

## Meandering Family Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools

### 2014-2015 (4th Grade, September-June)

#### **Math:**

- 4th Grade Math Interactive Notebooks, Common Core by Mrs Rojas Teaches ([www.mrsrojasteaches.com](http://www.mrsrojasteaches.com))
- \*\*Geometry project called GEOMETROCITY: Create & Build a City Made of Math Using Geometry
- \*\*Graphing and data math project called Under the Big Top: a real world graphing and data math project. This is a 12-page graphing and data math project with a fun and engaging carnival theme.
- Money skills: converting various currencies and using allowance to purchase items in various countries
- Khan Academy video lessons and quizzes related to 4th Grade Math topics
- BrainPop: video lessons, games and quizzes related to Numbers & Operations: Numbers and their meanings; and how to work with them
- Hooda Math Online and iPad App (Math games that review essential math concepts like integers, coordinate pairs, and telling time in an engaging way.)
- Success With Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication & Division workbook
- Minecraft to focus on multiplication and division, estimation, geometry, and problem solving
- Mathboard iPad App (arithmetic)
- Mathboard iPad App (fractions)
- Operation Math iPad App (Defeat Dr. Odd and earn the latest spy gear in the award-winning game that transforms math drills into a global learning adventure. From the streets of Paris to the pyramids of Egypt, Operation Math includes more than 100 timed missions that help players learn addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.)
- Multiplication Acorns iPad App (Multiplying Acorns is a fun and engaging way to learn multiplication. It provides real-life manipulatives for hands-on learning to help your child

## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

memorize their times tables.)

- SumStacker iPad App (The mathematical puzzle allows users to play with different representations of numbers, while developing their number sense to create strategies to help them solve problems.)
- Hungry Fish iPad App (Feed your fish and play with numbers! Practice mental addition and subtraction with Motion Math: Hungry Fish, a delightful learning game that's fun for children and grownups.)
- NumbrsLeague iPad App (In Numbers League, clever use of basic math skills will save the day. The more you play the sharper these skills will become until no villain is safe from your numerical onslaught.)

#### **Daily Silent Sustained Reading:**

- Wednesdays in the Tower (Castle Glower series Book 2) by Jessica Day George
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
- The Copernicus Legacy: The Forbidden Stone by Tony Abbott
- Call of the Wild by Jack London
- Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
- Who Was Ben Franklin? by Dennis Brindell Fradin
- The Cabinet of Wonders: The Kronos Chronicles: Book I by Marie Rutkoski
- Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes by Jonathan Auxier
- The Luck Uglies by Paul Durham
- Sidekicked by John David Anderson
- Chains (Seeds of America Book 1) by Laurie Halse Anderson
- Brainwashed (Crime Travelers Book 1) by Paul Aertker
- Harry Potter: The Sorcerer's Stone by J. K. Rowling
- Harry Potter: The Chamber of Secrets by J. K. Rowling
- Harry Potter: Prisoner of Azkaban by J. K. Rowling
- Harry Potter: The Goblet of Fire by J. K. Rowling
- When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
- Goblin Secrets by William Alexander
- \*\*An Illustrated Book of Bad Arguments by Ali Almosawi
- \*\*The Fallacy Detective: Thirty-Eight Lessons on How to Recognize Bad Reasoning

## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

#### **Family Storytime:**

- Seven Wonders Book 1: The Colossus Rises
- Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare
- Artemis Fowl (Artemis Fowl, Book One) by Eoin Colfer
- A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
- Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- The Thief (The Queen's Thief Book 1) by Megan Whalen Turner
- Wonderful Wizard of Oz by Lyman Frank Baum
- The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma by Trenton Lee Stewart
- The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict by Trenton Lee Stewart
- The Bobbsey Twins by Laura Lee Hope
- Moonfleet by J. Meade Falkner

#### **Language Arts:**

- Interactive Writing Notebook, Grades 3-8, Common Core by Erin Cobb ([imlovinit.com](http://imlovinit.com))
- 5 paragraph Persuasive Writing assignment (why parent should play with their kids)
- Biography of Mark Crilley (research, writing process, penmanship)
- Discussed setting, point of view/voice, characters, genre, symbolism, imagery as related to The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma by Trenton Lee Stewart
- Used 10 different Pixar Short Films to discuss 6 parts of a story
- Written Review of Minecraft
- Assignments from Comprehension: Strategies for Success
- Assignments from Success With Writing workbook
- LearnZillion.com lessons for 4th Grade
- Various lessons and assignments to build note-taking skills
- Various lessons and assignments for summarization skills
- Research and biography assignment on Pablo Picasso
- Creative writing assignment about a kid that meets Pablo Picasso
- Writing assignment: news article on Pablo Picasso
- BrainPop: 2 weeks of videos, games and quizzes to build critical reasoning skills
- Creative writing using Storybird.com (Storybirds are short, art-

## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

inspired stories you make to share, read, and print. It is a fun, collaborative, storytelling website.)

- Spelling
- Chicktionary iPad game (scrambled words spelling puzzle)
- Grammaropolis.com
- BrainPop: various videos, quizzes, and games on English/language art topics appropriate to 4th grade requirements
- Grammar Pop iPad app (Match words with parts-of-speech to pop clouds and progress from nouns and verbs to gerunds and participles.)
- Assignments from Thinking Writers Handbook: Writing tips, tricks and skills
- Assignments from Light on Lit: Selected Poems, Short Stories, and Drama (Form 2)
- Assignments from in Transitional Cursive workbook

#### **Science:**

- Visited London's Natural History Museum and viewed the dinosaur exhibit as well as The Cocoon in the Darwin Center, an interactive learning space that lets visitors gain insight into the scientific and research activities taking place at the museum, particularly in Entomology
- El Museu Blau (AKA the Blue Museum) is a natural science museum with 3,500 exhibits about the evolution of life and the planet of Barcelona.
- The CosmoCaixa is one of the most famous science museums in Europe, is one of the largest museums in Barcelona. It features a mini Amazon rain forest, planetarium and an abundance of interactive exhibits and activities for children.
- Viewed a full lunar eclipse while in Cambodia
- Science Friday podcast
- Periodic Videos is a series of chemistry videos produced by the University of Nottingham Chemistry Department
- Sixty Symbols is a series of popular science videos created by the University of Nottingham. The videos describe the various symbols used in physics and astronomy.
- BrainPop videos
- BrainPop: Ninja Kitchen (health and food safety)

## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

- SciShow (a series of science-related videos on YouTube)
- Sci-Q (kids TV show similar to Popular Mechanics For Kids)
- Solar Walk iPad App (This award winning educational tool is a 3D solar system model lets you navigate between planets, see their positions on a specific date, explore how they move and why.)
- Big Ideas (Science Form 1: Activity Book and Reference Text)
- Science in Comics, Volume 1 (scientific principles of light, waves, and force)

#### **Social Studies:**

- US History timeline - created notecards with historical events and dates on them and then placed them in order to create a timeline to help get a sense of chronology and context when discussing history or watching shows/documentaries
- How the States Got their Shapes - How the States Got Their Shapes is a television series that airs on the History channel. It is hosted by Brian Unger and is based on Mark Stein's book, How the States Got Their Shapes. The show deals with how the various states of the United States established their borders but also delves into other aspects of U.S. history, including failed states, proposed new states, and the local culture and character of various US states. It thus deals with the "shapes" of the states in a metaphorical sense as well as a literal sense.
- Crash Course History - Crash Course is an educational YouTube channel. Watched videos related to Colonizing America, Native Americans and the English, Colonial America, Declaration of Independence, and Revolutionary War.
- Read Who Was Ben Franklin? by Dennis Brindell Fradin
- Watched documentary on Thomas Jefferson
- iPad game called Valiant Hearts.  
Part history lesson, part action, part puzzler, all wrapped inside a sincere and emotional story that builds skills, historical knowledge, and empathy.
- Horrible History of the World by Terry Deary
- Visited Siem Reap, Cambodia for 2 weeks (exposure to new type of architecture, food, transportation, holidays, religions,

## **Meandering Family Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

- language, shopping experiences, currency, government, ecosystems, etc)
- Visited Angkor Wat temple and several surrounding temples
  - Visited the British Museum and participated in some of the kids educational Activity Backpacks (Jobs in Roman Britain and Egyptian Mummy)
  - Rented an apartment in London for a week
  - Walked London's Jubilee Walkway, through the core of the city viewing all of the famous monuments and landmarks, at an English Breakfast at a pub
  - Lived in Rovinj, Croatia for 1 month (exposure to new type of architecture, food, transportation, holidays, religions, language, shopping experiences, currency, government, ecosystems, etc)
  - Visited Pula, Croatia - a town known for its many Roman ruins, including the 6th largest surviving Roman amphitheater in the world
  - An overnight trip to Venice, Italy to view its unique architecture and explore on foot, we took a water taxi and a ferry in the Grand Canal and stayed in a hotel just off of St. Mark's Square
  - Lived in Budapest, Hungary for 1 month (exposure to new type of architecture, food, transportation, holidays, religions, language, shopping experiences, currency, government, ecosystems, etc)
  - Visited the Budapest History Museum
  - Visited Budapest's WWII memorial, The Shoes on the Danube Bank
  - Visited the labyrinth below Buda Castle in Budapest and viewed where Vlad Tepes, better known as Count Dracula, was held as a prisoner for 10 years
  - Lived in Avignon, France for 1 month (exposure to new type of architecture, food, transportation, holidays, religions, language, shopping experiences, currency, government, ecosystems, etc)
  - Walked on and learned about the famous Pont d'Avignon, which was completed in 1185. Rented an interactive iPad guide that provides a 3D augmented reality of the bridge and its landscape in the fourteenth century.

## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

- Visited and toured the Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes) in Avignon, which Pope Clement V chose as the seat of the papacy in 1309. Avignon continued to served as the home of six successive popes until 1376.
- Visited Carcassonne (UNESCO world heritage site because it is an exceptional example of a medieval fortified town)
- Lived in Barcelona, Spain for 1 month (exposure to new type of architecture, food, transportation, holidays, religions, language, shopping experiences, currency, government, ecosystems, etc)
- Participated in Santa Eulàlia Festival, celebration for Barcelona's patron saint and Barcelona's biggest festival. Events included parades of the giants, famous Catalan human towers/castles, and folk dancing.
- Spent many hours exploring Barcelona's Gothic Quarter, including Barcelona Cathedral (La Seu), located on the site of a Roman temple. Construction on the current cathedral began in 1298 AD.
- Visited Mexico City for 2 days
- Lived in San Miguel de Allende for 4 months (exposure to new type of architecture, food, transportation, holidays, religions, language, shopping experiences, currency, government, ecosystems, etc)
- 1 month 4-hours daily Spanish classes
- Spanish lessons with private tutor
- Assisted with English classes for ESL students in Mexico
- Attended San Miguel's festival of El Senor de la Conquista, Lord of the Conquest. This is a celebration of Christ the conquerer rather than Spain the conquerer. With the conquest came Christianity and they are celebrating the conversion to Christianity. It's celebrated with Aztec costume, dancing, and music. Just as those that had converted probably would have honored their new Lord.

#### **Art/Music:**

- Sketching and drawing
- Watched videos about Rembrandt
- Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Painting exhibit at the

## **Meandering Family Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

Budapest Fine Arts Museum

- Picasso Museum in Barcelona
- Viewed famous Gaudí architecture including Park Güell, Sagrada Familia, Casa Batlló
- Art exhibit in Mexico City, 4 centuries of Mexican art
- 1 month of hands-on Mexican arts and crafts projects
- Learned to sing many Mexican folk songs
- 1 month electronic music classes using Reason, professional quality digital audio workstation for creating and editing music and audio
- Minecraft to focus on creativity, imagination, problem solving, and the art of design
- City: A Story of Roman Planning and Construction by David Macaulay

### **2014-2014 (4th Grade, Summer School, June-September)**

#### **Language Arts:**

- Writing Assignment: character development with comic book creation Max & Zoro
- Writing Assignment: creative writing (Ape and Monkey)
- BrainPop: various videos, quizzes, and games on English/language art topics appropriate to 4th grade requirements

#### **Math:**

- Success With Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication & Division workbook
- Khan Academy video lessons and quizzes related to 4th Grade Math topics
- Minecraft to focus on multiplication and division, estimation, geometry, and problem solving
- Mathboard iPad App (arithmetic)
- Mathboard iPad App (fractions)
- Operation Math iPad App (Defeat Dr. Odd and earn the latest spy gear in the award-winning game that transforms math drills into a global learning adventure. From the streets of Paris to



## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

- the pyramids of Egypt, Operation Math includes more than 100 timed missions that help players learn addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.)
- Multiplication Acorns iPad App (Multiplying Acorns is a fun and engaging way to learn multiplication. It provides real-life manipulatives for hands-on learning to help your child memorize their times tables.)
  - SumStacker iPad App (The mathematical puzzle allows users to play with different representations of numbers, while developing their number sense to create strategies to help them solve problems.)
  - Hungry Fish iPad App (Feed your fish and play with numbers! Practice mental addition and subtraction with Motion Math: Hungry Fish, a delightful learning game that's fun for children and grownups.)
  - NumbrsLeague iPad App (In Numbers League, clever use of basic math skills will save the day. The more you play the sharper these skills will become until no villain is safe from your numerical onslaught.)

#### **Daily Silent Sustained Reading:**

- The Secret Zoo: Secrets and Shadows by Bryan Chick
- Flight of the Phoenix (Nathaniel Fludd, Beastologist, Book 1) by R,L. LaFevers
- Pickle Impossible by Eli Stutz
- The Genius Files: Mission Unstoppable by Dan Gutman

#### **Family Storytime:**

- The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo
- The Magic of Finkelton by K.C. Hilton
- The Sea Monsters (Percy Jackson and the Olympians) by Rick Riordan
- Chasing the Prophecy (Beyonders) by Brandon Mull
- The False Prince: Book 1 of the Ascendance Trilogy by Jennifer A. Nielsen
- The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey by Trenton Lee Stewart

## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

#### **Science:**

- The Elements iPad App (The Elements is not just a reference app, it is a rich and engaging love story of the periodic table, told in words and pictures, and allowing you to experience the beauty and fascination of the building blocks of our universe in a way you've never seen before. )
- Solar Walk iPad App (This award winning educational tool is a 3D solar system model lets you navigate between planets, see their positions on a specific date, explore how they move and why.)
- POMT iPad App (Powers of Minus Ten lets you zoom in to explore human cells and molecules! Discover some of the basic concepts in biology and learn about the structures of a few of the key cells, proteins, and molecules found in our bodies.)
- Visiting Langkawi Island in Malaysia. This was the Southeast Asia's first UNESCO Geopark. Chosen for its stunning natural beauty, geologic wonders, and ecological harmony.
- Riding cable car up Mount Machincang, Langkawi's second highest peak, to an observation deck at 1100m above sea level.
- Guided tour of the Coral Nursery at The Andaman Resort on Langkawi Island.
- Participated in guided nature walks in the rainforest on Langkawi Island. We came across some sleeping fruit bats and the world's only known gliding primate, called a Colugo
- Visited the Spice Garden in Penang, Malaysia

#### **Social Studies:**

- News-O-Matic iPad App (news for kids)
- Stack the States iPad App (US Geography)
- Geography Drive iPad App (US Geography)
- Visited Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam for 1 week (exposure to new type of architecture, food, transportation, holidays, religions, language, shopping experiences, currency, government, ecosystems, etc)
- Visited Chinese Buddhist/Taoist in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam with

## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

local friends

- Visited local recreational park in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam with local friends
- Took market tour in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Took cooking class in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Went to several meals in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam with local people that we met
- Was invited to Karaoke in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam with local people that we met
- Living in Penang, Malaysia for 3 months (exposure to new type of architecture, food, transportation, holidays, religions, language, shopping experiences, currency, government, ecosystems, etc)
- Attending the Hungry Ghost Festival (Chinese Buddhist/Taoist)
- Attending the Tua Pek Kong Festival (Taoist God of Prosperity)
- Visited 3 Chinese Buddhist/Taoist temples in Penang, Malaysia
- Visiting 3 Chinese Buddhist/Taoist cave temples in Ipoh, Malaysia
- Experienced Ramadan in a Muslim country
- Visited oldest mosque in Penang, Malaysia
- Visited an open house at the Lebuah Acheh Interpretation Center to view a gallery and a demonstration devoted to Islamic Calligraphy
- Participated in a guided tour of Penang's Tropical Spice Garden, which offered information about various spices/herbs, their uses, and interesting facts about the Spice Trade and how it helped shape history
- Visited Fort Cornwallis in Penang
- Participated in the Chinese Mid-Autumn festival, more commonly referred to as the Mooncake festival or Lantern festival in Penang. We were invited to do the 'Night Lantern Walk' with some local families.

#### **Art:**

- Participating in Urban Sketchers Penang and Sketching Georgetown Event
- Participating in Georgetown Heritage Celebration
- Attending a Chinese Opera in Penang

## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

- Took an art class on Malaysian batik painting
- Visited the Batik Painting Museum Penang
- Attended a graffiti exhibit at the Hin Bus Depot Art Centre & met the artist
- Viewed many pieces of street art, for which Georgetown, Penang is famous
- Minecraft to focus on creativity, imagination, problem solving, and the art of design
- Daily free sketching and drawing

### **2013-2014 (3rd Grade, March-June)**

#### **Math:**

- Khan Academy video lessons and quizzes related to 3rd Grade Math topics
- Mathboard App, arithmetic and fractions
- Minecraft to focus on multiplication and division, estimation, geometry, and problem solving

#### **Language Arts:**

- Grammaropolis.com
- Research report on Asian Elephants
- Book reports and book cover designs: Jinx, FBP
- Book report as a comic strip for Theodosia
- Writing Assignment: interview Jamie Brennan
- Writing Assignment: How to put on a shirt (step by step)
- Pen pal letters
- Creative writing
- Spelling words
- BrainPop: various videos, quizzes, and games on English/language art topics appropriate to 4th grade requirements

#### **Daily Silent Sustained Reading:**

- Jinx by Sage Blackwood
- Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos by R. L. LaFevers
- Marvel 1602 by Neil Gaiman
- FBP: Federal Bureau of Physics Vol. 1: The Paradigm Shift by Simon Oliver

## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

- The Apothecary by Maile Meloy
- The Secret Zoo by Bryan Chick
- The Indispensable Calvin and Hobbes: A Calvin and Hobbes.. by Bill Watterson
- The Authoritative Calvin and Hobbes: A Calvin and Hobbes.. by Bill Watterson
- The Essential Calvin and Hobbes: A Calvin and Hobbes.. by Bill Watterson

#### **Family Storytime:**

- Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
- The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
- Word After Word After Word by Patricia MacLachlan
- Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo
- The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
- Huckleberry Fin by Mark Twain
- Raider's Ransom by Emily Diamand

#### **Art:**

- Daily free sketching and drawing
- Mastering Manga by Mark Crilley
- Mastering Manga 2 by Mark Crilley
- Art lesson in Chiang Mai, Thailand
- How-To Draw videos on YouTube
- Minecraft to focus on creativity, imagination, problem solving, and the art of design
- Visiting 3D Art Museum in Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Visiting Lanna Folk Art Museum in Chiang Mai, Thailand

#### **Social Studies:**

- Time Team America - Time Team America is a science-reality series produced by PBS that sends archaeologists on a race against time to excavate historic sites around the nation.
- How the States Got their Shapes - How the States Got Their Shapes is a television series that airs on the History channel. It is hosted by Brian Unger and is based on Mark Stein's book, How the States Got Their Shapes. The show deals with how

## **Meandering Family**

### **Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

the various states of the United States established their borders but also delves into other aspects of U.S. history, including failed states, proposed new states, and the local culture and character of various US states. It thus deals with the "shapes" of the states in a metaphorical sense as well as a literal sense.

- Liberty Kids - Liberty's Kids is an animated educational historical fiction television series produced by DIC Entertainment, originally broadcast on PBS Kids. Its purpose is to teach its audience about the origins of the United States of America.
- Crash Course History - Crash Course is an educational YouTube channel. Watched videos related to Colonizing America, Native Americans and the English, Colonial America, Declaration of Independence, and Revolutionary War.
- Living in Chaing Mai, Thailand for 3 months (exposure to new type of architecture, food, transportation, holidays, religions, language, shopping experiences, currency, government, ecosystems, etc)
- Visiting Chiang Mai City Arts and Culture Museum in Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Visiting 10+ Buddhist temples in Chiang Mai, Thailand (art, architecture, religious art, Asian art)
- 1 month of private Thai language lessons
- Took a Thai cooking class in Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Participated in the 3-day Songkran water festival in Chiang Mai, Thailand

#### **Science:**

- Spending the day at an elephant sanctuary - learning about elephants as well as riding, feeding, and bathing one
- Exposure to Tropical ecosystem (heat, humidity, cooling methods, flora, fauna, foods, architecture, etc)
- Visit to Royal Park Rajapruek (botanical garden) with 200 acres of and 2800 different plant species
- Extensive zip lining excursion with 26 platform stations through the jungle in the countryside around Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Visiting the World Museum of Insects and Natural Wonders in Chiang Mai, Thailand - run by Dr Rampa Rattanarithikul, a

## **Meandering Family Homeschool Records - Classes, Resources and Tools**

world leader in mosquito research, having identified or discovered and catalogued 459 species of mosquito, and contributing nearly half of the Smithsonian Institution's collection.

- Visiting the Chiang Mai aquarium
- Visiting the Chiang Mai zoo
- Visiting 7 beaches on Koh Samui Island in Thailand and discussing the ecology and geology with his father who is a Registered Geologist