

Ready-to-Use Substitute Activity Guide

Section 1: Introduction and Flowchart

When substitute teaching, sometimes you will encounter a job without substitute plans. You may also encounter students finishing activities early with no extra activities planned.

The following flowchart and sections of this guide will help you ensure a calm, educational environment for students.

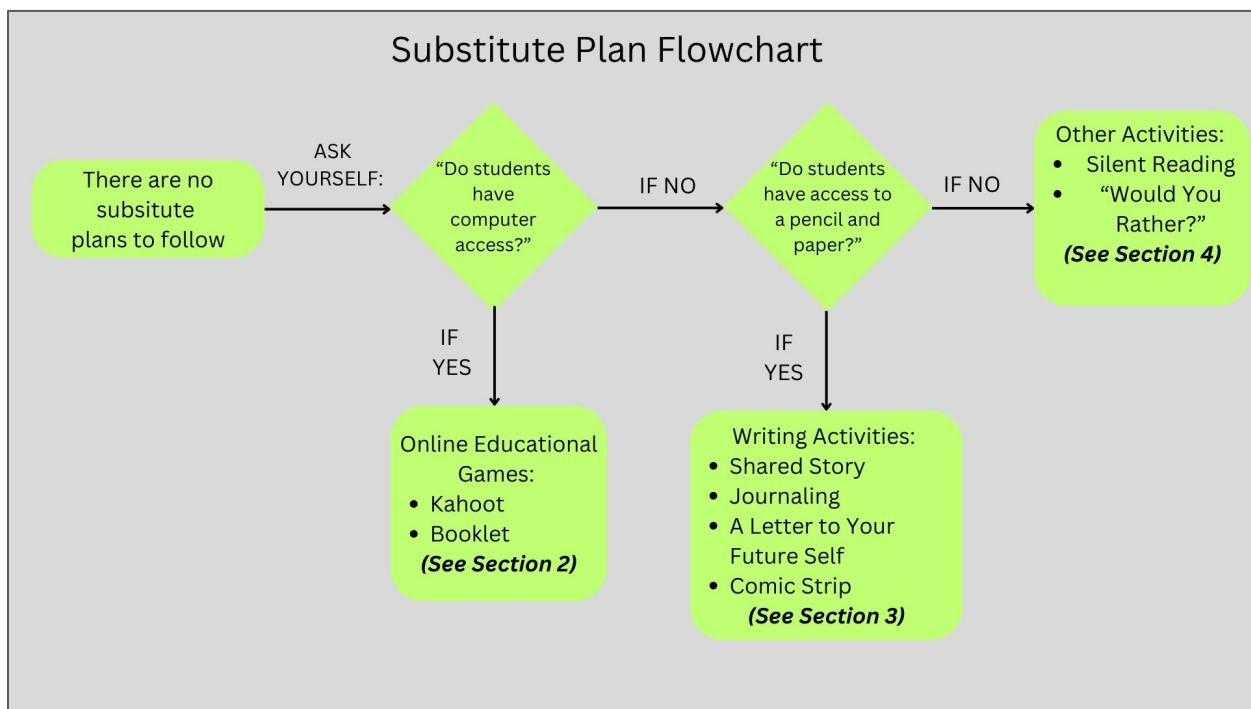


Figure 1: Flowchart for what to do when there are no substitute teaching plans.

Section 2: Online Educational Games

There are many online “freemium” options to create engaging and educational experiences for students. Two of these are “Kahoot” and “Blooket.”

2.1: Kahoot

Kahoot is a “freemium” website that hosts many educational games in the form of timed quizzes. To get started with Kahoot:

1. Sign up for free at www.kahoot.com.
2. Click on the **Discover** button.
3. Search for quizzes based on class subject, theme, or more!

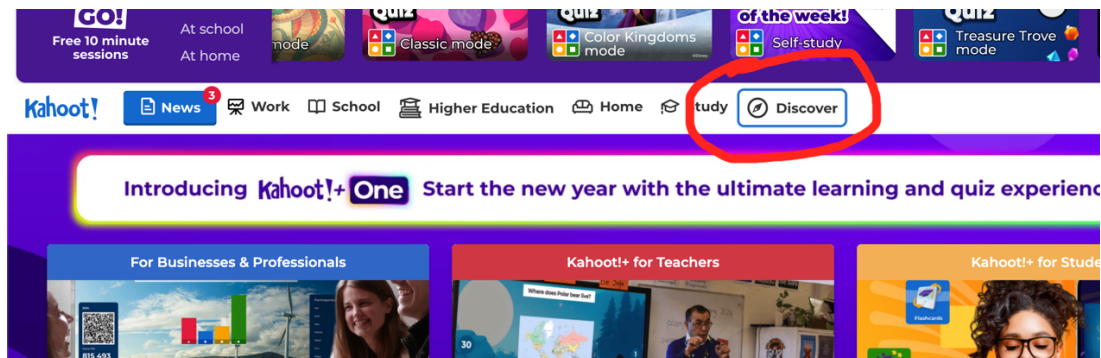


Figure 2: The Discover option on Kahoot's homepage.

2.2: Blooket

Like Kahoot, Blooket is a “freemium” website that hosts educational quiz games. To get started with Blooket:

1. Sign up for free at www.blooket.com.
2. Click on **Discover Sets** to find pre-made games based on what subject you are substitute teaching, theme, or more!

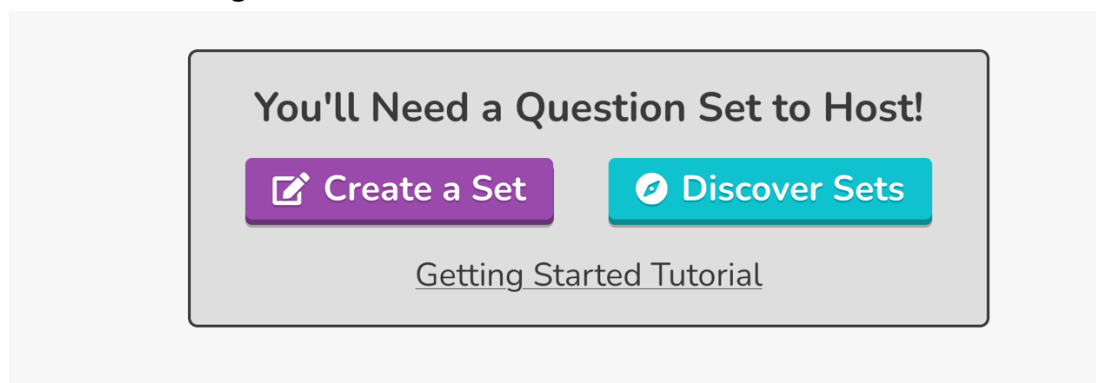


Figure 3: Getting started with Blooket

Section 3: Writing Activities

This section has 4 activities that students can do with paper and pencil. These can be useful if you do not have access to computers or do not feel comfortable with the online games outlined in Section 2.

3.1: Shared Story

This is an engaging writing activity that encourages creativity. For this activity:

1. Students can use a blank piece of notebook paper.
2. They have 3 minutes to start a story—introduce the setting and character(s).
3. After the 3 minutes, students pass their paper to a neighboring peer.
4. Students read what is written on the new piece of paper passed to them and continue writing the story for 3 more minutes.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until everyone has switched a total of 4 times.
6. Students retrieve their original story.
7. Students read the stories from their original papers!
8. Ask for volunteers to read their stories aloud to the whole class.

3.2: Journaling

This is a writing activity that allows students to practice mindfulness within their school day. For this activity:

1. Have students get out a piece of notebook paper and a pencil.
2. Prompt choices:
 - Provide students with a prompt—for example, “Has anything ‘supernatural’ ever happened to you?”
 - Ask students to write freely for an extended amount of time.
3. Ask students to share their responses first with a partner, then with the whole class.

3.3: A Letter to Your Future Self

This writing activity could encourage students to think about their goals for the future. For this activity:

1. Have students get out a sheet of notebook paper and a pencil.
2. Ask students to imagine themselves in the future—at least 10 years from now.
3. Ask for volunteers to share some ideas of where they see themselves 10 years from now.

4. Ask students to write a letter to this future version of themselves using the previous discussion as inspiration.

Note: If students do not know the format of a letter, you may need to demonstrate on the whiteboard or (if applicable) underneath the document camera.

3.4: Comic Strip

For this activity, students will create their comic strips in their notebooks or on a separate sheet of paper. Some ideas to get them started:

- Take a chapter of a book they are reading and rewrite it as a comic.
- Create a comic strip about a subject they are studying in another subject (i.e., mitosis as a comic strip).
- Create a comic strip about something funny or unique that has happened to them recently.
- Create a comic strip based on a TV show, movie, or other comic that they enjoy.

Note: If students do not know the basic formatting of a comic, you may need to demonstrate this format on the board or (if applicable) under a document camera.

Section 4: Other Activities

This section covers two activities that can be done without paper or pencil or computers.

4.1: “Would You Rather...?”

For this activity, students will be getting up and standing on either side of the room depending on which choice they would rather do. To start this activity:

1. Put 2 differing options on the whiteboard or under the document camera (if applicable). These can be silly and fun like, “Would you rather be able to fly or have super strength?” or an academic statement such as, “Would you rather live in Ancient Greece or Ancient Rome?”
2. Ask students to get up from their seats and stand on the side of the room that corresponds to their answer—i.e., “ability to fly” on the left side of the room and “super strength” on the right side.
3. Ask students to share why they chose this side over the other, then repeat with the other side.
4. Present two new options and repeat steps 2 and 3.

4.2: Silent Reading

If you have completed other activities or feel as though those activities are not feasible, you can ask students to silently read a book of their choosing. If no books are available in the classroom library, you can review the school's library visitation policy to see if students are allowed to go to the library during class time to check out a book. If comfortable, you could also allow students who have no book to silently work on other homework for another class.