



How to...

BOOKS TO BORROW

America's first lending library, the Library Company of Philadelphia, was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1731 and still exists.



Do more with your library

Discover all the ways you can use this amazing community resource.

Libraries are incredible! You can stay all day while you soak up knowledge and escape into other worlds. Whether you visit regularly or you're new to using libraries, you might be surprised to learn how much they can do for you—beyond letting you borrow amazing books for free. All you need is a library card, which is available to you—at no cost—at the library. Here are some of the many things the library has to offer.

Research and recommendations

Librarians can help you research a school project or paper, show you how to do an internet search, and guide you to reliable sources of accurate information. They can also help you find a book you're looking for, even if you can't remember the exact title. Librarians can also make great book suggestions. Tell them what books you have enjoyed, as well as subjects that interest and inspire you. They can recommend your next read.

Fun clubs and classes

Many libraries host free events for young people. You can ask a librarian or check the library's website for a calendar of upcoming activities and sign up with your

card. These can include tween and teen book clubs, gaming clubs, art workshops, makerspaces, and classes like chess, crafting, and coding.

A multimedia hub

Besides books, you or an adult in your family can also borrow and stream movies, music, and TV shows with the help of library apps like Hoopla and Kanopy—find out which app your library uses. There are also computers to use for free and quiet zones where you can do homework without distractions. You may also find free or discounted printing, photocopying, and scanning services.

Volunteer opportunities

Many libraries welcome volunteer help from kids. You can learn valuable skills, such as managing responsibility and communicating with others. Ask the library if you can be a "book buddy" to a younger child, read during storytime, or assist at crafting activities. Some libraries ask kids to write book reviews to help other kids decide what to read. Others need kids to volunteer to read advance reader copies (ARCs) of books that haven't been published yet and advise the library on whether they should purchase the book.



Find books you'll love to read.

Creative collections



You can get more than books from the library. Check your library for items like these.

Science instruments Some libraries loan out binoculars, telescopes, digital microscopes, and themed science kits.

Tickets Free or discounted passes to museums, aquariums, sports games, and other events may be available.

Technology Many libraries lend laptops, tablets, and GoPro cameras to take home. They may also offer access to 3D printers and Cricut machines.

Outdoor gear You may also be able to borrow hiking boots, backpacks, and tents.