Homeschool Projects for Science and Social Studies

Included you will find directions on where to begin. From there, you may choose any of the projects listed as a way for your child to interact with the content. If it is the first time to try a particular assignment, you may need to help or show an example as a guide. I've included a small section on *rubric grading* at the end of this guide.

WHERE TO BEGIN:

1. **Make a list of topics or units you'd like to research.**
   a). You may follow your child's interest.
   b). You may look at your state's standards and list the topics from there (i.e. space, life science, ancient civilizations, pioneer life)

2. **Check out library books on the topics.**
   a). You may get easier books for your child to read and higher level books to read aloud to your child. Discuss and ask questions, using new vocabulary.
   b). If the library has those books checked out, move on to another topic on your list for the time being.

3. **Watch documentaries with your child on the topic.**
   a). Preview or check ratings first.
   b). Watch in segments in order to discuss material.
   c). You can find ideas in FB groups like *"Homeschooling with Netflix"*, *"Homeschooling with Amazon Prime"*, or *"Homeschooling with Netflix, Amazon Streaming, Etc."*

4. **Watch age-appropriate kid shows on the topics.**
   a). Examples are: *Liberty's Kids, Magic School Bus, Wild Kratts*, etc.
   b). Find additional shows on Youtube for Kids by typing "(topic) for kids." Subscribe to a channel if it makes quality videos. It will be easier to find them later. Examples are: *Dr. Binocs Show from Peekaboo Kidz, Homeschool Pop, FreeSchool*

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PROJECTS & ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignment	Details
Draw or copy a picture of something you saw or learned about. Label items in the picture.	Encourage your child to use details and color. It might take more than one day.
Do an experiment together.	Allow your child to gather materials and read the directions. Write a paragraph about results.
Write a book on your topic.	Staple pages together like a book. Retell a history account and illustrate or make a nonfiction book on a science topic.
Make a craft on your topic.	Use materials like glue, scissors, etc. to make an ornament, a collage, a diorama, or other craft. Record a minute clip video telling about it.
Make a brochure on your topic.	Fold copy paper into thirds and make a travel brochure with information about the topic.
Build a lego creation or play doh sculpture on your topic.	Feel free to set a time limit as some children get carried away.

*Whether or not you choose to grade the work, your child WILL LEARN, which is the primary goal of school. You may choose from these activities or come across another idea to add to this collection.

*Take photos to save for documentation and memories!

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GRADING WITH RUBRICS:

What is a rubric?

      A rubric is a checklist that is shared at the beginning of a project or assignment so the student knows how he will be graded. You can find example rubrics online and tweak them to fit your needs. *I usually only use rubrics with upper elementary/middle school students.*

Make your own rubric:

You can make your own rubric. I've even jotted down a rubric on a post-it note before. At the end of the assignment, it is stapled to the front with the total score.

1. Make a list of what you expect.

2. For each item on the list, determine a point value, such as 5-10 points. I usually do not give 1pt. value because it is all or nothing. I can give partial credit easier if the item is worth several points. Different categories can have a different point value. Don't doubt yourself as the teacher. The main thing to think about is that you are telling your child what you expect out of the finished product.

3. Tally up the total points. That is the denominator. Student's total is the numerator. Divide student total by the total points, then multiply it by 100. That is the percentage grade. In the example below, if the student's points added up to be 48, you would do 48 divided by 60 and get 0.8 x 100= 80 %

Example:

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        Brochure Rubric
Neatness (10)            ____
Accurate (10)           ____
Vocabulary (10)         ____
Complete Sentences (10) ____
Detailed pictures (10)   ____
10 facts included (10)   ____


60 POINTS possible
    Student total:_____
       GRADE:_____
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