

The BEST Vacation EVER

A Lesson on Vacationing that Travels with You

Overview: What better way to get the whole family involved and even keep them entertained while traveling than to let everyone be a part of the planning, initiation, and execution of a family vacation? Use the charts provided to create a vacation scrapbook. Creativity has no limit with this one. Also, atlases, geographical resources, etc. can be used to determine answers. Parents can make this into a game with incentives. This can also be used in the classroom where budgets and possible vacation destinations are provided and assigned. The students will have to research to find the vacation that will fit their budget and interests.

Objectives:

Students will read to obtain information and for various purposes.

Students will research various sites to compare details.

Students will observe and document their findings.

Students will learn various geographical regions of the world and their features and details.

Students will draw conclusions on information researched and obtained.

Students will organize information

Students will read graphs, charts, and tables for information.

Students will determine budgets and compare amount spent

Tasks:

1. Interest Inventory/Survey: Conduct an interest inventory/survey of the family to determine possible travel destinations. You may use the example interest inventory provided.
2. Total Budget Allotment: Family vacations are determined by many factors; financial limitations are a major factor. Decide how much can be spent on various components of the trip. This will help determine which trips are feasible and practical. You will research various destinations and their features and compare them to find a match for your wants and needs. Use the chart provided to organize your researched information.
3. Transportation Needs: Once you have decided upon a traveling destination, determine the best means of transportation. Determine and figure the costs and route best taken. If using an automobile to travel, measure the mileage and then compare the miles per gallon and gas prices to determine a guesstimated cost. For other means of transportation, figure and compare various rates.

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(Tasks, continued)

4. Vacation Necessities: It is very important to know what and what not to bring on your vacation. Various elements determine what you need to prepare. Research your destination spot to decide how much and what to pack.
5. Vacation Planner: Sequence this stage in phases, in the order in which they need to be completed to make sure your vacation goes off without a hitch.
6. Park and Transportation Accommodations: Most major theme parks have various accommodation options to choose from. Some transportation means (trains, cruise ships) are now used as vacations themselves. Select a major theme park or transportation means from anywhere in the world, and highlight the various accommodation packages they offer. Be sure to describe the details and features of each. A chart is provided.
7. Traveling Observation Chart/Log: This chart and log will give you opportunity to document and sequence the major observations and events of your vacation.
8. Pictures and Captions: Along the way, take pictures. For every picture, describe who, where, and what is in the picture. Date the picture as well. Once this task is complete, create a sequenced picture storybook of your traveling experience, with the captions underneath the pictures.
9. Vacation Scavenger Hunt: Once you have arrived at your traveling destination, find all of the features you researched. Once they have been found, complete a rating chart to determine their credibility and expectations. A chart will be provided.
10. Total Cost Chart: This chart will let you document how much money was spent, and on what. It will help you decide future vacations and what to expect and to plan for.
11. Geographic Matches: Test your geography skills with these matching activities.
12. Transportation Match: With these matching activities, determine which traveling means match the transportation terms. Also, given certain destinations and situations, determine what means of travel could be used.

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Vacation Interest Inventory/Survey

Additional questions may be added to complete the survey.

1. Which month will best fit everyone's schedule?
 - a. June
 - b. July
 - c. August
2. What climate would you prefer?
 - a. Tropical
 - b. Warm
 - c. Hot
 - d. Windy
3. Which activities would you prefer?
 - a. recreational
 - b. observational/scenic
 - c. historical/educational
 - d. shopping
 - e. some of all
4. Which would you prefer?
 - a. "roughing" it
 - b. being pampered
 - c. in the middle
5. What means of transportation would you prefer?
 - a. car/automobile
 - b. planes
 - c. train
 - d. boat
6. Which would you prefer?
 - a. in country
 - b. out of country
7. Which topography would you prefer?
 - a. mountains
 - b. beach
 - c. desert
 - e. forest
8. List any locations that you have always dreamed of going and list reasons why.
Location: _____
Reasons: _____
9. List any location that you absolutely do not want to go and list reasons why.
Location: _____
Reasons: _____

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Budget Chart

Vacation Component	Budgeted Amount Allotted for Each
1. Accommodations:	
2. Transportation:	
3. Food:	
4. Entertainment:	
5. Essentials Preparation: Supplies and items needed for trip	
6. Emergency:	
7. Souvenirs:	
	Total:

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Transportation Needs

Directions: Select 2-3 possible means of traveling to your vacation destination. Research different rates, packages, and accessibility of various companies. The details should include rates for each class, time spent traveling, departure and arrival times, departure and arrival locations, quantity served, and costs, as well as transportation to and from transportation location to the final destination.

*If using a vehicle, one must factor in the price of gas per gallon and what gas mileage the vehicle gets. First, determine the distance, in miles, to your final destination(s).

Transportation Means	Details and Costs:
1.	
2.	
3.	

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What to Bring, What to Wear...?

Directions: Once your travel destination has been selected, decide essential items that will be suitable to your vacation environment. This will take some research inquiries into your travel destination. Make sure to include all details surrounding each category.

Vacation Details:	Essential Items Needed
1. Climate:	
2. Food Needs:	
3. Proof of Identification/Documents:	
4. Dress Attire:	
5. Entertainment:	
6. Transportation Available Space:	
7. Currency Requirements:	
8. Emergency Essentials:	

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Vacation Planner

Directions: Sequence the following "to do" list items into their appropriate phases of the vacation preparation, planning, and execution. Label the items as "before" "during" or "after", and put them in the order they should occur. When the events have been sequenced, use the sequenced list as a checklist to mark as you finish each step.

1. _____ _____ Unpack
2. _____ _____ Stop to rest
3. _____ _____ Set up hold on mail
4. _____ _____ Set all timed home devices
5. _____ _____ Refuel
6. _____ _____ Reflect on activities
7. _____ _____ Read map for directions and verification
8. _____ _____ Pack emergency documents/ contact information
9. _____ _____ Pack
10. _____ _____ Observe safety rules
11. _____ _____ Monitor time factor
12. _____ _____ Monitor gas mileage
13. _____ _____ Monitor budget spending
14. _____ _____ Make entertainment reservations
15. _____ _____ Make accommodation reservations
16. _____ _____ List contact information
17. _____ _____ Group "carry-on" or "carry-with" essentials
18. _____ _____ Contact post office to cancel hold on mail
19. _____ _____ Confirm entertainment reservations
20. _____ _____ Check proper identification documents
21. _____ _____ Check in with neighbors
22. _____ _____ Check departure times
23. _____ _____ Arrange transportation (if needed)
24. _____ _____ Arrange for pet care or childcare
25. BEFORE 1 Apply for passport (if necessary)
25. _____ _____ Acquire proper currency

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The Total Package

Directions: Select a transportation means (as a vacation) and a vacation park. Research, using the Internet and other research materials, to determine the pros and cons of each vacation package. Use the chart provided to document your findings. This might be used to select a vacation destination that fits your wants and needs.

Theme Park/Recreational Park/Luxury Transportation:	
Location: Departures/Arrivals	
Distance:	
Transportation Needs:	
Classes/Departments/Sections:	Detail each: Quantity it accommodates? Cost?
Documentation Needs:	
Seasons in Business:	
Major Travel Destinations:	

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Traveling Along....

Directions: While traveling, observe your surroundings by documenting what you see, who you see, and what you did. Always date your documentation, so you can sequence the events.

Observation 1:

Observation 2:

Observation 3:

Observation 4:

Observation 5:

Observation 6:

Observation 7:

Observation 8:

Observation 9:

Observation 10:

Observation 11:

Observation 12:

Observation 13:

Observation 14:

Observation 15:

Observation 16:

Observation 17:

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Observational Scavenger Hunt

Direction: Find these items (and more) along your vacation journey. Create more hunt items for the whole family. Add incentives for the one who observes or acquires the most. Proof, location, or explanation must be given. You can modify the list according to your specific vacation.

1. Red Cars/Vehicles
2. Canary yellow vehicles
3. Rest Stops
4. # of people that say "excuse me"
5. # of people that say, "thank you"
6. # of bodies of water
7. One hundred dollar bills
8. Items that have both Spanish and English
9. # of "pancake" establishments
10. # of coffee houses
11. #women with hats
12. #men with ties
13. # people taking pictures
14. # people taking pictures with digital cameras
15. # of special accesses for the disabled
16. # of sightings of capital cities listed in public view
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

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Seeing Is Believing

Directions: Along the way and during the vacation, take photos. For every picture you take, write a caption that would fit the picture. Make sure to write down the date that you took the photo. At the end of the vacation, organize and sequence your photos for a journal scrapbook.

Caption 1:

Caption 2:

Caption 3:

Caption 4:

Caption 5:

Caption 6:

Caption 7:

Caption 8:

Caption 9:

Caption 10:

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Expectations and Credibility

Directions: Once you have arrived at your travel destination, evaluate your stay. Use the following scavenger hunt questions to guide your evaluation. You may add any questions you need or that apply.

1. Were there greeters? If so, how many?
2. Was your accommodations prepared, neat and clean?
3. Was the appearance of your accommodations as advertised?
4. Did the accommodation or destination feature all of the amenities advertised?
5. Was everything working?
6. Did the staff seem well informed about the establishment?
7. Did they provide services to make your traveling seem effortless?
8. Did the establishment provide any necessary equipment supplies for entertainment purposes?
9. Did the billing match the advertised fee?
10. Did the location provide amenities that were advertised?

Rate your vacation: 5 being excellent, 1 being the worst

Category:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Service: | 5 4 3 2 1 |
| 2. Accommodations: | 5 4 3 2 1 |
| 3. Accuracy: | 5 4 3 2 1 |
| 4. Amenities: | 5 4 3 2 1 |
| 5. Supplies/Equipment: | 5 4 3 2 1 |
| 6. Easily Accessible Travel: | 5 4 3 2 1 |
| 7. Appearance: | 5 4 3 2 1 |
| 8. Cost: | 5 4 3 2 1 |

Overall Rating:

1. We'll definitely have to come back!
2. We may visit one day again.
3. Maybe we'll check something else.
4. We don't recommend this one at all!

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Was It Worth Our While?

Directions: As you travel, be sure to keep all of your receipts. This chart will allow you to document what was spent and how, and to organize the information. Make a note of what type of currency was used if it was other than your home currency. This chart should be compared with the budget chart to determine if the budget was kept. It also will help you plan for future vacations and what to expect in terms of costs.

Category:	Amount Spent/Establishment/ Currency Used
Transportation:	
Accommodation:	
Entertainment/Recreation:	
Food:	
Service:	
Budgeted Amount:	Total Cost:

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Where Can I Find....?

Directions: Use available resources to locate each famous landmark. List the city or state, country, and continent for each landmark.

1. Leaning Tower of Pisa _____
2. The Acropolis _____
3. Pyramids _____
4. Niagara Falls _____
5. Disneyworld _____
6. Old Faithful _____
7. Eiffel Tower _____
8. Liberty Bell _____
9. Andersonville Confederate Prison _____
10. Lake Tahoe _____
11. World's Tallest Skyscraper _____
12. Taj Mahal _____
13. Great Barrier Reef _____
14. Panama Canal _____
15. The Alamo _____
16. Death Valley _____
17. Yosemite National Park _____
18. The Space Needle _____
19. Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty _____

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Transportation Terminology

Directions: Match the terms with the transportation means that apply. Some terms may be used more than once. Copy the terms in the appropriate boxes.

Planes:
Trains:
Automobiles
Boats:

port, departure time, arrival time, fuel, mechanic, full throttle ahead, engine, propeller, trailer, coach, first class, tracks, cabin, steward, interstate, rest stop, pilot, captain, deck, odometer, control panel, reservation, safety procedures, seat belts, compartments, emergency exits, port, landing, traffic control tower, altitude, cabin pressure, flotation device, flat tire, food service

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Answer Guide:

Vacation Planner:

Note: The order in which these events should be listed may vary according to the type of vacation, as well as other factors. The order is not important, as the point of this activity is to focus on planning, rather than on a specific order. However, students should not put "unpack" in the "before" category.

Before: apply for passport (if necessary), make accommodation reservations, make entertainment reservations, arrange transportation (if needed), arrange for pet care or childcare, set up hold on mail, acquire proper currency, check proper identification documents, list contact information, check departure times, confirm entertainment reservations, set all timed home devices, pack, pack emergency documents/ contact information

During: monitor gas mileage, stop to rest, observe safety rules, read map for directions and verification, refuel, monitor budget spending, monitor time factor

After: check with neighbors, contact post office to cancel hold on mail, unpack, reflect on activities

Where Can I Find...?

1. Pisa, Italy, Europe
2. Athens, Greece, Europe
3. Egypt, Africa
4. New York and Ontario, U.S. and Canada, North America
5. Florida, U.S., North America
6. Yellowstone National Park, U.S., North America
7. Paris, France, Europe
8. Pennsylvania, U.S., North America
9. Georgia, U.S., North America
10. California and Nevada, U.S., North America
11. Taiwan, Asia
12. India, Asia
13. Australia
14. Panama, South America
15. Texas, U.S., North America
16. California, U.S., North America
17. California, U.S., North America
18. Seattle, Washington, U.S., North America
19. New York, U.S., North America

Transportation Jargon:

Answers will vary. Students should be able to explain and justify their answers.