



Fact Hunts

By Diane Hurst



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By Diane Hurst

Gentle Shepherd

Vancouver, WA

(360) 831-9147

gentleshepherd@gmail.com

www.gentleshepcurr.com

Gentle Shepherd is a project of the Hurst Family.

Michael Hurst is an educational technology teacher who teaches public school and university.

Diane Hurst has homeschooled nine children over the past two decades.

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What is a Fact Hunt?

For kids in upper elementary or middle school, one easy way to encourage research skills is to have them do regular "fact hunts." You select the topic or give a few topic choices for your child to pick from.

The assignment is to find and write down ten facts about that topic.

Allow plenty of time for this-- it will be more enjoyable without time pressure. You can make this the last assignment of the morning or afternoon, to give open-ended time.

Doing fact hunts is different from researching for a report, though the process is very similar. When doing a fact hunt, a child can look for anything about the topic, and doesn't need to cover certain questions or subtopics. The facts don't need to be given in any order, writing style, or arrangement (except for being part of a numbered list). So they don't replace doing other types of research work (such as finding information for reports, or learning to write notes, or learning to research in magazines). They are just a good way to practice and gain skill in doing research in general. They can easily become part of a regular routine if they are done once a week on a certain day.

On the following pages are sets of topics – there are three pages each having 36 topics (can be gone through once a week for a school year), and one set of pages that is design to offer a choice (older children especially may like to choose their own topic).

There are various ways to give the topic assignment—it could be written in the child's schedule for the day, or the topics could be written on small slips of paper, folded and put into a jar or small box, so the student can use these to randomly pick out a topic.

36 Fact Hunts -- set 1

diamonds

bananas

Michelangelo

Brazil

octopuses

hot air balloon

Normal Rockwell

The Great Lakes

redwood trees

turkeys

Ecuador

steel

Antarctica

salt

Grandma Moses

Prickly pear cactus

armadillos

Jerusalem

emeralds

Clara Barton

Mediterranean Sea

hornets and wasps

Buckingham Palace

evergreen trees

penguins

Winslow Homer

The Grand Canyon

Fiji

olives, olive trees

glass

Rembrandt

kangaroos

The Panama Canal

potatoes

eucalyptus trees

pearls

36 Fact Hunts -- set 2

Madagascar

bears

Jupiter

copper

Benjamin Franklin

ferns

The Rio Grande

Manatees

The Empire State Building

silver

ostriches

Canada

helium

plastic

elephants

The Louvre (Paris, France)

meteors

prickly pear cactus

croquet

emeralds

Paul Revere

Kangaroo rats

steel

luna moth

Taiwan

moss and lichens

silicon

pyramids in Egypt

Shetland ponies

bamboo

oceans

The White House

cotton

Greenland

whooping cranes

meteors

36 Fact Hunts -- set 3

The Sahara Desert

linen

pineapples

koala bears

Leonardo Da Vinci

The Caribbean Sea

citrus fruits

The "Big Dipper"& "Little Dipper"

Gold

Mexico

swallowtail butterfly

the sun

okapis

The Eiffel Tower

lizards

Robert Fulton

coconuts

Argentina

starfish

The Liberty Bell

grasses

Saturn

Georgia O'Keeffe

whales

Victoria Falls

the Moon

silk

Australia

Socrates

The Leaning Tower of Pisa

clouds

Kenya

Anton Van Leeuwenhoek

peacocks

The Great Wall of China

beetles

<p>crabs sea anemones jelly fish</p> <p>The Alhambra, Spain The Dome of the Rock European Castles</p> <p>The North Pole The South Pole polar bears</p> <p>Eli Whitney Cyrus McCormick Henry Ford</p>	<p>The Red Cross The Peace Corps Charity Water</p> <p>Mars Mercury Venus</p> <p>Nile River Mississippi River Amazon River</p> <p>cactus plants trees squash plants</p>	<p>bees lady bugs grasshoppers & locusts</p> <p>China India Himalayan Mountains</p> <p>kangaroos rhinoceroses zebras</p> <p>baobob trees cedar trees maple trees</p>
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the tundra the rain forest the prairie	hydrogen carbon oxygen	iron aluminum brass and bronze
Gulf of Mexico Baltic Sea Caspian Sea	London, England Venice, Italy Athens, Greece	Europe South America Africa
Tasmania Sri Lanka Singapore	Molly Pitcher Betsy Ross Florence Nightingale	giraffes hyenas gazelles
monarch butterfly Isabella moth dragonflies	big cats monkeys apes	hurricanes tornadoes tsunamis

<p>Nikolas Tesla Thomas Edison Alexander Graham Bell</p> <p>frogs turtles salamanders</p> <p>Niagara Falls Lake Victoria The Florida Everglades</p> <p>perennial flowers annual flowers flower bulbs</p>	<p>Paul Bunyan Pecos Bill Alfred Bulltop Stormalong</p> <p>Venus flytrap pitcher plant sundew plant</p> <p>Roman numerals Mayan numbers Hindu numerals</p> <p>platypus wombat sugar glider</p>	<p>Hubble telescope Apollo 11 International Space Station</p> <p>gorilla chimpanzee orangutan</p> <p>petroleum natural gas coal</p> <p>The Golden Gate Bridge The Brooklyn Bridge The Channel Tunnel</p>
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