Curious George
Family Activity Booklet

Get curious!
Explore engineering, science, and math with the world’s most famous monkey!
Welcome

to the Curious George® Family Activity Booklet!

Just like George, children are curious about the world and how things work. They are natural engineers, mathematicians, and scientists.

This booklet contains lots of ideas for hands-on engineering, math, and science learning. Play, talk, read, and explore with your child. Enjoy the adventure together!

Curious George would like to acknowledge our corporate sponsors, Chuck E. Cheese’s® and Stride Rite Children’s Group, LLC. Their valued support of our mission makes it possible to empower, educate, and inspire children in school and in life.

After each Curious George episode, a “Curious Kids” video clip shows real kids exploring similar things in their homes and neighborhoods. Your child is invited to explore these things, too!

Visit pbskids.org/curiousgeorge and check out curiousgeorge.com for more online fun.
Tips for Parents

Explore together. Young children learn through active, hands-on play. Set aside time to join your child in the explorations suggested in this booklet. Be a learning partner. Share your own enthusiasm and curiosity.

Talk and listen. Children also learn by talking about what they notice and what they wonder. What catches your child’s interest? Ask, What do you notice? Why do you think that’s happening? What do you think would happen if...? What else could you try? Talk about what makes you curious, too: I wonder if...

It’s OK to say, “I don’t know.” You don’t need to be an expert to help your child build a good foundation in engineering, math, and science. Learning is all about being curious, observing closely, trying things out, and searching for answers. You might say, Let’s see if we can find out together. Then do some experimenting. Go to the library together or look online for more information.

Remember safety. The suggestions in this guide make use of materials found in and around your home. Make sure that the materials are safe to handle. Help your children learn how to avoid accidents. Supervise closely when you are cooking together or exploring outdoors.

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Cooking Together

In the Curious George Gets a Job episode, George visits a restaurant kitchen and decides to do some cooking. He discovers how things change when they’re put into boiling water.

Cooking with your child is a great way to explore science and math. Be sure to talk about and practice kitchen safety together.

Curious Pancakes

Make pancake batter. Use a mix or favorite recipe. Let your child help count, measure, and mix. Notice what happens to the dry ingredients when you add the milk or water.

Changes, changes. Put some butter in a hot frying pan. Ask your child, What’s happening to the butter? What do you see, smell, and hear? Let your child pour batter in the pan and watch the pancake cook. Ask, What do you notice? How is the batter changing? What do you think will happen when we flip the pancake?

Yum! Use pieces of fruit to decorate your pancakes, then eat and enjoy! Ask your child, What other foods change when they are cooked? What other foods would you like to make together?

Marvelous Meringues

Try this recipe with your child. Make predictions, observations, and discoveries together. Ask: What do you think is going to happen? What changes do you notice?

**INGREDIENTS**

| 2 egg whites | 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| 1/2 cup sugar | Chocolate chips |

1. Carefully separate 2 eggs. Do not let any yolk get into the egg whites.
2. Beat the egg whites until stiff. (Save the yolks for another purpose)
4. Place small spoonfuls on a greased cookie sheet.
5. Bake in preheated oven at 250° for 45–50 minutes or until crisp.
Explore the Senses

In the Piñata Vision episode, George tries to hit a piñata to get the treats inside. Because he’s blindfolded, he ends up smashing everything BUT the piñata! Then he learns to use his senses of hearing, smell, and touch to help him—and wins the prize!

Investigate the senses and develop your child’s powers of observation by playing this spinning game together.

Play the Spinning Game

Make a spinner. Hold the point of a pencil through the opening of a paper clip, as shown. Take turns spinning the paperclip. Depending on which sense it lands on, ask: What in this room can you see/hear/touch? What in this room has a taste/smell? Play a few rounds. Then move to other rooms in your home (or outside) and continue to play.
Rolling Along

In the Roller Monkey episode, Curious George learns how to roller skate. Everything is fine until he comes to a big hill.

Playing with ramps and things that roll helps your child learn simple principles of physical science and engineering. Experiment, observe, talk, and wonder together.

Try This!

At the end of the Roller Monkey episode, a “Curious Kids” video shows kids rolling balls down ramps and comparing the results. Try similar experiments at home. Make a ramp with a picture book or a piece of cardboard.

*Slide or roll?* Gather objects like a toy car, a sock, and a book. Ask your child: What do you think will happen when you put this on the ramp? Will it slide? Will it roll? Will it stay put? Why do you think so? Let your child try it out. Then try the “Help George” activity below.

*Take it further.* Try these experiments with your child. Talk about what you discover.
- How far do things go when they roll down a ramp? How can you make them roll farther?
- Race two objects down the ramp. Put a phone book at the bottom of the ramp. Which object do you think will get there first?
- Find a way to park a toy car on the ramp or make a rolling object stop halfway down!

Help George!

George wants to collect all the things that roll. Try out these things on your ramp. Circle the things that roll.
Blast Off!

In the Grease Monkeys in Space episode, George rockets into space to fix the Einstein-Pizza Telescope. Does he have the engineering know-how to accomplish his mission?

Introduce your child to some basic engineering concepts—testing and evaluating—while having fun launching George into space!

Experiment

1. **Build a rocket.** Flatten the tip of one end of the short, wide straw with your fingers and seal with tape. Cut out George’s rocket, fold in half, and tape it to the sealed end of the straw.

2. **Launch it!** Place the open end of George’s rocket over the thin straw. Aim the rocket upwards, and blow into the bottom of the thin straw. Watch it fly! Ask: How do you launch your rocket if you want it to go far? How do you launch it if you want it to go high?

3. **Test a different design.** What will happen if you change the design of your rocket? Make a prediction, then test it. Launch your rocket first without a paper clip and then with a paper clip attached. Ask: Which flies farther? Why do you think that is? What does testing help you discover about your rocket?

Materials

- wide straw, cut into thirds
- thinner straw, full length
- tape
- scissors
- Curious George rocket cut-out, folded in half
- paper clips

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Sort It Out

In the Curious George, Dog Counter episode, George comes home from a dog show with a large collection of dogs. To organize and count his collection, he separates the dogs into groups: big dogs, little dogs, and hairy dogs.

Sorting collections and arranging objects into patterns helps your child build basic math skills.

Pattern Play
What comes next? Finish the pattern. Color and draw.

Make Your Own Pattern
Cut out the pictures below. Make different patterns. Paste your favorite pattern on a piece of paper.
Patterns

**Pattern hunt.** Look for repeating patterns on clothes, wallpaper, bathroom tiles, or in this booklet! Talk about the patterns you see.

**All in a row.** Use objects like blocks, silverware, or coins to make patterns together. Chant the pattern as you point to the items in the row: fork, spoon; fork, spoon. Pause and ask your child, What comes next?

**Clap and tap.** Invite your child to join in with a movement pattern: tap thighs, clap hands, clap hands; tap thighs, clap hands, clap hands. Let your child create clapping patterns for you to copy, too.

Sorting

**Talk and sort.** Help your child gather a collection of toy cars, stuffed animals, pencils, or coins. Talk about the objects, then with your child sort the collection in different ways. Ask, How do you think we should sort these? (pencils with erasers, unsharpened pencils, pencils with designs, etc.) Then ask, Do any of these belong in two groups?

**Everyday sorting.** After the episode Curious George, Dog Counter, a "Curious Kids" video shows children sorting and organizing paintbrushes, markers, and scissors. Invite your child to join you in similar household tasks: sorting clean laundry, recycling items, eating utensils, or toys.

**Read together.** Read about the joys of collecting and sorting in these books.
- Hannah's Collections by Marthe Jocelyn
Explore Animals

In the For the Birds episode, George has fun feeding birds using his birdfeeder. But then he discovers that another animal is greedily gobbling up the birds’ treats—Jumpy Squirrel!

A trip to the zoo is fun and educational, but there are plenty of opportunities closer to home to explore and observe animals together.

Animal Detective

Investigate the animals in your neighborhood. Talk with your child about what kinds of animals live around you. Then take a walk around the block or in a nearby park, observing birds, squirrels, and other creatures. Have your child also look for evidence of animals who have been busy at work, building homes (like a nest on a branch) or gathering food (nuts in a tree hollow).

Bird Watcher

Make a birdfeeder together—then sit back and enjoy the show! Cover a bagel or stale donut with peanut butter and roll it in bird seed—birds love unsalted black sunflower seeds. Then loop a string through the center hole, and hang it from a tree or fire escape—choose a place where it will be easy for you to watch birds as they come to feed. Ask your child: What kinds of birds visit your feeder? What do you notice about them? What happens if a squirrel comes by?

If your child has fun bird watching, you may want to make a more permanent birdfeeder together out of a plastic bottle: pbs.org/parents/curiousgeorge/activities/pc_plastic_bottle_birdfeeder.html
Act Like an Animal
Use the Critter Catcher to pick an animal, then behave like one!

Make a Critter Catcher
1. Cut out the Critter Catcher.
2. Flip it over. Fold the corners in along the dotted lines.
3. Flip it over again. Fold the corners into the center.
4. Slip your thumbs and index fingers into the number pockets. Bring the points together.

Play the Game
1. Choose a number: 1, 2, 3, or 4. Open and close the Critter Catcher that number of times.
2. Choose a category: mammal, reptile, insect, or bird. Open that flap: what animal is hiding inside?
3. Next, everyone acts like that animal!
4. Take turns using the Critter Catcher to find other animals to imitate.
Watch Curious George® on PBS KIDS!

Then visit pbskids.org/curiousgeorge and check out curiousgeorge.com for more learning and fun!

You’ll find:
- Great interactive games for kids
- Printable activity sheets and coloring pages
- Video clips from the show
- More hands-on ideas for family engineering, science, and math
- Spanish-language games and activities
- Resources for families and teachers

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