

Lapbooking!

What is a lapbook? A lapbook is a learning tool made from a file folder and filled with mini books useful for storing information and great for review.

(Look at sample lapbooks.)

What ages can lapbook? Age 3 all the way through highschool can lapbook. Older student's lapbooks will be more in depth with more research and writing. Preschooler's lapbooks will be filled mostly with pictures, letters, numbers, shapes, etc.



What can I put in a lapbook? There are a plethora of things that will go well in a lapbook- maps, pictures, drawings, Copywork, essays, postcards, clip art, charts, paper dolls, puppets, puzzles, board games, mazes, crossword puzzles, word searches, flash cards, real things like coins, feathers, anything that is flat or fairly flat.

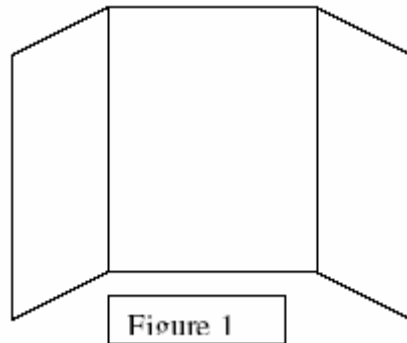
What supplies do I need? Lapbooking can be very inexpensive. All you have to have is a file folder, colored or white paper, scissors, and glue. That said, you can make your lapbook more interesting by adding different varieties of paper- cardstock, pattern paper, etc.

The fun part of lapbooking is making it your own. Use any scrapbooking materials you have. Decorative scissors, punchouts, and stickers will make each lapbook unique. Also be sure to include pictures of your child doing projects that pertained to the study. All kids love to see pictures of themselves!



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Making a lapbook base- This is how your lapbook will look after you fold it. It's called a shutterfold because it opens like the shutters on a window. This is the simplest lapbook base.



There are many ways to add extensions to your base if you need more room. We'll cover some towards the end of class if there is time.

Minibooks Galore- We will make some of the easiest mini books to put into your sample lapbook. You want to teach your kids how to make these. If you want, you can put the directions for making each minibook inside the book after you've made it.

**Hotdog fold-* fold paper in half lengthwise to where it resembles a hotdog bun

**Hamburger fold-* fold paper in half widthwise to resemble a hamburger bun

**Matchbook-* Matchbooks are generally small minibooks, but experiment with larger ones for some variety! Try a column or row of minibooks for vocabulary or for related concepts.

**Accordion Fold-* This book can be as short or as long as you'd like. It is especially good for [timelines](#), steps in a process, a series of events, or any sequence at all. The accordion book can unfold up, down, to the left or to the right. You can decide! Index cards, taped together, make good accordion books.

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Flip Flap Book- The flip flap book (also called a shutterfold depending on the flaps) is a mini-book standby. We use it constantly! Vary your paper size and number of "doors" to fit your topic. Flaps can open on one side or both, on top or bottom or even in all four directions! These kinds of minibooks are great for vocabulary or most any topic at all.

Pop-up Book-

Four Corner Book- Another impressive but easy book. All it takes is a square piece of paper with corners folded into the center. Voila! You naturally get four sections, so material with four parts is best suited for this minibook.

Fan Book- For a fan book, make as many pages as you need and use a paper fastener to connect them at the bottom. This book then opens like a fan. Your pages can be most any shape at all as long as they can be connected at one corner or end. Store it in a pocket in your lapbook or affix the back page to the lapbook base.

Circle Book- Easy, easy! Start with paper cut in a circle shape (use a template). Fold it in half, then in half again. Open it all the way up and you'll have 4 sections.

Three-Fourths Book- Fold your paper into fourths. Unfold and cut one fourth out. That's it!

Wheel Book- Cut 2 circles out the same size. Slice a piece of pie out of the top one. Connect the 2 circles in the center with a brad. Wheel books are great for short lists or for a short process. The little ones especially love the action of turning the wheel. You'll need a paper fastener for this one.

One Page Book- see printout

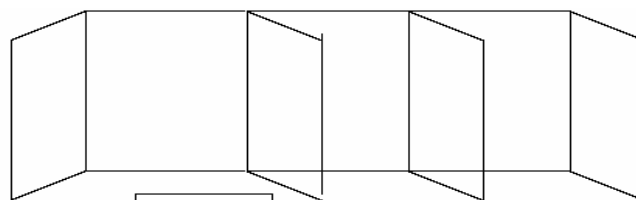


Figure 2

Lapbooking!

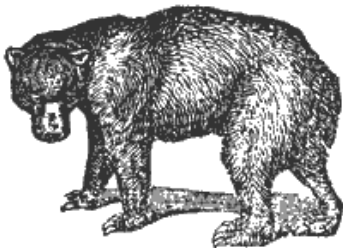
How do I plan a lapbook? (see sample planning pages)

Step 1- Pick a topic.

You can lapbook ANYTHING. Animals are easy and might be a good starting point. Other ideas would be a time period (say the Middle Ages), a county (Russia), airplanes, knights, cooking, sewing, books of the Bible, a lapbook based off of a book, measurement, etc..

Step 2- Break down your topic into smaller chunks.

Let's take bears for example. We want to know about the bear's habitat, life cycle, gestational period, cubs, where they live, what they eat, how their internal systems work, dangers to them, and how they are useful to humans.



Each sub topic will be made into a minibook.

Step 3- Pick your resources.

The library is a great resource. Use it! Find a good book or two on bears. This will be your 'text'. There is also a variety of information online about all subjects. Your book can actually help you think of your subtopics if you're having trouble coming up with ideas. (Hint: use your table of contents)

Please don't think that you have to come up with a whole new topic to study in order to lapbook. Use it as a tool for whatever you are already learning. It will replace worksheets. It's not something else to ADD ON, but REPLACES what you were previously doing. You will not lapbook every subject, only the ones

you want to spend a little more time on.



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Step 4– Pick a minibook for each subtopic.

Let your kids be very involved in this step. You don't have to plan each book before you make it. As you learn the next chunk of information, decide which minibook would hold that information best.

You can have as many or as few minibooks as you would like. Make it your own. We like to do 2 or 3 minibooks a day depending on how involved they are. As you complete a minibook, store it in a Ziploc bag. That way all of your minibooks are kept together safely until you're ready to put your lapbook together.

We prefer to put the lapbook together at the very end so that we know how many folders we need. It's also great review.

Great Websites–

http://www.homeschoolshare.com/lapbooking_resources.php Full of free lapbooks, templates, and unit studies. Also has FIAR things. Be sure to look at the Civil War lapbook made by ME.

<http://www.lapbooklessons.com/> Lots of good things. Free lapbooks, videos about lapbooking, mostly for younger ages. You must sign up, but it's free!

<http://www.squidoo.com/minibooks> pictures galore of how to make the books

<http://www.handsofachild.com/shop/> The best premade lapbooks.

<http://www.squidoo.com/lapbooking> Great all around page.

<http://karenswhimsy.com/public-domain-images/> Great black and white clipart.

<http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/world.htm> Maps of all sorts

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html> pages that work great in lapbooks

<http://www.crrclick.com/index.php> Sign up for the newsletter and you'll get weekly freebies. Often times it's a lapbook!

