



Tech4Learning®



**Wixie**

**Guide for Parents:  
Third Grade**



## What is Wixie?

Wixie is an online tool your child can use to write, paint pictures, and tell stories. Wixie makes learning fun and your child can use their Wixie log in from school to continue learning at home.

Your child can add text to a Wixie page to practice their writing, draw ideas from their imagination using the paint tools, record narration for stories, and more. Your child can share their work as a slide show simply by sending out the project URL. They can also print their work as comics, booklets, or trading cards.



## Using Wixie with Your Third Grader

In Third Grade your child's ability to read, write, do math and explore the world of science and history is expanding rapidly. You will notice their work with Wixie growing more sophisticated as their writing and drawing includes more detail and complexity. Respond to your child work in the same way – with more detail and complexity and ask them lots of questions about their work.

Wixie is also the perfect canvas for free play on the computer. Play is a powerful way for students to learn about the world. But rather than consuming computer games, Wixie encourages students to create – create artwork, stories, diagrams, designs, and more.

As you explore some of the ideas in this guide, listen to your child. Allow them to drive the activities and take them wherever their interests lead. Passion for learning is perhaps the most important thing you can teach your child at this age.



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# Reading and Writing

## Reading

Students learn to read words they do not know and develop strategies to decode those words.

### Homophones



By third grade your child has learned enough vocabulary to begin some fun word play with homophones. Homophones are words that sound the same but are spelled differently. Talk with your child about homophones like flour/flower and ant/aunt. Work with your child in Wixie to match the correct homophone to the picture.

Search "Homophones" at the Wixie home page

Your child can also use Wixie to make a list of new words they find each week. Use Wixie's Text tool to add text to a page and the paint tools to draw pictures of what each word means. Work with your child to identify suffixes and prefixes they are finding.

## Reading

Students begin to read books for meaning.

### Main Idea



Read a story with your child. Talk with them about what happened. Work with your child to type in the main idea of the story and help them add more concepts, settings, and ideas to describe each part of the story.

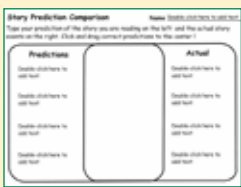
Search "Main Idea" at the Wixie home page

Your child can also use Wixie to retell the story. Work with your child to take what they wrote on the main idea page and use this as the basis for a story summary. Use the Text tool to type sentences and the paint tools to draw supporting pictures.

## Reading

Students begin to read for fun and to learn about different topics.

### Story Prediction Comparison



Have your child predict an outcome of book they are currently reading. Then, when they are finished with the book, have them compare their prediction with the actual outcome.

Search "Story Predictions" at the Wixie home page

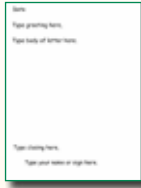
Your child can also use Wixie to create a completely different ending to a book they have read. If they are reading a mystery book, have them finish with an adventurous ending.

# Reading and Writing (continued)

## Writing

Students learn to write for different audiences.

### Write a Persuasive Letter



Pretend your family is moving and wants your child's opinion on where to buy a new home. Should it be a new neighborhood, by the beach, to a country farm, or somewhere else? Where would they like to live? Have your child write a letter convincing the rest of the family where to move. The letter should address your child's desires as well as concerns of other family members.

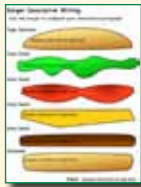
Search "[Friendly Letter](#)" at the [Wixie home page](#)

Your child can also use Wixie to write a letter to a family member persuading them to go on a trip. Be sure to include original illustrations to entice the reader.

## Writing

Students decide what to write about and how to learn more about the topics they choose.

### Burger Descriptive Writing



Your third grader is ready to include more structure in their writing. Think about a place or thing your child enjoys. Work with them to describe it.

Search "[Burger Writing](#)" at the [Wixie home page](#)

Your child can also use Wixie to recreate a dream or fantasy. Have your child recreate the dream with imaginative characters, colors, and scenes as close as they can to the original dream.

## Language Use and Conventions

Students learn various styles of writing and how to interest the reader with varied vocabulary.

### Fill in the Blanks



A cluster organizer is a tool to help brainstorm ideas. Your child can use it to build skills in using words in context and to build vocabulary and comprehension. Let your child choose a topic. Work with them to brainstorm ideas about it using who, what, when, where, how, and the five senses.

Search "[Cluster](#)" at the [Wixie home page](#)

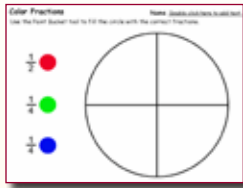
Your child can use Wixie to write and illustrate a story based on the ideas they brainstormed in the cluster organizer.

# Mathematics

## Numbers and Operations

Students learn to multiply and divide whole numbers.

### Color Fractions



Using a circle to demonstrate fractions as parts of a whole tends to be an easy concept for children to grasp. If you are cooking or baking with measuring cups you can also talk about fractions. After discussing, work with your child to explore the idea of fractions being part of a whole.

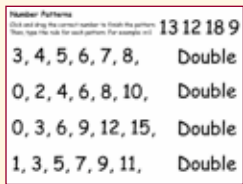
Search "Color Fractions" at the Wixie home page

Your child can also use Wixie to create illustrated word problems about fractions. For example: "Divide a whole pizza into four equal parts. Remove two slices. What fraction of the pizza is left?" ( $1/2$  or  $2/4$ ).

## Algebra

Students describe and make generalizations about patterns.

### Number Patterns



Encourage your child to create patterns with objects around them such as their toys at home or sugar packets in a restaurant. Use a Wixie activity as a way to have your child start to understand patterns.

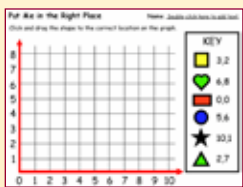
Search "Number Patterns" at the Wixie home page

Your child can also use the paint tools or stickers in Wixie to create their own patterns. Have your child create patterns that use color, shape, or a combination of both.

## Geometry

Students begin to identify the relationship between two- and three-dimensional shapes.

### Put me in the Right Place



Your child is now beginning to develop concepts about what's close and what's far away. Click and drag the shape to the correct location on the graph.

Search "Coordinate 2" at the Wixie home page

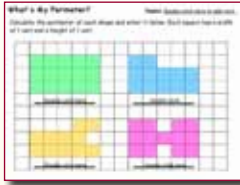
Have your child locate and identify two-dimensional (triangle, square, rectangle) and three-dimensional (cube, cylinder, pyramid) geometric shapes around the house. Work with your child to draw a scene that includes both two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. For example, a sign (square) on the front of a building (cube).

# Mathematics (continued)

## Measurement

Students begin to apply measurement skills to the world around them using estimation of standard-unit measuring.

### What's My Perimeter



Your child is beginning to understand that objects have boundaries or in this case, a perimeter. Grab a tape measure from your toolbox or sewing kit and measure the perimeter of common objects around your house. Once your child gets the hang of how to add up all of the sides, work with them in Wixie to show what they know.

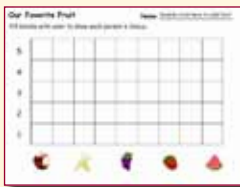
Search "Perimeter" at the [Wixie home page](#)

Your child can also use the ruler sticker in Wixie to measure objects they have drawn. Have your child draw a picture of whatever they want. Your child can use Wixie to draw a picture of themselves. Then work with them to measure each part of their body and record it using the Text tool. Be sure to put the date on the page and print it for a keepsake. If you need to rotate the ruler, select it and use the Rotate Dial on the Options Panel.

## Data Analysis and Probability

Students begin to evaluate multiple forms of data representation.

### Favorite Fruit



Children are naturally curious and eager to know what people like as their favorite. Have your child conduct a survey of family members and friends about their favorite type of fruit. Use Wixie to document their findings.

Search "Favorite Fruit" at the [Wixie home page](#)

Have your child use Wixie to graph the results of their own survey – such as how many of the family shoes are big, are black and have rubber soles, are more than one color and so on. You will find a grid in the Activities in Math > Templates.

# Science

## Inquiry Skills

Students will learn to develop questions and make predictions using data they gather.

### How Does It Taste?



Children will taste almost anything. Have your child taste something sweet, something sour, something salty, and something bitter. Use a Wixie activity to label the items with their appropriate taste.

Search "You Taste" at the Wixie home page

Have your child use Wixie to create and record their own predictions about the world around them – for example, chart the growth of bean plants grown on a windowsill and in a dark closet, what time of day your pet eats their food). They can use Wixie to illustrate the differences in their observations, as well as record their voice explaining their thoughts.

## Physical Science

Students learn the basic properties of light, motion, and how energy interacts with matter.

### Motion



Children observe objects in motion all the time. Go on a nature walk and ask your child to observe how the wind moves objects such as tree branches, feathers, and paper. What are some other ways these objects can be put into motion organically?

Search "Inquiry - Primary" at the Wixie home page

Explore with your child how different materials transmit, partially transmit, or block light. Use the Inquiry Process activities to record their observations.

## Life Science

Students will learn about the characteristics of different kinds of animals.

### Types of Animals



Your child is beginning to learn how to identify characteristics of animals. Work with your child to sort animals into categories of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates.

Search "Animal Types" at the Wixie home page

Your child is also learning about food chains, food webs, and predators. Work with your child to draw a picture of a food chain or web. It may be easiest to start at the top of the food chain with a predator and then work down figuring out what each organism eats.

## Science (continued)

### Earth and Space Science

Students will explore the physical world around them and different types of resources found in the earth.

#### Moon Phases



Discuss with your child that the moon's cycle is 28 days. Help your child make a chart and mark the different phases of the moon during a month.

Search "Phases of the Moon" at the Wixie home page

Talk with your child about the constellations and stories behind them. Fill a Wixie page with black and use a white paintbrush to paint a picture of a constellation. Then, use other colors to illustrate the person/animal/object the constellation represents.

### Science and Technology

Students investigate different technologies and will identify technological tools and their purpose.

#### Simple Machines



Have your child examine unfamiliar tools and how they are used. Use a Wixie activity to have your child organize tools into types of simple machines.

Search "Simple Machines" at the Wixie home page

Go on a scavenger hunt in your home and yard to find materials and objects that are either natural or made by people. Use Wixie to categorize the objects by illustrating and using the Text tool.

### Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

Students practice safety and conservation of resources, and know the importance of resources within environments.

#### You Can Recycle Activity



Talk with your child and remind them recycling helps the earth and makes the world a better place to live in. By recycling items you do not need any longer, new things can be made.

Search "You Can Recycle" at the Wixie home page

An often overlooked concept of conservation is reuse. Work with your child to choose an item you normally recycle or throw away. Draw a picture of another way your family can use the item before recycling or throwing it away.



## Science (continued)

### History and Nature of Science

Students learn and recognize the contributors of discoveries and inventions.

#### Science Innovator



Work with your child to research a scientific innovator. Have your child create a trading card for their chosen scientist. Describe their contributions or an invention they made, as well as how life would be different without this contribution or invention.

[Search "Trading Card" at the Wixie home page](#)

Work with your child to come up with a new invention that will help them with everyday occurrences. Have them use Wixie to illustrate and describe their invention, as well as how this will make their life easier.

# Social Studies

## Citizenship

Students learn about how to be a citizen in a democratic republic.

### Friendly Letter



Have your child write a letter to the President thanking him for a recent accomplishment, sharing the recent good deed of a citizen, or explaining what you would like him to improve on during his presidency.

Search "Friendly Letter" at the Wixie home page

Have your child use Wixie to create a poster showing examples of citizens' rights and responsibilities (e.g., picking up litter off the streets, helping an older person cross a street, or delivering food to people in need).

## Culture

Students study culture and cultural diversity.

### Native Americans



Have your child research the customs and cultures of Native American tribes from around the United States. Have your child complete a Wixie activity where they match items to Native American cultures in different regions of the United States.

Search "Native Americans" at the Wixie home page

Your child can use Wixie to create a poster advertising the benefits of life in your community. Have them think of different immigrant groups that live in your community and what might attract them to your area.

## Continuity and Change

Students study the events of the past and how historical events shape our community today.

### United States Timeline



Your child is beginning to understand the order of events in history. Have your child use Wixie to organize significant events in United State history that shaped our communities.

Search "Timeline" at the Wixie home page

Discuss with your child that most cities were influenced by the ethnic groups which settled there. Trace contributions of different ethnic groups to your community's historical development with your child. Your child can use Wixie to make a timeline of your city's historical journey.

## Social Studies (continued)

### Space and Place

Students study their physical world using geographic tools like globes, charts, and graphs.

#### Landforms



Discuss with your child the various types of landforms within a short distance from your home. Have your child use Wixie to match images of landforms and bodies of water with their names.

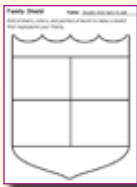
Search “Land Forms” at the Wixie home page

Your child can also use Wixie to research different landforms on a map like rivers, plateaus, islands and lakes. Use the text tool and stickers to label their map.

### Individual Development and Identity

Students learn how contributions of family members affect their identity.

#### Make a Family Shield



Have your child identify things that make each family member unique. Use Wixie to create a family shield based on their discoveries. Have your child add stickers and use the text and paint tool to illustrate a shield that makes your family unique.

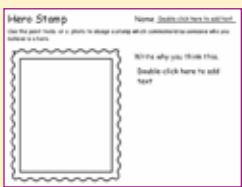
Search “Family Shield” at the Wixie home page

Create a logo or shield for your city. Be sure to include symbols and drawings the showcase the history and culture of the people and place where you live.

### Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Students develop an understanding of the larger community and the groups that contribute to them.

#### Hero Stamp



Our communities are full of everyday heroes. Discuss with your child the attributes of what makes a hero. Then use Wixie to have your child create a stamp in honor of a community hero.

Search “Hero Stamp” at the Wixie home page

Discuss, identify and describe with your child examples of why tensions exist between different people and groups of people. Have your child draw a picture of what these people could do instead of fighting.

## Social Studies (continued)

### Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Students learn goods people produce come from natural resources and how countries are linked through trade.

#### Goods and Services



Discuss with your child the difference between goods and services. Have your child make a list of the goods and services found in your state. Use Wixie to create a flag that illustrates the good and services in your state.

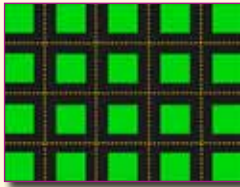
Search “Goods and Services Flag” at the Wixie home page

At this point your child has probably heard talk of budgets and finances. Work with your child to write and illustrate a list of needs and wants to include in your family budget.

### Power, Authority, and Governance

Students learn about the government and how it helps our community live safe and fair.

#### Today I Feel



Talk with your child about the things in the community that help keep them safe. Have your child draw a community map that includes a police station, a fire station, and a hospital.

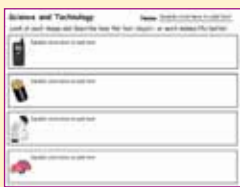
Search “Community Grid” at the Wixie home page

Discuss with your child why government is necessary in the classroom, school, community, state, and nation. Have your child illustrate a scene on how they feel laws benefit the community in which they live. What does it look like to live in a community with laws versus one without?

### Science, Technology, and Society

Students learn how technology has changed the way our society communicates, travels, and make our life better.

#### Science and Technology



Talk to your child about how technology makes our lives easier, helps us save time, and how useful it is in our daily lives.

Search “Science and Technology” at the Wixie home page

Your child can also use Wixie to show how technology enhances how people do their jobs. For example, air traffic controllers use radar and delivery drivers use GPS.

## Social Studies (continued)

### Global Connections

Students learn how people are dependent upon other communities in the world and how they connect in a global society.

Where does it come from?



Your third grader is starting to understand all of the different parts of the world. Discuss with them where common household items come from. Use Wixie to illustrate where on earth foods and other items come from.

Search “Goods From” at the Wixie home page

Your child can use Wixie to illustrate goods and services that come from your state. Open a map of your state. Use Wixie to drag in stickers that represents things like a cow for Agriculture, and a car for Manufacturing.