

A Note for Parents & Caregivers

Going away without your kids can be exciting for you—and a little hard for them. This activity kit was created to give kids something fun to look forward to each day while Mom and Dad are away, while also helping them follow the adventure from home.

The kit is designed for kids ages 5–12 and trips up to 14 days. Simply choose the activities that best fit your child and the number of days you'll be away.

Don't worry—this isn't supposed to be homework for anyone!

Before You Leave

1. Choose the activities.

Take a look through the activity pages and choose the ones that best fit your child. You know them best! Some kids will love researching a new place, while others would much rather draw a ridiculous picture of Mom and Dad getting lost.

Choose one activity for each day you'll be away—or fewer if you don't want your child to have an activity every day. There are extra pages so you can swap out anything that doesn't interest your child. You may want to keep the first and last activities for those days and save “Halfway There!” for the halfway point of your trip.

2. Print the countdown and trip map.

These can stay out for the entire trip. Your child can mark off another day each morning and follow your travels on the map as you go. Be sure to print the kit one-sided, since some activities ask your child to draw on the back of the page.

3. Write your love notes.

Write a short note for each day you'll be gone. It doesn't need to be long. Tell them you love them, where you'll be that day, something you're planning to do, something funny, or simply how many more sleeps there are until you're home.

The notes don't need to be perfect. They just need to sound like you.

4. Put everything together.

You can place each day's love note and activity page in a numbered envelope: Day 1, Day 2, Day 3...If you're including little surprises on some days, tuck them inside or leave them with the matching envelope. If something is too big to fit, wrap it separately and label it with the day you want your child to open it.

You don't need a surprise every day. In our house, the excitement of opening the daily note was a big part of the fun all by itself.

While Mom & Dad Are Away

For the Caregiver

Your job is pretty easy!

Each day:

1. Let the child open that day's envelope.

Inside they'll find their love note and, if you've included one, an activity for the day.

2. Mark off another day on the countdown.

One less sleep!

3. Help with the activity only if they need it.

Some activities may ask the child to find a place on the map, look up a word in another language, check the weather where Mom and Dad are, or learn something about their destination. Younger children may need a little help.

4. Let them make it their own.

There are no right answers. Spelling doesn't matter. Pictures don't have to be perfect. If they decide Mom and Dad got lost 37 times on vacation, that's perfectly acceptable.

5. Don't worry if you miss a day.

Skip it. Do it tomorrow. Pick a different activity. The goal is to make the time apart more fun—not add another thing everyone has to get done.

Keep the Completed Pages!

Don't throw them away when an activity is finished.

Put the completed pages back into the child's folder or binder. When Mom and Dad come home, they'll have something fun to look through together.

There may be stories on those pages that Mom and Dad haven't heard yet, too.

Staying Connected

Phone calls, FaceTime and video chats are wonderful when schedules and time zones cooperate, but sometimes they don't. Kids may be at school when Mom and Dad are free to call—or sound asleep when something exciting is happening halfway around the world.

That's one reason the daily love notes are such an important part of this kit. They're waiting every day, whether schedules line up or not.

When you do get to talk, the activity pages can give everyone something to talk about:

“Did you find us on the map?”

“What did you think of the food we tried?”

“How many times did you guess Dad got lost?”

Don't forget—Mom and Dad should ask about what's happening at home, too. The kids are having their own adventures while you're gone.

When Mom & Dad Come Home

Don't put the kit away just yet!

Finish the *Welcome Home activities* together. Let your child interview you about the trip, compare their predictions with what actually happened, show you their drawings and tell you what they did while you were away.

Then look through the whole kit together.

Mom and Dad had an adventure. The kids did too. Now everyone has some stories to tell.

Love Note Templates

Print as many as you need, then write one little note for each day you'll be away.

LOVE NOTE



LOVE NOTE



LOVE NOTE



LOVE NOTE



30 Ideas for treats, activities or an occasional gift.

1. Gum
2. Book
3. Candy bar
4. Sucker
5. Activity book, notebook, or drawing pad
6. New board game
7. Gift card for pizza
8. Gift card to go to the movies
9. Map to track your trip
10. Fun pencil or pen
11. Markers or colored pencils
12. Deck of cards or small card game
13. Bubble bath
14. Fun pair of socks
15. Special drinking glass or cup
16. Favorite snack
17. Stuffed animal for extra hugs
18. Play-Doh
19. Reusable sticker book
20. Puzzle featuring somewhere you're visiting or something you'll see
21. Sidewalk chalk
22. Matchbox car, monster truck, toy airplane, or train
23. Gift card for ice cream
24. Pocket journal or diary
25. Worry stone or pocket token
26. Travel-themed Barbie or doll
27. Travel play set or pretend suitcase
28. Pilot or flight attendant costume
29. Countdown calendar
30. Airplane model kit

WHILE WE'RE AWAY

A Travel-Along Kit for Kids



This belongs to: _____

*Mom & Dad are going on an adventure...
and I get to follow along from home!*

BEEN THERE, LOVED THAT TRAVEL
www.beenthere loved that travel.com

Our Adventure Begins!

MOM & DAD ARE OFF ON AN ADVENTURE!

They're going to:

Mom & Dad will be gone for: _____ DAYS

I'm staying with:

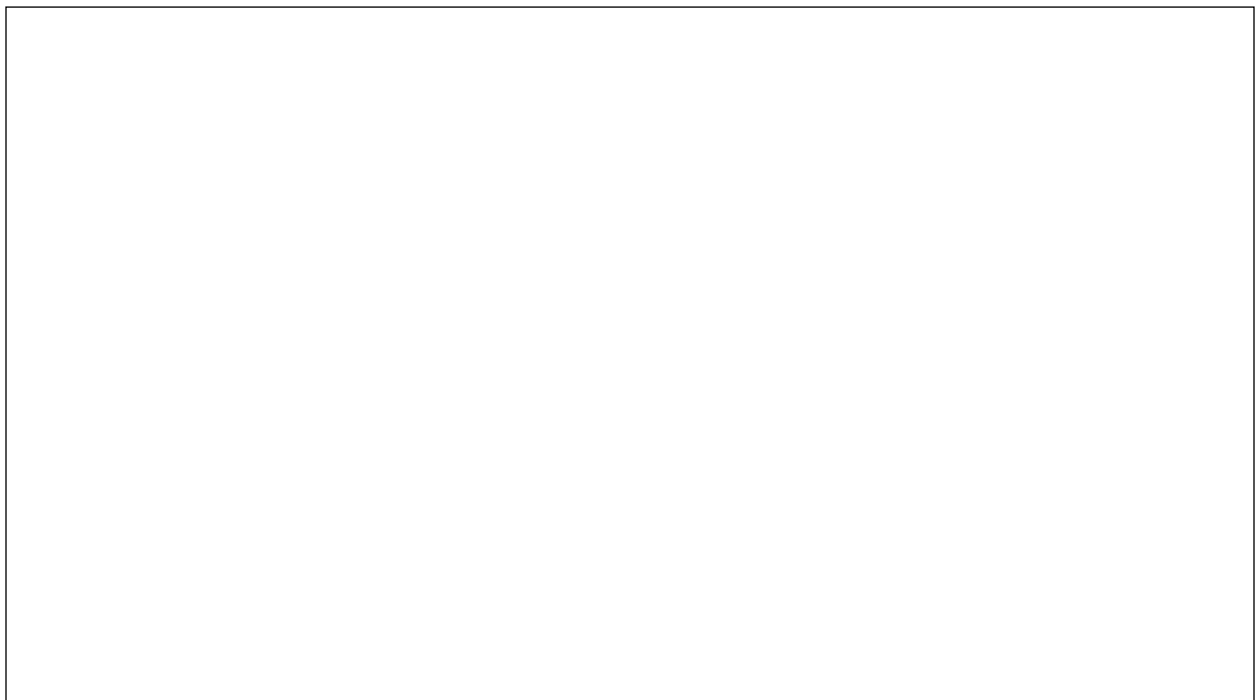
Before they go...

One thing I think they'll see:

One food I think they'll try:

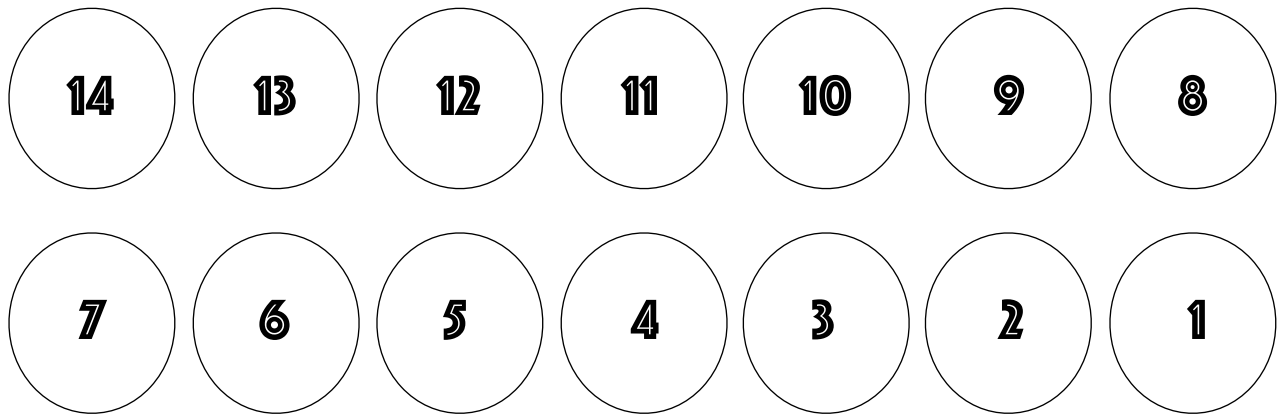
One thing I want them to tell me about when they get home:

Draw a picture of where you think they're going!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a child to draw a picture of where they think their parents are going on their adventure.

HOW MANY SLEEPS UNTIL THEY'RE HOME?

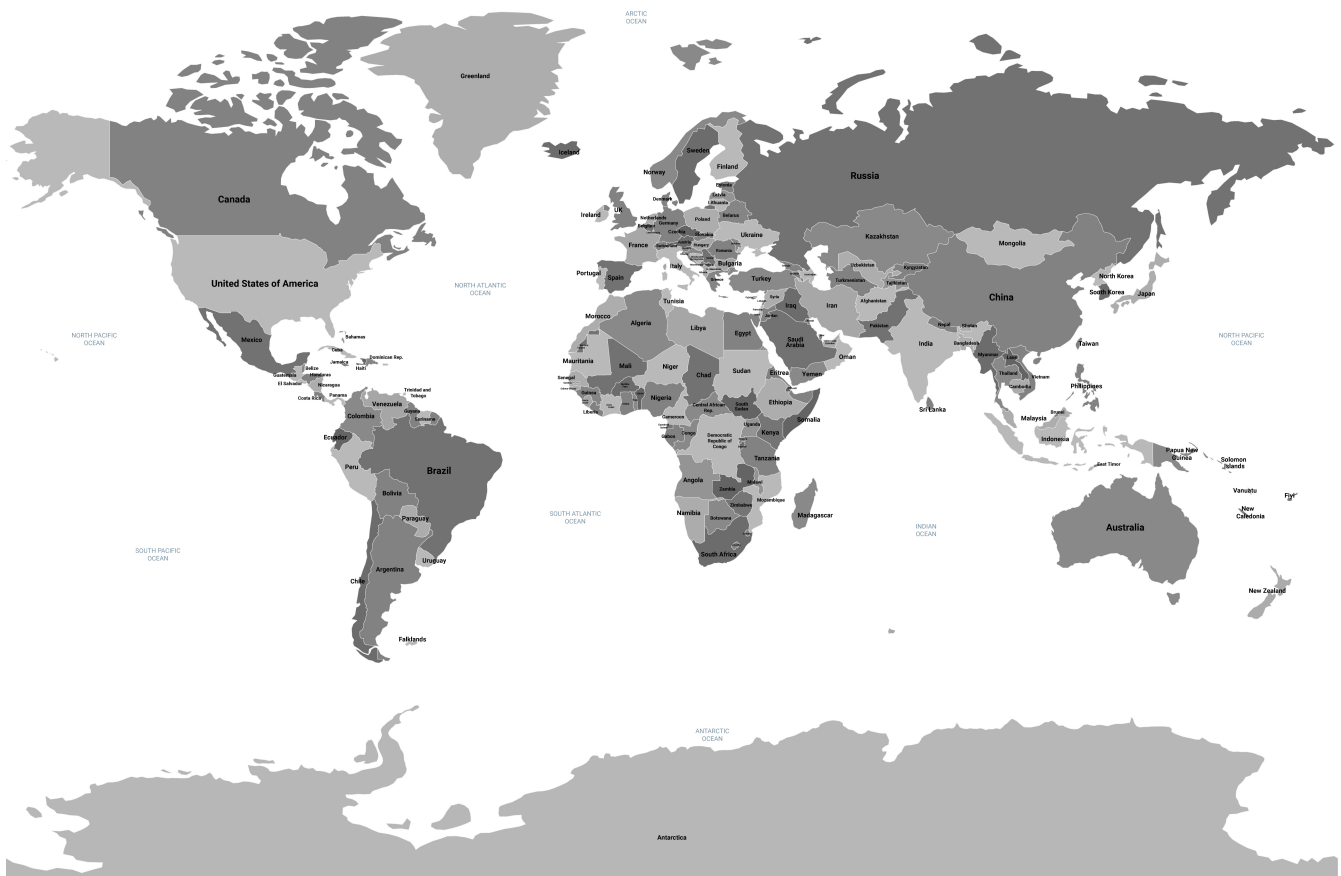
Each morning, color in or cross off one more circle. Every day means Mom & Dad are one day closer to home!



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE MOM & DAD?

Each time Mom & Dad visit somewhere new:

- Find it on the map
- Add a sticker or draw a star
- Write the place beside it
- Draw a line to their next stop



Day 1: They're Off!

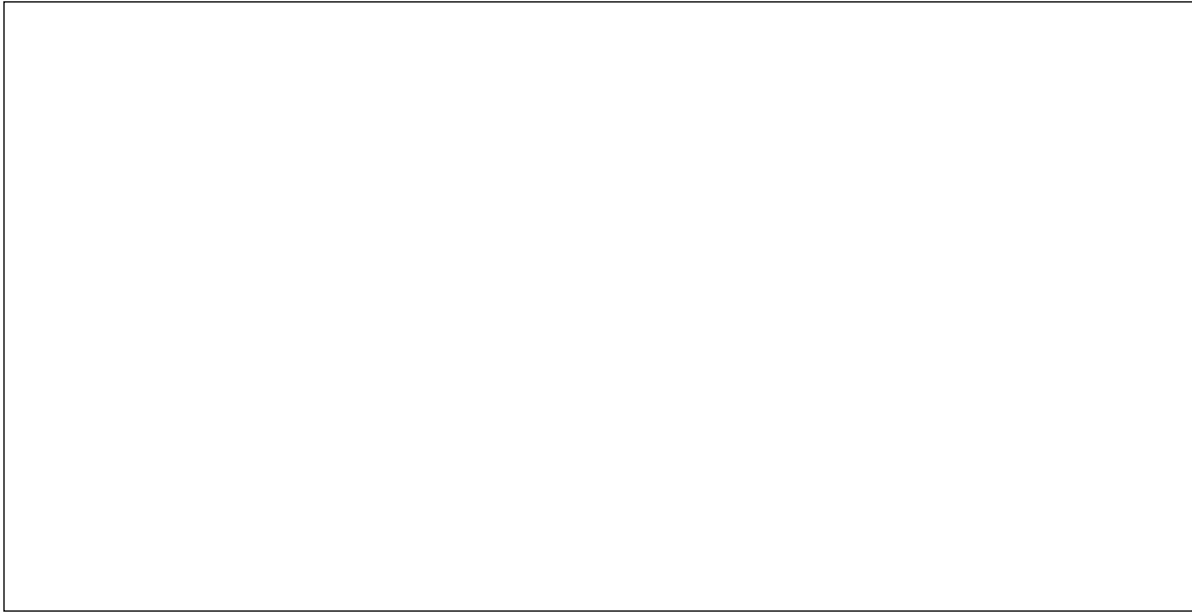
 **Open today's love note!**

MOM & DAD'S ADVENTURE HAS BEGUN!

How do you think they're traveling today?

- ☐ Airplane
- ☐ Train
- ☐ Car
- ☐ Boat
- ☐ Something else: _____

Draw Mom & Dad on their way!



Today's countdown:

There are _____ sleeps until they're home.

Don't forget to mark your countdown!

Day ____: Where Are They Today?

 *Open today's love note!*

WHERE ARE THEY TODAY?

Mom & Dad are in:

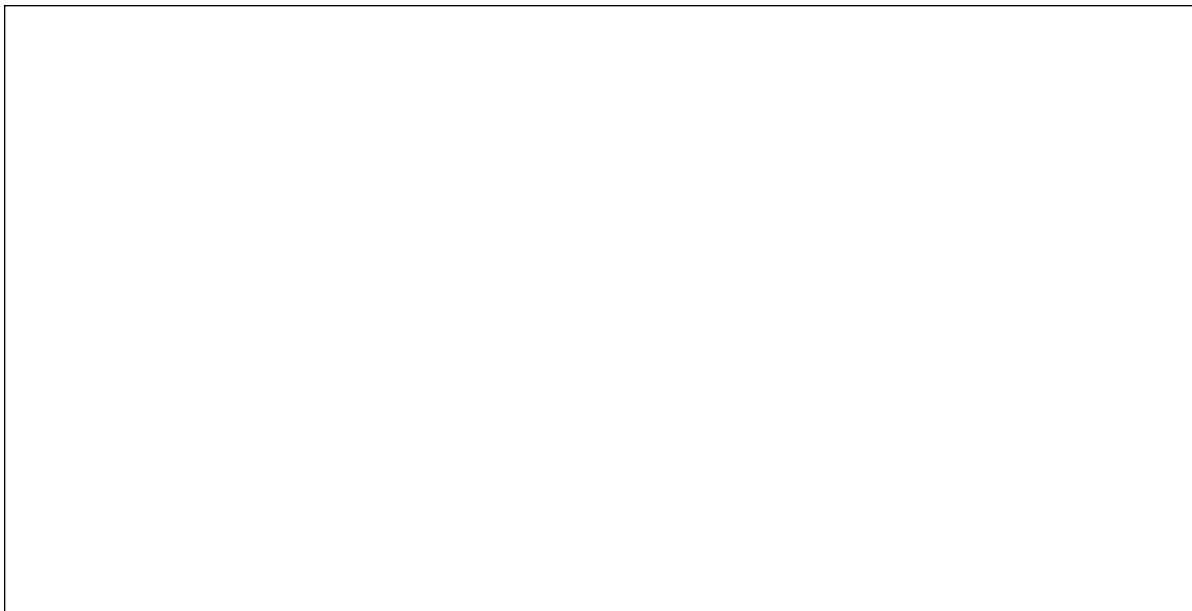
I found it on my map:

☐ YES!

What do you think it looks like there?

- ☐ City
- ☐ Mountains
- ☐ Beach
- ☐ Countryside
- ☐ I have no idea!

Draw what you THINK it looks like:



Day ____: Be a Travel Detective

 *Open today's love note!*

TODAY YOU'RE A TRAVEL DETECTIVE

Find out **3 things** about where Mom & Dad are today.

1. People there speak:
2. One food they eat:
3. Something this place is famous for:

The weirdest/coolest thing I discovered was:

Day _____: Would You Eat It?

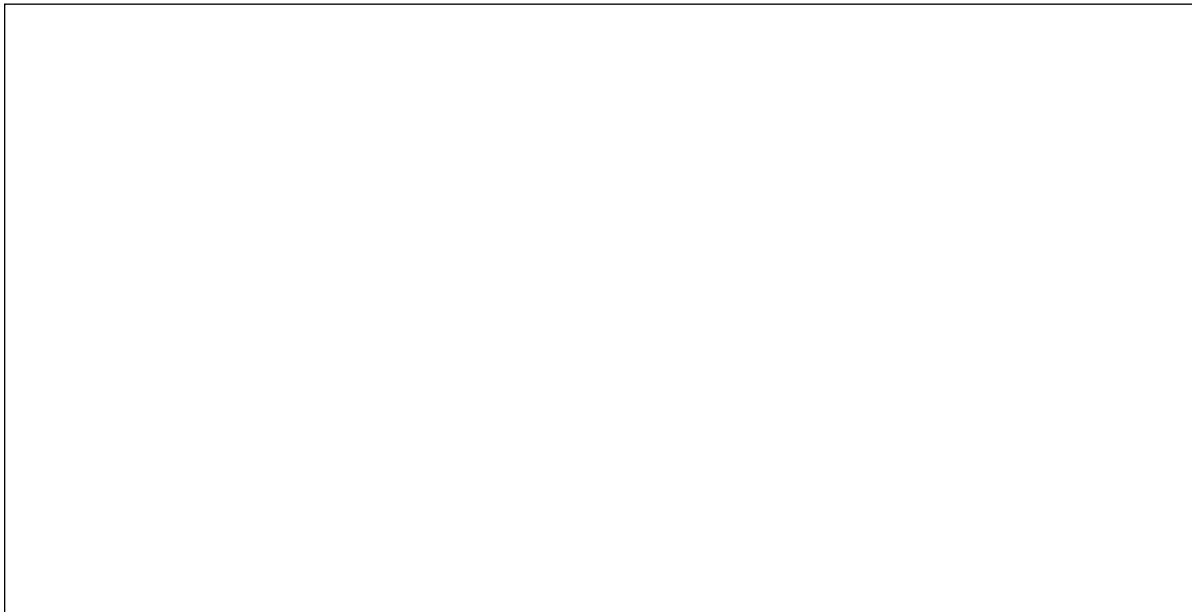
 Open today's love note!

WOULD YOU EAT THIS?

Find a food from the place Mom & Dad are visiting.

It's called: _____

Draw it:



I think it would taste:

- ☐ Sweet
- ☐ Salty
- ☐ Sour
- ☐ Spicy
- ☐ Delicious
- ☐ YUCK!

Would I try it?

YES / MAYBE / NO WAY

I need to ask Mom & Dad if THEY tried it! ☐

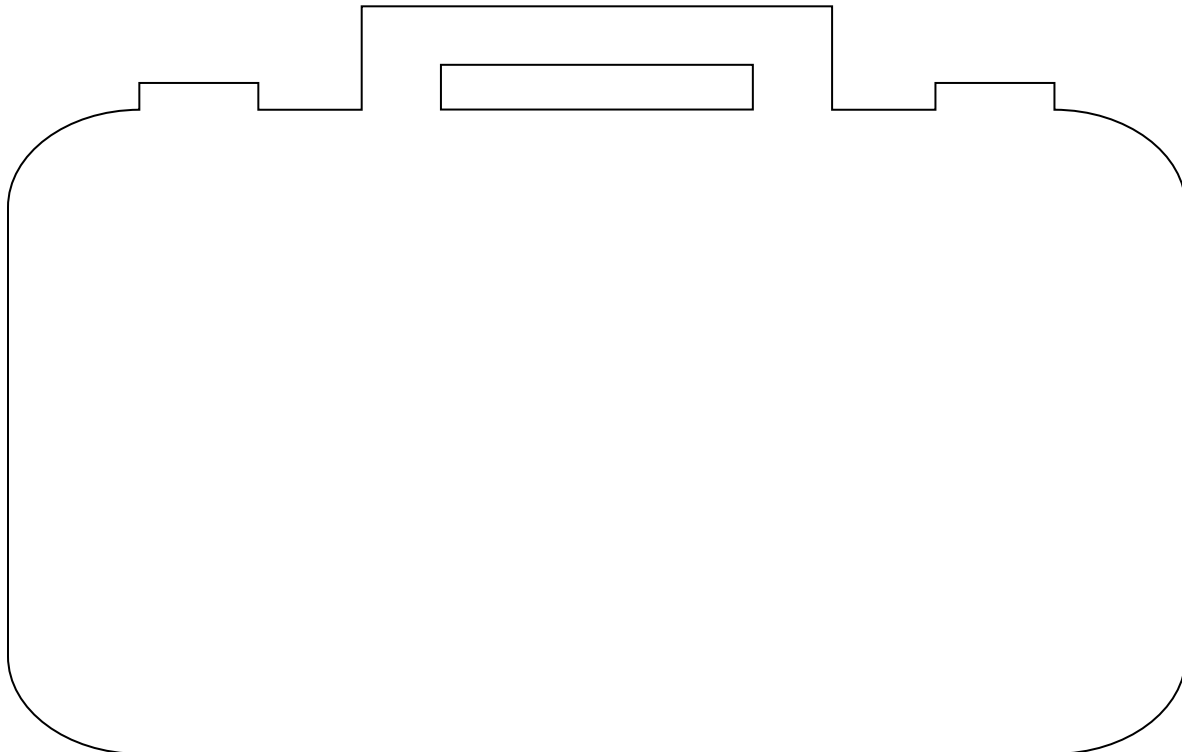
Day ____: Pack My Suitcase

📧 *Open today's love note!*

IF I WERE GOING TOO...

What would YOU pack?

Draw 10 things you'd put in your suitcase.



What's the ONE thing you absolutely could NOT leave home without? Write it or draw it below.

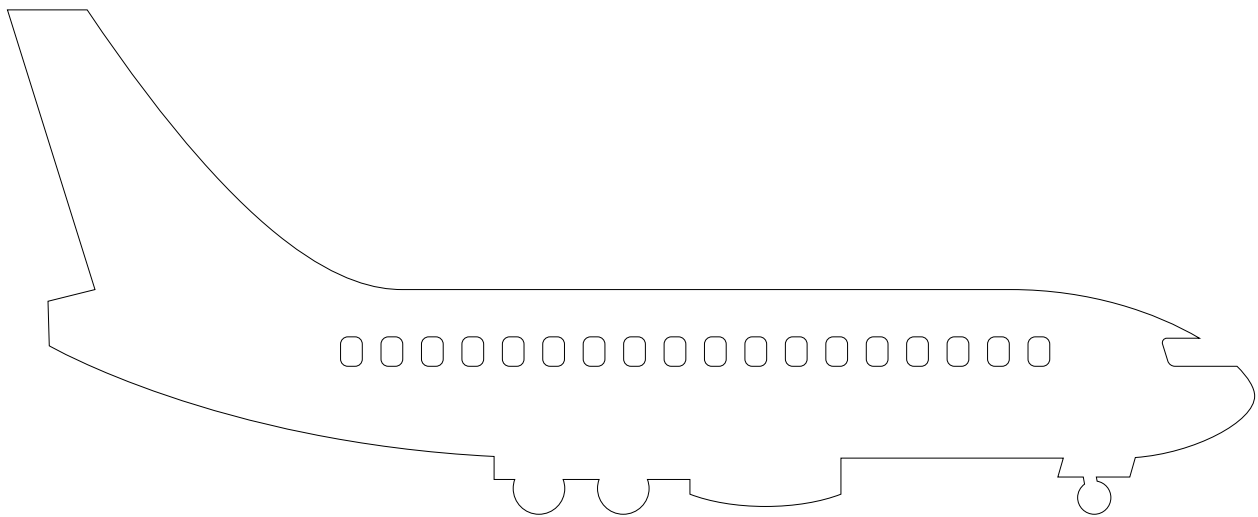
Day ____: ✈️ Design Your Own Airplane

💌 Open today's love note!

IF YOU HAD YOUR OWN AIRLINE...

My airline would be called:

Decorate your airplane:



Where would your first flight go?

What would you serve for snacks?

What movie would everyone watch?

Would pets be allowed?

- ☐ Of course!
- ☐ Nope!
- ☐ Only _____

Day ____: 🍕 Around-the-World Restaurant

💌 *Open today's love note!*

YOU'RE OPENING A RESTAURANT!

Create a restaurant inspired by the place Mom & Dad are visiting.

Restaurant name:

Today's Menu

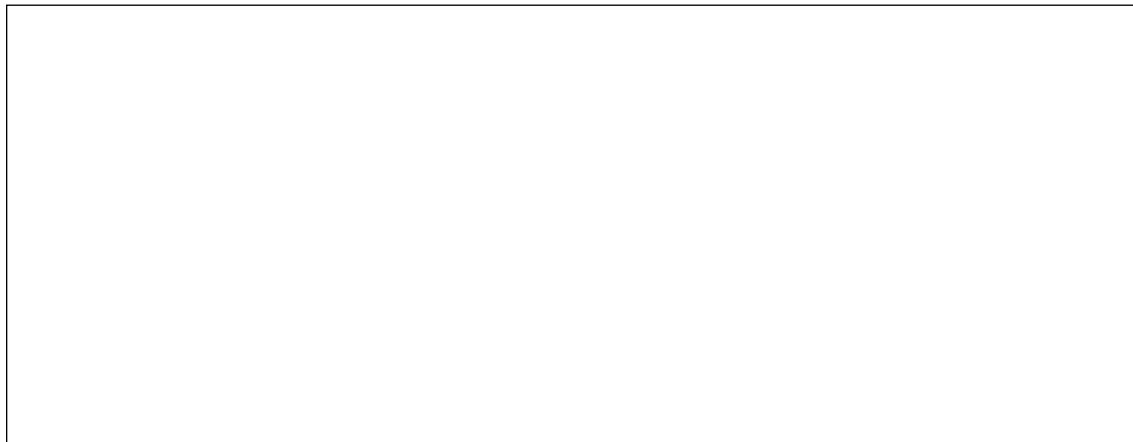
🥤 **Drink:** _____

🥖 **Appetizer:** _____

🍽️ **Main dish:** _____

🍰 **Dessert:** _____

Draw your fanciest dish:



Would Mom & Dad eat at your restaurant?

- ☐ Definitely
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ Only if they're REALLY hungry 😂

Day ____: 📷 If I Had the Camera...

💌 *Open today's love note!*

YOU GET TO BE THE PHOTOGRAPHER!

If you were with Mom & Dad today, what would you take pictures of?

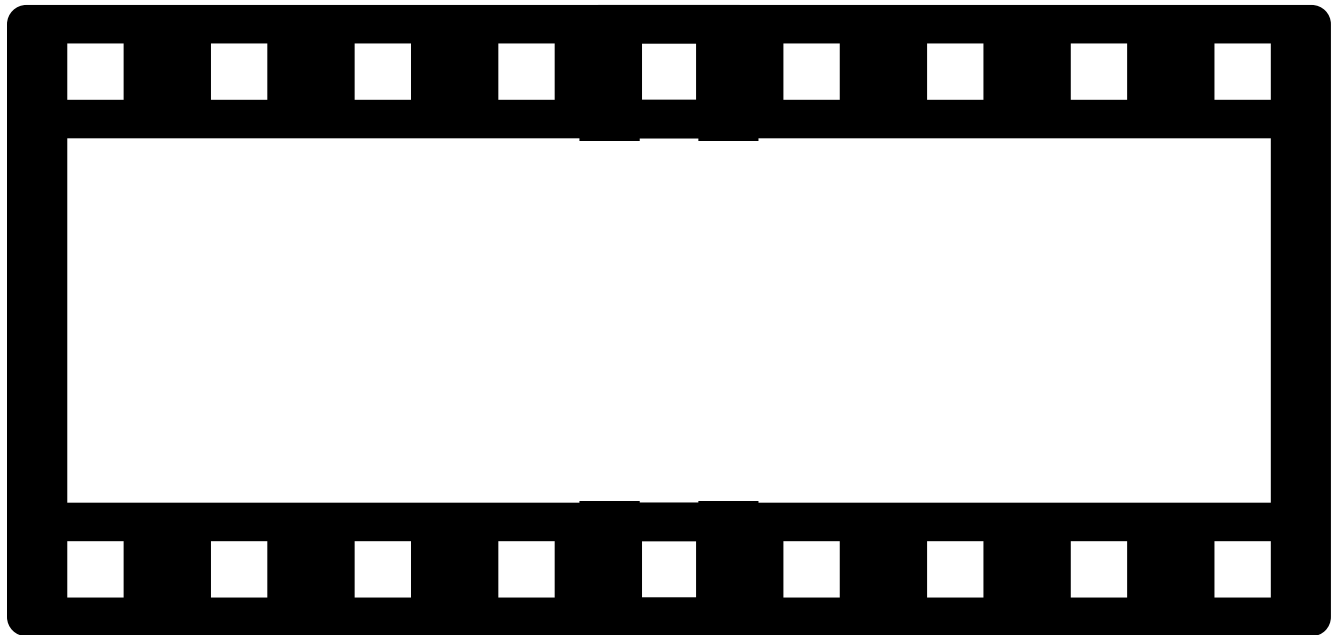
My first picture would be:

My funniest picture would be:

I'd definitely take a picture of:

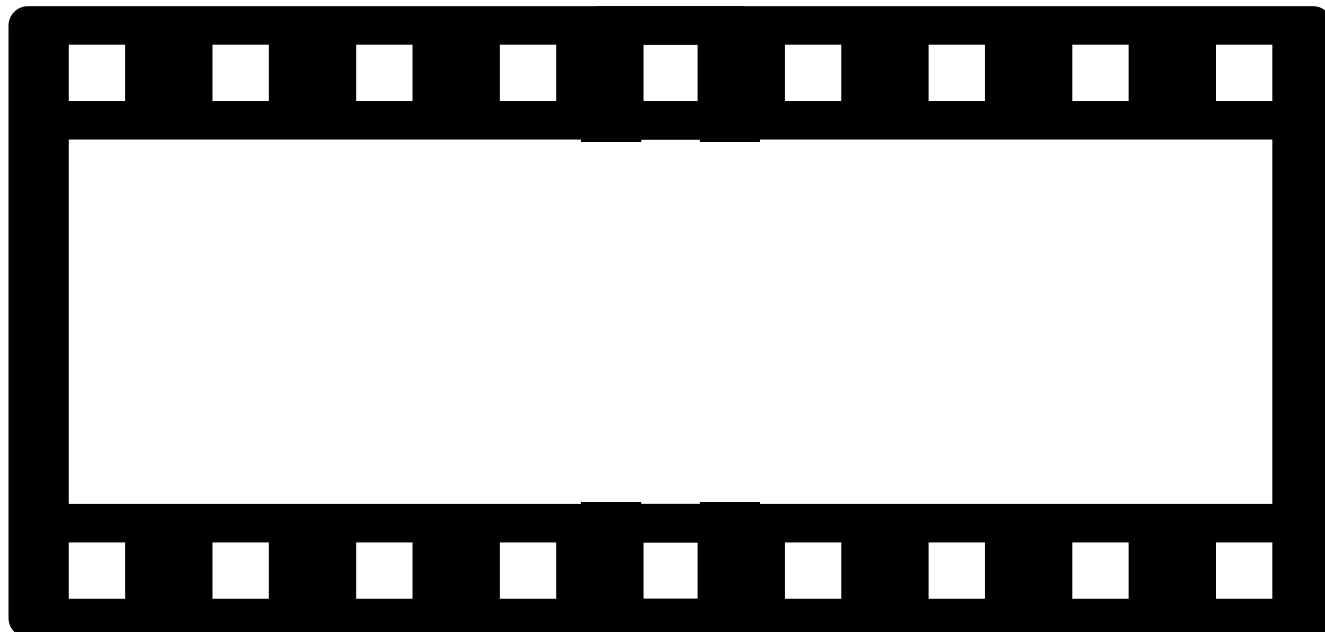
📷 **Picture #1**

Draw it!



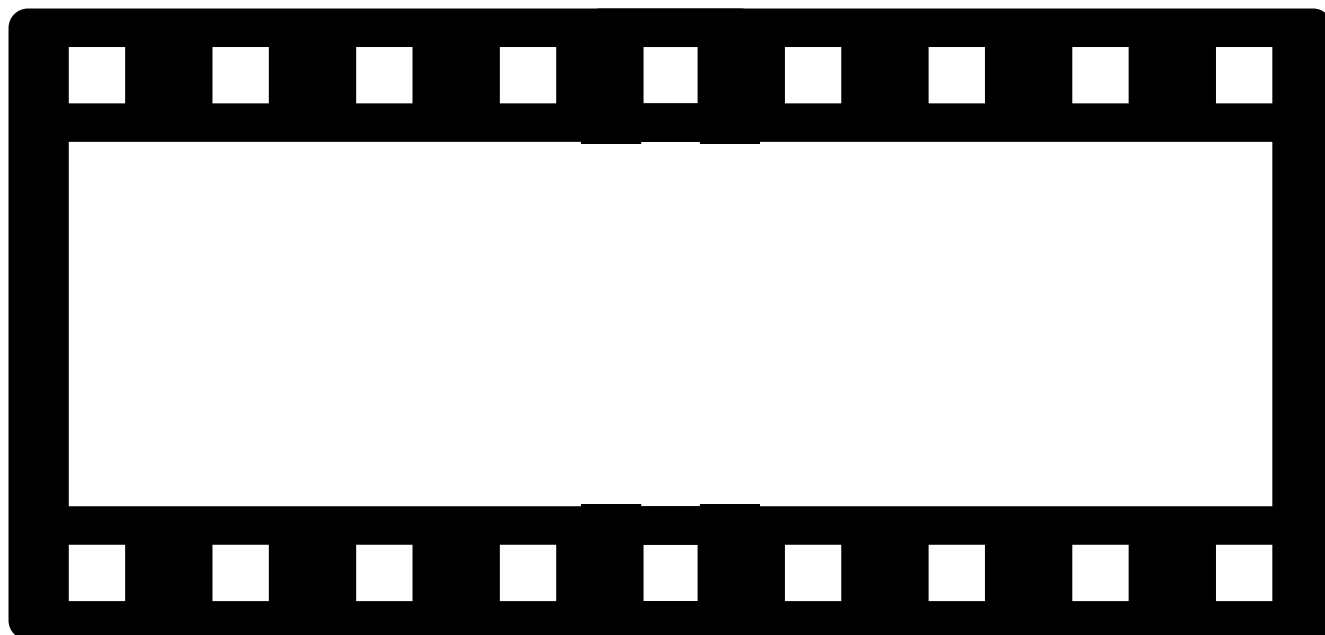
 Picture #2

Draw it!



 Picture #3

Draw it!



When Mom & Dad get home, ask to see THEIR three favorite pictures.

Day ____: 🏰 Build Your Own Landmark

💌 *Open today's love note!*

THE WORLD NEEDS A NEW LANDMARK!

You're in charge.

My landmark is called:

It is a:

- ☐ Castle
- ☐ Tower
- ☐ Bridge
- ☐ Statue
- ☐ Giant _____

It is _____ feet tall.

You can find it in:

People come from all over the world to see it because:

DRAW YOUR LANDMARK ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.

Admission price: \$_____

Kids get in:

- ☐ FREE!
- ☐ Nope. Pay up. 😂

Day ____: Suitcase Scavenger Hunt

 *Open today's love note!*

SUITCASE SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find something in the house that...

- ☐ You would take somewhere cold
- ☐ You would take to the beach
- ☐ You would need on an airplane
- ☐ Would keep you entertained on a long trip
- ☐ You would NEVER want to forget
- ☐ Mom always packs
- ☐ Dad always packs
- ☐ You think Mom or Dad probably forgot 😂

BONUS:

You can only take **5 things** on your own trip.

What are you taking?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Could you really survive with only those five things? YES / ABSOLUTELY NOT

Day ____: 💰 **You Have \$100 to Travel**

💌 *Open today's love note!*

YOU HAVE \$100!

You're going on an imaginary day trip—but you only have **\$100**.

How will you spend it?

Food: \$ _____

Something fun: \$ _____

Souvenir: \$ _____

Transportation: \$ _____

Something else: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Did you stay under \$100?

☐ YES! I have \$ _____ left.

☐ NOPE. I need to put something back.

If someone gave me another \$100, the FIRST thing I'd buy would be:

Day ____:  **Today I'm the Parent**

 *Open today's love note!*

TODAY I'M IN CHARGE!

If YOU planned Mom & Dad's vacation today...

They would wake up at:

For breakfast they would eat:

Then I would send them to:

For lunch:

Their afternoon activity:

For dinner:

They HAVE to be back at their hotel by:

ONE RULE THEY HAVE TO FOLLOW:

Do you think Mom & Dad would like the day you planned?

 **BEST DAY EVER**

 **Maybe**

 **They'd never let me plan another trip**

Day _____: What's the Weather?

 *Open today's love note!*

WHAT'S THE WEATHER LIKE WHERE THEY ARE?

Look up today's weather where Mom & Dad are.

Temperature: _____°

Circle:

 Sunny

 Cloudy

 Rainy

 Snowy

 Windy

What's the weather like where YOU are?

Temperature: _____°

Circle:

 Sunny

 Cloudy

 Rainy

 Snowy

 Windy

WHO HAS BETTER WEATHER TODAY?

☐ Mom & Dad

☐ ME!

Day ____: Halfway There!

 *Open today's love note!*

HALFWAY! 

You've already made it through ____ days!

Don't forget to mark another day off your countdown!

My favorite thing I've done while Mom & Dad have been gone:

Something funny that happened:

Something I can't wait to tell them:

Only ____ more sleeps!

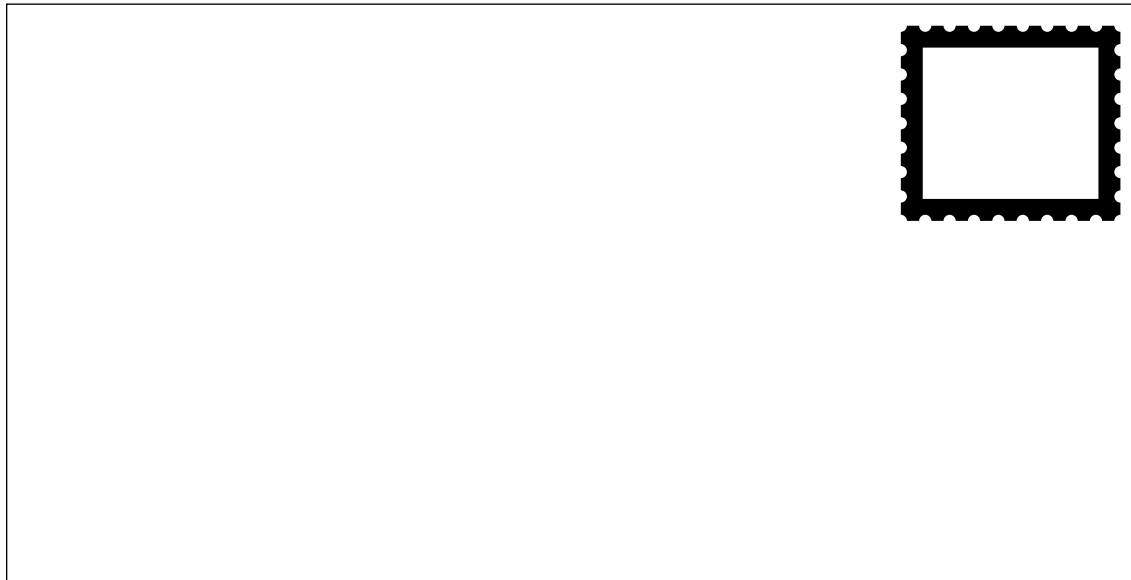
Day ____: Design a Postcard

📧 *Open today's love note!*

POSTCARD FROM HOME

Mom & Dad are traveling, but today YOU get to send them a postcard from home!

Front: Draw a picture of something you did today.



Back: Write Mom & Dad a little note.

Dear Mom & Dad,

While you've been gone, I...

The funniest thing was...

Love, _____

Day ____: Learn the Language

 *Open today's love note!*

CAN YOU SAY IT?

Find out how to say these words where Mom & Dad are:

Hello: _____

Goodbye: _____

Please: _____

Thank you: _____

I love you: _____

Which one is the hardest to say?

Try saying “I love you” to Mom & Dad next time you talk!

Day ____: Build Your Dream Day

 *Open today's love note!*

IF I WERE THERE...

If you could spend ONE day where Mom & Dad are, what would you do?

Morning:

Lunch: I'd eat _____

Afternoon:

Dinner: I'd try _____

Night:

The ONE thing I would absolutely want to see is:

Day ____: Landmark Challenge

📧 *Open today's love note!*

WHAT ARE THEY SEEING?

Find one famous place near where Mom & Dad are.

It's called: _____

How old is it? _____

Why is it famous?

Draw it **WITHOUT** looking at the picture again!



Day ____: Mom & Dad Trivia

 *Open today's love note!*

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR TRAVELERS?

Guess Mom or Dad:

Who took more pictures?

MOM / DAD

Who tried the strangest food?

MOM / DAD

Who got lost first?

MOM / DAD / BOTH 

Who bought more stuff?

MOM / DAD

Who stayed up latest?

MOM / DAD

Who said “Where's my phone?” the most?

MOM / DAD

Save this page. When they get home, see how many you got right!

Day ____: 🌍 Spin the Globe — Where Would YOU Go?

💌 *Open today's love note!*

IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE...

Today YOU get to choose the destination!

I would travel to:

I picked it because:

How would you get there?

- ☐ Airplane
- ☐ Train
- ☐ Car
- ☐ Boat
- ☐ Maybe all of them!

Who would you take with you?

The THREE things I would want to do:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

DRAW YOUR DREAM VACATION ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.

My trip would last: ____ days

Would Mom & Dad be invited?

- ☐ Of course!
- ☐ I'll think about it. 😊

Day ____: **The Mystery Souvenir Challenge**

 *Open today's love note!*

WHAT SHOULD THEY BRING HOME?

If Mom & Dad brought you ONE souvenir from their trip, what would you choose?

Pick one:

- ☐ Something I can eat
- ☐ Something I can wear
- ☐ Something I can play with
- ☐ Something I can collect
- ☐ Something made where they're visiting
- ☐ Something completely WEIRD

What do you hope they find?

DESIGN YOUR PERFECT SOUVENIR ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.

It would cost: \$_____

It would say: _____

I would keep it:

- ☐ In my room
- ☐ On a shelf
- ☐ In my backpack
- ☐ With me ALL THE TIME
- ☐ Until I lose it 😂

What would surprise you the most?

Day ____:  Travel This or That

 Open today's love note!

TRAVEL THIS OR THAT?

Circle your choice!

 Airplane OR  Train

 Beach OR  Mountains

 Castle OR  Amusement Park

 Pizza OR  Tacos

 Fancy hotel OR  Camping

 Big city OR  Countryside

 Somewhere hot OR  Somewhere cold

 Road trip OR  Fly there

 Big breakfast OR  Dessert first

 Take 100 pictures OR  Bring home 10 souvenirs

 Plan everything OR  Figure it out when you get there

 Get up early to explore OR  Sleep late on vacation

MY PERFECT VACATION WOULD HAVE...

Pick your three favorites from above and draw your perfect trip on the back of this page.

Day ____: 🧠 Can You Beat Mom & Dad?

💌 *Open today's love note!*

THE TRAVEL CHALLENGE

Think you know more than Mom & Dad? NO CHEATING! Make your guesses now.

QUESTION 1

How many pictures do you think Mom & Dad will take? My guess: _____ photos

QUESTION 2

How many different foods will they try? My guess: _____

QUESTION 3

How many times will they get lost? My guess: _____ 😂

QUESTION 4

How many souvenirs will they bring home? My guess: _____

QUESTION 5

How many different places will they visit? My guess: _____

QUESTION 6

How many times will they say... "I wish the kids could see this!" My guess: _____ ❤️

DON'T FINISH THIS UNTIL THEY GET HOME!

How many did I get right—or REALLY close? _____ out of 6

The answer that surprised me most was:

Day ____: Tomorrow!

 *Open today's love note!*

ONE MORE SLEEP!

Mom & Dad come home TOMORROW!

Before they get home...

The first thing I'm going to tell them:

The first thing I'm going to ask them:

The thing I missed most:

The biggest hug is going to:

- ☐ Mom
- ☐ Dad
- ☐ BOTH!

On the back of this page, make a welcome-home sign!

Day ____: THEY'RE COMING HOME!

 *Open today's love note!*

TODAY'S THE DAY! 

YOU DID IT!

Today I feel:

 EXCITED

 HAPPY

 CRAZY EXCITED

 ALL OF THE ABOVE

Before they walk through the door...

- ☐ Finish my welcome-home sign
- ☐ Get my activity book
- ☐ Get ready to tell them about MY adventures
- ☐ GET READY FOR A HUGE HUG

Welcome Home Activity 1

AFTER MOM & DAD RETURN HOME!

Were My Guesses Right?

Remember the trivia?

Now Mom and Dad answer.

Who really took more pictures? _____

Who tried the strangest food? _____

Who got lost first? _____

Who bought more stuff?

Who stayed up latest?

Who said “Where's my phone?” the most?

My score: ____ / 6

Welcome Home Activity 2

TELL ME EVERYTHING!

Now it's YOUR turn to interview Mom & Dad!

What was your favorite place?

What was the best thing you ate?

What made you laugh?

Did anything go wrong?

What surprised you?

Where should we ALL go someday?

Welcome Home Activity 3

YOU HAD AN ADVENTURE... AND SO DID I!

My Adventure While You Were Gone:

My favorite day: _____

My favorite surprise: _____

My favorite love note: _____

The coolest place I learned about: _____

The funniest thing that happened at home: _____

The thing I missed most about you: _____

The thing I'm most glad to have back: _____

DRAW OUR FIRST PICTURE BACK TOGETHER ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.

My Travel-Along Certificate



OFFICIAL TRAVEL-ALONG ADVENTURER



This certifies that

**followed Mom & Dad's adventure, learned about new places, counted down the sleeps,
completed the challenges, and had an adventure from home.**

Adventure completed: _____

Mom's signature: _____

Dad's signature: _____