

SUMMER

Survival

—GUIDE—

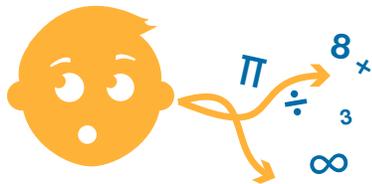
Brain-building
boredom busters for
on-the-go families

G!

presented by  greatschools™

Road trip? Long plane flight? Endless errands around town? This summer, GreatSchools wants to help families make the most of these on-the-go moments. Stave off summer learning loss for your child, and save yourself from the endless "Are we there yet?" loop with these engaging games, activities and conversation-starters. After all, getting there is half the fun!

DID YOU KNOW?



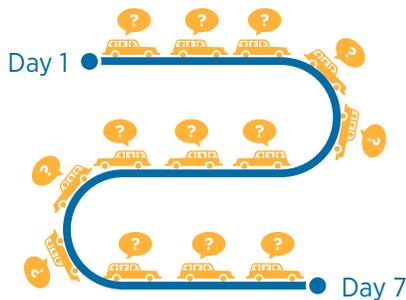
2.6 months

In summer, kids lose an average of 2.6 months of math competency and struggle to maintain reading and spelling levels



4.5 trips

The average number of leisure trips family travelers take per year



13 times

The average number of times young children ask "Are we there yet?" on a week-long trip



30%

of U.S. leisure travelers are family travelers

Sources: Cooper, 1996; travelhorizons TM, July 2009; Leflein Associates, Inc., May 2012

Audiobooks

"Read" a book together as you go, and enjoy the way different actors or authors bring the voices in a story to life. Longer books, like *Harry Potter*, *Little House on the Prairie* or *The Secret Garden*, can make the miles fly by.



Map it!

Personalize and print a map of your trip so your child can follow along. She'll love helping navigate, and will learn about geography along the way. Talk about how a compass works, latitude and longitude, differences between major highways and country roads and how these appear on a map, and how to tell small towns from major cities and distinguish borders between states.

Alphabet game

Find words that start with the letters of the alphabet (in A-B-C order) on signs or billboards as you drive. For a tougher challenge, find three words that start with each letter before moving on.

Car bingo

Print out the bingo boards on page 3, or make your own boards and customize the squares with things like road signs, landmarks and animals.

Battleship

The pencil-and-paper version of this classic game. Print the included game boards on page 4 and take aim at boredom with this fun way to build strategic thinking skills.

Are
we there
yet?

20 questions

One player thinks of a famous person, place or thing. Everyone else gets to ask the player 20 "yes" or "no" questions. For example, "Does it know how to read?" is a valid question, but "What's its favorite book?" is not. Whoever guesses correctly gets to think of the next question.

Counting cows

Count the cows on your side of the road. The goal is to have the highest number when you reach your destination. If there aren't any cows on your route, try counting red cars, mailboxes or other landmarks.



Geography

Start with any place in the world - "Paris," for example. The next person has to think of a place that begins with the last letter of "Paris," such as "San Francisco." Whoever goes next needs a place that starts with an "O". You may not use the same place twice in a game.



MadLibs®

This classic game is a great way to teach parts of speech. Take turns asking for words ("give me 2 adverbs and 1 plural noun"), filling out the game form and reading aloud the silly story. Find in book or toy stores, or create your own (check our printable example on page 5!)

Conversation cards

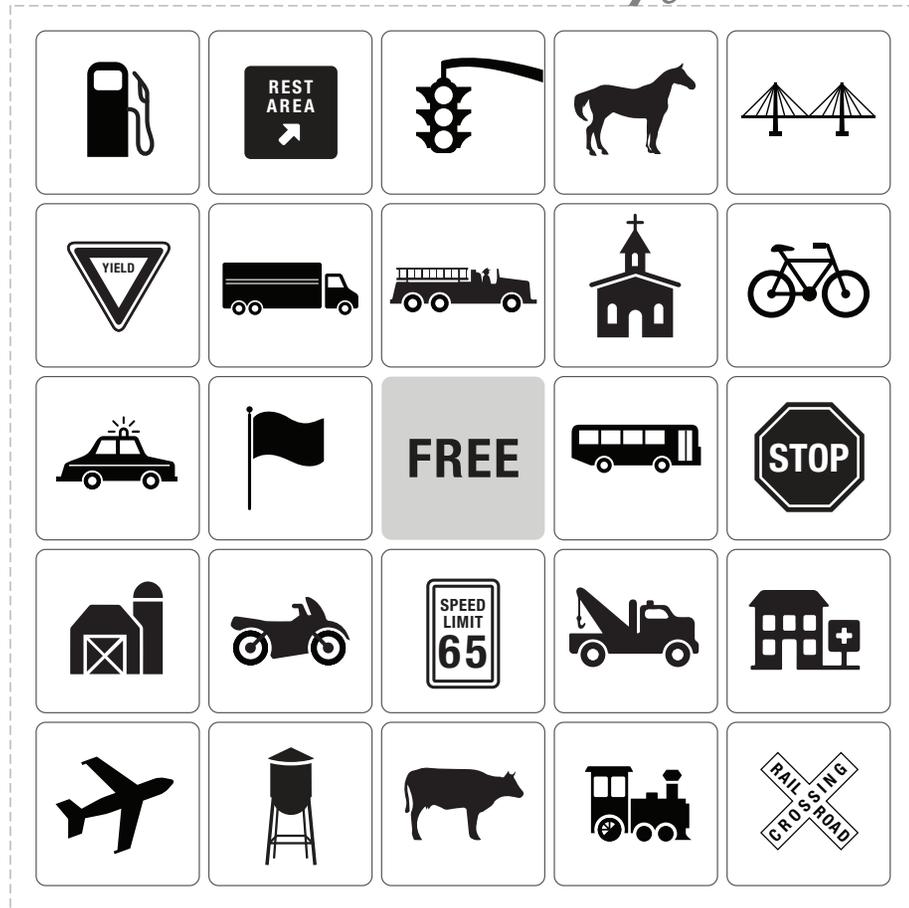
Get your family talking with these fun, thought-provoking discussion cards (included on page 6). Players take turns selecting a card, reading the question aloud and answering it themselves before posing the question to the group to discuss.



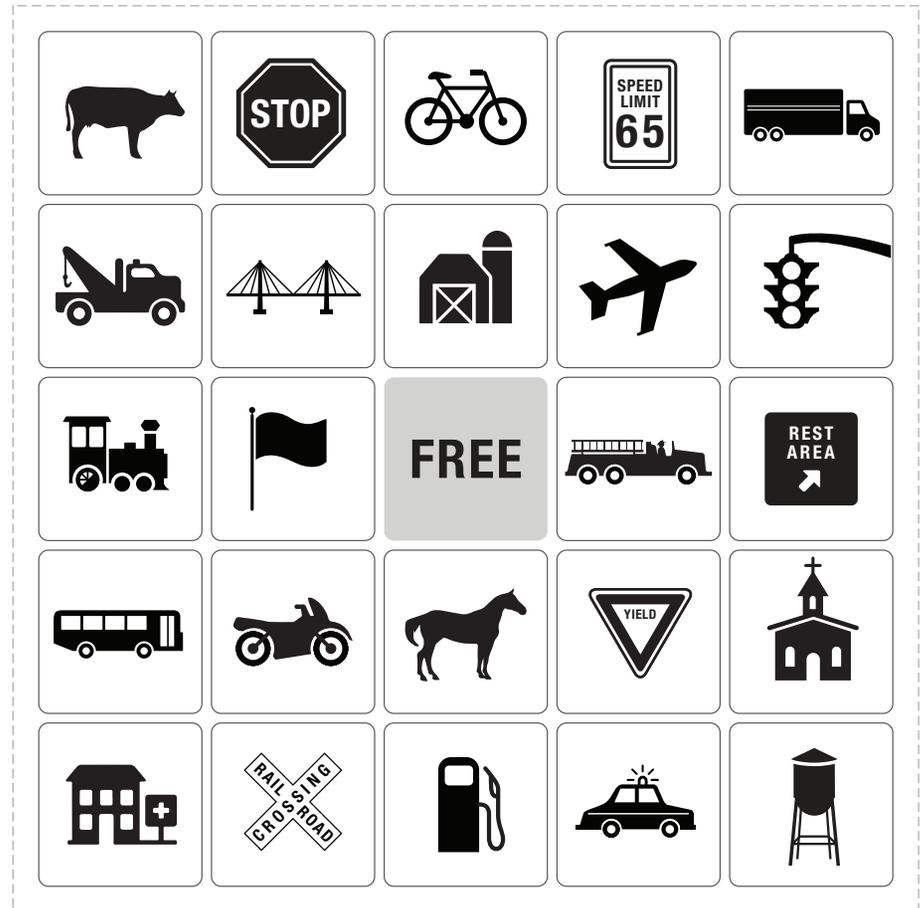
Car bingo

Cut out the bingo cards (print multiple copies if needed) so each player has one. As you drive, cross off the objects on your board as you see them. Once you have a whole row crossed out (diagonal, horizontal or vertical), you have "bingo!" The first player to bingo wins the game.

Card 1



Card 2



Battleship

Print and cut out the two game boards, and give one to each player (print multiple copies for extra games). First, each player shades in the squares on their game board to place their 5 battleships (see sizing chart at the bottom of the page). Players take turns trying to hit – and eventually sink – each other’s battleships by calling out coordinates (“A8!”). When a shot is a “hit,” both players mark an (X symbol) on their game board in that square. For a missed shot, both players mark a (● symbol) in that square. This helps both parties keep track of the shots they’ve made and the shots their opponent has made, and which were hits or misses. Once all the squares of a ship are hit, that ship is sunk. The first player to sink all the opponents’ ships wins!

Your ships



| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| A | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | |
| J | | | | | | | | | | |

Opponent's ships

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| A | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | |
| J | | | | | | | | | | |

Ships

Aircraft carrier: 5 blocks
Battleship: 4 blocks

Cruiser: 3 blocks
Submarine: 3 blocks

Patrol ship: 2 blocks

X = Hit

● = Miss

Word fun

Summer Vacation

The last time my family went on summer vacation, it was _____.
ADJECTIVE

This summer, we are going on a road trip to visit _____.
PLACE

It's going to be a/an _____ trip. When we get there, we will _____
ADJECTIVE

_____ all day, then rest _____
VERB **ADVERB**

in the afternoon, and for dinner, we'll _____
VERB

some _____ food. Then, under the stars,
ADJECTIVE

we will _____ marshmallows and sing
VERB

_____. Can you believe it? We will be driving
PLURAL NOUN

there in our _____ car, all _____
ADJECTIVE **NUMBER**

of us! It should be interesting, especially when my _____
RELATIVE

falls asleep – you've never heard such _____ snoring! It sounds like a
ADJECTIVE

_____. Wish me luck...
NOUN

Conversation starters

Print and trim out the following cards. We even left you some blank cards to create your own conversation starters. Have fun!



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>NATURE / SCIENCE</p> <p>What's your favorite season, and why?</p> | <p>NATURE / SCIENCE</p> <p>If you were on a desert island and could only bring 5 things with you, what would you bring? How would you use these things?</p> | <p>NATURE / SCIENCE</p> <p>Why does a water skimmer bug stay on the water's surface? What holds the bug up?</p> |
| <p>NATURE / SCIENCE</p> <p>If you discovered a new planet, what would you name it, and what would it be like there?</p> | <p>NATURE / SCIENCE</p> <p>Imagine you were an ant. Where would you live? What would you see around you? Where would you find food?</p> | <p>NATURE / SCIENCE</p> <p>Imagine you were an elephant. Where would you live? What would you see around you? Where would you find food?</p> |
| <p>NATURE / SCIENCE</p> <p>What's your favorite – nighttime or daytime? Why?</p> | <p>NATURE / SCIENCE</p> <p>Which is better: dogs or cats? Why?</p> | <p>NATURE / SCIENCE</p> <p>If you could spend one whole day with a person from history, who would you pick, and why? What would you do together? Where would you go? What would you talk about?</p> |
| <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>If you could fix one problem in the world today, what would you fix and why?</p> | <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>If you were given a free trip anywhere in the world, where would you go? Who would you bring with you? What would you do there?</p> | <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>Of the 5 senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch), which do you think is the most important and why? Which is the least important?</p> |
| <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>Which animal do you think is the friendliest and why? What about the scariest and the silliest? Do you think animals have feelings?</p> | <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>What do you think is the happiest color and why? What about the saddest color, the sweetest, the scariest, the friendliest, and the funniest?</p> | <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>Which holiday is the best (your birthday, Christmas, Hanukkah, Halloween, etc.)? What if you had to give up a holiday, which one would you give up and why?</p> |
| <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>If you could have any pet, what pet would you have and why? What would you do with your pet?</p> | <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>If you could invent a new language, what would it be like – to write, speak or read? Who would speak it?</p> | <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>Vanilla or chocolate?</p> |

Conversation starters



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>If you were to write a book, what would it be about? What would you call it? What would people say about your book after they read it?</p> | <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>If you could have any career you wanted, what would you choose?</p> | <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>Is it better to be smart or kind? Why?</p> |
| <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>If you could become someone else for a day, who would you choose? What things would you do during that day? What do you think you would learn?</p> | <p>REAL LIFE / CULTURE / PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>If you could snap your fingers and have just one amazing talent (singing, dancing, painting, sports, acting, languages, etc.) what would you pick?</p> | <p>SUPERHEROES / FICTION / MAGIC</p> <p>Which is the best superpower: being able to fly, being invisible, being able to breathe under water, or x-ray vision? Why?</p> |
| <p>SUPERHEROES / FICTION / MAGIC</p> <p>If you could choose to have one super power, which would it be? How would you use it? Would you keep it hidden or share it with others?</p> | <p>SUPERHEROES / FICTION / MAGIC</p> <p>If you could hang out with any character from a book, which would it be? What would you do together? What places would you want to visit with that character?</p> | <p>SUPERHEROES / FICTION / MAGIC</p> <p>If you were a reporter sent to visit a fictional land (like Narnia, Oz or Hogwarts) where would you go and why? What would you tell your friends about your visit? What would be your next choice?</p> |
| <p>SUPERHEROES / FICTION / MAGIC</p> <p>If, like Doctor Doolittle, you could talk to animals and understand them, what would you do with this special skill? Where might you visit? What kinds of conversations do you think you would have?</p> | <p>SUPERHEROES / FICTION / MAGIC</p> <p>If you had a magic potion that could make you very very tall or very very small, which one would you chose and what would it be like? What things could you do or not do?</p> | <p>SUPERHEROES / FICTION / MAGIC</p> <p>If you could be invisible for a day, where would you go, and what would you do? Why?</p> |
| <p>CREATE YOUR OWN</p> | <p>CREATE YOUR OWN</p> | <p>CREATE YOUR OWN</p> |
| <p>CREATE YOUR OWN</p> | <p>CREATE YOUR OWN</p> | <p>CREATE YOUR OWN</p> |