

Castles and Carpools

Family Travel Adventure Activities



Go. See. Do. Learn.

by Candi Hurst

Adventuring with Castles and Carpools

Hello from me, Candi, here at Castles and Carpools, my little space on the web that was born out of a love of giving back, a yearning for adventure, and a belief that travel can be the best educational tool in a parent's toolbox.

I believe the greatest part about the travel tool is that it's learning in a way that doesn't feel like learning. It's learning in a way that feels like... well... *living*. Whether you're venturing around the corner or around the globe, during a long weekend or while on an extended vacation, travel creates experiences that become memories. And memories become the lessons that shape us in ways that are truly remarkable.

I'm so excited you've chosen to let me help you explore ideas about creating adventures that shape your family's story. And I'm honored you've chosen to help support my mission of giving back to the world in which we travel. That's because...

**every penny earned through Castles and Carpools is donated
to charities that support a variety of causes.**

So when you share one of our posts, sign up for our newsletter, or just browse around a bit on our blog you're doing a little good in the world.

And isn't that just about the greatest lesson of all?

*"Good company in a journey makes the way
seem shorter."*

~ Isaac Walton

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1. CHOOSING YOUR PERFECT DESTINATION

These printables will get your kids excited about their trip well before it's time to pack the suitcases. Reveal your chosen destination. Count down the days to your trip. And organize all the logistics of your travel plans with these activities.

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2. MAKING PLANNING FUN

The first step in planning and executing a great family adventure vacation is choosing a destination that fits *your* family. These engaging activities will help get you inspired about where your next adventure might await.

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3. ENJOYING THE JOURNEY

Let the adventuring begin! Allow the kids to earn “travel bucks” to use on their trip. Use our printables for a fun twist on traditional games. And help kids create their own journal filled with the memories of their adventure.

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1

CHOOSING YOUR PERFECT DESTINATION

Set the stage for an exciting family adventure vacation.

The adventure begins for our family long before our car hits the road or the airplane wheels leave the runway. The excitement begins as the planning starts. And getting kids in on the planning makes every trip a learning adventure. When they become involved in the trip before it even begins, traveling is like visiting characters from a book they know they already love. Let the story of your adventure begin!

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.

- Helen Keller



USE THE GRAPHIC PROVIDED TO CREATE A TRAVEL-INSPIRED VISION BOARD.

- Have kids cut out the image and glue it in the center of a poster board.
- Print out images or cut words or images from magazines that represent where they would love to travel or their travel goals.
- Glue each word or image to the board.

(This is a fun activity for adults too!)

PLAY “20 QUESTIONS”.

- Cut out the questions provided and place in a bowl or cup.
- Take turns having each member of the family choose a card.
- Go around the room, having each person respond to the question.
- For a quicker version of the game, have each person pick just one other person to answer the question.

Travel Vision Board

Cut out the image below and glue to a posterboard. Then print or cut images from magazines, newspapers, and other print sources. If you or your child are having trouble finding things that inspire you, ask yourself:

- Where do I want to travel?
- What makes me think of traveling?
- What do I want to gain by traveling?
- What feelings do I get when I travel?
- Where are my favorite characters from books or movies from?
- What do I want to learn about when I travel?



20 Questions

Cut out the questions below and place in a cup or bowl. Have each person pick one question to ask to the group or to a single person. Compare your answers and see what travel inspiration the questions may have sparked!

1. Who is your favorite character from a book and where is he or she from?
2. Where is your favorite book set?
3. What is your favorite movie and where is it set?
4. What is your favorite food and what type of cuisine is it?
5. Would you rather see the mountains or the beach?
6. Do you love to hit the open road or take flight in the friendly skies?
7. What's your favorite subject from school?
8. Would you rather do something exciting or relaxing?
9. If you had a time machine would you go back in the past or visit the future?
10. What's your favorite summer activity?
11. What's your favorite winter activity?
12. What time in history is your favorite era to learn about?
13. If you could learn about anything, what would it be?
14. If you could learn any language, which one would it be?
15. What has been your favorite place you have visited?
16. Which Disney character would you like to be and why?
17. Would you rather stay in a grand hotel or camp in the wilderness?
18. Would you rather swim in the ocean or swim in a pool?
19. What's your favorite animal and where does it live?
20. Who is your favorite person from history and where is he or she from?

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Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all of one's lifetime."

-Mark Twain



MAKING PLANNING FUN

You've set the stage. Now, build the plot for a great adventure.

TREASURE HUNT:

- Print the travel inspired treasure hunt clues and cut out each clue.
- Place in the appropriate spots throughout and around your home for a fun destination reveal.
- Or use as a fun way to gift items related to your trip.

BOARDING PASSES:

- Print, cut out and fill in the boarding passes to place at the end of your treasure hunt or in a gift.

COUNTDOWN CALENDAR:

- Use our adventure-themed take on the traditional paper chain activity to help kids keep track of how many days until their trip begins.
- Cut out the countdown image and strips to use for the chain. (Reprint the chain page as many times as you like, depending on how many days ahead you would like to begin your count down.)
- When you begin your countdown, remove one chain per day. The remaining chains represent how many days left until your adventure begins.

ITINERARY TEMPLATE:

- Print and fill out our itinerary template to keep all your travel plans organized.

Treasure Hunt (Page 1)

Print this page and the next. Place the clues in the appropriate places for a fun trip reveal.

Traveling helps you
learn while you grow.
Look for your first clue
Where you watch a show.



Going on a trip
with you sure is great.
Your next clue is
where you last ate.

I can't wait to make
memories on our trip.
Find your next clue where
you get a cup to take a sip.



Will you need sandals, boots,
or something else on your feet?
You'll get closer to knowing after
you find the next clue under a seat.

Will we travel in a car, a plane
or something that you sail?
Go get your next clue where
the mail carrier places our mail.



I can't decide which part of
our trip you'll like the most!
But I do know your next clue
is where we make our toast!

Treasure Hunt (Page 2)

Getting curious about
where we're going to go?
Then go to your next clue on
the grass we need to mow.



Things to do, see, and learn-
I promise this trip will not lack!
Find your next clue in the
suitcase you'll need to pack.

We'll make memories
worthy of a great fable!
but first find your next
clue underneath the table.



When it's time to go we won't
be able to leave without these!
So hurry and find your next
clue where we keep our keys.

Adventurers have to be
smart, brave and bold.
Find your next clue where we
put food we want to keep cold.

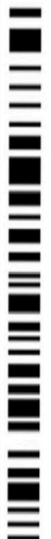



You did splendid!
You're great at this game!
Now, finally, find your treasure
near a vacation picture in a frame.

Boarding Passes

Print and fill in the information for your adventure. Use as a fun reveal at the end of your treasure hunt or as a way to gift a surprise adventure.

BOARDING PASS





FROM:  TO:

NAME OF PASSENGER: _____

DATE OF ARRIVAL: _____ DATE OF DEPARTURE: _____

BOARDING PASS




FROM:  TO:

NAME OF PASSENGER: _____

DATE OF ARRIVAL: _____ DATE OF DEPARTURE: _____

BOARDING PASS



FROM:  TO:

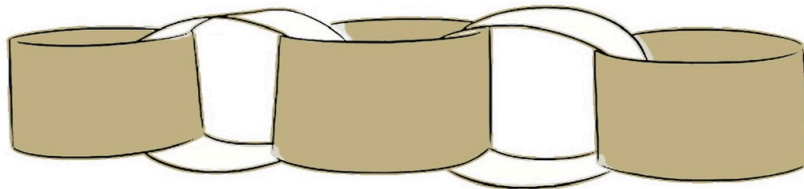
NAME OF PASSENGER: _____

DATE OF ARRIVAL: _____ DATE OF DEPARTURE: _____

Adventure Countdown

Counting down the days until your vacation is a great way to get kids excited about their upcoming adventure. For our take on a traditional paper chain activity, follow the directions below:

1. Print the countdown image located on the next page on cardstock. Print several copies of page 10, which contains the “links” of the chain, on regular printer paper. (Print as many “links” as the number of days you want to count down. For example, if you want to start counting 30 days before your trip, print 8 sheets of links - you’ll have 2 links left over.)
2. Cut out the countdown image as well as each link on the pages of links that you printed.
3. Cut a slit where the black line is located on the countdown image.
4. Thread one link through the slit you cut. Form a circle with the link so that the ends of the link overlap slightly. Tape the ends of the link together.
5. Thread a second link around the first circular link you formed and tape the ends of the links just as you did with the first link.
6. Repeat with each additional link until you have a circular link for each day you would like to count down. (Refer to image below.)



7. Remove one link each day until you’ve counted all the days remaining until your adventure begins.

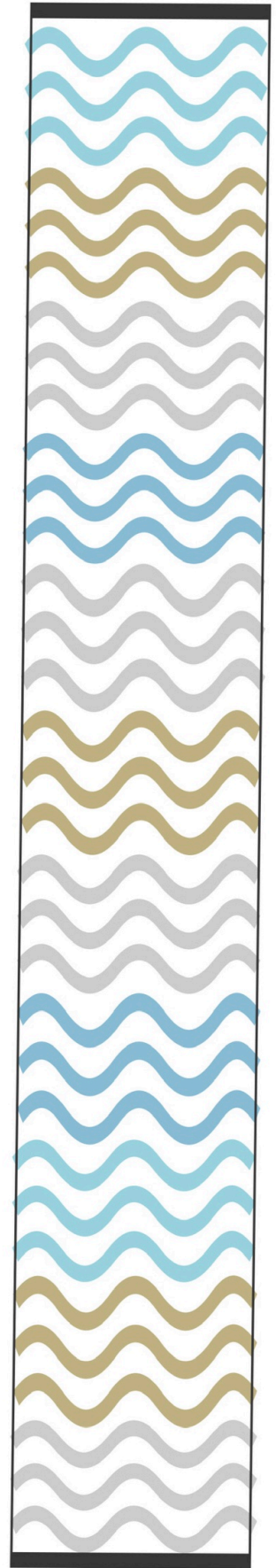
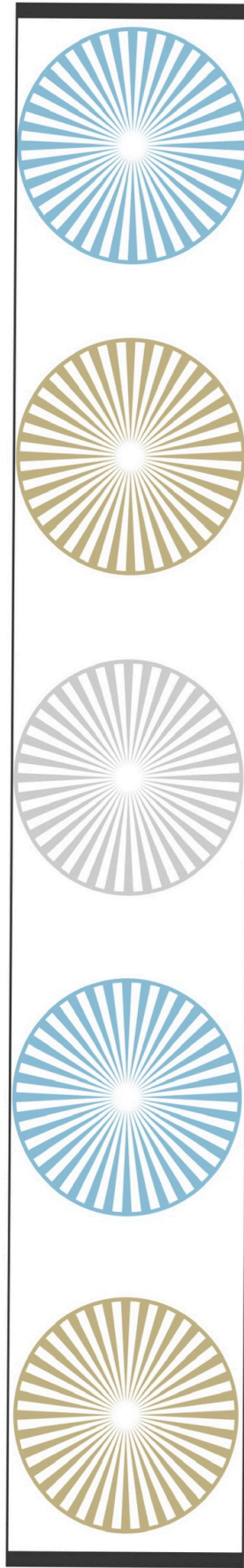
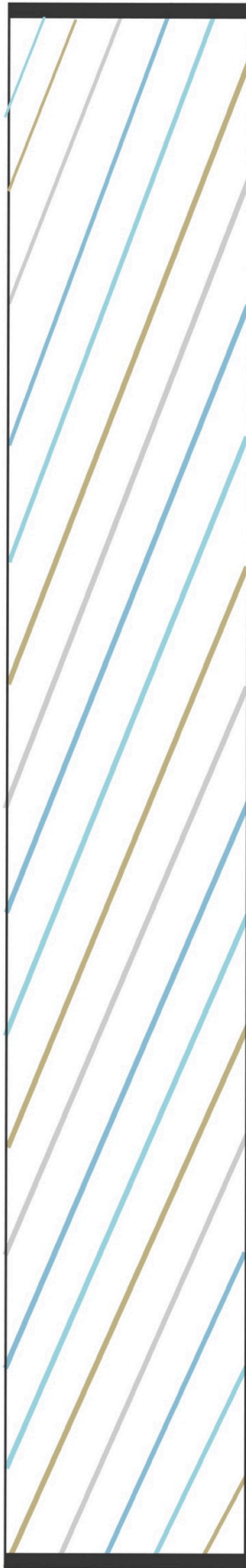
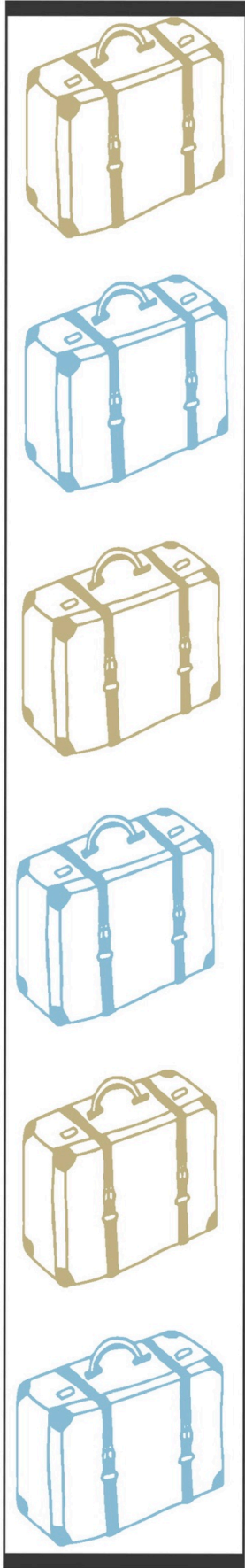
(*TIP: The links provided create a colorful, patterned chain but if you would like to conserve printer ink, colored construction paper cut into strips works well too!)

Adventure Countdown (Page 2)

Cut out the image below and make a slit where indicated. Begin threading links through the cut and shape into a circle, taping the ends. Add an additional link for each day you wish to count.



Adventure Countdown (Page 3)



travel itinerary

destination:	dates of trip:
outbound travel info:	lodging details:
inbound travel info:	
activity itinerary:	



3

ENJOYING THE JOURNEY

You've set the stage and built the plot for a great adventure. Now, hit the road with activities that make the journey even more fun.

*We travel not to
escape life but for
life not to escape
us.*

- Anonymous



ADVENTURE BUCKS: Allow kids to earn rewards for good behavior while on your trip or use as a prize for travel games.

- Print and cut out adventure bucks before you depart and distribute throughout your trip.
- Allow kids to spend their bucks on souvenirs or cash in on prizes like being able to choose the next restaurant, go first during an activity or get first dibs on their seat in the car.

TRAVEL GAMES: Our take on some traditional games your family can play together.

- Prior to your trip, print several sheets per person.
- Keep score... or just play for fun!

TRIP JOURNAL: Journaling is a great way for kids to remember all they did (and learned!) while on their adventure.

- Print out one journal page per day or activity.
- Set a plan for how often and when to journal (like every night while getting ready for bed or each morning while waiting on mom and dad to get ready for the day.)
- Journals can be a great place to gain inspiration for what kids want to learn more about when they get home!

Adventure Travel Bucks

Print and cut out to use as rewards during your trip.

Adventure Bucks

\$1



\$1

Adventure Bucks

\$5



\$5

Adventure Bucks

\$10



\$10

Alphabet Find

Find each letter of the alphabet in order using road signs, billboards, or anything outside of the car. Play as a team or play individually. The first player to complete the alphabet wins.



A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

I _____

J _____

K _____

L _____

M _____

N _____

O _____

P _____

Q _____

R _____

S _____

T _____

U _____

V _____

W _____

X _____

Y _____

Z _____

The License Plate Game

Mark off each state when you spot a license plate from that location. How many states can you find?



- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> Idaho |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> New York | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah | <input type="checkbox"/> Vermont |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming | BONUS: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washington, DC | <input type="checkbox"/> Canada | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexico |

“Going on an Adventure” Memory

The first player begins by saying, “I’m going on an adventure and I’m taking ____”. He or she fills in the blank with something that starts with the letter “a”. The second player says, “I’m going on an adventure and I’m taking ____ and ____”. He or she fills in the blank with the item the first player said and something that starts with “b”. Play continues with each player repeating what was said before them and adding something that begins with the next letter in the alphabet. A player who can’t remember what was said before his or her turn is eliminated from the game.



A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X
Y	Z		

Date:



My adventure journal
to...

My favorite part of the day was _____

Some other interesting things I saw and did were _____

I (would/ would not) like to go on his adventure again because

Photo or drawing of my
adventure:

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for a photo or drawing of the adventure.

This adventure inspired me
to read and learn more about:

Other thoughts about my
adventure: _____

