

Trip Journal Template

Simply Charlotte Mason is happy to make this free trip journal template available. Giving your child a personal trip journal is a great way to encourage narrations—and even nature study and geography—on a family trip. All you need is a three-prong folder and the pages in this template.

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<http://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/trip-journal-template/>

Instructions

Your trip journal can have four sections or five sections, depending on whether you want to include the optional budget section. The steps below outline what to put in each section.

1. In the first section, called “The Route We Took,” put a highway map of each state or province you will be traveling through. You can find great condensed highway maps in [Kids’ Road Atlas](#). As you travel, your child can trace your route.
2. The next section, “Neighbors We Saw,” should include an outline map of your country. [Uncle Josh’s Outline Map Book or CD-ROM](#) is a good resource for outline maps. As your child sees license plates from the various states or provinces, he can locate and color them on this map.
3. Insert lots of lined notebook paper behind the “My Trip Journal” page. Use this third section for your child’s narrations of what he observes and does along the trip. You may want to include some plain copy paper for nature sketches. Encourage your child to add an entry to this section each time you stop along the road (for example, at rest stops or meals) or at the end of each day. Make sure he dates the entries and labels them with the locations in which they were written. Ticket stubs, brochures, postcards, and other memorabilia can work well as narration prompts.
4. If you have older children, you may want to add the optional section called “My Trip Budget.” Your child can use the simple ledger sheets to keep track of his starting balance, purchases along the way, and a running balance.
5. The final section, “The Trip in Pictures,” will be completed after you return home. Take lots of photos on the trip, then let your child select which ones he wants to include in his trip journal. Encourage more narration in the form of captions or short descriptions under the photos.

The _____
(Family Name)

Family Trip

to

(Destination)

on

(Dates)

As reported by _____

Contents

The Route We Took
Neighbors We Saw
My Trip Journal
The Trip in Pictures

Section One
Section Two
Section Three
Section Four

The Route We Took

(The Route We Took section: Insert a highway map for each state or province you will be traveling through. The child may trace the route at each stopping point or as he or she inquires along the way.)

Neighbors We Saw

(Neighbors We Saw section: Insert a map of your country. The child may color the states or provinces of the license plates he or she sees at anytime on the trip.)

My Trip Journal

(My Trip Journal section: Insert plenty of lined paper for the child to record what happens on the trip.)

The Trip in Pictures

(Insert plenty of plain copy paper for children to attach photos and captions of the trip as they relive the memories once you return home.)

(Use the remaining pages of this document if you want to include the optional My Trip Budget section for older children. Substitute the Contents page below for the one given above, since the one below lists the budget section. Then insert the budget section pages right before The Trip in Pictures section. If you don't want to use the My Trip Budget section, just throw away this page and the four that come after it.)

Contents

The Route We Took
Neighbors We Saw
My Trip Journal
My Trip Budget
The Trip in Pictures

Section One
Section Two
Section Three
Section Four
Section Five

My Trip Budget

Item	Income	Expense	Balance
<i>Opening Balance</i>			\$

Item	Income	Expense	Balance