

Summer Work for 8th Graders

Language Arts

Read at least one fiction and one non-fiction book this summer. Every time you complete a book, send a postcard to Ms. Clarke at 659 Beverly Drive, Lake Wales, FL 33853. AND, choose from one of the following to share at school, about your thinking and experience as you read.

Explain in writing, a video, or a podcast:

- how the book made you think about the world a little bit differently.
- what big ideas or themes the author is sharing through their work.
- how you connected this book to your own experience.
- what objects in the book were heavy with more than everyday meaning and symbolized the theme or an important value in the book.
- what cool crafty skills does the author have as a writer that add to the experience of reading the book?

Math

Complete ONE of the following math challenges:

Complete pages 9-72 in the [review packet](#) so that you add to your long term understanding.

Master 25% of 8th Grade Math in Khan Academy.

Create a math video of your own on any topic in 8th grade math (use Khan Academy as a reference to see the list of 8th grade math topics), that is way more interesting and informative than a Khan Academy video.

Natural World

Take a look at the [periodic table](#). Add a comment here, with your name and the element you chose, so that no-one does the same element.

Create 6 10x10cm pieces of cardstock or cardboard. Label them 1-6 on the back. Use the chart below to add information to each piece of paper about your element. When you are done, join your pieces to create a cube. Be prepared to bring your cube to the first day of school to build our class periodic table.

1st piece: Name of Element Atomic Number Atomic Mass	2nd Piece Number of Protons in the Nucleus Number of Electrons Number of Neutrons	3rd Piece Write Solid, Liquid or Gas depending on whether it is a solid, liquid or gas at room temperature.
4th piece Pictures and sentences explaining how the element is used.	5th Piece A picture of an atom of this element.	6th Piece A limerick about this element.

Personal Reflection

[Listen to this podcast](#). Read along on the page as you listen. (Trust me, listening to people read is still the easiest and only proven way, to become a fabulous reader.) Choose one new skill to add to your repertoire this summer. Previous students have chosen card-shuffling, surfing, singing, collecting fossils, identifying trees, classifying clouds, and sewing. Choose your own thing. Keep a journal of your efforts. Be prepared to participate in show off your new skill and share your journal on the first day of school.

Social World

You have three assignments. You can find [more info and examples on this link](#).

a. Brainstorm History Research Topics (1 hour)

- i. Read the [National History Day 2017 Theme Paper on THIS LINK](#).
 - ii. Make a list of five or more possible **American History** topics with a short explanation of why you are interested in each and how it fits the theme of "Taking a Stand". Please stick to American History topics. Example (Don't use my examples, though...find your own!!)
- Branch Rickey and the Brooklyn Dodgers took a stand in desegregating American Major League Baseball when they signed Jackie Robinson as the first black player to cross the color line. I am interested in this because I am interested in baseball and also in civil rights.

b. Review of a History Documentary (1-2 hours)

- i. Watch one or more History Channel videos (must be at least an hour long from a reputable producer) on one of the following topics: Colonization, Exploration, Age of Industry/Industrial Revolution, Progressive Age, Great Depression, Justice/Injustice, War, Foreign Relations. (You can check these out of the library if you don't have cable or watch on Netflix or Youtube.)
- ii. After watching, write a grammatically correct documentary movie review with three or more paragraphs. You are welcome to watch more than one video, however you only have to do a review on one of them. In fact, watching many videos will give you a great background for our classroom discussions, and can make a wonderful family learning experience. [\(See directions\)](#)

c. Create an American History Artwork (1-? hours)

- i. Fish around Gilder Lehrman History website. Look over their pages on [National History Day](#) and read through their [Reference Guides](#). Take notes if it helps you!
- ii. Create an artwork of your choosing (it can be anything- detailed drawings, a comic strip, a short film, a short story, a mural or painting, a watercolor, a podcast, a song or a rap, a sculpture or diorama, etc.) that depicts one time period in history that is interesting to you. Make sure that your artwork uses specific details (names, accurate physical characteristics, etc.), but have fun and be creative with this. It can take anywhere from an hour to as much time as you want, depending on how into the project you get. My hope is that I get to see some of your interests and creativity.