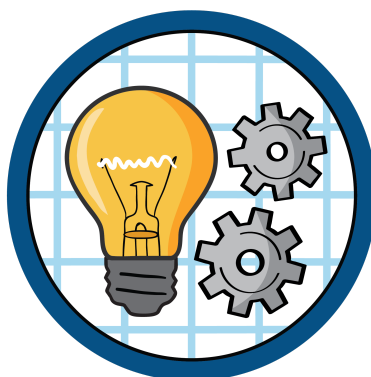


Activities for Students and Parents



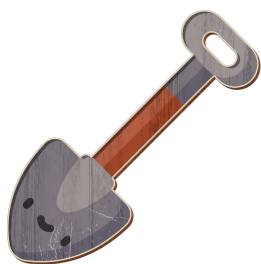
Strategy
Games



Invention
Box



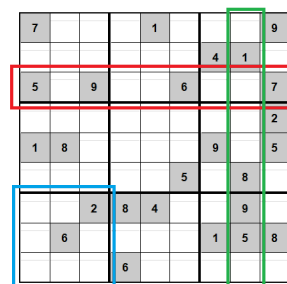
Stop
Motion



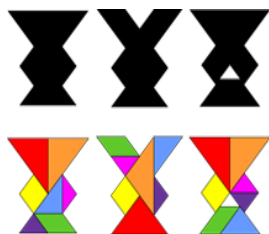
Virtual
Archaeology



STEAM
Carnival



Windowpane
Sudoku



Tangram
Puzzles



Explore
Space



Write a
Novel



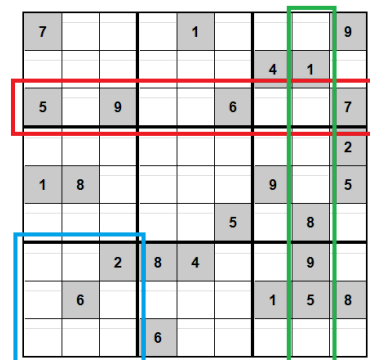
Strategy Games

Some board games are great for engagement, but don't require critical thinking. Some games challenge minds, both young and old! Here are some of the best strategy games to challenge young minds.

- [Chess](#) (Age 4+, 2 Players) is one of the best strategy board games. You have to think a couple of moves ahead in order to form the best winning strategy. **The best part is that chess can be taught at any age**—children as young as four can learn to play.
- [Mancala](#) (Age 6+, 2 Players) is a strategy game played with small stones, beans, or seeds and rows of holes in the earth, on a board or other playing surface. It dates back to the 7th century. It is among the oldest known games to still be widely played today.
- [Qwirkle](#) (Age 6+, 2-4 Players) is a game that tasks players with observing **shapes** and **colors** and arranging game pieces in a **pattern**.
- [Blokus](#) (Age 7+, 2-4 Players) gives the players rules for placing game pieces on the board. Players strategize how they can place their blocks while following those rules.
- [Sequence](#) (Age 7+, 2-12 Players) requires players to use strategy to complete the winning amount of sequences on the game board. It requires the player to utilize **logical reasoning and creative skills** to play.
- [Taco vs Burrito](#) (Age 7+, 2-4 Players) challenges you to **create the best (and weirdest) meal** using interesting ingredients. It's a pretty easy card game to learn, but there is some strategy involved.
- [Ticket to Ride](#) (Age 8+, 2-5 Players) All aboard! This strategic board game will take you across the United States as you compete to **build the best train routes** to connect North America. This game will give your brain a workout.
- [Risk](#) (Age 10+, 2-6 Players) is a classic strategy board game from Hasbro Gaming that combines diplomacy and conquest. You'll use **strategic military tactics to acquire territories and form important alliances** that'll help you conquer the world.
- [Catan](#) (Age 10+, 2-6 Players) In Catan, each player is a settler that tries to build up settlements by **utilizing trading strategies and gaining resources**. See if you have what it takes to build the best settlement!
- [Wingspan](#) (Age 10+, 2-5 Players) **Discover and attract the best birds to your wildlife habitat**. You don't have to be a bird enthusiast to enjoy this strategic game—anyone can appreciate this beautiful game.

Window Pane Sudoku

Gifted kids love puzzles, so why not introduce your early learner to puzzles well-loved by people across the globe? A simple search online will give you the best [Sudoku puzzles for students of all ages.ages](#) But let's not stop there; let's make your child's first game of Sudoku even more exciting by playing in a fun and interactive way! Pick up a pack of washable window crayons and draw your child's Sudoku puzzle on a large window in your home! That way your child can complete the puzzle throughout the week, keeping him or her challenged for days on end! When completed, simply wash it off and start a new one. Get the whole family in on the fun by completing a new puzzle every week!



Stop Motion Animation Video



- Create a stop motion animation studio space where you and your child plan to film the video.
- Challenge your child to create a script.
- Find favorite objects, dolls, or toys to star in the film.

Using any stop motion animation app widely available on smartphones, help your child film a video and view the results! Best yet, [creating a stop motion animation video](#) is a process from planning the script, building the studio, to the final production of the video! Who knows, your child might create the next big Youtube Kids video!

Tangram Puzzles

Tangram puzzles are an important tool in any teacher's classroom, but can also be used at home to challenge young minds! Tangrams are puzzles made from different shapes and are turned and organized to create a picture.

Tangram puzzles can easily be purchased in sets online, and challenge kids to think creatively to solve each puzzle. Better yet, tangram puzzles help develop your little learner's visual spatial skills, while allowing them to practice strategy and logical thinking skills! [Here is a free online Tangram tool.](#)



Create an Invention Box

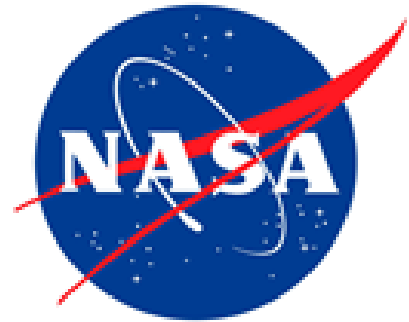


This is an activity that older siblings might do with younger ones. Gifted kids thrive in activities that allow them to use their expansive capacity for creativity! Create an [“invention box”](#), which is a box packed with fun supplies that can be made into anything your child’s mind can imagine!

Fill the invention box with supplies like yarn, googly eyes, pipe cleaners, pom pom or cotton balls, large beads, popsicle sticks, and any other crafts you or your child loves! During play, encourage your child to use their creativity to “invent” or build something using the supplies in the box. Both you and your child will be amazed at what your child can create!

Explore Space

Never before in the history of humanity have we had the technology and resources to explore the cosmos in such depth. Space is no longer solely the environment of brilliant mathematicians who are able to calculate trajectories or astronauts with the training to pilot spacecraft; technology has made space exploration available to anyone with internet access.



NASA provides numerous resources for anyone interested in utilizing the [Hubble Telescope for activities](#). Students can use the images to identify galaxies, stars and planets, and they can even look for unidentified comets and asteroids. You can use the information and tools to plan a virtual space expedition, plot the flight path of the spacecraft, or decide what specialties and skills astronauts and scientists need to colonize space. The only limit in creating space-themed projects for your gifted students is your imagination and their interest in space.



Virtual Archaeology



Archaeology was once an exotic profession that required traveling to distant lands and enduring harsh conditions to make any notable discoveries. While that is still the backbone of the field, technology has made [virtual archaeological](#) discoveries accessible to everyone. Google Earth and other open-source imaging platforms have allowed students and amateur archeologists to make remarkable finds. A recent [TED Talks](#) Prize winner plans to take the process even further and encourage people from around the world to become space archeologists — those who use satellite photographs to identify potential dig sites.

This process can begin in [Google Earth](#). Choose a civilization, time period, or geographic area, and then research the most relevant coordinates on Google Earth. Build an archeological record of your findings, evaluating patterns, geographic features, and architecture, while investigating anything unusual you locate. Compile this information into a visual presentation or a report for evaluation.

Write a Novel

Telling a story is a core part of the human experience, but very few people are taught the art of storytelling. National Novel Writing Month, affectionately known by participants as [NaNoWriMo](#), occurs each November and encourages the writing of an entire novel of at least 50,000 words in only one month, but you can take on this challenge any time.



Even for a gifted student, 50,000 words may seem to be a daunting task to complete in only a month. You can customize the time limit of the challenge to a quarter, semester, or an entire school year. You can personalize your book, choosing the topic and type of book you want to write. You have no limitations on the type of book you must write, which allows your personal interests and creativity to take the lead in the learning process. In addition to gaining valuable research skills, you will also work on your writing skills, task management and organizational skills.