

## Possible enrichment and independent study activities

Lang. Arts	Soc. St.	Science	Math	Real world	Critical Thinking	Activity
x			x		x	Explore and practice verbal or non-verbal analogies
x	x	x	x	x	x	Work on vocabulary building
x		x				Play word games (Scrabble, Boggle—something besides hangman) (ok, play hangman using only science vocabulary)
x	x	x	x		x	Try poetry writing in any content area (look for patterns or templates for specific forms of poetry, like cinquains, diamantes, haiku, etc.) Publish the poems!
x	x	x	x	x	x	Research areas of interest and write a summary of the research (or do a poster or write a skit or do a multimedia presentation or ...)
x	x		x		x	Have students read different novels or historical novels and discuss similarities in characters, plots, or... , and then make an online comparison chart or graph
x	x	x				Find and read myths or legends that relate to current science or social studies topics
x	x	x	x	x		Do a photo journal to bring attention to a need in the school or community
x	x	x			x	Do artwork that relates to a poem or book you are reading (not just “draw a picture”— consider costume design, advertising poster, book cover, map, write a song about the main character)
x	x	x	x	x	x	Write/publish a class newspaper (include advice column, science experiment, math puzzle of the day, comics, movie or book reviews, etc. Appoint editors to proofread.)
	x	x		x	x	Have a debate on a topic in the news (have teams do the research for both points of view)
x	x	x				Have students write a children’s book (or create a multimedia presentation or write an e-book) on a current science or social studies topic
x						Learn calligraphy (great for improving handwriting skills!); design a new font
x	x	x	x			Research different kinds of codes and ciphers, have students write messages about science or social studies concepts in code to each other (great for improving spelling!)
x	x				x	Write a familiar story from a different point of view (like Three Little Pigs from the wolf’s point of view); or retell history from a different point of view
x	x	x	x			Learn/teach some cool and creative bookbinding techniques, then create a book for any content area
x	x	x	x		x	Write, direct, act, produce a play explaining a concept you are learning about, then videotape or film it and make a movie
x	x	x				Pick one time period or topic (westward expansion, revolutionary war, ancient Egypt, etc.) and have each student do the research to become an “expert” in one part of that (what were the foods, clothes, science discoveries, music, transportation, games, political issues during that time?)
x	x	x	x		x	Create a board game to support a curriculum topic – write clear rules for playing the game
x	x	x				Write postcards home explaining what imaginary but realistic adventures you had exploring the rainforest, savannah, or other ecosystem (or country or time period)

	x				x	Design a theme park with rides to teach about Rome or Greece or... Make a model.
			x		x	Learn the mathematical strategies behind NIM games, then create your own
		x	x			Research the structure of crystals and then make mathematical models of them (templates are available on the internet)
			x			Create a mobile with mathematical models of geometric solids (templates available on the internet)
x	x	x	x	x	x	Do action research (or take a poll or survey) and graph the results using different types of graphs
x	x	x	x	x	x	Create an advertising campaign to support a topic of choice
x	x	x	x	x	x	Create a public service message (video or print or online)
		x	x		x	Learn a new concept in math (Fibonacci numbers, pi, mobius strips, fractals, radial symmetry, tessellations, non-Euclidian geometry) and then find out how that concept connects to science
	x					Find (or print) an old map, mount it on light cardboard or posterboard, then cut it out and turn it into a jigsaw puzzle (try Europe, Africa, US, etc.)
	x		x	x	x	Plan a one week trip. What sights will you see? How will you travel? How much will it cost? How many miles will you travel?
				x	x	Design a new school. How will it be the same and different from your current school? Why do you think you will learn more in your new school?
			x			Write your age and birth year in as many number systems as you can find. (Binary? Mayan? Roman numerals?) Explain why you choose your favorite.
					x	Invent a machine or device that can help you solve a problem (losing your shoes, forgetting your homework,...)
x	x	x	x		x	Create your own word search or crossword puzzle for a specific content topic. Have a friend solve it.
x	x	x	x		x	Create a PowerPoint or Keynote presentation or slideshow explaining a topic or concept in any content area. Post in on your school web site.
	x					Create a video news broadcast of an important historical event
	x	x	x			Write a song to help students remember important facts, dates, etc. To make it easier, start with a familiar tune and change the words.
x	x	x	x		x	Design a certificate of appreciation for a historical or scientific figure. Explain why that person deserves the recognition.
	x			x	x	Determine a need in the community. Research ways to solve the need, then implement community service project to meet the need.
x	x			x	x	Create a web site or page that provides important information to the community.
		x			x	Look for examples of art in science, or science in art. Make an artistic and creative model relating to your current science unit.
x	x	x	x		x	Create your own dictionary using content (science/social studies/math) words. Be sure to include the word, definition, visual, and an antonym or synonym. Use technology to share it and allow other students to include additional words.
x	x	x	x		x	Using a picture of a starry night, create your own constellation that relates to a content area you are studying. Draw your constellation, name it, and write a myth on "How it came to be..."
x	x	x	x	x	x	Be an inventor. Use the SCAMPER strategy to create a "new" animal, insect, tree, machine, planet, city, car, or... Substitute Combine

						<b>Adjust or adapt</b> <b>Modify</b> <b>Put to a new use</b> <b>Eliminate</b> <b>Rearrange or reverse</b>
x		x			x	“Find” an undiscovered animal or plant or sea creature. Describe its physical characteristics, attributes, habitat, and food web. Then draw a picture, or place the animal in a diorama, or create a digital image of it.
x	x	x			x	Change history. Write a “what if” story to explain what could have happened if events in history had unfolded differently, or if scientists had not made a particular discovery, or if the main character in a novel/story had made a different choice.
x	x	x	x		x	Draw a cartoon or comic strip or comic book to explain a concept you learned in math, science, or social studies.
	x	x	x	x	x	Develop a new <b>active</b> game to play that incorporates a concept you learned in math, science, or social studies. Teach it to your PE teacher.
x	x	x	x		x	Choreograph a dance to interpret a concept you learned in any content area. Videotape it.
x		x		x	x	Help your school “go green.” Look for ways your school can conserve water or electricity, or reduce waste. Create a multimedia presentation or write a report to share your findings.
		x		x		Do a natural history survey of your school. Find and identify as many kinds of insects, spiders, trees, or birds as you can.
x	x			x	x	Research the symbolism of flags or coats of arms. Create your own coat of arms, or your own special flag.
x	x	x		x	x	Make an alphabet book for something you are studying or are interested in (Hampton History: A is for Aberdeen...) (Virginia Studies: A is for Appomattox...)
x	x	x		x	x	Take a digital photo of yourself, then use a drawing program/app to put yourself somewhere else (draw a Civil War uniform on you, draw on diving gear and explore a coral reef, send yourself on the space shuttle...) Write a story or autobiography to go with your new adventure.
			x	x	x	Start a “did you know” blog. Use the power of math and a calculator to determine approximately how many bricks were used to build your school, how many holes are in a ceiling tile, the height of your school’s tallest tree, etc.
			x	x	x	Start a math sketchbook. Use only a ruler and a compass to draw a picture; learn about op art; learn to draw cubes, prisms, or other mathematical solids, etc.
x		x			x	Make a creative “recipe” book. Have recipes for a good school, a healthy bay, friendship... [Stir it all together and season it with a generous amount of humor!]
	x	x	x		x	Make stick puppets to explain a topic in a content area.
		x		x	x	Try one of the NASA sci files projects. Great stuff on lots of topics!!

Give students choices!