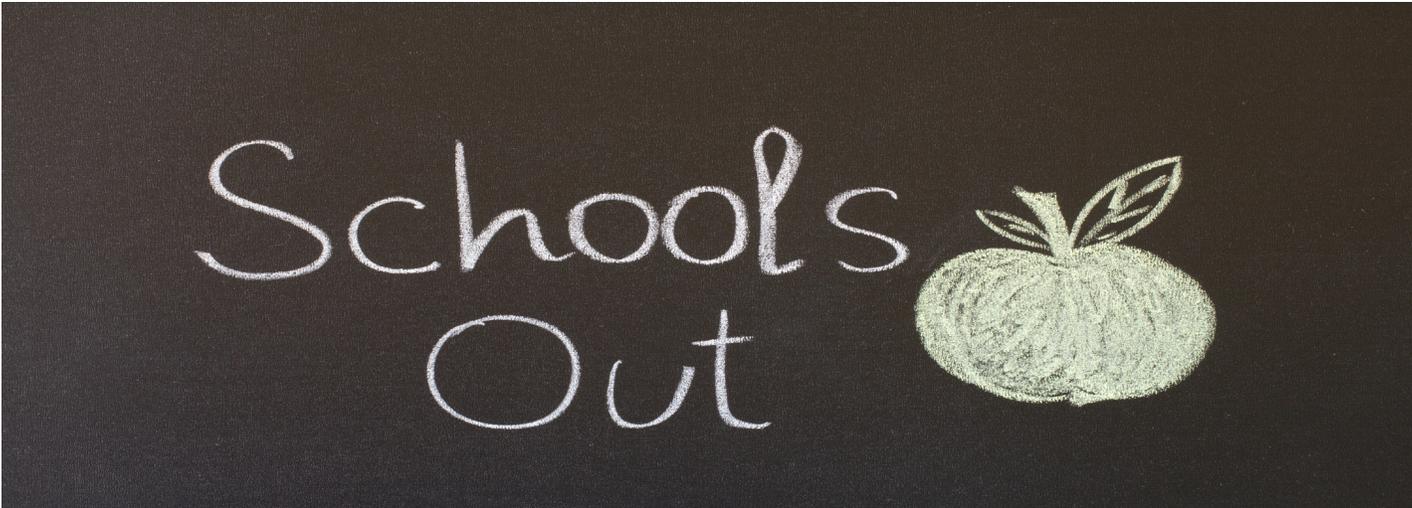




School's Out!



Schools
Out

Psst! Students, this one is just for you...

It's that time of year again. Lessons are concluding, grades are processing, and the end of the school year is in sight! Since there's no doubt that this school year introduced you to exciting new activities and concepts in a number of different subjects, be sure to keep the momentum going with this School's Out scavenger hunt! We've provided a number of ideas for how to take your interests a step further this summer, so pick a subject and run with it!

Activity



Our Kids Ahead website houses thousands of activities, articles, and cool jobs articles all centered around 10 basic subjects. We've chosen some of our favorite pieces about some of our favorite subjects in order to give you lots of ways to explore this summer.

Further explore some of your favorite subjects with this exclusive scavenger hunt.



Crime Scene Investigation

How to extract DNA from any Living Thing



The use of DNA technology is becoming a very high-profile technique in crime scene investigation. But did you know that DNA is not specific to humans? Every living thing contains DNA, from your neighbor to your rose bush. This fun experiment walks you through the process of extracting DNA from split peas.

Check it out! <http://bit.ly/1oltRYS>

Sanitha Ulsh, FBI Agent

So you know that you love CSI, but you're unsure about which steps you need to take to land yourself a cool CSI job, eh? Well, lucky for you, we know someone with all the answers. Sanitha Ulsh, a special agent with the FBI, spends her days protecting the public from foreign and domestic threats. We sat down with Special Agent Ulsh to discuss her journey into the FBI and the steps you students can take to follow in her footsteps.

Check it out! <http://bit.ly/1mTd4VW>





Extreme Weather

Build Your Own Weather Station



There's no doubt that the last school year brought about some seriously strange weather around the world. Stories of strange storm fronts and extreme temperatures filled the weather spots on local, national, and international news stations. One of the instruments that meteorologists use to track and predict these strange weather events is called a psychrometer. This activity helps you build your very own psychrometer that you can use to track the weather in your area.

Do it! <http://bit.ly/1om2vdD>

Dr. Wurman and Dr. Kosiba, Storm Chasers

Those of you with your hearts set on a career in meteorology might be wondering exactly what you need to do to land that career. Who better to explain the job of a meteorologist than Dr. Josh Wurman? Lightning struck when Dr. Josh Wurman landed on the Discovery Channel's reality series *Storm Chasers* and the IMAX film *Forces of Nature*. He was joined by his colleague Dr. Karen Kosiba to discuss what life is really like as a meteorologist and tornado chaser.

Check it out! <http://bit.ly/1uUtWNn>





Medical Innovations

Your Doctor's New Genetic Tools

There are many different factors that play into a doctor's diagnosis. Thanks to recent advancements in the field of genetics, doctors are exploring how to incorporate genetic information into more accurate and more personalized diagnoses. Differences between people extend beyond our outer physical features. How individuals respond to drugs for the treatment of cancer or other illnesses differs based on the activity and function of enzymes in the body. This information is available in each individual's genetic profile. Learn how a pharmacogenetic test available today helps a young girl's doctor make important decisions about her care with this fun activity.

Check it out! <http://bit.ly/1jaBh7X>

Dr. Erika Ebbel Angle

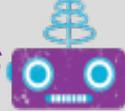


You don't necessarily have to be a doctor or nurse to work in the field of medicine... Just ask Dr. Erika Ebbel Angle. Dr. Ebbel Angle found her passion for biochemistry at a very early age, and has pursued this passion right into a rewarding career in biotechnology. You could say that her journey began with a petri dish, and has progressed to the founding of her own startup biotechnology firm looking for early signs of disease.

Check it out! <http://bit.ly/1gPiU35>



Robotics



Build Your Own Hovercraft



Did you have an encounter with robotics this year, and are you itching to delve more into the field? Try your hand at building your own hovercraft at home this summer. Thanks to PBS kids, hovercraft vehicles are no longer just things of the movies. For this activity you don't need a ton of materials, just a plastic plate, film canister, ballpoint pen, poster putty, and some balloons.

So get started already! <http://bit.ly/1jpNeH5>

Dr. Chris Jones, iRobot

So you know that you love robotics, but you're not sure how to land your dream robotics career? Well, we caught up with Dr. Chris Jones, Director for Research Advancement at iRobot, to discuss the mechanics (get it?) of his journey into robotics. Dr. Jones turned a love of science and engineering into a rewarding career, and he now manages scientists and engineers to define and execute research projects that push the state-of-the-art in robotics.

So go ahead, look to Dr. Jones for advice!

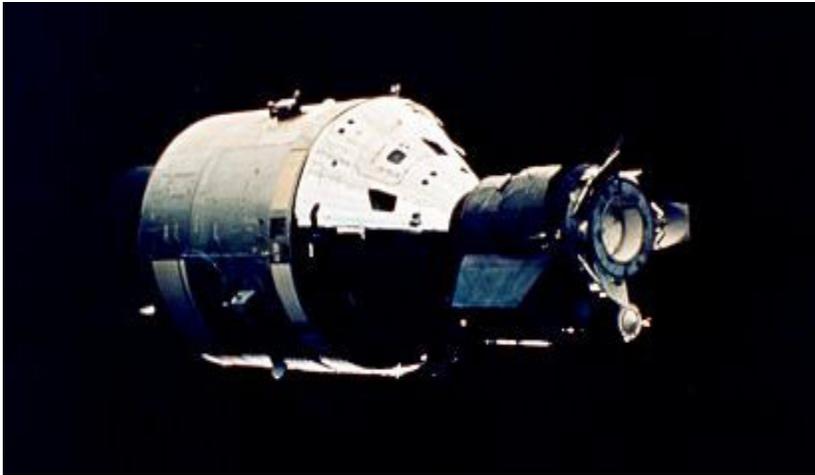
<http://bit.ly/1kcmf0u>





Space Exploration

Build Your Own Spaceship



Space, the final frontier... How many hours have you lost staying up late to gaze at the infinite stars above? Space travel has been the dream of many throughout human history. Have you ever thought about what it would be like to travel amongst the stars? Well, why not let your imagination take you a step further by designing and building your own spaceship, space station, or satellite? This activity helps you walk through the process necessary to facilitate your own space travel.

To the stars! <http://bit.ly/1jGWJf9>

Carlie Zumwalt, NASA Aerospace Engineer

Those of us who love learning about space are undoubtedly aware of NASA. NASA's Apollo moon landing provided a giant step for mankind, but could we possibly take a human farther than the moon? That is the question that drives Aerospace Engineer Carlie Zumwalt. Carlie turned a general interest in how things work into a career working with world-famous NASA to help figure out how to get a human onto Mars. This interview is not to be missed.

Read on!
<http://bit.ly/NRDyqF>





Animal Kingdom



Zoos, Aquariums, Refuges, Oh My!



If you love learning about animals, our challenge to you this summer will be to step away from your computer and into your community. Summer is the time for outdoor fun, which usually means a traffic increase for your local zoo, aquarium, aviary, refuge, or animal sanctuary. Rather than learning about animals from a book or the internet, why not check out the various animal homes in your area. Better yet, once you find one that you like, why not see if there are any volunteer opportunities? What better way to learn about animals than to observe them in person?

And just in case you can't find one in your area, you can always visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium online... <http://bit.ly/1IRT16I>

Katrina McCauley, Zookeeper

And just in case your summer animal experience leaves you hankering for a career working with unhumanly creatures, you might be in need of some practical career advice. Luckily for you, we have just the thing. Katrina McCauley, Zookeeper with the world-renowned Columbus Zoo, turned her life-long love of animals into a rewarding career. McCauley, armed with the educational background and ability to promote herself, broke into zookeeping and has been building her relationship with Colo, the oldest gorilla in a zoo, ever since. Read more to learn how McCauley spends her days as a Zookeeper at the Columbus Zoo!



Check it out! <http://bit.ly/1czO9N4>



Under the Sea

Shark Tracker



Summertime is home to one of our favorite celebrations of the year: Shark Week. Since school is likely to still be out come time for this year's Shark Week, prepare yourself for the event by seeing what the world's shark populations are up to. This shark tracker, brought to you by OCEARCH, helps you observe the movements of sharks in near-real time. You can track sharks by shark type, gender, stage of life, and location. By conducting this type of research in your very own home, you'll be a shark expert come time for Shark Week.

So get tracking! <http://bit.ly/1p42DfA>

Shannon Johnson, Deep-sea Research Technician

So you spend your days dreaming about the deep, but you're not sure how to turn that passion into a career? Well, just look to Shannon Johnson, deep-sea research technician. Johnson believes that her career chose her, and now she has landed a job that allows her to spend time at sea collecting deep-sea specimens from around the world. She describes her days at sea by saying "it's like watching the Discovery Channel in real-time. I get to see things that no one has seen."



Learn about Johnson's deep-sea adventures! <http://bit.ly/1n8khhk>