



HOMESCHOOLING RESOURCES

Sheltering at home with school aged children presents several scholastic challenges. Schools are providing some resources to keep their students engaged in their education. Parents also have a wonderful opportunity to continue their child's education based upon their personal knowledge of their child's unique gifts.

The following resources are offered to help parents discover the many valuable resources offered free of charge.

Smithsonian

- The **Smithsonian** has launched a [central portal](#) highlighting an array of distance learning resources, from [STEM webcasts](#) to [American history podcasts](#) and comprehensive [lesson plans](#). Offerings range from low- or no-tech (interviewing family members for [oral history projects](#)) to high-tech (diving into an [interactive exploration module](#)).

CHOC Children

Online learning

- The Orange County Department of Education has created a [roundup of free resources](#) to help students supplement other materials that are being provided by their teachers.
- OCDE also has a complete list of school districts providing grab-and-go meals at campuses across Orange County. [See the full list here.](#)
- Many educational companies are offering free subscriptions in light of school closures. [Here's a guide.](#)
- Scholastic offers [day-by-day projects](#) to keep kids reading, thinking and growing.
- PBS SoCal | KCET, in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District and in collaboration with California PBS stations, are offering broadcast programming and accompanying digital resources that adhere to California's state curriculum. [Learn more here.](#)
- Budding scientists can access [Nova Labs at PBS](#), for video, animation and games on scientific topics like predicting solar storms and constructing renewable energy systems.
- NASA's [Teachable Moments](#), offers a range of activities and lessons for grades K-12.
- NASA's Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex has educational and fun [Facebook videos](#) where kids can learn from astronauts and other educators. For activities, [instructions are available as free downloads.](#)



Story time

- [Here's a list of podcasts](#) — featuring stories, meditation, music and more — for ages 2 through 6.
- Celebrities are taking to social media to read children's books to little ones staying home during this time. The Los Angeles Times curated [this roundup](#) of these posts.
- Audible, which has the world's largest collection of audio books, is offering free stories — in six different languages — for kids as long as schools are closed. [Start listening here.](#)
- [Here's a list of authors](#) doing read-alouds of their famous books, as well as books by *their* favorite authors.

Virtual field trips

- Google Arts & Culture has partnered with thousands of museums around the world to offer virtual tours from the comfort of your home. [Here's the complete list.](#)
- The San Diego Zoo offers [10 different webcams](#) so animal lovers can keep up with a variety of their favorite creatures.
- The Monterey Bay Aquarium also offers [10 different webcams](#) for families to experience underwater life from anywhere.

Cook with your kids

- CHOC nutrition experts have curated some of their [favorite recipes](#) and offer tips for how to get kids involved in the kitchen. “Children as young as 2 years old can help out in the kitchen. You can have your child wash fruits and vegetables or stir ingredients,” Shonda Brown, CHOC clinical dietitian, says. “Children are more open to trying new foods if they have opportunities to explore and learn about the food before they eat it.”

Other activities

- The Kennedy Center's artist-in-residence is offering “Lunch Doodles” where budding artists can visit his studio virtually once a day to doodle, draw or explore new ways of writing. New episodes are posted each weekday at 1 p.m. [Learn more.](#)

This article was last updated on March 20, 2020 by [Children's Hospital of Orange County.](#)

Hillsdale College

A Hillsdale special three-week FREE study session. “The Great American Story: A Land of Hope.” Taught by historian Wilfred M. McClay, this course examines the story of America as a land of hope.



Those who enroll in this special study session will receive a syllabus that organizes the course into twelve lessons, as well as regular communications to foster discussion on the key themes of the course.

It begins on Monday. To enroll, click on the link below.

<https://www.hillsdale.edu/ushistory>

State Scholastic Testing

Helping Students Adversely Affected by School Closures, Secretary DeVos Announces Broad Flexibilities for States to Cancel Testing During National Emergency | U.S. Department of Education. [Read the article.](#)

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