

# Summer Adventure Story



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Summer is a time for making memories, trying new things, and embarking on adventures of all kinds—on a family vacation or right in your own apartment. Whether you're building epic sandcastles on the beach, exploring the woods behind your house, or leveling up in your favorite online game, there's endless fun to be had.

We invite you to tell your own summer adventure story with words, images, or other media so that the memories live on long after the school year starts up again. Share your creations with others, and catch a glimpse of what kids in your community and beyond are up to. You might even get some new ideas for how to pass these long, hot summer days. So let's get started. Your adventure awaits!

# Share with us at #WeAreLRNG

These activities focus on summertime fun as well as different modes of storytelling around adventures near and far. This playlist is for all ages, though some activities might require more parental support than others. They are designed for the time you have.

- If you have [5 minutes](#)
- If you have [30 minutes](#)
- If you have [1 hour](#)
- And if you have [a whole afternoon!](#)

Post your adventure stories on social media with the hashtag #WeAreLRNG and download a printable PDF of this slideshow.

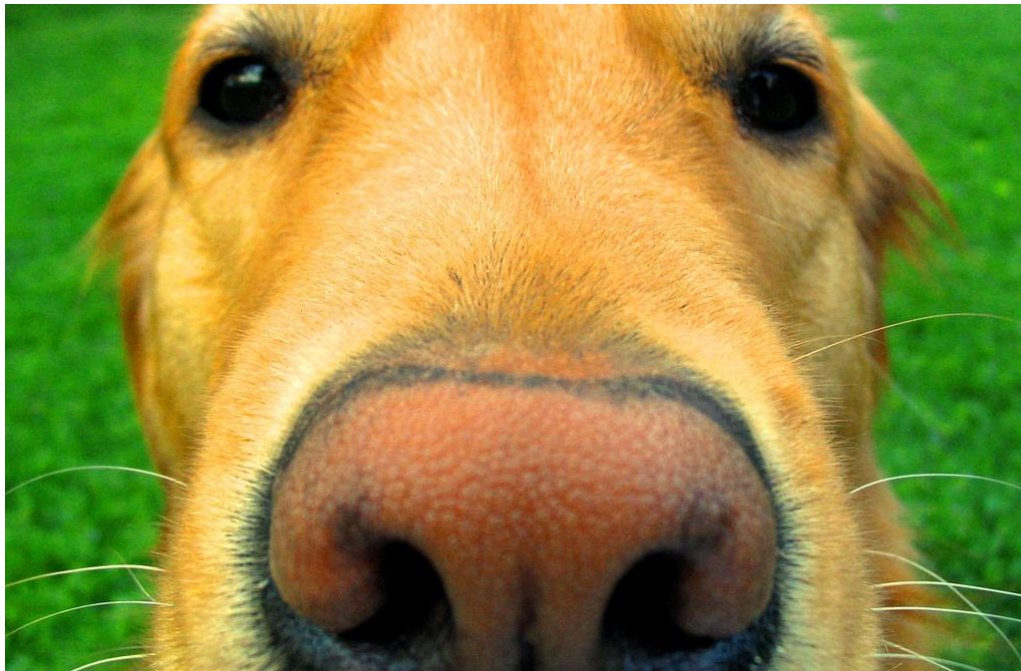
I've got 5 minutes ...

# You Make Me Live

*Supplies: Camera phone. Internet access.*

School friends, neighborhood friends—even furry friends—can make the long summer days infinitely better. Whether you're stargazing, swimming, or just sitting back together, friends are the best—and they also have lots to teach us, from new skills to life lessons.

This activity is as simple as snapping a pic of your bestie and sharing 1 thing you've learned from her or him. A picture is worth a thousand words, so you can write or show your lessons learned. Share on Instagram as a single post or a multi-image story or on Twitter or Facebook. Remember to tag your posts with #WeAreLRNG.





# Short and Sweet

*Supplies: Pen and paper, phone, or just your imagination!*

Could you tell a whole story in just six words? That's the challenge here. Pen a short, six word story about your summer. You'll be surprised by just how much you can convey in a handful of words and how you can make your story go even further by inviting your readers to fill in some of the blanks. Perhaps the first and most well-known 6 word story is as follows:

*For sale: baby shoes, never worn.*

This story was circulated widely in the early 20th century and is sometimes attributed to Ernest Hemingway, though that claim remains largely unsubstantiated. Recent accounts do seem to point to Hemingway having knowledge of this story.



# ...Short and Sweet

What *is* clear is that the story is a classic example of what is called flash fiction. Flash fiction is literature or writing that tells or implies a story in an extremely short manner, just like the six word story. Some authors use platforms like Twitter, where tweets are limited to 140 characters or less, to tell stories in the flash fiction genre.

Share your story @sixwordstories on Twitter to become part of this community of authors. Don't forget to use the hashtag #WeAreLRNG to connect your story with those of other kids and parents across the country.

*Variation:* Make a six *image* story by telling your tale using just six images (cut out from a magazine for instance) or drawings. Snap a photo and share via Twitter, Instagram or other platforms.

I've got 30 minutes ...



# Surreal Sketch

*Supplies: Paper, pen or pencil, other coloring implements.*

The term “exquisite corpse” was coined by surrealist artists to describe a chance-based game, often played with 4 people, in which participants draw an image on paper, then fold the paper to hide what they have drawn and pass it on to the next player to continue the drawing. Surrealists used this exercise as a way to disrupt the mind’s natural tendency toward order.

The name “exquisite corpse” comes from the written variation of this game, where players would write words or phrases in turn, with the previous players’ words hidden from view.

The result of one such game was “Le cadaver exquis boira le vin nouveau” (“The exquisite corpse will drink the new wine”), and the name stuck.



# ...Surreal Sketch

Creepy moniker aside, the finished product is often strange, silly, and unique. Learn more about the history of the exquisite corpse from the [Museum of Modern Art](#), and see some examples from famous Surrealists, from Joan Miro to Man Ray.

This [resource](#) from poets.org gives a thorough explanation of how to play the written version of the game.

Try your own hand at the exquisite corpse, using either images or text, and share your creations using #WeAreLRNG on Twitter or Instagram. The results are sure to be strange and wonderful!

# The Bird is the Word

*Supplies: Paper towel roll or two toilet paper rolls, duct tape, yarn, scissors, hole punch. Internet access.*

Whether you live in a large urban center or a small rural community, the plants and animals in your neighborhood tell their own stories about place, climate, resources, migration, and more.

For this activity, we encourage you to do a little local birdwatching and report your findings to others.

Creating a homemade pair of binoculars can make for a fun and crafty place to start, especially for the younger set. See [full instructions](#) from PBS Parents.



# ...The Bird is the Word



Next, get to birding! Spend some time in your own backyard or take a walk in your neighborhood. Ride your bike or public transportation to a nearby park or botanical garden.

Use the [online bird guide](#) or [mobile app](#) from Audubon, along with the [great resources](#) from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, to identify and learn about the species you spot in your area.

Lastly, share your findings on social media (Twitter, Instagram, etc.) using the hashtag #WeAreLRNG. Comment also on why you think these particular birds call your neighborhood or region home.

You can also upload a video of the birds in your area on YouTube using #WeAreLRNG.

If you're interested in using your findings to help populate a national map and database of bird info, report your location and observations at [eBird](#), which is connected to both Audubon and Cornell, along with the National Science Foundation.

I've got an hour ...



# Flip it Good

*Supplies: Post-its, small notebook, or index cards.  
Coloring implements.*

For an analog version of this activity, make a simple flip book animation with a small journal or notebook, a stack of post-it notes, or index cards you might have around the house. You can also cut small paper squares or rectangles from scrap paper.

See [this example](#) for a nice how-to on how to create a flipbook of your own. Make your flipbook in black and white or color; create a short or long story; go for simple or more complex action. There are also a range of helpful video tutorials on Youtube (like [this one](#)).



# ...Flip It Good

To take it one step further, you can make a GIF out of your flipbook! If you've been on the Internet, then you've no doubt seen your share of GIFs, which, unlike still images, show action and movement very similar to a flipbook.

GIF stands for Graphics Interchange Format. GIFs were developed by software writer [Steve Wilhite](#) in 1987 and have been going strong ever since, despite a perennial argument over whether the term is pronounced with a hard G or with a soft G, like "Jif." Regardless, these online animations are easy and fun to make!

You can start by simply recording your flipbook in action with a phone or handheld camera. See [this example](#) from Youtube.

There are also a range of apps that can help you make GIFs out of images and videos you might find online. We like the [GIFmaker](#) tool from Giphy.

And for original videos and content, we like Instagram's [Boomerang](#), which works for both iPhone and Android.

Lastly, see this [helpful list](#) of websites and apps for making videos and animation from Common Sense Media. There are tons of great tools out there you can use to bring your animation-making to the next level!

# Crank it to 11

*Supplies: 2 white paper cups (sturdy, not wax coated), markers, crayons, or pens.*

This activity, brought to you by our friends from [MAKESHOP](#) at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, is all about crankies!

We're not talking about temperaments here, but the long-standing artform of telling a story by using crank mechanisms to create a scrolling picture roll or mural.

For more information on the history of the crankie and to find other ideas for DIY crankies, check out [The Crankie Factory](#).



# ...Crank it to 11

This activity couldn't be simpler, but the end result is dandy!

Simply cut out a viewing window in one of the cups - it can be rectangular or square--even round!

You might also want to leave a portion of the viewing window intact and cut it into the shape of a person, animal, cactus...anything, really, that will watch your image rotate around.

Next, decorate the outside of the second cup with scenery or other shapes of your choosing. Make sure your drawings line up with the viewing window you cut out by drawing them roughly in the same portion of the cup and/or beyond it. Decorate around the entire circumference of the cup.

Finally, fit the decorated cup on the inside of the cut out cup, and rotate the cup 360 degrees for a super cool scrolling scene.

See MAKESHOP's original [Instagram post](#) of this activity to get a sense of the finished product.

Share your finished crankie as a video (or GIF using Boomerang) on Instagram or another social media platform. Don't forget to tag it using #WeAreLRNG.

I've got the whole afternoon! ...



# The Zine-ic Route

*Supplies: 8.5x11 sheet of paper, scissors, pens, pencils, additional paper or found images from magazines, etc. if desired.*

Did you know that zines (short for magazine or fanzine) date all the way back to the 1930's? These short, self-produced publications take up a range of topics, from science fiction, to feminism, to punk rock (to all three!).

Fans use zines to share their opinions about and appreciation for favorite subjects and texts and to connect to other fans or like-minded individuals.

While many online fanzines exist today, the DIY culture of printed paper zines is alive and well.

**calling all grrrls and women!**  
the riot grrrls in and around Washington DC are organizing a three-day riot grrrl convention this summer. we invite all grrrl and feminist bands and performers, grrrl fanzine writers, and energetic grrrls and boys from across the country to contribute their skills, energy, anger, creativity and curiosity. we will be having at least three shows, as well as workshops on everything from self-defense, to how to run a soundboard and how to lay out a zine. plus, there will be a lot of time to talk with other women about how we fit (or don't fit!) in the punk community.

**GO!**

**what bands are playing?**  
**what else is going on?**  
**where can I stay?**

**riot grrrl!**  
850 north edison st.  
arlington, va 22205  
or call  
301/935-5463

**plus!**  
**riot grrrl #7 is out!**  
send \$1.00 plus 2 stamps and we'll send you a copy of our fanzine

we also have riot grrrl t-shirts hand-screened by us  
pink, red or white shirts  
L or XL  
\$7 ppd  
make t-shirt checks payable to Kristin Thomson

# ...The Zine-ic Route

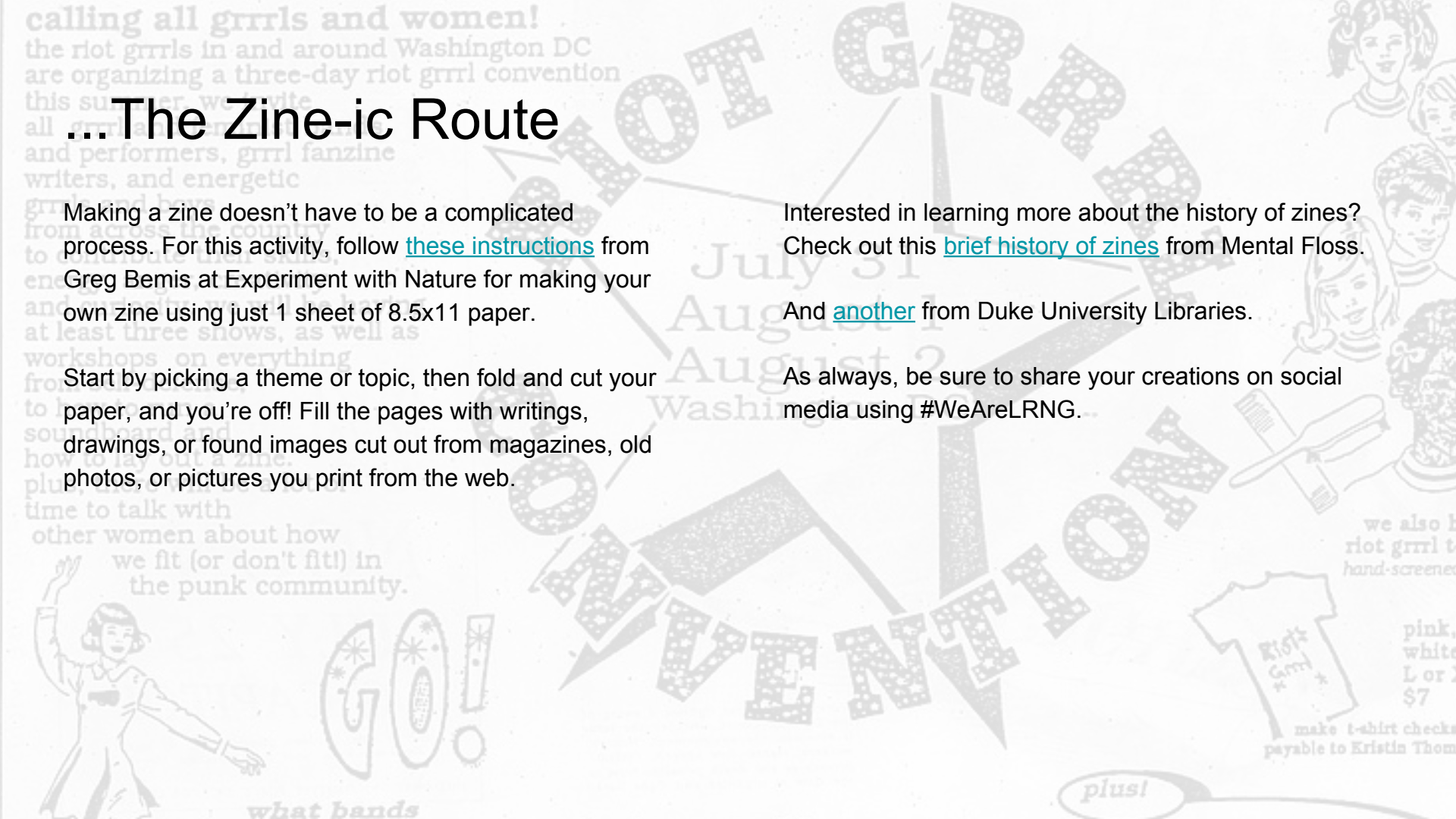
Making a zine doesn't have to be a complicated process. For this activity, follow [these instructions](#) from Greg Bemis at Experiment with Nature for making your own zine using just 1 sheet of 8.5x11 paper.

Start by picking a theme or topic, then fold and cut your paper, and you're off! Fill the pages with writings, drawings, or found images cut out from magazines, old photos, or pictures you print from the web.

Interested in learning more about the history of zines? Check out this [brief history of zines](#) from Mental Floss.

And [another](#) from Duke University Libraries.

As always, be sure to share your creations on social media using #WeAreLRNG.



# Walk of Wonder

*Supplies: Camera/camera phone or sketchpad.*

*Comfortable walking shoes.*

For this activity, we encourage you to get out into your neighborhood and explore your area through a new lens by taking a learning walk.

Start with a clear idea of what you might look for on your walk or let your surroundings guide you.

For example, Susan Watson set out to [look for circles](#) on a neighborhood stroll, capturing photos along the way. This enabled her to view her surroundings in a whole new light.





# ...Walk of Wonder

We also love Kim Douillard's idea for a learning walk centered around relics from the past. She noticed evidence of past civilizations and industries while out hiking and documented them in this lovely [blog post and photo essay](#).

Could you also find relics in your own neighborhood? What would they look like? How would they change your perspectives on where you live?

If you live in a large urban area, you can often search photos of your neighborhood in public archives like [this one](#) from the Los Angeles Public Library by street address to see what the area looked like in the past and how it has changed.

Embark on your own learning walk focusing on relics or other predetermined or emergent themes.

Snap photos alongs the way and share your findings on Instagram or other social media platforms using #WeAreLRNG.

Describe what you learned on your walk, including any surprise findings.

We'd love your feedback on Playlists for Parents!  
Please fill out this [very brief survey](#) with your  
suggestions. Thanks in advance.



Do you have more  
Summer Adventure Story suggestions?  
Post your ideas to #WeAreLRNG

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