests – even though I haven't won yet, I  
have a blast entering them!" [HEY AMY - YOU'VE WON NOW!]

Heather C in MT says:

"Our first day is marked with adventure each year. We spend the first  
WHOLE week creating a memory book of our summer adventures. My  
two boys, ages 12 & 9 this year, will prepare their own "snap shots of  
summer" book by stamping, gluing pictures and journaling. We go  
over all the fun we had and we call it school! What more could you  
ask for?

We also use this time to set our goals for the school year as we put  
together our books. The boys don't seem bored by the administrative  
stuff and I get much needed information from them personally. It also  
helps to be able to say down the road, "You had the goal this year of  
completing this, right?" It is a fun way to start the year and not have  
the DRUDGERY mentality."

Honorable Mention just because this was cute and different:

Sonja says:

"For back to school I like getting my hair cut!! It is amazing to me  
how a good cut helps me feel put together with very little effort each  
morning."

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**From \*Nicole, our Summer Intern**

Hello again!

The days are still warm and the sun still doesn't go to bed until 8 pm,  
but it's time to start thinking (just a little bit) about going back to  
school. (Insert applause, or tears here, whichever suits you best).  
August is the sort of month in which you are (or at least I am) torn  
between lounging by the pool, soaking up every last sun ray and  
sharpening my pencils and figuring out what needs to get done before  
I have to start hitting the books again. Thankfully, August has a  
bunch of great holidays to distract us.

## Things to Celebrate this Month

**August 8<sup>th</sup>**- Dollar Day, the US Dollar was created. Perhaps you could spend today splurging a bit on what is in your child's piggy bank, or if you have older children who have part time jobs, today might be a good time to discuss the world of finances.

**August 9<sup>th</sup>**- is Tyler and Helen Hogan's 2nd Anniversary. Woo-hoo! Not only is Tyler our favorite all knowing tech-savvy guy, he and his wonderful wife Helen are expecting baby number 2, making him our favorite all knowing tech-savvy father!

**August 10<sup>th</sup>**- First steam locomotive. Trains made a huge impact, enabling things to happen across the country that were previously not possible. Spend today learning all about trains and how they work!

**August 16<sup>th</sup>**- Maggie & Bob's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!! It's really something when you realize that people have been married for longer than I have even been alive. Congratulations, 30 is quite an impressive number!

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>**- First photograph of earth from the moon, taken by lunar orbit in 1966. Tonight, try to find the man in the moon, but if that fails, check out some websites that can provide you with great pictures and information.

**August 24<sup>th</sup>** - JB Hogan's Birthday. What better way to celebrate JB than to have a sale on his book: *From Basic to Baghdad—A Soldier Writes Home*. Happy Birthday, JB!

**August 28<sup>th</sup>**- "Dream Day", Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963. I would encourage you to let your kids watch this speech. It is easy to find on the Internet. Then talk with them about the profound impact it had on our nation.

## Get into "Back to School" Mode

It's always a weird switching from summer vacation to back to school.

Bedtimes come earlier, the responsibilities of projects and papers loom, and life seems to get busier. Here are 4 ways to smooth the transition.

**1. Clean UP Your Room.** My mom always had me start out the school year with a clean room, because as the year went on and the homework and activities piled up . . . so did the mess. It's also a good feeling, to have the year begin with a clean, fresh room. If you have a specific room for schoolwork you can clean that room up as well. This brings me to my second point . . .

**2. Clean OUT Your Room.** Have a yard sale. Get all of the old stuff out of the house. Maybe invite some of the families from co-op to participate with you. The money that you make from the yard sale leads me to point number three . . .

**3. Go Shopping.** In the public school realm, come August you get new stuff. A new backpack if you've destroyed your old one (which I always had), new shoes, new binders and pencils, and if you were a lunch-packer like me, you got to go with mom to pick out some awesome things to put in your lunchbox. Homeschoolers might not need all of the same stuff, but whatever you make from the yard sale can be your budget for new stuff. Maybe they don't need new shoes, but I hear homeschoolers get to do schoolwork in pajamas (jealous!), so maybe new PJs. Or instead of buying stuff to put in a lunchbox, how about having an awesome breakfast to kick off the school year?

**4. Start the School Year with a Favorite.** Let your student choose which subject (s) to do the first week of school to ease into a new routine. This way, they're still doing school work, but at least for the first week, it's the kind of schoolwork they like best.

## **The "Last Night" of Summer**

Tonight is for *family bonding*. It's for *relaxation*. It could even be the start to a great tradition. Spending one night at home together maybe before an older sibling leaves for college or everyone starts school, sports, co-ops again. Pick something that your family always loves doing *together*. For my family, that would mean getting Chinese take-

out and watching a favorite family movie. Nothing fancy, just something that will end the summer on a good note. Your family might have a Monopoly marathon, or stay-up-late party, or home-made pizza night. Make memories - life is short!

~Nicole~

\*Nicole is a senior at University of Delaware, majoring in creative writing. She enjoys traveling, crafting, and baking and is considering a variety of professions to pursue in her future, which include owning a cake shop, becoming an accomplished author, and being the first woman President of America.

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### **Available Now!**

1. Have you heard about our folderbooks (think Lapbooks™) for *The Mystery of History*? These are not your run of the mill, clip-art laden, generic products: these were carefully developed for *The Mystery of History* and reflect our commitment to quality information in a quality product. Check out our sample on line and watch for new releases as well. Our folderbooks are on sale right now!
2. You asked for it - we did it! We've released some of our favorite **Literature Guides** from Illuminations individually. Those of you who haven't used Illuminations (to go with *The Mystery of History*) can now enjoy the same great books and study guides people are raving about!

### **Coming Soon!**

Speaking of *The Mystery of History*, our newest products to complement this series are amazing sets of Challenge Cards with three questions and answers for each and every lesson in *The Mystery of History*! These attempt to capture the most important elements of each lesson in an easy-to-remember format. Included are a dozen game ideas and other suggestions for usage. These can be used in combination with the note-taking cards or instead of them. Cards for volumes 1 and 2 will be on the website shortly. A fabulous

digital download deal at \$14.95 for each volume.

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## **The BIP Blog**

We've been typing like mad people for many months now posting every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Lots of content, contests, and give-aways every month! Want to know how to use Illuminations in a co-op? Wondering about multi-age teaching? Want to hear about hands-on activities that moms love or how to use our favorite products? Then visit [www.brightideaspress.com](http://www.brightideaspress.com) and click on **Blog** at the top. It's a fun place to be to get great ideas!

Remember to check below for this month's coupons!

Happy Trails,

Maggie Hogan and The Bright Ideas Press Team!

Bright Ideas Press

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[Contact@BrightIdeasPress.com](mailto:Contact@BrightIdeasPress.com)

[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/IlluminationsYear3>

[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)