

Synopsis

Unbored is the guide and activity book every modern kid needs. Vibrantly designed, lavishly illustrated, brilliantly walking the line between cool and constructive, it's crammed with activities that are not only fun and doable but also designed to get kids engaged with the wider world. With contributions from a diverse crowd of experts, the book provides kids with information to round out their world view and inspire them to learn more. From how-tos on using the library or writing your representative to a graphic history of video games, the book isn't shy about teaching. Yet the bulk of the 350-page mega-resource presents hands-on activities that further the mission in a fun way, featuring the best of the old as well as the best of the new: classic science experiments, crafts and upcycling, board game hacking, code-cracking, geocaching, skateboard repair, yarn-bombing, stop-action movie-making-plus tons of sidebars and extras, including trivia, best-of lists, and Q&As with leading thinkers whose culture-changing ideas are made accessible to kids for the first time. Just as kids begin to disappear into their screens, here is a book that encourages them to use those tech skills to be creative, try new things, and change the world. And it encourages parents to participate. Unbored is exciting to read, easy to use, and appealing to young and old, girl and boy. Parents will be comforted by its anti-perfectionist spirit and humor. Kids will just think it's awesome. Contributors include Mark Frauenfelder of MAKE magazine; Colin Beavan, the No Impact Man; Douglas Rushkoff, renowned media theorist; Geoff Manaugh, author of BLDGBLOG; John Edgar Park, a CG supervisor at DisneyToon Studios; and Jean Railla, founder of GetCrafty.com and Etsy consultant.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a grandmother with 6 grandchildren ranging from 1-13 years of age, and as a former teacher, now professor of education, I find Unbored a refreshing change to the usual litany of "educational" activities generated to be "adult-approved." Instead, the activities leverage creativity, imagination, links to a world becoming increasingly technologically- and media-oriented, and commonplace materials and equipment. The activities are also wholistic--requiring planning from beginning to end. Additionally, children and youth can engage on their own, with friends, and with family members--including watchful parents and grandparents. As a grandparent who wants to actively engage with my grandchildren, I appreciate such activities as "Make a Secret Book Safe," "Experimenting in the Kitchen," and my granddaughters are waiting for me to help them, "Construct a Mouse House." I want to spend my time with my grandchildren in a meaningful way--not in front of a movie or TV eating fatty popcorn and drinking sugary beverages. I also appreciate that the book taps experience from my generation, such as being home alone and cooking for yourself, melting a record to make a bowl, marbles, paper football, finger games, etc. I increasingly fear that these activities are getting lost in the world of video games and smart phone apps--which is not to say that these are necessarily bad, but instead to point out that it's a rich world that we can share with our grandchildren. As an educator, one concern I've had for a long time is the loss of project-based learning in our schools.

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