

Lapbooking in the Elementary Classroom

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- I. What is “lapbooking?”
 - a. “Lapbooking” originated with homeschoolers, but is now making its way into classrooms. “Lapbooks” include “foldables” which are multi-dimensional graphic organizers which can be used for reinforcing skills, practice, and to organize information. “Lapbooks” are related to “notebooking” which may last for an entire year (mainly used for science and social studies). A lapbook is a portfolio or collection of mini-books, folded display material, and flaps that provides interactive space for drawings, written work, graphs/diagrams, graphics, timelines, and diagrams from any topic, unit study, book you choose. They are gathered, designed, glued, and creatively displayed in a file folder or in a construction paper book that fits in your lap. There is no right/wrong way to do them☺

- II. Why should I use lapbooking in my classroom?
 - a. Lapbooks combine scrapbooking with learning
 - b. Students love the process of making them
 - c. They are interactive which helps children learn remarkably well from them
 - d. Allow teachers and students to be creative
 - e. May be as simple or as elaborate as you want
 - f. May be used with any subject, topic, theme, or book
 - g. May be used as learning portfolios
 - h. Students organize and display what they are learning
 - i. Students realize that what they are learning is important and worthwhile
 - j. Students can see their progress through a study
 - k. Integrates multiple subject areas
 - l. May be used as an evaluation tool
 - m. May be used with any learning style and any age
 - n. Students are proud of their work and like to share with family and friends
 - o. Make great keepsakes

- III. What supplies are needed for lapbooking?

- a. File folders (colored or plain/legal or normal size) or large sheets of construction paper
- b. Writing tools—pencils, pens, crayons, markers, colored pencils
- c. Various papers—construction, card stock, index cards, etc
- d. Library pockets (may be made from folded paper)
- e. Adhesive—glue stick, double sided tape, wide packing tape
- f. Scissors (kids love using the fancy scrapbooking ones☺)
- g. Optional Embellishments—stickers (I've invited kids to bring their own in by writing a note to parents explaining what it is for), rubber stamps, pictures, clip art, copied illustrations from a story (for literature lapbooks)

IV. How do I get started with lapbooking in my classroom?

- a. Choose a book/topic and the objectives that you want to cover
- b. "Google" the web for ideas/ready to print resources (ex. "make way for ducklings" "lapbook"), you can also google it with "worksheets" to get ideas
- c. Decide which foldables to use (see http://www.homeschoolshare.com/lapbooking_resources.php and <http://www.homeschoolhelperonline.com/lapbooks.htm> for foldables that are ready to print and use) and what will go on them
- d. Design and layout your lapbook so that it is ready to be a model for students
- e. Model for your students, and aid them as they complete each foldable
- f. Optional: allow students time to decorate their lapbook with drawings, stickers, stamps, etc.

V. What should I include in a lapbook? (some ideas)

- a. Literature
 - i. Vocabulary
 - ii. Retelling (foldable or themed stationary)
 - iii. Illustrations from the book
 - iv. About the book's author
 - v. Map of where the story takes place
 - vi. Reading comprehension strategy written response
 - vii. Word/character trait sorts in a pocket
- b. Science
 - i. Vocabulary
 - ii. Interactive game (ex. Teeth dominoes in a pocket for a dental health lapbook"
 - iii. Photos/drawings/diagrams

- iv. Graphic organizer
 - v. Important facts to remember
 - c. Social Studies
 - i. Vocabulary
 - ii. Interactive game
 - iii. Photos/drawings/diagrams
 - iv. Maps
 - v. Graphic organizer
 - vi. Timeline
 - vii. Mini-biography about important people
 - viii. Important facts to remember
 - d. Math
 - i. Vocabulary
 - ii. Interactive game/activity (ex. Clock that moves with brads)
 - iii. Poems that go along with the strand (ex. Time poem)
 - iv. Charts/tables (ex. #/shape/multiplication)
 - v. Formulas
 - vi. Real life examples

VI. What are some tips and tricks for using lapbooks in the classroom?

- a. Start small (with a single picture book, or 1-2 objectives).
- b. Have students keep their work in progress in a zip-lock bag until it is ready to be laid out and glued.
- c. Make sure to take time to model new folds.
- d. Younger students may need you to tell them where to place things (unless there is just a small amount), while older students may have more creativity to design what goes where.
- e. You may want to use older “learning buddies” to help out, especially with the first few lapbooks.
- f. If you have special items, you may want to set-up a classroom store. I had a mom come in and “run” the store after I set the prices. Student were given the same amount of money, and then had to “buy” stickers, scrapbook paper (I cut it small so it was used to frame things), and illustrations (color & photos) for the Robert McCloskey author study project.

VII. Lapbooking Resources & Websites

- a. Books
 - i. [The Ultimate Lap Book™ Handbook](#) by Tammy Duby and Cyndy Regeling

- ii. Notebooks and Foldables by Dinah Zike
 - iii. Big Book of Books by Dinah Zike
 - iv. Big Book of Elementary Science by Dinah Zike
 - v. Big Book of Elementary Math by Dinah Zike
 - vi. Big by Dinah g Book of Social Studies by Dinah Zike
- b. Websites:
- i. Materials/information/ideas available for free
 1. <http://lapbooking.wordpress.com/>
 2. <http://www.squidoo.com/lapbooking>
 3. <http://www.homeschoolshare.com/>
 4. <http://www.homeschoolhelperonline.com/>
 5. <http://www.lapbooklessons.com/>
 6. <http://homeschoolcreations.blogspot.com/search/label/Lapbooks>
 7. <http://ourlapbooks.blogspot.com/>
 8. <http://www.notebookingpages.com/>
 9. <http://www.homeschoolingonashoestring.com/lapbooks.html>
 10. <http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>
 11. <http://www.digitallapbooking.com/>
 - ii. Materials available for purchase (many have periodic freebies as well!)
 1. <http://www.handsofachild.com/>
 2. <http://www.curreclick.com/>
 3. <http://www.knowledgeboxcentral.com/>
 4. <http://liveandlearnpress.com/>
 5. <http://www.tobinslab.com/>
 6. <http://www.dinah.com/index.php>
 - iii. Yahoo has many mailgroups where people create and share their own lapbooking materials, as well as to offer ideas and support.

VIII. Break into small groups to brainstorm how to use them/ideas

IX. Make sample lapbooks

X. Opportunity to share ideas/samples

XI. Questions?