

# What My Fifth Grader is Learning



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

|  | ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS    | MATH   | SCIENCE  & SOCIAL STUDIES    |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>AUGUST - OCTOBER</b><br><br>     | <p>Students will learn to explore the process of discovery by reading and comparing stories written about inventions and inventors.</p>    | <p>Students will learn about place value, how decimals move as you multiply and divide numbers by a power of 10 and how to compare and round decimals.</p>   | <p>Students will learn about different objects in space, our place in the solar system, and characteristics of our home planet.</p>  <p>Students will learn about place and location by studying geographical regions in the U.S. and analyzing how life is shaped by geographical differences.</p>  |
| <b>OCTOBER - DECEMBER</b><br><br>   | <p>Students will learn to examine historical texts while reading about the American westward expansion's impact on different groups; specifically, students will examine motives for westward expansion and the associated benefits and challenges.</p>  | <p>Students will learn to add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals.</p>    | <p>Students will learn about things that are very small, focusing on matter and its interactions.</p>  <p>Students will learn about and analyze the context and causes of the westward movement of settlers in the U.S. from the 1780s to the 1850s.</p>   |
| <b>DECEMBER - FEBRUARY</b><br><br> | <p>Students will learn how authors use science and science fiction creatively to enhance storytelling while comparing and contrasting how an author uses science throughout several texts.</p>    | <p>Students will learn how to find volume for 3-dimensional shapes using unit cubes or a formula (<math>v = l \times w \times h</math>) and add fractions with unlike denominators by creating equivalent fractions.</p>  | <p>Students will learn how energy and matter move through an ecosystem through food chains and food webs and ways to protect the environment.</p>    |
| <b>FEBRUARY - APRIL</b><br><br>   | <p>Students will learn about the impact of a writer's point of view by comparing and contrasting written accounts of the Civil War and the Reconstruction and writing an opinion piece.</p>    | <p>Students will learn how to multiply and divide fractions and multiply whole numbers with decimals.</p>    | <p>Students examine the conditions that led to conflict during the Civil War and Reconstruction, with a focus on 1820-1876.</p>   |
| <b>APRIL - JUNE</b><br><br>       | <p>Students will learn about historical writing while studying the Civil Rights Movement and how individuals persevered during challenging situations.</p>   | <p>Students will learn how to plot points and solve graphing problems, write algebraic expressions to solve for "x" and classify two-dimensional shapes based on their properties.</p>                                   | <p>Students will learn about the continuity and change over time of race relations and economic cycles from 1920s to 1970s while studying the Harlem Renaissance, the Great Depression, World War II, and the Civil Rights movement.</p>    |

# Activities to Practice with My Fifth Grader



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AUGUST -  
OCTOBER



Identify a problem you could solve with an invention! Write down your ideas in a journal and then draw a sketch of your favorite one. Do you think you could build this on your own?



Lay down four playing cards (numbers 2-9) and a coin to represent a decimal. Move the coin to the left or right and discuss the change in number value with each move.



Spend a day at the National Air and Space Museum's Exploring the Planets exhibit or the IMAX Theater. Visit [airandspace.si.edu](http://airandspace.si.edu) for more information.



Keep a journal recording how much time you spend reading each day! List your favorite characters from each story and identify a place in the story where the character shows a quality that you admire.



Sketch a map with significant places your family members have traveled to or visited in the region. Plan a road trip that you could take to visit places that defined your family.



OCTOBER -  
DECEMBER



Using a deck of cards, flip over two cards and multiply. Flip over another card and multiply the total using the number on the new card. Repeat!



Using a computer with internet, visit Kids National Geographic online at [bit.ly/GhostGlove](http://bit.ly/GhostGlove) to complete the "Ghost Glove" experiment and observe a real chemical reaction!



Interview five people who have moved in the last 10 years. Why did they move? What similarities exist between their stories and those who settled west?



Brainstorm a list of modern amenities that wouldn't have been available when people first journeyed west. How is moving west different now? Is modern life easier or more difficult?



Visit your local library to check-out three new books! Visit [bit.ly/FindMyLibrary](http://bit.ly/FindMyLibrary) to find your local library branch. Make sure to add the new books you read to your reading journal!



DECEMBER -  
FEBRUARY



Talk about ways you can conserve water, then visit [bit.ly/DCPSwater](http://bit.ly/DCPSwater) for more great ideas!



Speed up your typing skills with the fun games and activities at [bit.ly/TyingFun](http://bit.ly/TyingFun). Can you win all of the games?



Think about a science fiction television show or movie you watched recently! Use this program for inspiration to create a science fiction comic strip.



Visit the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion, free of charge on Tuesdays. Visit [www.mnh.si.edu](http://www.mnh.si.edu) for more information.



Imagine filling a room with water from top to bottom. Based on the size of the room, approximately how many gallons of water would it take to fill the room?



FEBRUARY -  
APRIL



Visit the National Cherry Blossom Festival. The 2015 dates are March 20 - April 12. Visit [bit.ly/2015Blossoms](http://bit.ly/2015Blossoms) for more information.



Practice jumping rope in February, Heart Health Month! Track your pulse before and after to see how hard your heart is working. Visit [bit.ly/DCPSpulse](http://bit.ly/DCPSpulse) to learn more.



Visit the African American Civil War Museum on the first Saturday of each month, where U.S. Colored Troop descendants share family stories and facts. Visit [afroamcivilwar.org](http://afroamcivilwar.org) for more information.



Practice multiplying and dividing fractions. Visit [bit.ly/DCPSmultiply](http://bit.ly/DCPSmultiply) or [bit.ly/DCPSdivide](http://bit.ly/DCPSdivide) for online resource to visit at home or at your local library!



Discuss how war and conflict have influenced people in your life. How can we honor those who have served? Visit [bit.ly/WriteOurTroops](http://bit.ly/WriteOurTroops) send a letter (or email) to our troops or veterans.



APRIL -  
JUNE



What are some examples of how the Civil Rights Movement is still relevant today? Write a speech on this topic and share it with your friends and family.



Visit the Kennilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens' Water Lily and Lotus festival. Visit [nps.gov/keaq](http://nps.gov/keaq) for more information.



Visit [bit.ly/DCPSgraphing](http://bit.ly/DCPSgraphing), [bit.ly/DCPSgraphing2](http://bit.ly/DCPSgraphing2), or [bit.ly/DCPSgraphing3](http://bit.ly/DCPSgraphing3) to practice graphing on a computer.



What are your summer plans? Brainstorm five activities you can do together to keep learning over the summer.



Visit the Museum of American History's Through the African American Lens exhibit to follow personal narratives from the Revolutionary Era to the present. Visit [nmaahc.si.edu](http://nmaahc.si.edu) for more information.



Read together everyday for 20 minutes



English Language Arts



Enrichment Activity



Math



Science



Social Studies