



# Virtual Resources for Distance Learning

The Hamilton Institute, The Wheeler School, April 2020

*The Hamilton Institute, with its outreach and advocacy programs, training workshops and conferences, and parent education resources, developed from the proven expertise of The Hamilton School in Providence, Rhode Island. During this time of distance learning, The Hamilton Institute has assembled a collection of free, digital literacy resources for families to access at home. In addition to the suggested resources, please look to these articles from **Harvard Graduate School of Education** and **Understood.org** for information about supporting your child during distance learning.*

## **WGBH Distance Learning Center - For Families**

Free resources curated according to grade level in an effort to support families and students while learning from home. Materials from PBS LearningMedia's library and other WGBH Education resources.

## **Read Naturally**

Resources for literacy development, dedicated to "producing better tools, better readers, and brighter futures." They are currently offering a free, 60-day trial of their literacy intervention program, Read Naturally Live, a differentiated program to meet the individual needs of learners.

## **ReadWorks**

This free resource offers a wealth of differentiated reading instruction, as well as leveled articles, both non-fiction and literary, and accompanying comprehension exercises and assessments.

## **NewsELA**

This digital collection of up-to-date, relevant articles includes those pertaining to social studies, current events, and science. Articles are accompanied by follow-up questions and activities. All articles are available at varying Lexile levels in order to reach all learners. The entire suite offered on this website is currently free to all.

## **Time for Kids**

Time Magazine's current events reader for elementary and middle school students. Currently, their digital library is free to all.

## **Scholastic**

Learn at Home is a free program by Scholastic. It is a road map for parents and guardians to guide children through 20 days of active learning, using their online resources. Daily "lesson plans," which are organized by grade level, layout multiple high-interest options, including engaging virtually with authors, links to articles and videos about various topics, and tips about interesting live webcams.

## **Smithsonian**

The Smithsonian Institute is an incredibly vast wealth of information and resources. They have dedicated a section on their website to distance learning resources. In addition to access to articles and visuals from Smithsonian collections, the SI website offers a separate page, [Fun Stuff for Kids and Teens](#), dedicated to art projects, videos, and games.

## **Library of Congress**

The Library of Congress website is a treasure trove of images, maps, articles, and interactive materials surrounding United States history and culture. Dive in and search for topics of interest to satisfy your child's curious mind. Dav Pilkey, best known as author and illustrator of *Captain Underpants and Dog Man*, is collaborating with the LoC in videocasting [drawing demonstrations and read alouds](#). All resources mentioned here are free.

## **Engaging with authors and illustrators**

The *New York Times* published this article, outlining several authors and illustrators who are video casting free tutorials and readings for children.

## **PBS Learning Media**

This PBS collection of classroom resources is organized by grade level and subject matter including language arts, social studies, science, math, physical education, and the arts. All resources are free to all.

## **Storyline Online**

Available for free, but reliant on donations, this online library is filled with videos of well-known actors reading popular children's literature. Production quality is terrific and because these are pre-recorded, there is no restriction on what time of day you can participate.

## **National Geographic Kids**

The children's division of National Geographic can be found at this website. Resources range from fun facts and games to articles and informational videos, to how-to videos and ideas for hands-on experiments. While space exploration, science, and animal studies are the bulk of the content, you may also find material about historical figures, the story behind popular candies, and ways to get involved in national and international conservation efforts.

## **Sports Illustrated Kids**

This sports magazine has made this digital version of their kids reader free to all. If your child loves sports, this site will provide plenty of high-interest reading material. Many articles are written by SI Kid Reporters and might even inspire your child to start some reporting of their own.