



Visiting the Library

Arrange to take students to the school or public library. Ask your librarian to tell students about how a library is organized and how to use a card catalogue. Then choose some of the following activities:

1. Have the librarian tell about **careers in a library**, such as children's librarian, reference librarian, or library clerk. Have the children write about which library career they might be interested in pursuing.
2. Arrange to have a **scavenger hunt**. Give students the title and author of a book that can be found in the library. Working in teams of two, have them locate the section and the book. This helps students understand how the library is organized. Ask: *How is a library organized differently than a bookstore?*
3. Have students estimate the **number of volumes** in the library. Ask them to brainstorm a list of different strategies they could use to make an accurate estimate. Ask: *About how many books are there per foot (0.3 m) of shelf space? What subject areas have the greatest number of selections? How are oversized books shelved? How is the children's section organized? Is the children's section organized differently than the adult sections? If so, why?* Tell students to explain the differences and explain why they think these differences exist.
4. Ask students to note the **different types of media** other than books. Ask: *What other types of media are found in a library? Why do you think these are stored in the library? Why would a library have maps, books on tape, and newspapers?*
5. Before going to the library, have students name their **favorite books** as you write or type the titles. Reproduce the list for students or have them copy it from the chalkboard. While at the library, have students work with partners to see how many of the books from the list they can locate in an amount of time that you designate. You may wish to have them write down the library section and number. You can also have students write down the names of the authors and list one or more titles of other books written by the same authors.
6. If possible, ask the librarian to show students how to **use the computer** that locates books that are on the shelves.
7. Ask the manager ahead of time whether she or he would like students to **create advertisements** for their favorite children's books. Then invite students to create the ads so they can be displayed at the library.
8. Invite the manager of the library to explain how the **library's inventory** is maintained. She or he may wish to explain the process by which books are ordered.
9. Have students list all of the **different sections of the library**. Ask them to count the total number of shelves as well as the number of shelves allocated for each section. Demonstrate how to divide the number representing how many shelves there are for a certain section by the total number of shelves in the library. Students can show this data using decimal numbers. Then encourage them to determine what percentage of the library's shelves are used for each of the sections. You may also wish to have students show these percentages on pie or circle graphs.
10. Have students list all of the different sections of the library. Ask them to **design their own library** on paper.



Library Crossword Puzzle

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Use what you have learned from your visit to the library to complete the puzzle.

The crossword puzzle grid consists of the following numbered starting points:

- 1: Down, 1st row, 4th column
- 2: Across, 2nd row, 4th column
- 3: Down, 3rd row, 3rd column
- 4: Across, 4th row, 4th column
- 5: Down, 7th row, 1st column
- 6: Across, 8th row, 2nd column
- 7: Across, 9th row, 1st column
- 8: Across, 9th row, 3rd column
- 9: Across, 9th row, 5th column
- 10: Down, 9th row, 10th column
- 11: Across, 11th row, 2nd column
- 12: Across, 12th row, 4th column

ACROSS

- A building with many books is a _____.
- Some books are recorded on _____.
- Borrowing a library book is a big _____.
- Libraries usually have several sets of _____.
- Anyone with a library card can _____ books.
- Medical books are in _____ libraries.

DOWN

- Made-up stories are called _____.
- Libraries have thousands of _____.
- Public libraries are _____.
- You fill out an application to get a library _____.
- _____ libraries are open to everyone.
- Our _____ has a library.