

## Summer Homework Letter for Rising 5th Graders

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As your child prepares to enter 5th grade, we want to ensure they continue to build upon their knowledge and skills over the summer. To support their academic growth, we have assigned mandatory summer homework in the following subjects: Math, Science, History, ELA, and Spanish. These assignments will help reinforce key concepts and prepare students for a successful transition into the next academic year.

We encourage students to complete their assignments steadily throughout the summer rather than waiting until the last minute. These assignments will be reviewed and discussed in the first weeks of school.

Thank you for your support in ensuring a smooth and productive transition into 5th grade. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at [asidani@aosj.us](mailto:asidani@aosj.us)

For subject-specific questions, feel free to contact:

- Mr. Chris Krow: [ckrow@aosj.us](mailto:ckrow@aosj.us)
- Mrs. Amanda Watermeyer - [awatermeyer@aosj.us](mailto:awatermeyer@aosj.us)
- Mr. Christopher St-Cyr - [cstcyr@aosj.us](mailto:cstcyr@aosj.us)
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Enjoy your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Best regards,

**Amal Sidani**

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# MATHEMATICS

This summer, you'll use **Khan Academy** to sharpen your math skills and get ready for 5th grade!

## How to Get Started

1. **Go to:** [Khan Academy](#)
2. **Create an account** using your AoSJ school email.  
New students will receive their school email: **first initial & last name @ [aosj.us](#)**
3. Make sure you are signed into your AoSJ account.
4. Join the class on this link: [Get ready for 5th grade course link - \(for rising 5th grade\)](#) -  
Class code **XN4ZA956**

## What You Need to Do

**Goal:** Complete at least **11 hours (or 660 minutes)** of learning over the summer.

Work at least **1 hour per week** to stay on track.

Reach at least **70% Mastery Progress Level** to show understanding.

## Important!

- You **must** be signed into your **AoSJ account** while working, or your progress won't count!
- If you need help, ask a parent or teacher (Mr. Krow, [ckrow@aosj.us](mailto:ckrow@aosj.us)) for support before school starts.
- Some current students may be asked to complete more than the minimum number of hours, depending on their progress at the end of this year.
- New students may be asked to complete more than the minimum number of hours, depending on an assessment of their placement test results as well as a review of their prior institution's mathematics curriculum.
- **Student completion of their required module will be their first grade of Semester 1.**

## **SCIENCE**

Summer is a great time to explore new ideas and learn about the world around us! This summer, you'll read an exciting book about three real scientists and complete one of the activities based on what you've learned.

### **What to Read**

**Book:** *Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science* by Jeanine Atkins

This book tells the stories of three incredible women—Maria Sibylla Merian, Mary Anning, and Maria Mitchell—who made amazing discoveries in science.

### **Choose One Activity to Complete:**

After reading *Finding Wonders*, pick **ONE** of the following activities to complete:

#### **Option 1: Timeline**

Create a detailed, illustrated timeline of the life and discoveries of **one of the women** featured in the book. Include at least **five key** events and **explain how** each event contributed to her scientific achievements. Use your own drawings and captions to bring the timeline to life.

#### **Option 2: Personal Letter**

Write a **2-page letter** to one of the women featured in the book, expressing how her story inspires you. Include specific examples from her life that resonate with your personal experiences or aspirations. Discuss how you might apply her lessons to your own life.

#### **Option 3: Journal Entries**

After reading *Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science*, **create a personal journal** from the perspective of **one** of the three women: Maria Sibylla Merian, Mary Anning, or Maria Mitchell. Include at least **five entries (10 lines each)** that reflect their feelings, challenges, and scientific discoveries. Use historical context and details from the book to enrich your entries.

#### **Option 4: Multimedia Presentation**

Develop a multimedia presentation that explores how the scientific contributions of Maria Sibylla Merian, Mary Anning, or Maria Mitchell **might impact a modern scientific issue**. Include visuals, quotes from the book, and your own analysis of the connection between **their work** and **today's challenges**.

### **Final Steps**

- Bring your completed work to school in the fall! **Due on the first day of school.**

# HISTORY

To help rising 5th graders feel confident and curious about the topics we'll explore next year in history, we've created a simple and engaging summer assignment. This work will build their foundational knowledge of geography and early civilizations, and prepare them for our deep dive into ancient cultures from Mesopotamia to China and Greece.

## **PART 1: GEOGRAPHY & EARLY HUMANS**

**Objective:** Understand how geography impacts civilization and explore the journey of early humans.

### **Assignment:**

#### 1. **Watch and Reflect:**

Watch this short video from National Geographic Kids: [Why Geography Matters](#)

After watching, answer in a few sentences:

- Why is geography important to how people live?
- Can you name a landform or body of water that might help a civilization grow?

#### 2. **Mapping Practice:**

Download, print, and label this [blank world map](#).

- Label the continents and oceans.
- Mark and label these regions: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, and Greece.

## **PART 2: INTRO TO ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS**

**Objective:** Get curious about the ancient world and the themes we'll be studying.

### **Assignment:**

Choose **one ancient civilization** from the list below. Do a little research (a book, video, or website with an adult's help) and complete the following:

- **Civilizations to choose from:** Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient India, Ancient China, Ancient Greece

Answer the following questions:

- Where was this civilization located?
- What kind of government or leadership did they have?
- Name one invention or cultural achievement from this civilization.
- What's one fun or surprising fact you learned?

You may write your responses or create a one-page poster with your answers and drawings!

## **OPTIONAL BONUS: Artifact Drawing**

During 5th grade, you will recreate an ancient artifact. For fun, browse the [Met Museum's Timeline of Art History](#) or use the [MetKids site](#) to explore ancient artifacts. Choose one and draw it!

### **Materials to Submit in September:**

- Your geography reflection
- Labeled world map
- Ancient civilization project (paragraphs or poster)
- Optional: artifact drawing

## English Language Arts (ELA)

Welcome to 5th grade! This summer, you'll dive into some exciting books to get ready for the new school year. **The books you read over the summer will be the first two novels we study together in class.**

### Novel 1: *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson

This historical novel tells the story of 14-year-old Matilda Cook as she navigates life in Philadelphia during the yellow fever epidemic.

As you read, you'll be working on a **project board** that shows your understanding of the book's main elements: characters, setting, plot, theme, and important moments. This board will be shared during our first week of school, so be creative and thoughtful!

Your Project Board Must Include:

#### 1. **Characters**

- Choose 3 main characters. For each, include:
  - A brief description (2–3 sentences)
  - One important decision they made and why it mattered
  - An illustration or symbol that represents them

#### 2. **Setting**

- Describe where and when the story takes place.
- Include key details that help create the mood of the story.
- Add a visual (drawing, map, or printed picture).

#### 3. **Plot**

- Identify and briefly describe 4 major events (beginning, rising action, climax, resolution).
- You can present this in a timeline or story map format.

#### 4. **Theme**

- What big message or lesson does this book teach?
- Support your answer with 2 examples from the story.

#### 5. **Your Favorite Moment**

- Describe your favorite moment in the book and explain why you chose it.

As you read, fill in the **Reading Organizer** to keep track of your notes. This will help you when it's time to create your board.

**Reading Organizer for *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

**1. Character Tracker**

Character Name	Description (2–3 sentences)	Important Decision They Made	Symbol or Sketch

**2. Setting Notes**

- **Place:** Where does the story happen? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Time Period:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **3 Details That Help You Picture the Setting:**
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
- **Sketch or Describe the Setting:**

(You can draw or write below.)

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### 3. Plot Points (Story Events)

Event Type	What Happened? (1–2 sentences)
Beginning	
Rising Action	
Climax	
Resolution	

### 4. Theme

- What is a message or lesson the author wants you to learn?

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- 2 moments from the book that support this theme:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Favorite Moment

- Describe your favorite part of the book and why?

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**Bring your completed Fever board to class with the reading organizer and be ready to present a section of your board to your classmates!**

Novel 2: *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

- While you read *Hatchet*, answer the guiding questions [linked here](#). Please print out the following questions, handwrite your answers, and be prepared to turn them in on the first day of school.

### **Your Reading Log**

Keep a simple list of the books you read this summer, including:

- **Title and Author** of your choice book.
- Any other books you read for fun!

### **Need Help Picking a Book?**

Check out these websites for book recommendations:

- [Read Brightly – Summer Books for Tweens](#)
- [New York Public Library – Book Suggestions](#)

Enjoy your summer reading, and we can't wait to hear all about your books in the fall!

## SPANISH

¡Hola! This is your summer work for Spanish. It is very important to keep practicing during the summer so you can continue developing your Spanish skills. [In this packet](#), you will find vocabulary to study, fun games, online activities to review what you've learned, and written activities to help you practice. You will also complete a learning diary called "**Mi diario de aprendizaje**." Each day you work on Spanish, you will write the date, the weather, and a few sentences about what you learned or practiced that day. You can use the template included in the packet or write your entries in a small notebook. Make sure to complete everything over the summer and bring the entire packet and your diary with you on the first day of school.

**MY LEARNING DIARY (Mi diario de aprendizaje):** Keep a special Spanish learning diary called "**Mi diario de aprendizaje**." Each day that you work on Spanish, you will write a short entry to reflect on what you did and learned. This is a great way to track your progress, practice writing in Spanish.

Each entry should include the following:

1. **La fecha**
2. **El tiempo**
3. **Tu reflexión del día** – Write 2–4 sentences in Spanish (or a mix of Spanish and English if needed) about some of these subjects:
  - Which activities did you complete?
  - Which activities did you like the most?
  - What new vocabulary or grammar did you learn?
  - Any questions you have for your teacher about what you learned

Fecha:	Hoy es martes, 15 de julio del 2025.
Tiempo:	Hoy hace sol y hace un poco de viento.
Actividades:	Hoy completé dos actividades online. Me gusta la actividad "La palabra misteriosa"
Vocabulario o gramática:	Hoy aprendí sobre la familia. Me gusta la palabra "tío."
Preguntas para la profesora:	¿Cómo se dice siblings?

### **Final Notes:**

- All written work must be submitted on the first day of school.

**¡Feliz verano! Have fun reviewing Spanish!  
Haz lo que puedas, no te preocupes por ser perfecto.  
Try your best and enjoy it!**

*Ms. Millones*