

# Homeschooling in November - December

## A Busy Time of Year!

1. Put things on the calendar!
2. Carve out time for family!
3. Connect to your family!
4. Avoid the rush!
5. Enjoy your break!

Made by Liesl, [homeschoolden.com](http://homeschoolden.com)



Homeschooling during the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas can be particularly trying/demanding. There are more events on as the semester comes to an end. On the homeschool front, we are often finishing up big projects and wrapping up units before taking an extended break. But there are a lot of other things going on too!

- There are holiday-themed parties and get-togethers.
- There are concerts.

There also more demands on our time on the home front.

- Many of us put up holiday decorations. We decorate our homes bringing out sentimental pieces from years gone by... yet create a bit of chaos and mess as we unpack those boxes... leading to more cleaning than normal!
- We try to send out holiday cards to family and friends (perhaps to keep in touch with those we don't see as often or as family keepsakes).
- There are gifts to buy, family traditions we squeeze in and more!

Some families handle this busy period by taking most of December off. That doesn't work for our family since we spend a lot of time traveling at other points during the year. So, these 3 to 4 weeks at the end of November and early December are especially challenging.

**How do we homeschoolers keep sane, keep calm, and even enjoy this stretch of time?** A bit of planning and forethought really goes a long way, especially this time of year, right? Here are a few key things that help:

### **1. Put time into planning and getting things on the calendar!**

Many of the main events are already on our calendars. Now it's time to start filling in the gaps! Pick out the traditions that are important to you. What kinds of things might be on our calendars?

- Outdoor decor
- Outdoor tasks (winterizing, raking, weeding, planting spring bulbs)
- Indoor decor
- Dining room table (tablecloth and decor)
- Make sure the kids have the holiday clothes AND shoes!! that fit.
- Make and send holiday cards
- Concerts - extra rehearsals, practice time at home
- Shopping for gifts (more about this later)
- Winter wear - pull out the winter coats and boots and make sure they still fit each child!
- Stock up on extra gloves (Each year, gloves seem to lose their partners around our house. We now try to pick up a number of dollar store gloves to keep in a basket near the door)
- Read favorite stories or watch holiday movies
- Sleepovers - will the kids be doing special events with their extended family or close friends? Get those onto the calendar too!

Think about the key things:

- How much time will it take?
- When will we get this done?

Pencil it on the calendar, leaving enough time for things to be done without stress (ie. don't overfill the calendar!!)

**2. Carve out 1 or 2 nights a week (or whatever) and keep the calendar CLEAR! Dedicate these evenings to family time and guard those times!**

**3. Connect to your family!**

- **Bedtime Connections:** Choose one night a week to really check in with one family member to really listen and talk. Choose a night for each of the kids, climb into bed with them at bedtime and just listen! This is especially important for those of us with preteens and teens. Evenings are busy and many of us don't read with the kids at bedtime any more. But make a promise to yourself to spend time building connections!
- **Surprise Stickers:** Once a week or so, place a sticker under one of the dinner plates or chairs. Once everyone is seated, have everyone check under their plate or chair. Everyone else in the family will think of a few nice things about that family member and share a story or example of how that person was especially nice to them or how proud or excited they were for that person. Ask everyone to come up with a specific story to share with everyone (not just saying something generic like "they were nice to me.")
- **Family Mailbox:** This time of year, we have a small mailbox that sits on the dining room table. Each of us in the family has chosen a day (Monday through Friday) to be our day to receive uplifting mail. At some point during the day the rest of us will jot down something nice we noticed about him or something kind or generous he's done... or we might just write down some qualities we really admire in him. We'll stick our messages into the mailbox you see below. At dinner or at the end of the day, that person will check the mailbox and read those notes. It is a way of focusing not on what we're getting, but what we're giving and doing for others. And it feels great to receive such heart-felt messages and I know in our family, we have all kept those cards!



- Set aside time to share your favorite holiday stories or movies.
- You probably have your own family traditions and ways of connecting with one another. [Drop me a note](#), if you have a lovely family tradition to add to the list!

**4. Avoid the Rush!** There are a lot of things that come up at the last minute that add in extra time and rush. Each year I fall into the same trap... I don't think ahead about the small things, so I wind up making an extra trip to the store. Here are some things I know I could plan out ahead:

- Think through the "thank you" or "secret Santa" cards and gifts you'll need to get for others. Jot down those that you can think of
  - Private teachers
  - Tutors
  - Co-op leaders
  - Scout leaders
  - Teachers at church
  - Music directors

- Special neighbors
  - Special services
  - Trim-a-tree gifts
- Can you write those cards out ahead of time?
- Can you buy those small gifts or cards ahead of time?
- Can you have some generic gifts on hand for secret Santa gift exchanges?
  - socks
  - candles
  - gloves
  - chocolates
  - bath salts
  - nice journal and pen
  - craft kit
  - paints & canvas (art consumables)
  - gift card
  - car charger and cords

**5. Enjoy Your Break!** You... we... have chosen a challenging, important job homeschooling our kids. We owe it to ourselves and to our kids to come back from these holidays feeling refreshed and energized! Remember that you deserve some down-time and mental time off too!

- Once your break arrives, enjoy and cherish that down time! Be sure to spend some time cherishing your family and friends.
- Celebrate the big and little things in your life!
- Take time to pamper yourself!
- Give yourself a mental break from your normal homeschool responsibilities.
- Do things that refresh and inspire YOU! Take an extra few days/weeks to recuperate if you have a full house of guests or if the holiday rush wears you out! The time spent relaxing will come back to you ten-fold if you take the time for yourself too!



## Task List:

## Estimated Time

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## Connect to the Family:

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## People to Remember/Buy Thank You Gifts for

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## Small Gift Ideas:



# Holiday Planning





# Holiday Planning

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# To Do List



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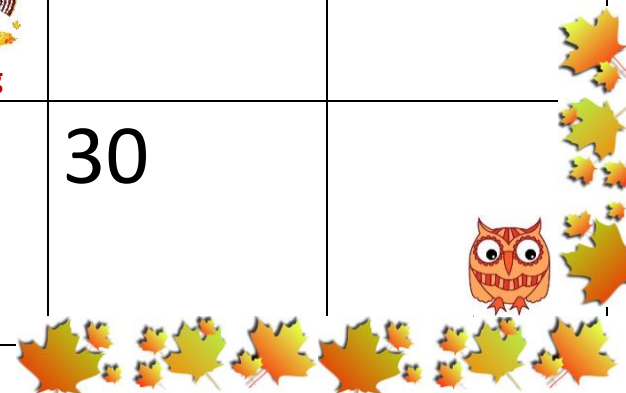




# November 2018






SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 <small>Daylight Saving Time Ends</small>
4	5	6  <small>Election Day</small>	7	8	9	10
11	12  	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22  <small>Thanksgiving</small>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	





# December 2018



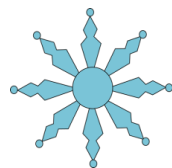
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2  Hanukkah Begins	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10  Hanukkah Ends	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 	26	27	28	29
30	31 Christmas					



Up-Coming Plans:

To Do List:





# January 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 A HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 MLK Day Martin Luther King Day	22	23	24	25	26 Australia Day
27	28	29	30	31		

P.S. You can get more free calendar pages here:

## [Free 2018-2019 Calendar Printable](#)



I'll be making the next calendar for the 2019-2020 School Year at some point soon! Keep your eyes out for that!

~Liesl

Liesl@homeschoolden.com

Be sure to check out [our store](http://homeschoolden.com/store/) for more of our packets!

<http://homeschoolden.com/store/>

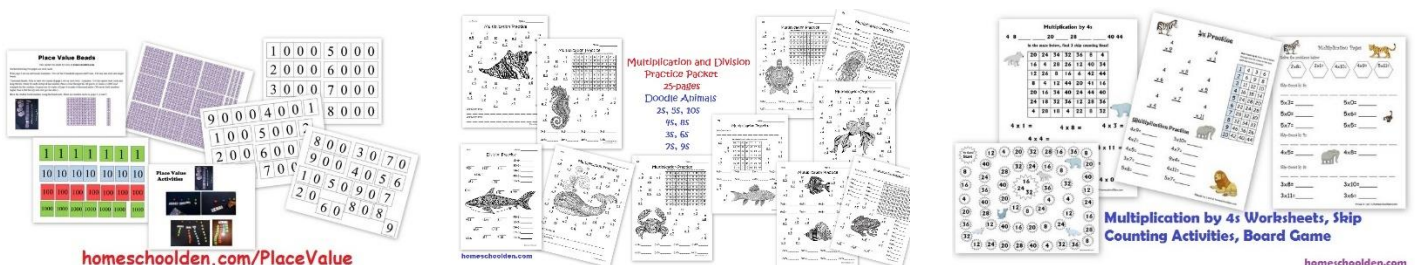
**Science:** We ♥ love ♥ hands on activities. We have packets on Earth Space Science, Simple Machines, the States of Matter, Electricity and Circuits STEM unit, Cells Unit, Human Body Systems, the Digestive System, the Ocean, World Animals, Animal Characteristics, Dinosaurs and more!!



## History



**Math** - Including place value, addition & subtraction packets and our 175+ page bundle of multiplication packets with games, skip counting activities, multiplication fact worksheets and more (12 pdfs!)





Be sure to check out **our store** for more of our packets! <http://homeschoolden.com/store/>

**Spelling**



You will find our German Packets Here: <http://homeschoolden.com/german-store/>

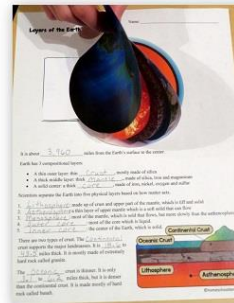
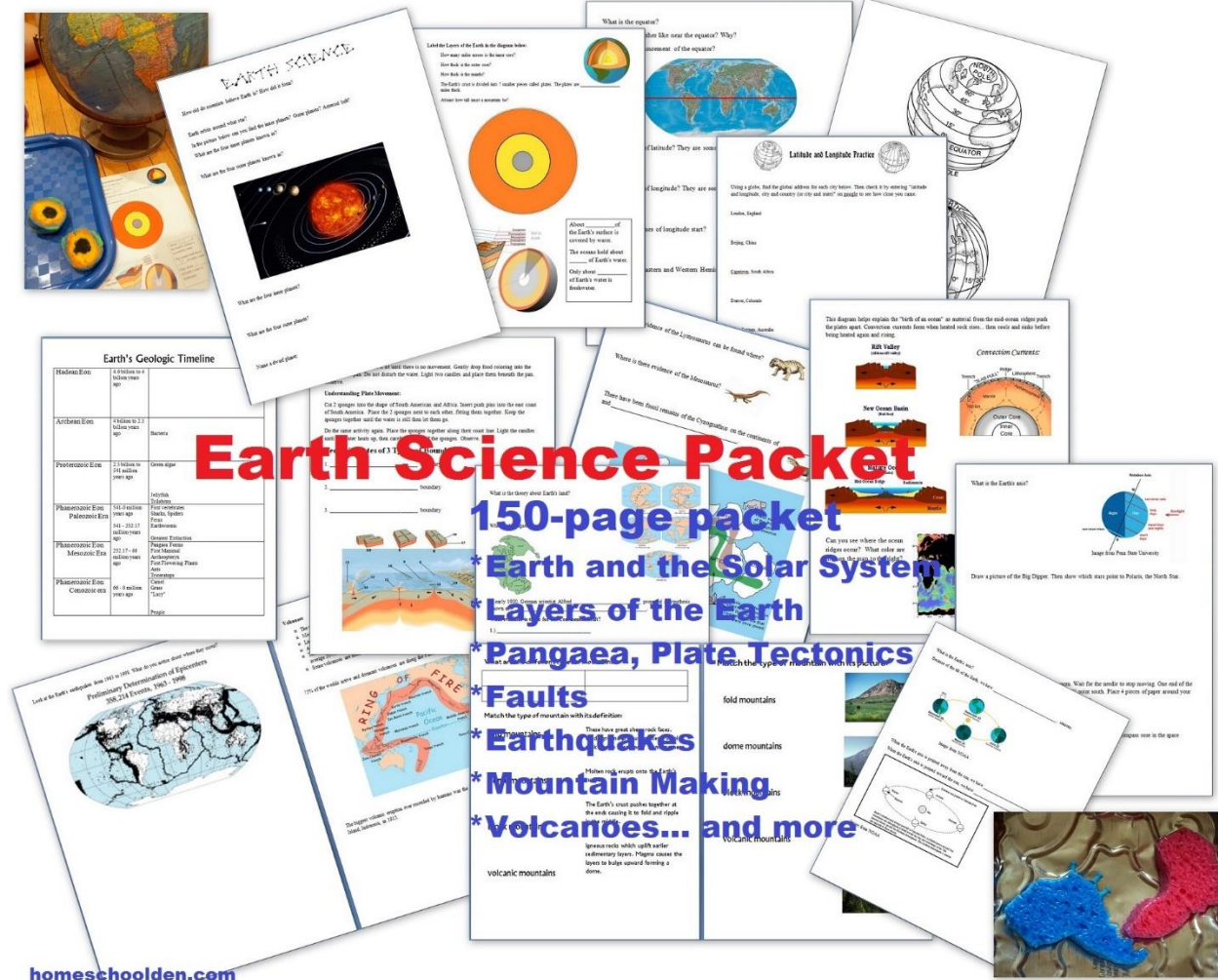
# German Store





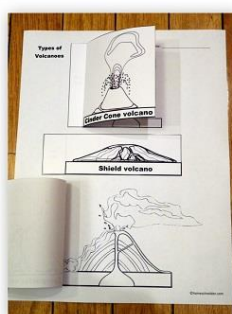
Here are just some of the packets we have available:

## Earth Science Packet (Now 150+ pages!)



### Layers of the Earth Interactive Notebook Pages

### Types of Volcanoes Interactive Notebook Pages





## Layers of the Atmosphere Packet

## Earth's Atmosphere Packet, 50+ pages

## Layers of the Atmosphere Printable Activity

**Exosphere**  
**Thermosphere**  
**Mesosphere**  
**Stratosphere**  
**Troposphere**

homeschoolden.com

## Earth's Atmosphere as part of the Earth System

### Earth's Atmosphere

The atmosphere is the layers of gases that surround planet Earth. These gases are held in place by Earth's gravity. The atmosphere of Earth is composed of nitrogen (about 78%), oxygen (about 21%), argon (about 0.9%) with carbon dioxide and other gases such as hydrogen and helium in trace amounts. The atmosphere is divided into several layers that extend up from Earth's surface to thousands of miles into space. These layers differ in properties such as composition, temperature and pressure.

homeschoolden.com

## Metes about the Troposphere

The troposphere is the atmosphere layer closest to Earth's surface. It is the layer of the atmosphere that we live in. The troposphere is the layer of the atmosphere that we live in. The troposphere is the layer of the atmosphere that we live in.

The troposphere is higher in the tropics than in the poles. The troposphere is higher in the tropics than in the poles. The troposphere is higher in the tropics than in the poles.

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homeschoolden.com

## Exosphere

The exosphere is the outermost layer of the atmosphere. It is the layer of the atmosphere that we live in. The exosphere is the layer of the atmosphere that we live in. The exosphere is the layer of the atmosphere that we live in.

homeschoolden.com

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homeschoolden.com

## Earth's Atmosphere Introductory Activity

**Notebook Page or  
Interactive Notebook Page Activity**

## Earth's Systems

**Earth System Science:** Earth is a planet with major and minor systems that work together as an integrated system. Earth system science looks at the interactions between the Earth's "spheres"—atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, biosphere, and even the magnetosphere.

**Earth's Atmosphere:** The atmosphere is the layer of gases that surround planet Earth. These gases are held in place by Earth's gravity. The atmosphere of Earth is composed of nitrogen (about 78%), oxygen (about 21%), argon (about 0.9%), with carbon dioxide and other gases such as hydrogen and helium in trace amounts. The atmosphere is divided into several layers that extend up from Earth's surface to thousands of miles into space. These layers differ in properties such as composition, temperature and pressure.

**Geosphere:** Deep within Earth is a spherical core. The core has two layers with solid iron and nickel metal at its center, surrounded by a thick silicon layer of about two thirds. Above the core is the mantle. It is made of hot rock. Covering the mantle is a relatively thin, hard rocky layer called the lithosphere. This is the crust of the Earth. The lithosphere is uppermost layer of the solid Earth (oceanic and continental crust), rocks and uppermost mantle. The lithosphere is made up of all the continents with their mountains, valleys, and plains as well as the ocean basins. For earth scientists, the geosphere refers to the solid parts of the Earth.

**Hydrosphere:** Water surrounds approximately 71% of the surface of the crust with great oceans. All water on, in, and below the soil is called the hydrosphere. The hydrosphere is the frozen water part of the Earth system.

**Biosphere:** The biosphere is the global ecological system - zone of life on earth. It is the part of the earth's crust, water, and atmosphere that supports life. The biosphere is a worldwide ecosystem composed of living organisms (biotic) and the abiotic (nonliving) factors from which they derive energy and nutrients. It is the global system integrating living beings and their relationships, including their interaction with the other Earth systems (the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and so forth).

**Magnetosphere:** The magnetosphere is the space around a star or planet where the magnetic field can be detected. Charged particles in this area can be affected by the star or planet's magnetic field.

# Interactive Notebook Page Activity

**Earth's Atmosphere**

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**homeschoolden.com**

**Layers of the Atmosphere Printable Activity**

Exosphere

Thermosphere

Mesosphere

Stratosphere

Troposphere

[homeschoolden.com](http://homeschoolden.com)

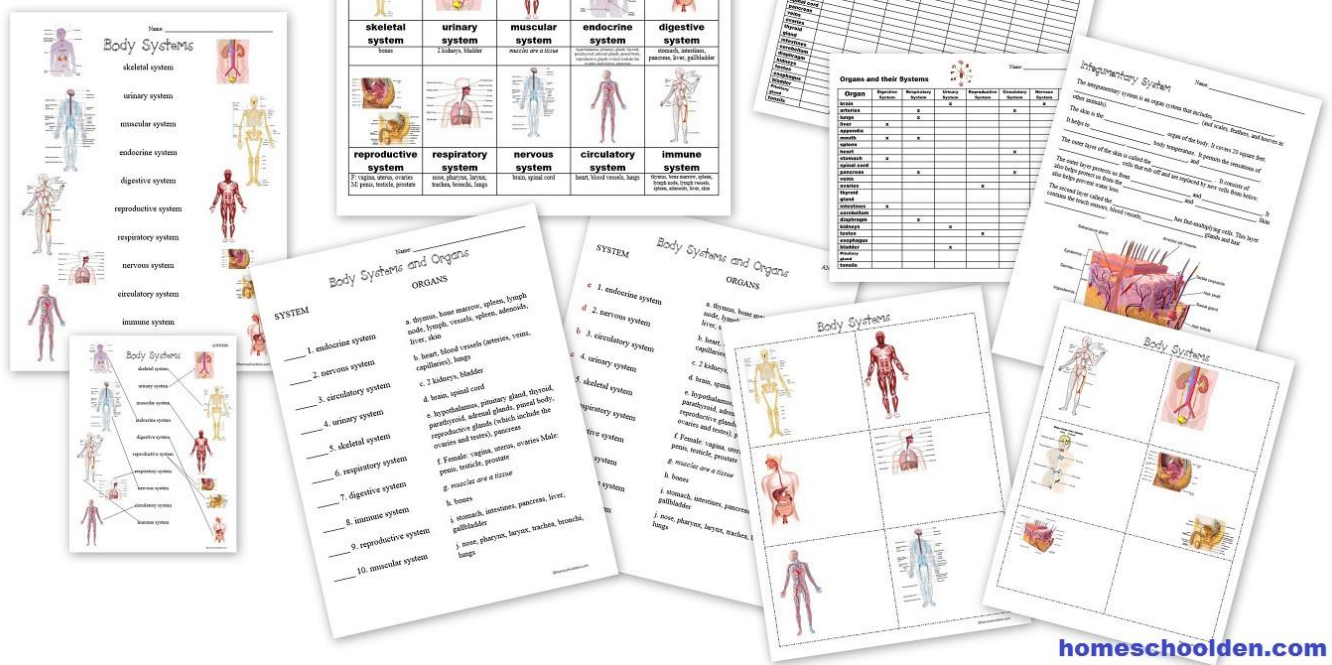


## A collage of various educational worksheets and diagrams related to cell biology. The central focus is a large worksheet titled "A Study of Cells Packet" with a central illustration of a cell and the website "homeschoolden.com". Surrounding this are numerous smaller worksheets, including "Organelles of the Cell", "Cell Theory Overview", "Types of Cells", "Animal Cells vs. Plant Cells", "How Proteins are Made in a Cell", and "Cell Division". These worksheets feature diagrams of cells, organelles, and processes, as well as text-based information and review sheets. The worksheets are arranged in a way that they overlap, creating a dense and informative visual representation of cell biology resources.

**Worksheets**  
**Games & Activities**  
**Notebook Pages**

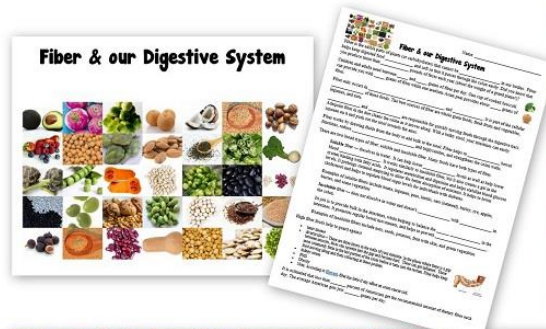
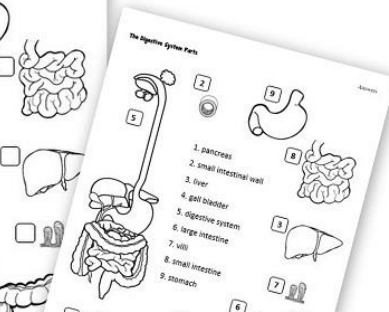
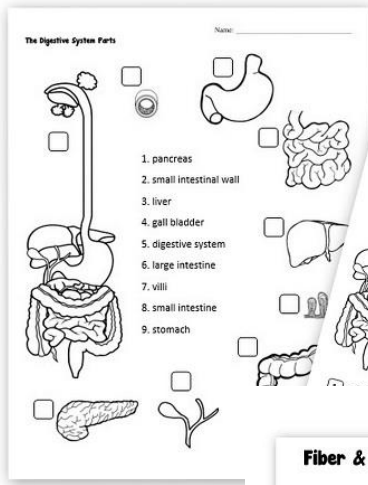
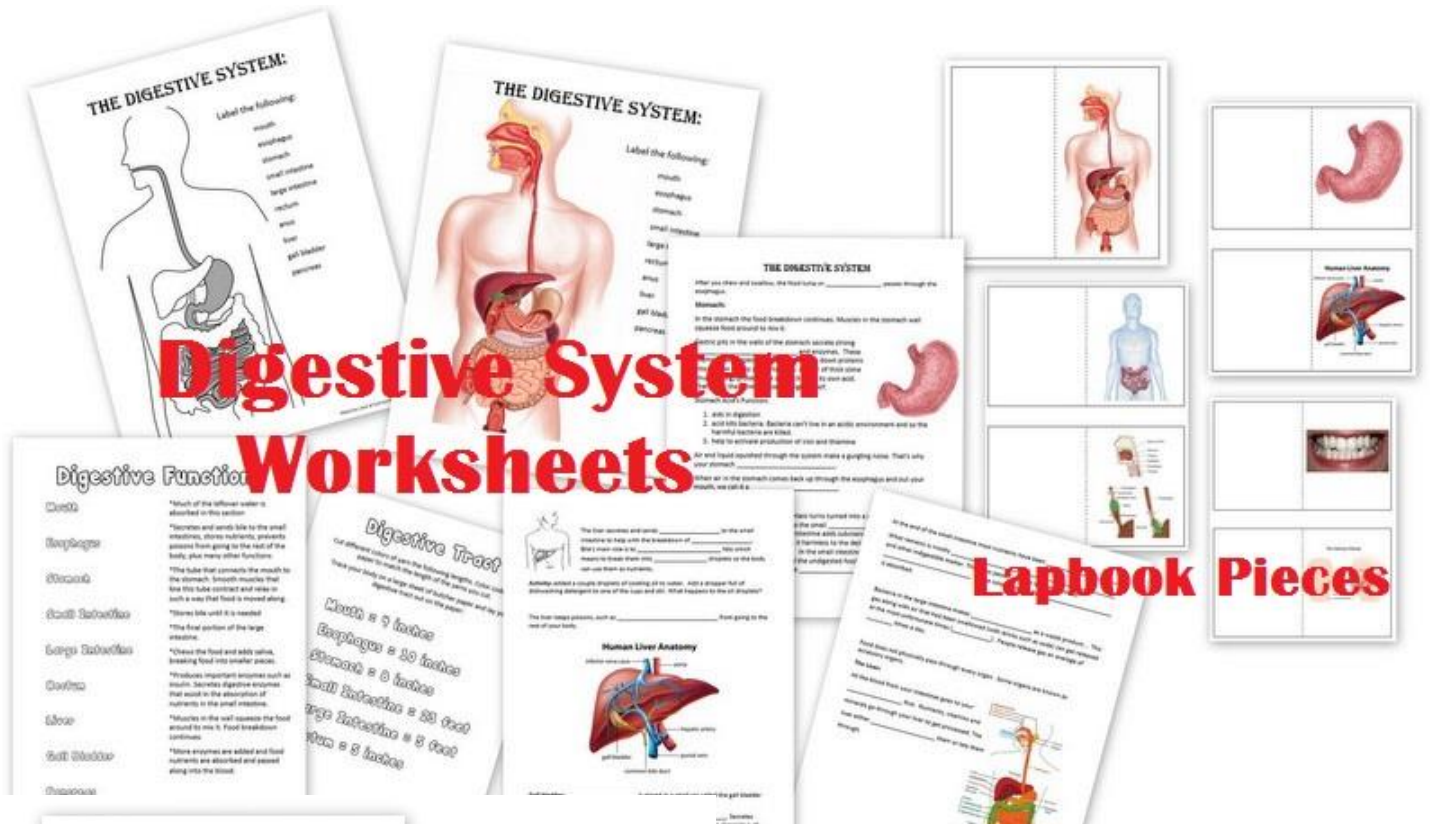
# Human Body Systems (25 pages)

## Human Body System Worksheets





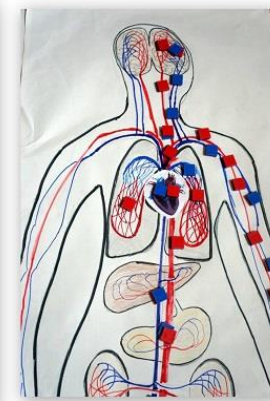
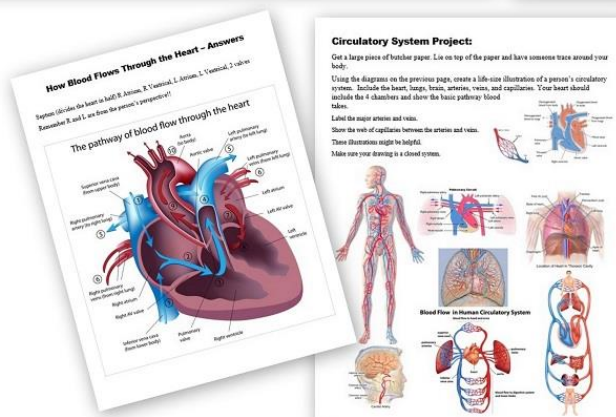
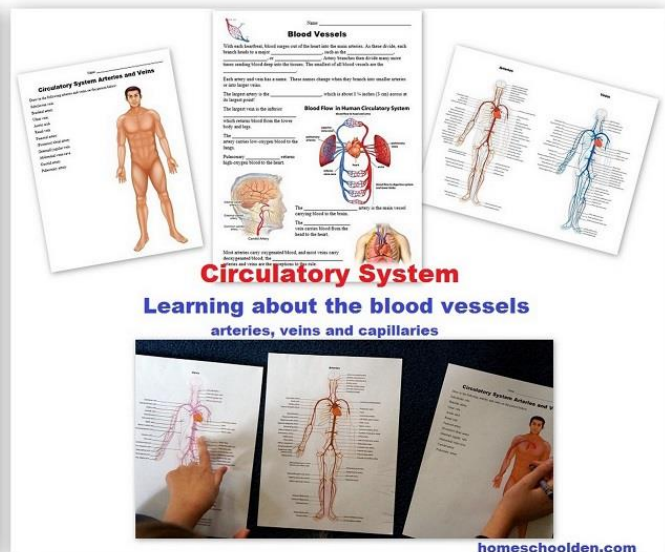
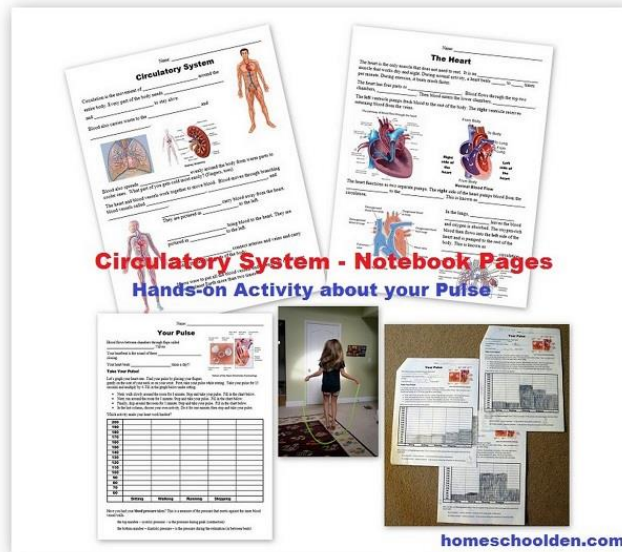
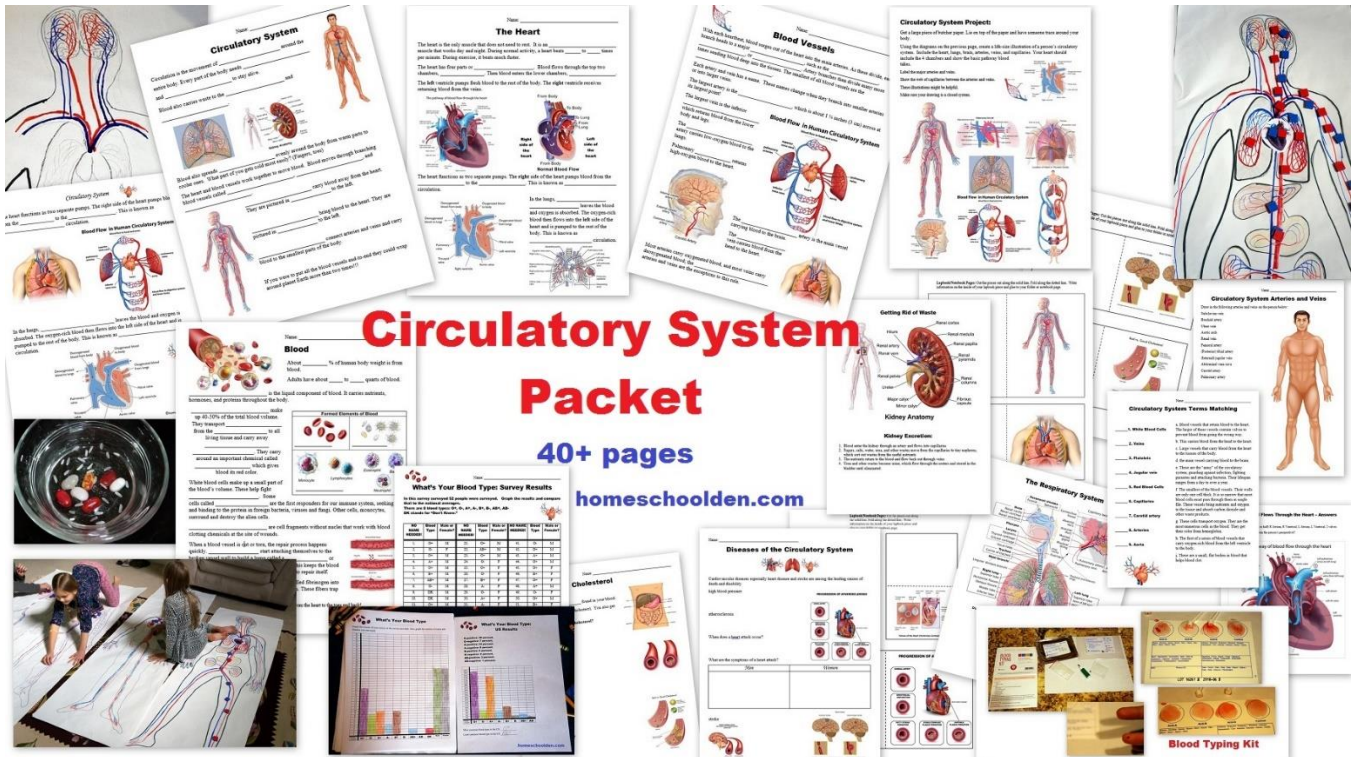
# Digestive System Packet (75 pages)



Also includes material on fiber & its role in the digestive system as well as vitamins in our body

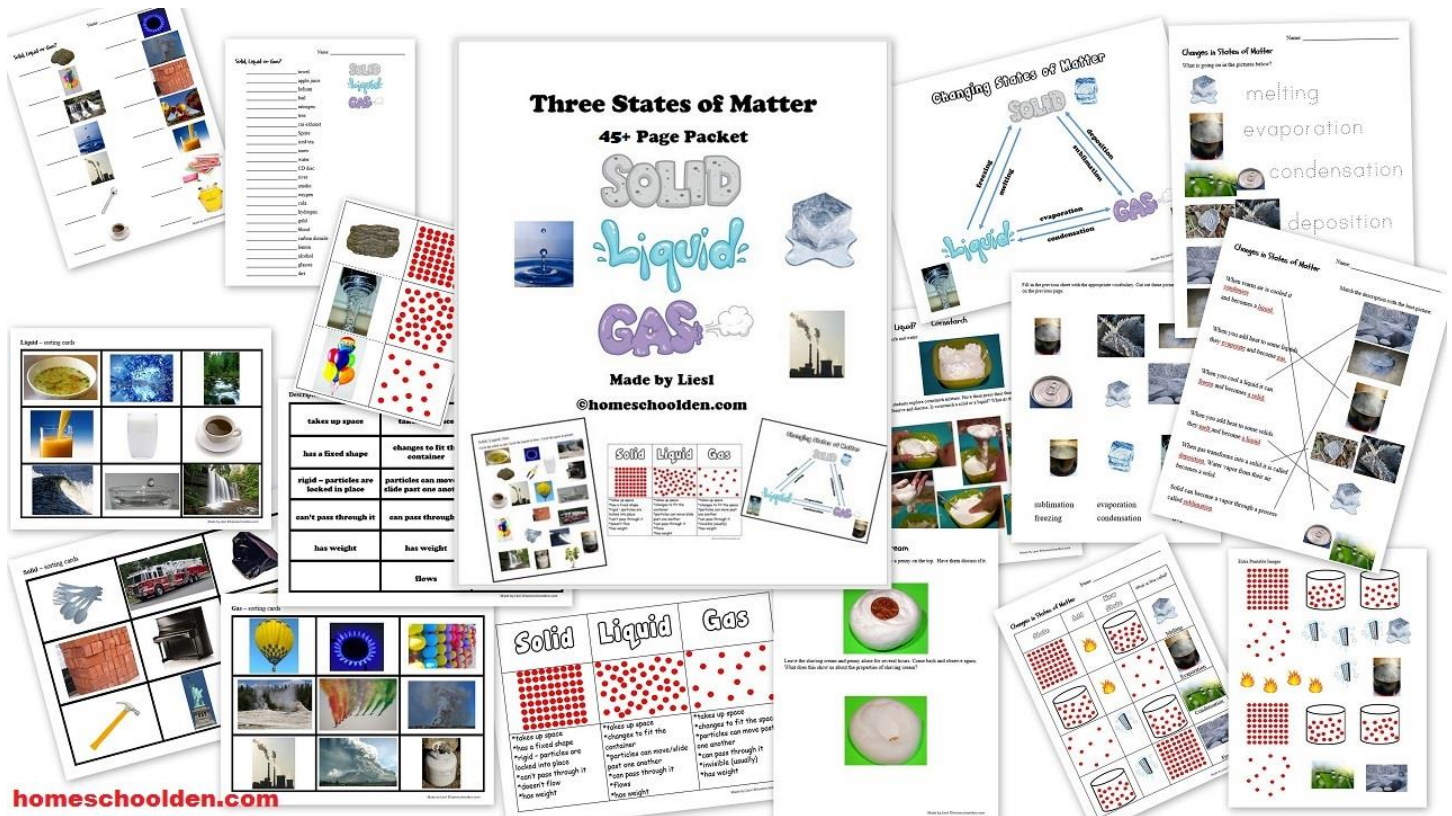


# Circulatory Packet (40 pages)

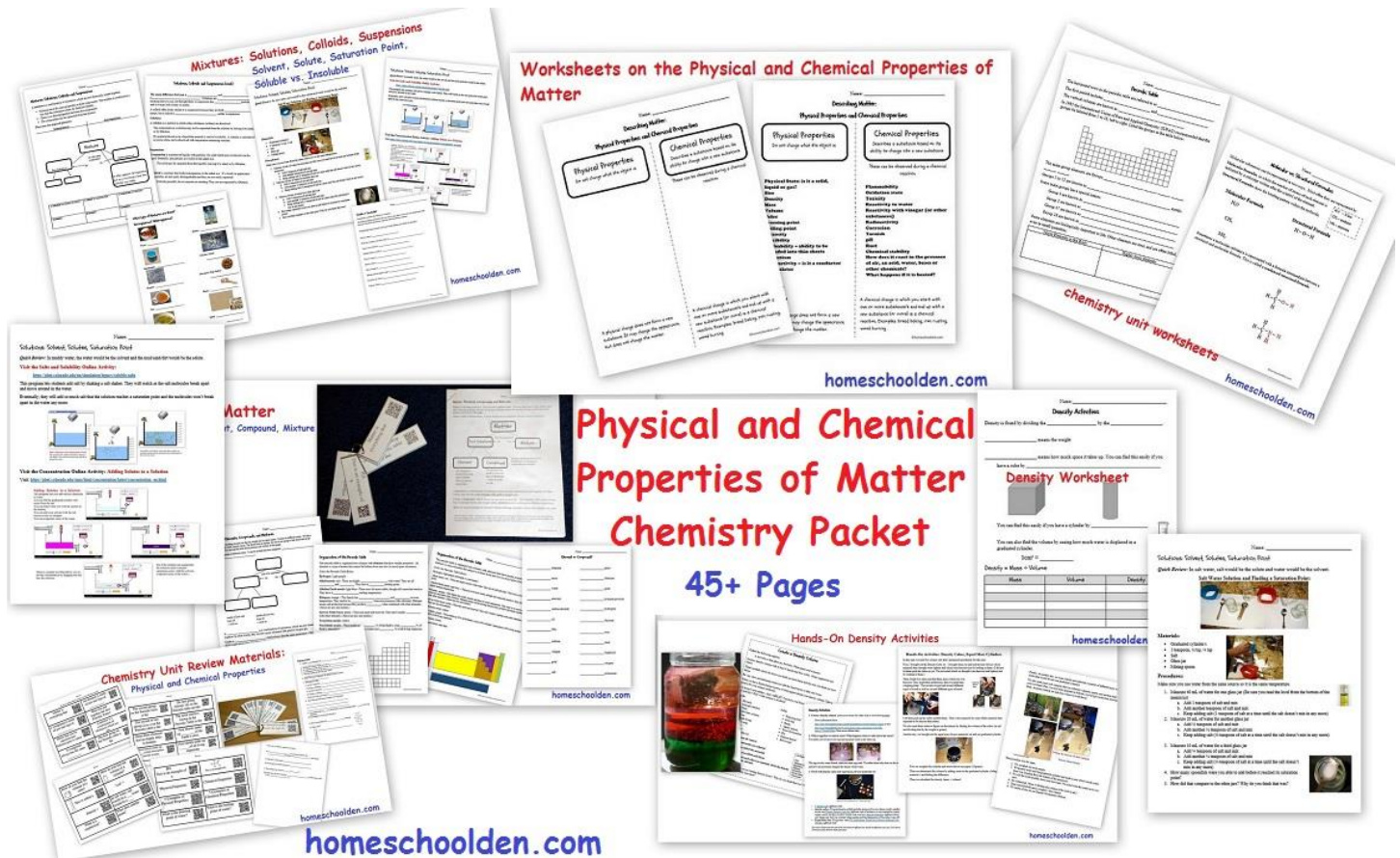




## States of Matter Packet (50 pages)

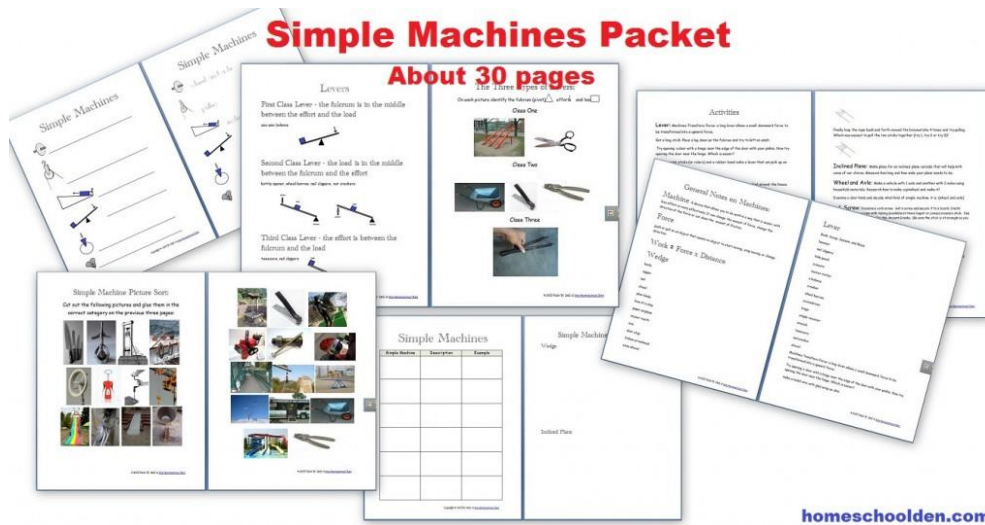


## Physical and Chemical Properties of Matter (45 pages)

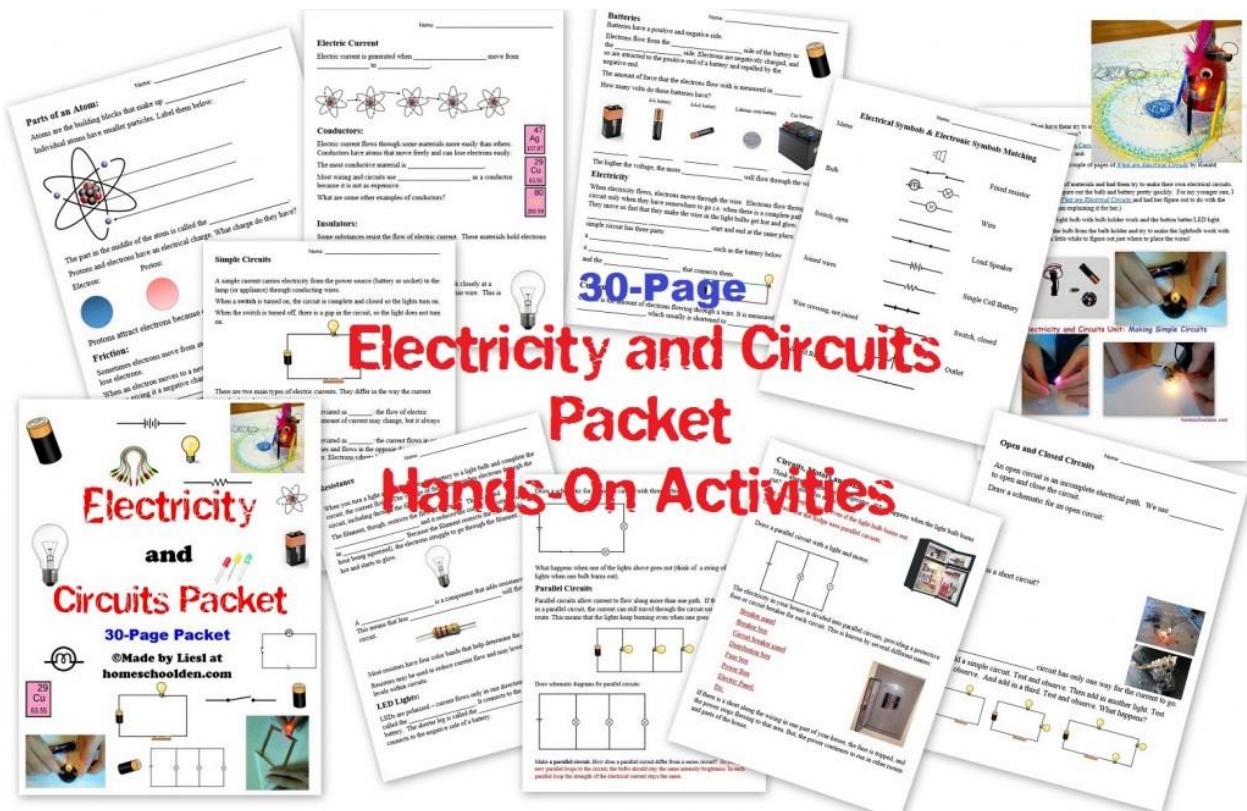




## Simple Machines Packet (30 pages)



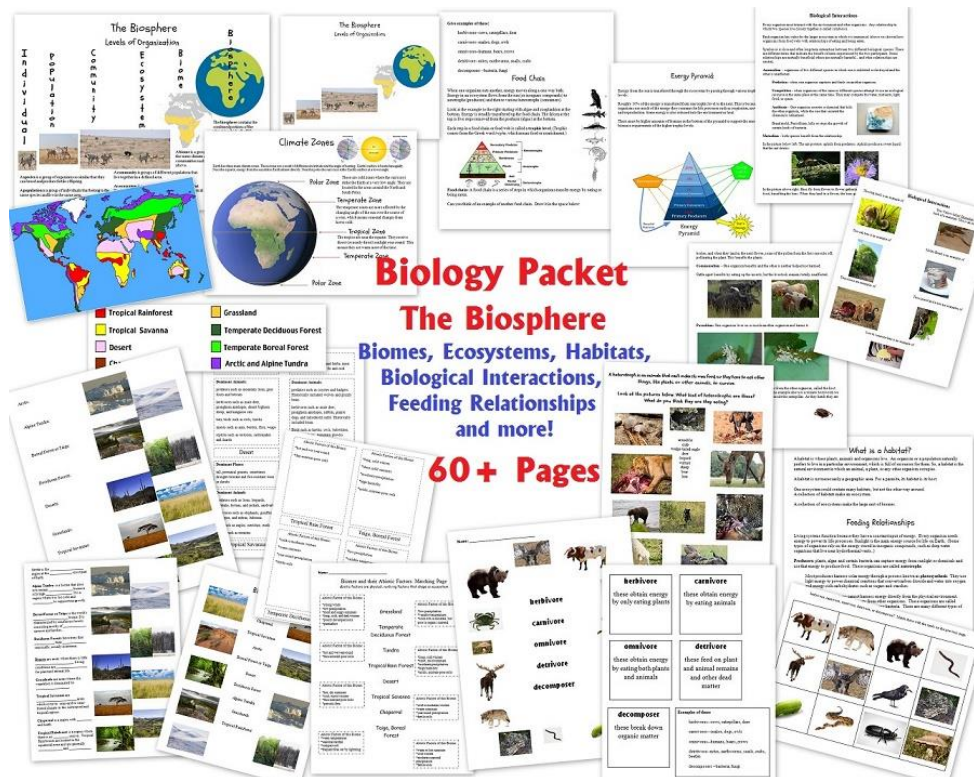
## STEM: Electricity and Circuits Unit (30 pages)



# Animal Packet (Vertebrates-Invertebrates, Animal Characteristics and more)

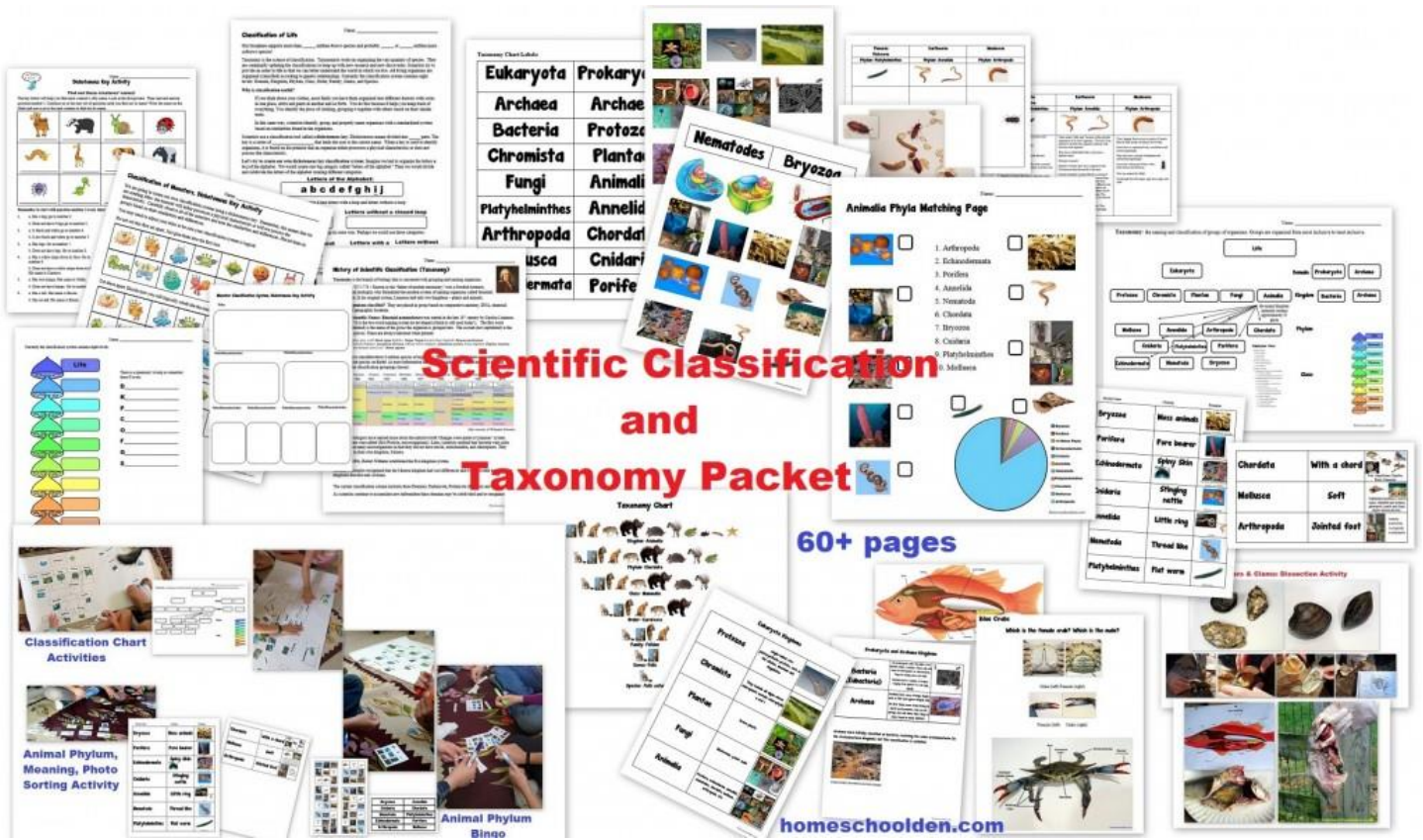


# Biology Packet (60+ pages)

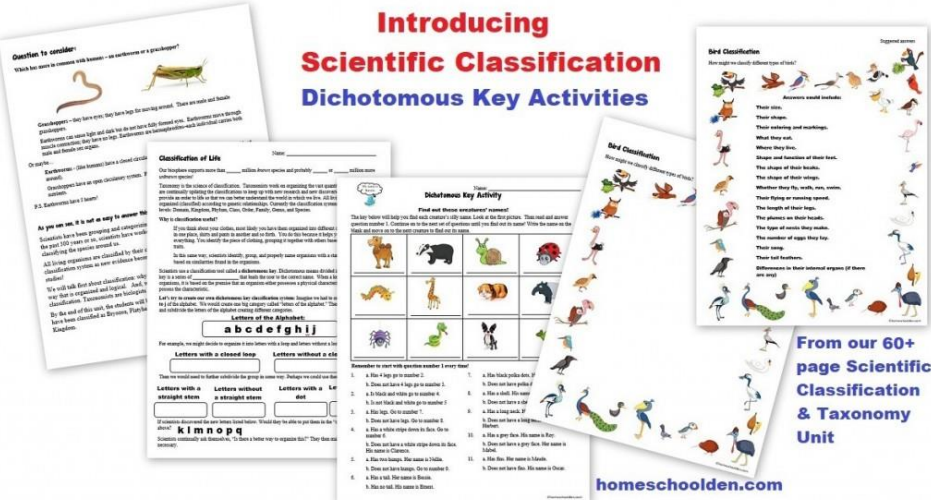




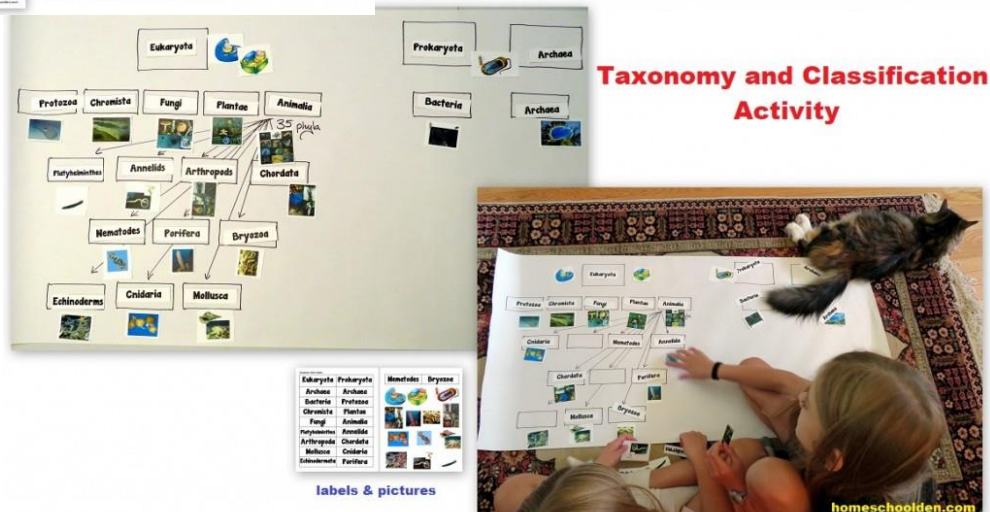
# Scientific Classification and Taxonomy Packet



## Introducing Scientific Classification Dichotomous Key Activities

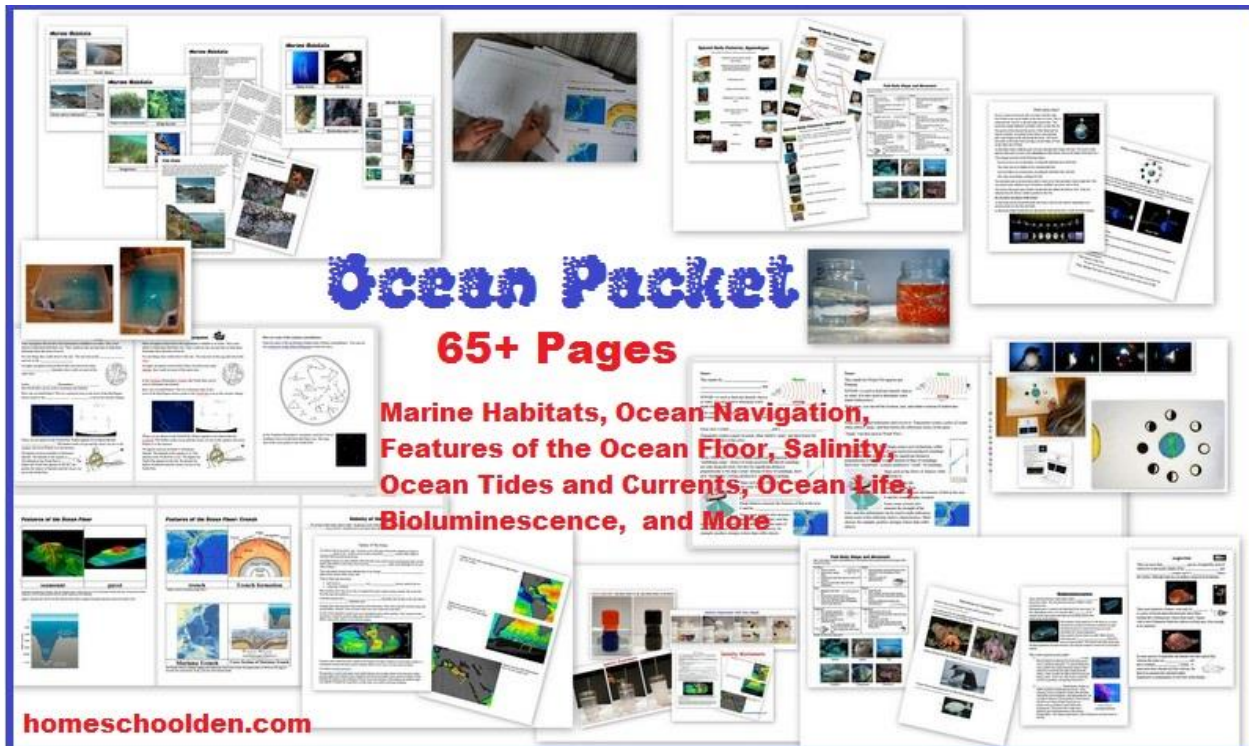


## Taxonomy and Classification Activity

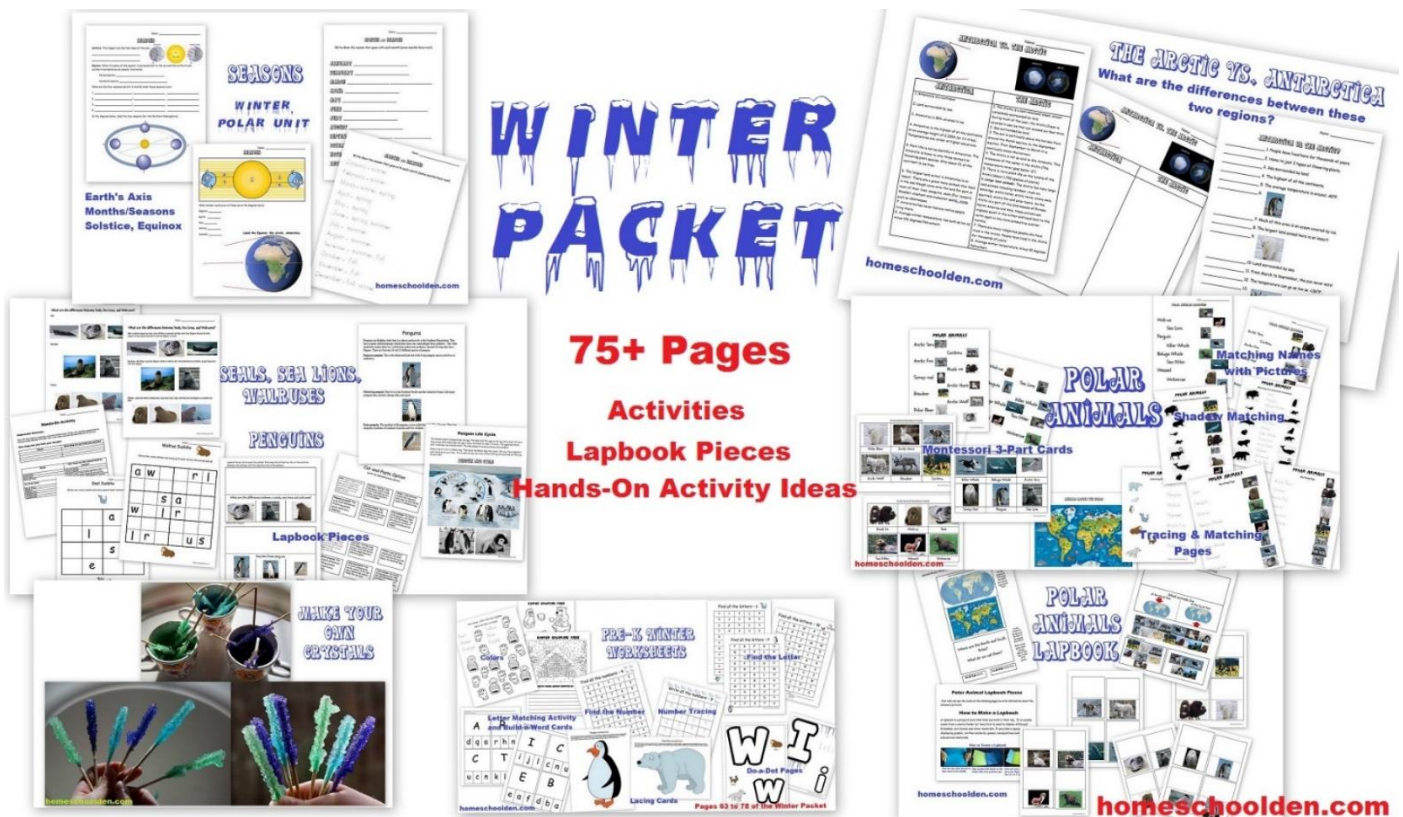




## **Ocean Packet (65+ pages)**



## **Winter Packet: Earth's Axis/Seasons, The Arctic vs. Antarctica, Polar Animals and More (75+ pages)**

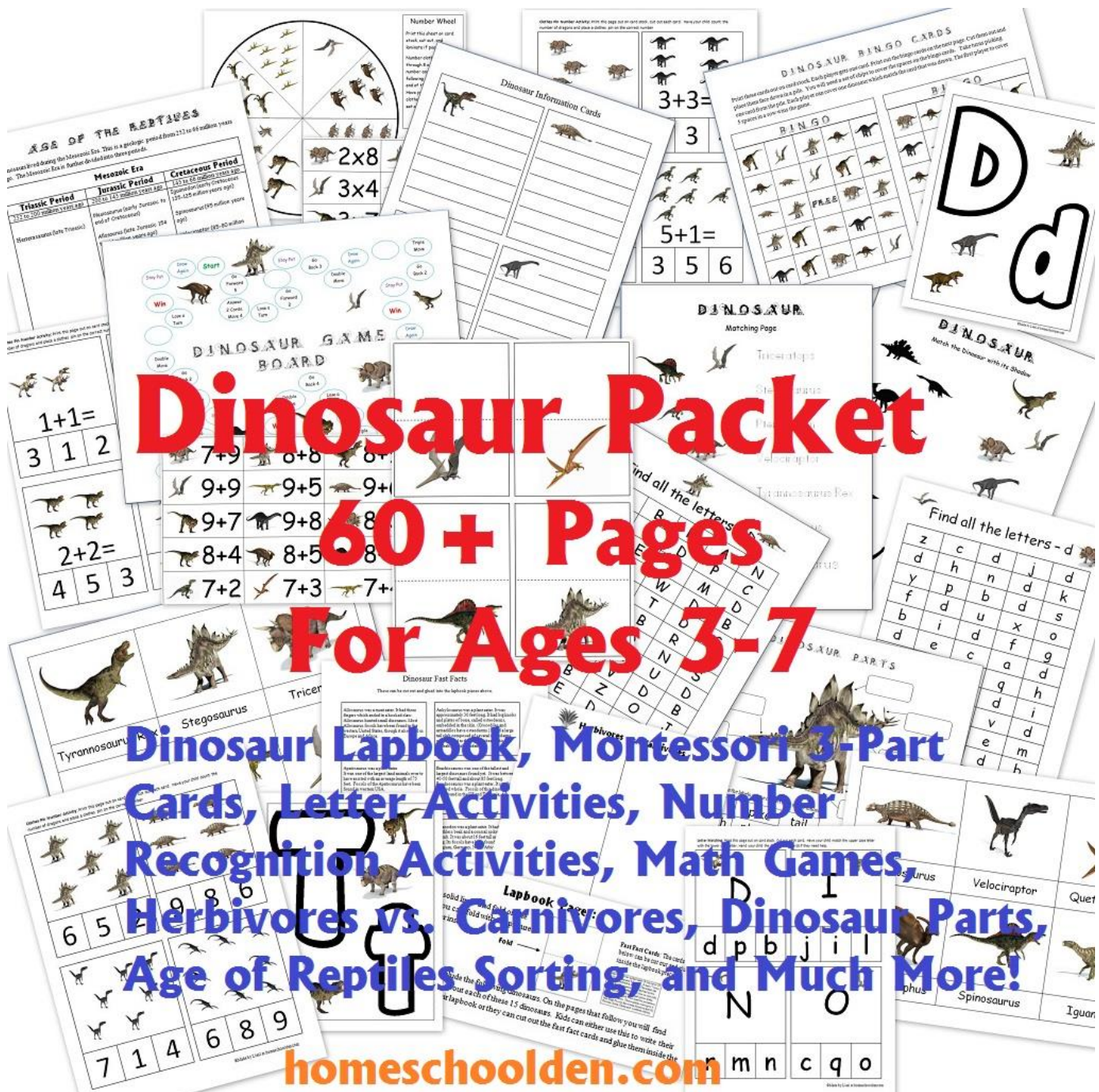


## World Animals Packet 60+ page Packet



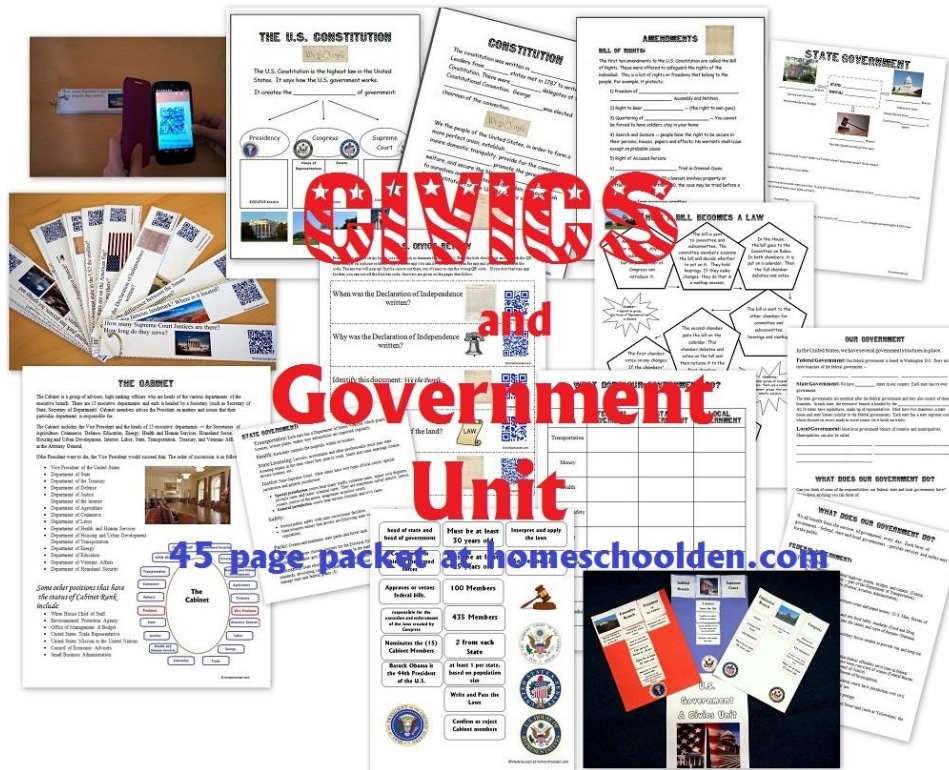
## Dinosaur Packet 60+ Page Packet For ages 3-7 (60+ pages)





**Civics and Government Unit (45 pages)**





45 page packet at [homeschoolden.com](http://homeschoolden.com)

**World Facts Packet** Do your kids know the 4 largest countries? Which countries have the most people? The longest river? This packet covers basic world and U.S. facts.

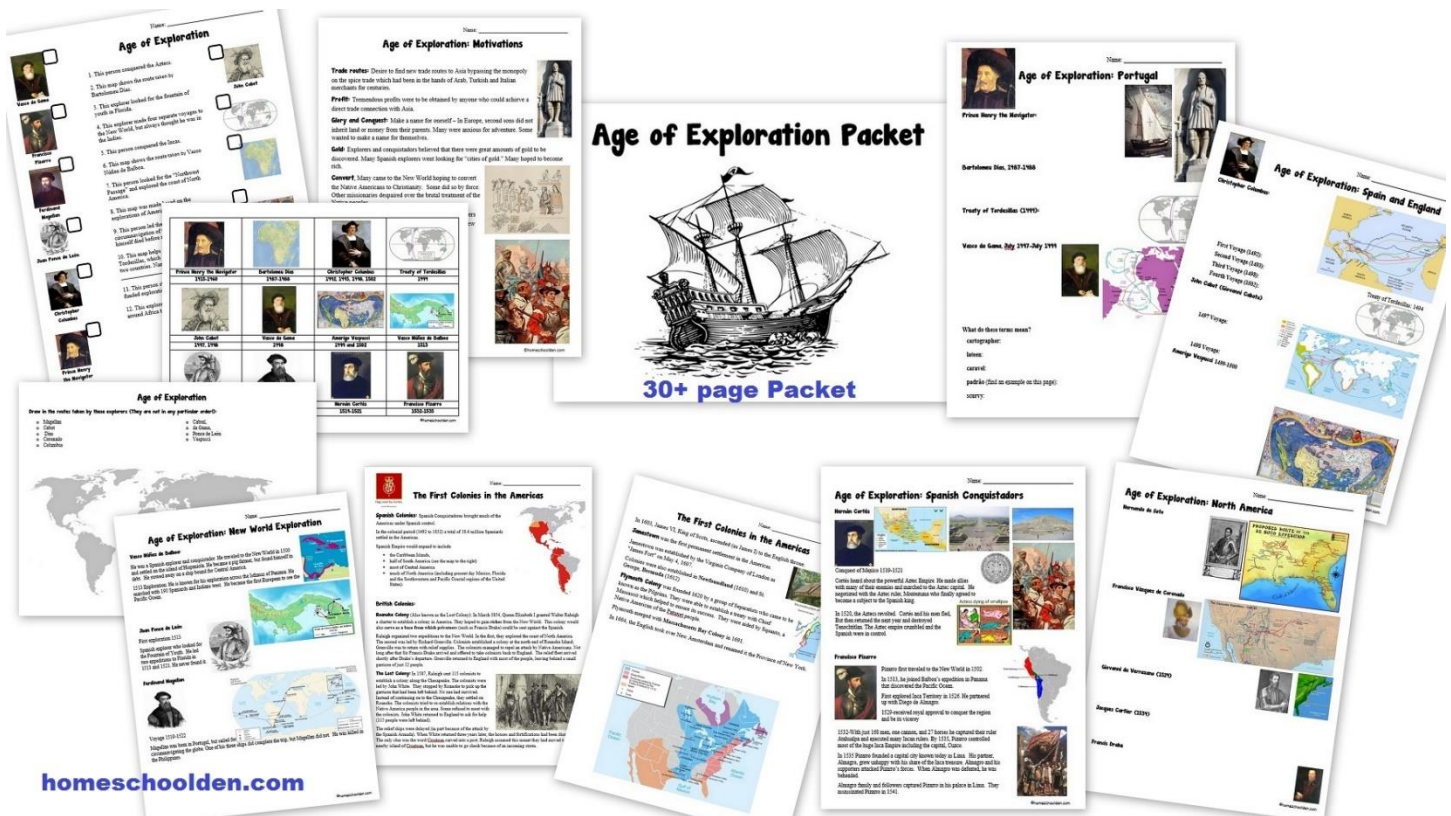


**PAGES INCLUDE:**

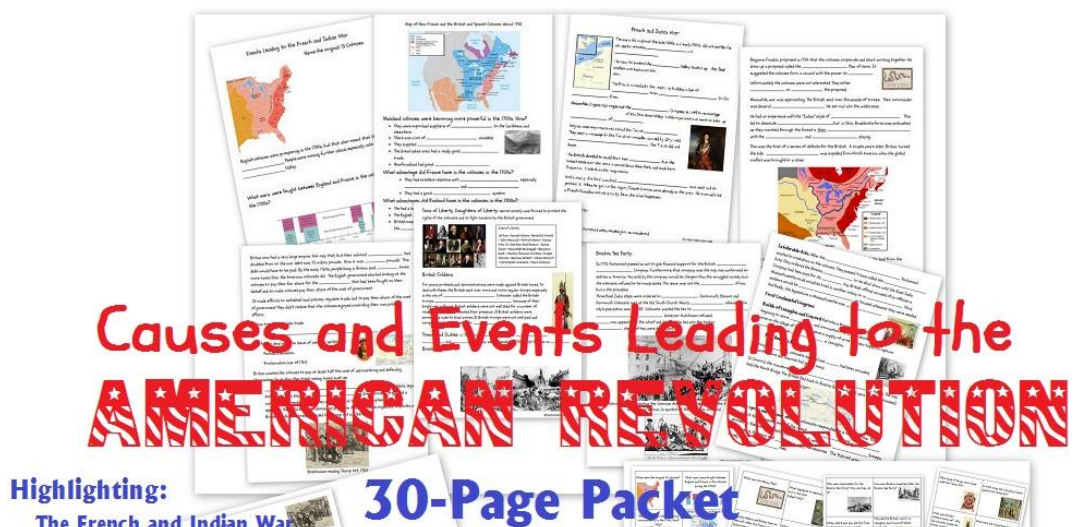
- \* Largest countries
- \* Population facts
- \* Major world religions
- \* Facts about the US:
  - largest/smallest state, capital,
  - highest mountain, longest river, rivers & lakes sheet,
  - largest cities, neighbors
- \* Blank fact sheet pages for: Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa
- \* Famous world landmarks

**Age of Exploration Packet**





## Causes and Events Leading the American Revolution Unit



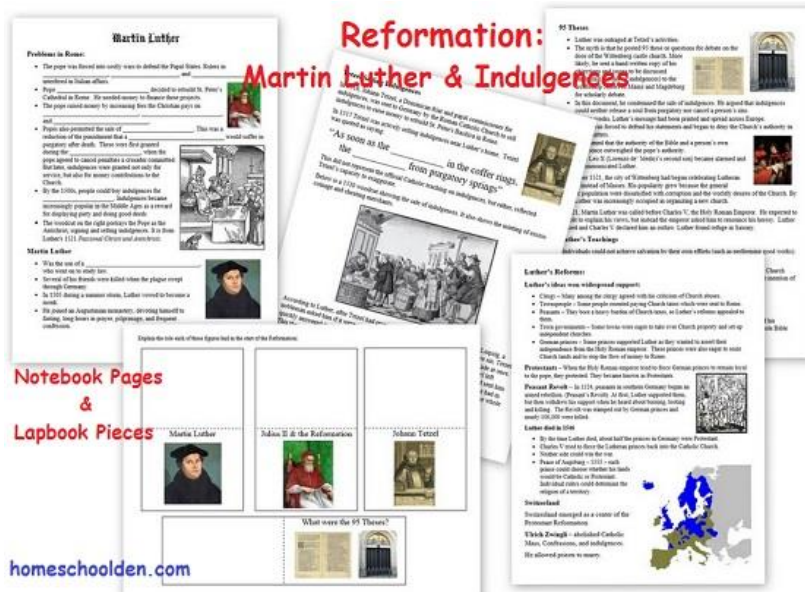
## Slavery and the Civil War Unit







# Renaissance and Reformation Unit



**Learning the Multiplication Facts:** As my daughter moved into learning her multiplication facts I looked around for the kind of multiplication practice that would help her. The math book she was using went through the math facts a bit too quickly for her. She needed quite a bit of repetition and wanted bright, colorful worksheets. I wound up making my own sets of practice pages and games. She loved that! Be sure to check out our Multiplication Bundle here at this post: [Learning the Multiplication Tables 2s thru 9s](#) (or see the purchase link to buy our bundle of 12 pdfs in [Our Store](#)) Here are some sample pictures:

There are actually more than 175 pages... I keep adding to the bundle! ☺



**What order did my daughter learn her math facts?** 2s, 5s, 10s, 3s, 6s and 7s (because those skip counting songs were easy for her!), 4s, 9s, 8s.



**Multiplication by 3s  
File Folder Game**

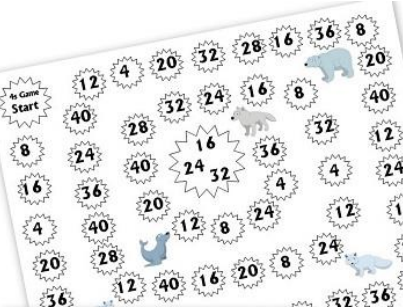


[homeschoolden.com](http://homeschoolden.com)

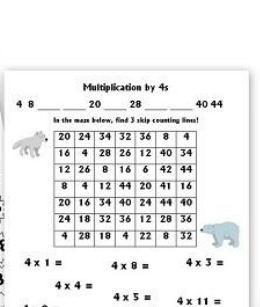


# Multiplication by 4s


## Animal Packet



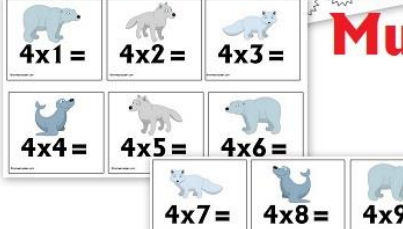
4s Counting Stars



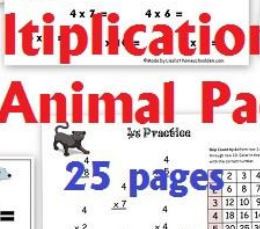
Multiplication by 4s




Multiplication by 4s



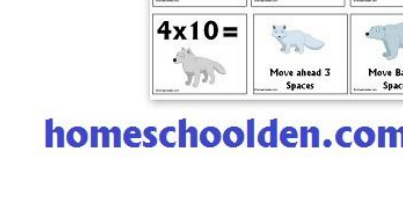
4s Counting Stars



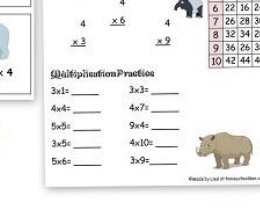
Multiplication by 4s




Multiplication by 4s



4s Counting Stars



Multiplication by 4s



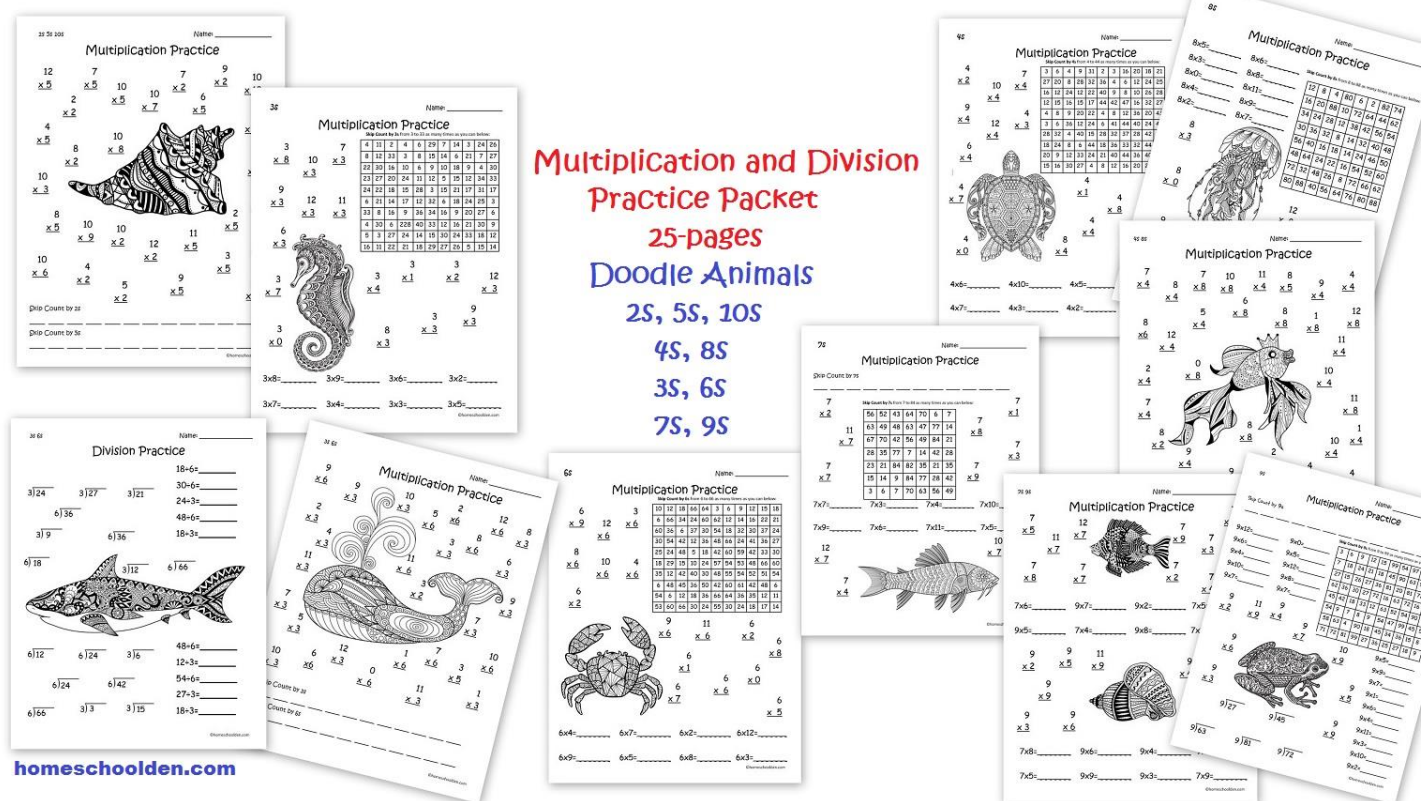
Multiplication by 4s

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Here is a glimpse of the Doodle Animal Multiplication Review Packet that is included in the [Multiplication bundle](#):



**[Learning the Multiplication Tables 2s thru 9s](#) or you can purchase our Multiplication Bundle in [Our Store](#).**