

## How to Homeschool Today

### *Newsletter for March 2010*

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*Hello everyone,*

Do you realize that you've completed two-thirds year of homeschooling? You only have one-third year left! Time really does fly by when you are busy. If you're like me, you wonder how will you get everything done that needs doing. The answer: you won't! Take it from one who has been there – there is NO WAY you will complete everything on your homeschool ToDo List.

The good news is – neither does anyone else. Traditional school teachers never finish a teacher's manual any more than you should. A Teacher's Manual is written to give teachers choices. You pick and choose what works with your class and leave the rest for another year. Please! Don't get caught up in the trap that you have to finish every page in every workbook you have. Give yourself and your kids a break. Take a field trip one day. Do science experiments one day. Have a party another day. That's what happens in "real" school. You can do it, too! Just mark it off as one of your 180 days of school.

Enjoy the rest of your school year. More importantly, enjoy your family. It won't be long before they will be grown up and out of the house. Then, you'll be wishing you had them back home!

I've included a link to my own personal Homeschool Story this month. I hope it will encourage you to stop and smell the roses as they say. There's more to life than textbooks!

Have a great March!

*Cindy Downes*

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### *What's in this issue?*

- ➔ Cindy's Homeschool Links
- ➔ Unit Studies, Lesson Plans, and Other Homeschool Ideas from Cindy
- ➔ Curriculum and Homeschool Supplies
- ➔ Insect Activities
- ➔ Incredible Web sites for Incredible Homeschoolers
- ➔ Competitions, Contests, and Scholarships
- ➔ Videos for Learning
- ➔ Educational iPhone and iPod Apps
- ➔ State History Ideas and Resources
- ➔ High School Seminar in Oklahoma



## ***Cindy's Homeschool Links:***

Please add yourself to any or all of these lists for up-to-date info.

- ➔ How to Homeschool Today on Facebook (updated almost daily):  
<http://www.facebook.com/howtohomeschooltoday>
- ➔ How do I Teach . . .? (A blog with teaching tips, book reviews and more):  
<http://howdoiteach.blogspot.com/>
- ➔ Oklahoma Homeschool on Facebook (a list just for Oklahoma homeschoolers): <http://www.facebook.com/oklahomahomeschool>
- ➔ If you have an iPhone or iPod Touch, you might be interested in my educational app reviews for iPhone Life magazine.  
<http://www.iphonelife.com/blog>



## **Unit Studies, Lesson Plans, and Ideas from Cindy:**

1. **Learn Contractions** - Print the contraction on one 3x5 card; print the two words that make up the contraction on another 3x5 card. Use these cards to create a concentration game or matching game. Lay them on the table face down and have your children turn them over in pairs, matching the correct words to their contractions.

2. More [Learning Game ideas](http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/funstuff.html) on my OKHS Web site.  
<http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/funstuff.html>

3. **What is multi-level teaching?**

Most homeschool parents have children in several grade levels. Rather than teaching each child using his own grade-level textbooks, many homeschool parents teach all their children the same subject at the same time, but give them assignments based on their ability. This is called multi-level teaching.

Multi-level teaching is easily accomplished and is the method of choice for most homeschooling parents. Their children are given their own math textbooks. Reading and handwriting instruction is given individually. The remaining subjects are taught as a group similar to the old, one-room schoolhouse.

This works really well in a homeschooling situation and takes much less time than using curriculum designed for grade-level classroom work. Many parents use a prepared lesson plan to teach multi-level. Others create their own lesson plans from scratch. Some prefer the structure of a textbook and work a unit study around the textbook. Either way, it's a more effective way of teaching your children.

Learn [how to create your own Unit Studies](http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/MultiLevel.html).  
<http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/MultiLevel.html>



## Curriculum and Homeschool Supplies

1. [Note-A-Lator](http://www.electricpeelsoftware.com/note-a-lator/) – I've never used this, but I thought it might interest some of you.  
<http://www.electricpeelsoftware.com/note-a-lator/>
2. There is way too much curriculum out there today! How do you choose? Here is [my list of favorite curriculums](http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/CurrRec.html) for a variety of subjects.  
<http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/CurrRec.html>

## Archaeology, Anyone?

1. [Archaeology and the Bible Unit Study](http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/archaeoIBible.html) by Cindy Downes.  
<http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/archaeoIBible.html>
2. More [Archaeology fun](http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/archaeology.html). <http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/archaeology.html>

## Incredible Web sites for Incredible Homeschoolers

1. [Free Lesson Plans on the Constitution](http://myloc.gov/Education/lessonplans/Pages/lessonplans/constitution/index.aspx) from Library of Congress.  
<http://myloc.gov/Education/lessonplans/Pages/lessonplans/constitution/index.aspx>
2. Discouraged? Read [Cindy's Homeschool Story](http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/homeschool_story.html).  
[http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/homeschool\\_story.html](http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/homeschool_story.html)
3. [Free Word Games](http://www.merriam-webster.com/game/index.htm) from Merriam-Webster. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/game/index.htm>
4. [Free Games from Faithink](http://faithinkgames.com/) – all kinds of online games related to the Bible.  
<http://faithinkgames.com/>



### Competitions, Contests, and Scholarships

HSLDA offers four contests each year to homeschoolers: Art, Photography, Essay and Poetry. Get entry information from the [HSLDA Web site](http://www.hslda.org).

<http://www.hslda.org/contests/photo/default.asp>

### Videos for Learning

YouTube has lots of educational videos, but sometimes it's not very child safe. They have now added a [Safety Mode feature](#) to help parents protect their children from unwanted

videos. Read more on my How Do I Teach . . . Blog.

<http://howdoiteach.blogspot.com/2010/02/youtube-now-has-safety-mode.html>

### Educational iPhone Apps:

Rescue Ginger – Preschoolers learn about colors, shapes, counting, and matching with this iPhone App. <http://www.iphonelife.com/blog/2884/preschooler-will-love-rescue-ginger>

## State History Ideas and Resources:

This section of the newsletter will include information and resources for studying state history.

1. [Timelines of state history](http://www.e-referencedesk.com/resources/state-history-timeline/). <http://www.e-referencedesk.com/resources/state-history-timeline/>
2. [State symbols](#).
3. [Coloring pages](#) for each state from Crayola. <http://www.e-referencedesk.com/resources/state-symbols/>
4. [Coloring book of flags](http://www.fotw.net/flags/cbk-us.html) for each state. <http://www.fotw.net/flags/cbk-us.html>
5. [States worksheets](http://www.50states.com/tools/) – maps, states and capitals and MORE!  
<http://www.50states.com/tools/>
6. [Projects](http://www.proteacher.org/c/1077_State_Projects.html) for kids when studying the states.  
[http://www.proteacher.org/c/1077\\_State\\_Projects.html](http://www.proteacher.org/c/1077_State_Projects.html)



## Homeschooling High School Seminar in Oklahoma

### Homeschool High School? Yes, I Did!

Why should I homeschool high school? I don't have a college degree – how can I teach high school subjects? What about social activities, diplomas and graduation? Will my teen get in to college? My teen doesn't want to go to college – now what?

If these are some of the questions you have about homeschooling high school, you won't want to miss this opportunity to attend “Homeschool High School? Yes, I Did It,” seminar by veteran homeschool mom and author, Cindy Downes.

Cindy has been involved in homeschooling since 1981. She taught her two children at home from PreK through 12th grade with only a high school diploma. In 2007, both Cindy and her homeschooled daughter, returned to college as adults. Cindy graduated in 2009 with a journalism degree from Oklahoma State University. Her daughter is a junior at NSU and plans on getting her Masters Degree in English. Her son owns his own computer graphics business and lives in Hollywood, CA.

Cindy will share her family's adventures from both high school and college. Her goal is to encourage you that, with God, you can homeschool high school, too!

Doorprizes, too!

Sponsor: Edmond Home Educators

Time and Date: 7-9 pm. March 25, 2010

Place: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 308 NW 164th, Edmond, OK.

Contact: Andrea Pflughoft. Email: [pflughoft@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pflughoft@sbcglobal.net)

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That's all for this month. I hope you enjoyed this newsletter.

**Please feel free to forward this to anyone who may be interested. Please forward in it's entirety.**

**If you'd like to be added to the How to Homeschool Today Newsletter mailing list, please email [cindy@me.com](mailto:cindy@me.com) with "Subscribe" in the subject line, along with your city and state or country and how long you have homechooled.**

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Have a great day!

Cindy Downes

[www.cindydownes.com](http://www.cindydownes.com)

[www.howtohomeschooltoday.com](http://www.howtohomeschooltoday.com) (Coming soon!)

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