



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

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

**The last e-zine from \*Nicole, our Summer Intern who is now back to school again**

Hello again,

I love September, it's my favorite month. I love the crisp and cool mornings with sunny, warm afternoons. I love the first day of school. I love watching the leaves change color and fall. For me, this month can do no wrong. It also has some fabulous holidays! Pick a few of these holidays to celebrate with your family:

### September's Holidays

**September 3rd**—Uncle Sam's Birthday. In 1813 Uncle Sam's image was first used and has since then been the "face" of the U.S. Government.

**September 9th**—Tyler's Birthday! In honor of his 23rd birthday, BIP is holding a sale. **For two days only, use the attached coupon code to get 23% off everything in the store! Woohoo!**

**September 11th**—Patriot Day, also known as the World Trade Center Remembrance Day. If your children are too young to remember what happened help them to understand why this day is so important. And don't forget to thank your troops!!

**September 12th**—National Grandparents Day. If your Grandparents live far away make sure you call or send a card on this day, but if they are close by invite them over for dinner and spend some quality time together.

**September 16th**—Mayflower Day. Spend today learning a bit about the pilgrims' brave journey across the sea from England to The New World.

**September 18th**—National Play-Doh Day. This is possibly the best holiday ever, in my opinion. Go out and get yourself a six-pack of Play-Doh and immerse yourself in childhood.

**September 19th**—Talk like a Pirate Day. This has got to be the second best holiday. Call everyone "Matey" and tell awesome pirate jokes like: "How do pirates know that they are pirates?" "They think, therefore they ARRRR!!!!!"

**September 22nd**—First Day of Autumn! What a great day! Have lunch outside and feel the crispness of the air and notice the leaves starting to change.

**September 24th**—National Punctuation Day. If you aren't so good at grammar (like me), maybe you should check out [www.grammarbook.com](http://www.grammarbook.com), a website that has been more than helpful for me numerous times.

### **September Contest!**

In honor of Talk Like a Pirate Day, we're asking you send your favorite Pirate jokes to [Lyma@BrightIdeasPress.com](mailto:Lyma@BrightIdeasPress.com) with the subject line "Pirates." We'll pick our favorite and award the winner with a \$15 gift certificate. (One joke per family please.)

### **Having fun without as much sun**

Finding "fun activities" to do in the fall isn't as simple as in the summertime. It isn't as easy as going swimming and eating ice cream. (If you can't tell already, I feel that all activities should include food in one way or another) But, never fear for I have uncovered some gems.

1. Apple picking! Here in Delaware there are the Fifer Orchards which offer apple picking on Fridays and Saturdays in September. Check your local orchards for their schedule.
2. Once you've got those delicious apples, it's time to make yourself an apple dessert. You can go with the American favorite - Apple Pie, but I am a new believer in apple crumble. The recipe I used called for about 5 apples, 2 oz of butter, 3.5 oz of flour and 2.5

oz of sugar. BUT I decided to add 2 tsp of vanilla and a good helping of honey as well. Preparation is easy, first pre-heat your oven at 425 °F, then peel, core, and slice the apples. Put them in a pan and add 3 tbsp of water and 1 tbsp of sugar and the vanilla and honey, and let them cook until mushy. Then add some cinnamon if you want. Combine the flour, sugar, and butter mixing them until they are at a breadcrumb consistency. Put a layer at the bottom of your dish, add the apples and the rest of the flour/sugar/butter mix and bake for 10-20 minutes.

3. Learn a little horticulture and plant some beautiful perennials. Everyone in the family can help out with this one. Designate a landscaper, someone to choose which flowers and colors, someone to do the digging and actual planting, and someone to water. The family can enjoy the beauty of these flowers together for weeks to come.
4. Take a walk through history—literally, and go to a Renaissance Festival. If you have never been, they are amazing. My parents took my brother and I a handful of times during our childhood and I loved every moment of it. We always went to one in Pennsylvania, but almost every state has them so look for one in an area near you. Entry fees will vary, but generally are fairly cheap. But make sure to go with a some spending money—there are so many good foods to taste and fun souvenirs to bring back home! For those in the DE-MD-PA-NJ region I'd recommend the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. Check it out here: [http://www.renfaire.com/Sites/site\\_format.cgi?db\\_id=90](http://www.renfaire.com/Sites/site_format.cgi?db_id=90)
5. Since September marks the beginning of the "off-season" take a trip to someplace that is normally super-crowded in the peak summer hours. Everything from parking to hotels is cheaper. (But if you wait even longer, the deals get even better).

### **Five ways to get your kids to read**

September is actually Read–A–New–Book Month and since it is also start of the school year the two go together perfectly. Here are ways to help your reluctant reader start to love to read.

1. Make sure the book is at their reading level. If your child is reading books that are too hard or too easy for them...it becomes frustrating or boring. And sometimes even though you might

have a 6th grader, they might need to read at a 5th grade level. And that's okay, as long as they are reading.

2. Let them find a genre they really like. It might be mystery, it might be fantasy, or it might be cookbooks. Everyone is different. If they've yet to discover what they like, give them some of your old favorites to help them decide.
3. Make it fun. Let them get library cards and have special library days. Relating books to real life works great. If they're reading about animals, a trip to the zoo is a great follow-up.
4. Movie days! So many books have now been made into movies, so after reading a book, reward them with watching the movie together. Discuss the similarities and differences between the two and which one was better.
5. Bring their friends into it. Books like *The Babysitters Club* are great for girls 7–12, (and were a personal favorite of mine). Let the girls have their own little book club; they can meet once a week and talk about the book, have lunch, and enjoy their time.

Blessings,  
Nicole Nadler

\*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.

### **Available Now!**

Our newest products to complement *The Mystery of History* 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 [Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#) are on the website. Cards for volume 3 are being written. A fabulous digital download deal at \$14.95 for each volume.

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!

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!

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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? Just need a laugh or little encouragement? Then visit [www.brightideaspress.com](http://www.brightideaspress.com) and click on **Blog** at the top. It's a fun place to get great ideas!

Happy Trails,

Maggie Hogan and The Bright Ideas Press Team!

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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/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)

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<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)