

Holiday GUIDE



GIFT IDEAS
STAYING HEALTHY
BUDGETING TIPS



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FROM WORDLE TO SWEETS

Holiday gift ideas for the grown-ups

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

Adults. They, too, need fun stuff for the holidays.

From sweet treats to things with wheels, some ideas for pleasing a child at heart this holiday season:

BOARD GAMES

The Shakespeare Game: This bard-in-a-box extravaganza has players collecting characters and racing around London's theaters. The idea is to put on as many plays as possible before others "steal your ideas, burn down

This photo shows The Shakespeare Game. Board games are among the many amusements for adults that make great holiday gifts.

your theaters or spread the plague!" The winner rakes in the most box office bucks and is the fastest to fame and glory. \$35.

Wordle: The Party Game.

Did you see it coming? Hasbro and The New York Times have made the get-it-in-six daily treat a board game. In each round, a player picked as host writes down a five-letter word. Others must figure it out in, you guessed it, six tries, competing to do it in the least number of attempts. Dry erase boards and familiar color coding are used. \$19.99.

Paco Sako: This chess variant was originally the subject of a Kickstarter by Felix Albers, the Dutch dad who created it. Played on a regular chess board with regular chess pieces, there are unions that look like hugs and the winner "embraces" the opponent's king, as opposed to capturing it. Pieces move the same as in chess but generally don't leave the board. Still don't get it? Have a look at reviews and how-tos before you plunk down \$49.99.

EDIBLE TREATS

Dylan's Candy Bar is a sugary, gifty playground year round, and especially at the holidays. The company's clear plastic tackle boxes offer a little something for everybody. There's one for \$125 full

of festive, shiny-wrapped candy bling. Another for \$85 is a trip down memory lane for boomers with Zots, Mallo Cups, Chick-O-Sticks and more. Millennials have their own sour feast at the same price.

Got a licorice lover? The Danish confectionery Lakrids by Bulow has brought back their Advent calendar filled with 24 days of licorice covered in chocolate. I repeat. Licorice encased in chocolate, with flavors like raspberry and salted caramel. The goodness comes in a sleek, black-and-white packaging design. \$55.

COLLECTIBLES & NOSTALGIA

A prize baseball card. A treasured stamp or coin. Figurines, vintage kitchenware. Surely you know at least one gift recipient with a collection of some sort. No? Then go the way of TikTok and embrace minis. They're everywhere in those round wrapped eggs and other mystery containers (You never know which mini in a set you'll get). For the truly obsessed, one company makes minis in minis featuring beloved candy brands. Those aren't

actually edible. \$7.99.

For the beer lover, Etsy seller Pretentious Beer Glass has on offer four hand-blown Pilsner glasses for \$162.

Big fans of Little People alert: Fisher Price has a six-piece collector set of figures from the hit "Ted Lasso." The gang's all here: Ted Lasso, Rebecca Welton, Keeley Jones, Coach Beard, Roy Kent and Sam Obisanya for a hit of toy nostalgia. \$29.97.

Feeding the taste for nostalgia, Build-a-Bear has launched "The Bear Cave" line of plush bears and other characters partaking of Champagne, cocktails and beer. All are under \$60.

Lite Brite sells a line of '50s and '60s pop art sets intended to be hung on a wall after they're created. They're in the \$100 range. Ho ho ho.

WHEELS

The American icon Schwinn makes something called the Shuffle Deluxe Scooter. It has two wheels and bicycle-like handlebars but retains scooter status with a nostalgic wood step board. With kickstand. \$249. Razor recently launched the Razor Icon. It's bigger, faster and electric.

If scooters aren't how your giftees roll, try a longboard. They're everywhere. Koastals are plentiful and come in a range of prices and designs. They're handcrafted in Southern California. From \$99 to \$280. Buy complete or customize.

THEATER

At \$129.99 a year, the streaming service BroadwayHD serves up full-length stage plays and musicals, including exclusive live-streams. It's an unlimited, on-demand library of more than 300 theater productions from Broadway, the West End and beyond. Some ballets and concerts, too. Not looking to spend that much? Buy a month or two at \$11.99 each.

Or you could pick up an original cast recording of a favorite musical, or a



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COURTESY PHOTO

The following are a number of experiences that kids of all ages can enjoy.

The popularity of experiential gifts is undeniable. In its 2021 Winter Holiday Shopping Report, the market research firm Mintel revealed that nearly half of individuals surveyed for the report felt that experiential gifts are superior to tangible items. Such preferences are something holiday shoppers can keep in mind as they pursue the perfect gift for their loved ones.

Experiential gifts are often associated with

adults and their bucket lists, but kids have much to gain from being gifted experiences as well. In addition to the lasting memories inspired by experiential gifts, such offerings also get kids up and out of the house. Parents recognize that's not always so easy in the digital age.

Though children likely don't have a bucket list that can make it easy for holiday shoppers to find the perfect experiential gift, the

following are a number of experiences that kids of all ages can enjoy.

- A day at the zoo
- A trip to a trampoline park or bouncy house facility
- Tickets to a sporting event, concert or live show
- Music lessons
- A paint and sip (juice) event with one or both parents
- Cooking lessons
- A day at a nearby national park

- A camping trip
- Horseback riding lessons
- A day at a nearby amusement park
- A day at a local arcade
- A day at a local museum with interactive exhibits
- A helicopter ride
- Art lessons
- A day on the ski slopes
- A day on the beach
- Gymnastics lessons/classes
- A day at the local

- bowling alley with friends
- Ice skating lessons
- A round of mini golf
- Jewelry-making lessons/classes

■ A fishing trip on a nearby body of water
There's no shortage of experiences that can benefit children's lives. That's something holiday shoppers can keep in mind as they shop for the perfect gifts for youngsters on their shopping list this December.

ADULTS

Continued from Page S2

biography on a theater legend. "Free for All: Joe Papp, The Public, and the Greatest Theater Story Ever Told" by Kenneth Turan and Papp himself holds up. It's been out since 2009 so shop

around for a good price.

BOOZE

Can't think of anything unusual? Research and reach for a special bottle. There are too many variables and options for too many palates to make one solid recommendation, but special splurges abound.

Consider Garrison Brothers Distillery for bourbon. It has a range of price points.

Look for "premier cru" or "grand cru" on Champagne labels noting top vineyards, as in the Krug Grande Cuvée Brut. It's in the \$180 range. Got a wine buff? How about the 2019 Insignia from the Napa

Valley Joseph Phelps Vineyards. \$330.

"THE OFFICE"

For whatever reason, considering all the Lego sets and all the TV shows in the land, folks are frothing for Lego's 1,164-piece set based on the Emmy-winning "The Office." It's Dunder Mifflin down to the tiniest detail and includes 15 mini-figures of the show's main characters. A dozen of the figures have two facial expressions when the heads are turned around. Classic scenes come to life in Jim's teapot, Michael's World's Best Boss mug and Dwight's Jell-O-encased stapler. \$119.99.

Lots of big-kid sets are out there if this one doesn't do it. Among the Lego Ideas sets: "Seinfeld" apartment set and a shoutout to "The Flintstones."

OUTDOORS

Remember the cozy hygge phenom? Well, the Scandinavian concept of friluftsliv (roughly FREE-loofts-leeve) is another Nordic secret that's spreading. It's the idea of enjoying slow nature, and being kind to the Earth. Swedish-American Linda Akesson McGurk has written a book, "The Open-Air Life," sharing the 10 principles of friluftsliv. She explains how to make a more meaningful relationship with the great outdoors. \$20.

Searches for all things sporty chic,

are up on Etsy, said Dayna Isom Johnson, the handmade marketplace's trend expert. Sellers there, and their buyers, are "looking to the mountains and snowy caps for inspiration," she said. That includes folks looking for vintage ski gear.

A cheaper alternative to feed the outdoor trend? One Etsy seller, Cai Cai Handmade, offers mountain soy and beeswax candles that can be customized by color and scent, including pine forest.

To further friluftsliv a female giftee, wrap up some Moment mints by MotherBar. They're nearly 100% organic and each includes 40 mg of full-spectrum CBD, along with Szechuan flower, peppermint and Bulgarian rose. \$65 for 10. Recommended to start with one at a time, but who's counting. The packaging and marketing are gender specific.

THE VIBRATIONS

Know somebody who needs a little help shaking off their pandemic funk?

Gift a card deck of affirmations and good vibes. Two sisters, Shanna Cancino and Cherish Wilson, have created The Vibe Check Deck of 52 cards with prompts to help people perk up. Such as: "Give someone a hug for 20 seconds" and "Explore your senses. Name five things you see, four things you feel, three things

you hear, two things you smell, one thing you taste." Not feeling those? How about: "Send a positive wish to your water and drink." Surely, your gift recipient will at least smile, wryly or otherwise. \$29.99.

Tarot decks are bountiful. For beginners, Clarkson Potter sells "Illuminated: A Journal for Your Tarot Practice." It offers ways to more meaningfully engage with a deck and log observations and reflections. \$16.

NETS & MORE NETS

Move over pickleball, Jazzminton Sport is on your tail. It's an indoor-outdoor game played with paddles and birdies and a unique net with a horizontal cut out. There are no boundaries. No court is required. Set up is simple. Two people play. Just bat the birdie back and forth through the hole until the winner reaches an agreed-upon point number. \$199.99.

If one net isn't enough, go for four with Crossnet. It's a four-square-meets-volleyball game for indoors, outdoors, on sand or concrete, in water or on grass. Play is, uh, complicated. In a nutshell: Four people are up or break into teams of two. Play goes around one hit per return across four nets until the ball hits the ground or goes out of bounds. People are rotated in and out. The net height is adjustable. \$149.99 at Crossnetgame.com.

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Though inflation might be beyond consumers' control, there are still ways to find bargains when holiday shopping this year.

How to find bargains this holiday shopping season

The cost of living has risen dramatically in 2022. In a reflection of just how much the cost of living has increased over the last year, the Social Security Administration announced a 5.9 percent cost-of-living adjustment for 2022. That marks the highest adjustment in four decades.

The pinch of inflation has been felt throughout the last year, and that squeeze could feel even tighter as the holiday season draws closer. The holiday season can be an expensive time of year. Holiday celebrants must contend with the costs associated with hosting holiday gatherings, travel and spending nights out celebrating with loved ones. But the biggest added expense many people must confront during the holiday season is the cost of buying gifts for family and friends. Though inflation might be beyond consumers' control,

there are still ways to find bargains when holiday shopping this year.

- Start comparison shopping early. In addition to the rising cost of living, modern consumers also must contend with supply shortages and shipping delays. Shopping early is a great way to get around those lingering effects of the pandemic, and it also affords shoppers more time to find great deals. Comparison shopping sites like Shopzilla.com make it easy to comparison shop by breaking items down into categories and producing a list of vendors and prices for an assortment of products. Utilizing these sites and shopping early is a great way to find bargains.

- Shop on consumer holidays. Black Friday used to be the only game in town in regard to holiday bargains. Consumers can still find great deals on Black Friday and also benefit from

reduced prices on days such as Cyber Monday and even Prime Day, which is a two-day event from the online retailer Amazon that occurs in summer.

- Attend local holiday bazaars and markets. One of the great things about holiday bazaars and markets is that many of the businesses that set up shop at these events are local. They also tend to sell an array of items, including small items that can easily fit into shoppers' holiday budgets.

- Pool your resources. Another way to get around rising costs this holiday season is to pool your shopping resources with another friend or family member. The cost of a new tablet for a parent can be easier to bear if it's split with a sibling.

The holiday season could be especially expensive this year, but there are still bargains to be had and ways to rein in costs.



COURTESY PHOTO

Holiday shoppers can keep these items in mind as they look for items for their favorite nature lover this season.

Gifts for people who love the great outdoors

Certain people feel right at home in the great outdoors. With the sun on their faces and the wind in their hair, rock scramblers and kayaking buffs simply can't get enough of being outside in the elements.

Outdoor enthusiasts need reliable gear to make their experiences that much more enjoyable. Brandon Gaille Small Business & Marketing Advice reports that \$230.6 billion was spent worldwide on sportswear and outdoor apparel in 2021. However, there's always room to improve on adventures large and small, and holiday shoppers can keep these items in mind as they look for items for their favorite nature lover this season.

■ **Plasma lighter:** A plasma lighter can start fires in conditions that aren't conducive to other fire-starting measures. Plasma lighters are water- and wind-resistant and work in nearly all weather conditions. Saberlight even makes a rechargeable option with USB charging cable.

■ **Lantern:** Outside magazine recently named the BioLite AlpenGlow 250 as its new favorite road trip item. It can be used in a variety of settings, including inside a tent or at a hunting cabin, and produces customizable illumination.

■ **Backpack cooler:** Yeti is known as a leader in coolers, and the Yeti Hopper Backflip Soft Cooler makes carrying food and beverages even more convenient. This product is a backpack and a cooler, so it's a hands-free and portable option when out in nature.

■ **Hiking socks:** Keeping feet cool and comfortable is essential on hiking trips. Injinji socks are made from CoolMax fibers that help provide a blister-free wilderness experience designed to minimize friction.

■ **Waterproof backpack:** Whether a loved one spends time in or near the water or just wants to safeguard his or her belongings in inclement weather, a waterproof backpack is the ideal outdoor gift. It's easy to clean

and keeps items inside dry. IDRYBAG Waterproof Backpack is one to consider.

■ **Lightweight sleeping bag:** Maybe someone's sleeping gear needs an overhaul? Enlightened Equipment offers an 850-fill, zero-degree sleeping bag that is warm, but only weighs 1.5 pounds. That helps free up space and lessens hikers' loads when carrying gear on the trail.

■ **Power bank/solar charger:** Many people can't live without their devices, even when out in the great outdoors. Since you can't plug a phone into a tree, a portable solar charger and power bank is key. The BioLite SolarPanel 5+ comes with its own built-in battery, so a person can capture the sun's rays during the day and save some power reserves for charging after sunset.

These are just a few of the innovative items that can appeal to outdoor enthusiasts on your holiday shopping list.



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Did you know?

Trends come and go, and that impermanence can make it hard to predict how certain times of year, including the holiday season, will play out.

However, one notable trend in regard to the holiday season that has seemingly withstood the test of time is the popularity of Black Friday among holiday shoppers. But even that dynamic has shifted in the digital age.

Though Black Friday remains a big day for retailers, in 2021 consumers spent more on Cyber Monday (the Monday after Thanksgiving) than they did on Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving). According to the Adobe Digital Economy Index, consumers spent \$10.7 billion on Cyber Monday in 2021. That's nearly \$2 billion more than consumers spent on Black Friday, when retailers made \$8.9 billion in sales.

Sports experiences make great gifts this holiday season

The thrill of sports has inspired billions of loyal fans and athletes across the globe. Professional, collegiate, scholastic, and even recreational sports entertain people all year long. That popularity is something shoppers can keep in mind as they look for the perfect gift for the family sports fan this holiday season.

Many adults undoubtedly recall receiving sports equipment as a holiday gift when they were children. Whether it's a baseball mitt or a field hockey stick or a new ball, these gifts tend to light up kids' eyes come Christmas morning. Adult sports fans may not need

such equipment, but they might be just as excited to receive these unique sports experiences this holiday season.

■ **Tickets:** For diehard sports fans, nothing is better than going to the big game. Perhaps in acknowledgment of the growing popularity of following a favorite team on the road, many professional sports leagues now release team schedules months in advance of the first game of the season. For example, the National Football League released its 2022 schedule in mid-May, despite the fact that the season does not begin until September. Shoppers can peruse



COURTESY PHOTO

Sports experiences make an ideal gift for individuals whose passion for a favorite team is a big part of their life.

schedules and circle a must-see home game or lay the foundation for a memorable trip by giving tickets to a road game.

■ **Stadium tour:** Stadium tours are another great experience the family sports fan will undoubtedly appreciate. Many professional sports teams now welcome fans to tour their stadiums both in-season and during the offseason. These tours offer a behind-the-scenes look at stadiums, arenas and ballparks.

Teams may even host tours on game days, making this a great stocking stuffer to pair with tickets to a game.

■ **Fan fest:** Fan fest tickets make an ideal gift for individuals who can be accurately described as "diehards" for their favorite teams. These family-friendly gatherings tend to happen in the weeks leading up to the start of a new season. A handful of current and former players typically

attend fan fests, which are hosted by the team and typically include activities for adults and children alike.

■ **Lessons:** Holiday shoppers may have a sports fan on their list who still enjoys lacing up their cleats. For example, pro golf fans may still enjoy hitting the links themselves. In such instances, lessons from a nearby golf pro can be just the thing to make sports fans smile this holiday season.

Deck the halls this season with fine furnishings, amazing holiday gifts and fabulous decor!

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Well noted: A selection of some music-themed gifts this year

BY MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Music is never out of fashion as a gift idea. Here are some outstanding vinyl box sets for lovers of Neil Young, Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald, Iron Maiden and a certain ex-Beatle, a book about the beginning of rock at Sun Records and another about The Byrds, some tough-looking boots made in collaboration with The Clash, and even a perfume inspired by Whitney Houston.

ALWAYS YOUNG: Neil Young is releasing his 1972 album “Harvest” as a 50th anniversary edition. Young’s fourth solo album remains one of his most beloved, with the songs “Heart of Gold” and “Old Man.” The box sets will be released Dec. 2 on vinyl and CD, boasting the original album, three studio outtakes, and an unreleased live 1971 BBC solo performance on CD, LP and DVD. Also included is the film “Harvest Time,” a previously unseen two-hour documentary capturing the “Harvest” recording sessions. The package also contains a hardbound book and fold-out poster. Cost: \$150.

BOOTS MADE FOR WALKIN’: The Clash and Dr. Martens — two British icons — have gotten together again for some punk-approved footwear. An eight-eye, high-shine boot (\$180) has a military green base, and a three-eye shoe (\$140) has a cherry red base. The heels are marked with The Clash’s logo, and each pair comes with a set of dog tags based on those worn by the band, and seven sets of laces inspired by the colors of their most iconic albums. Here’s a way to “Rock the Casbah” in style.

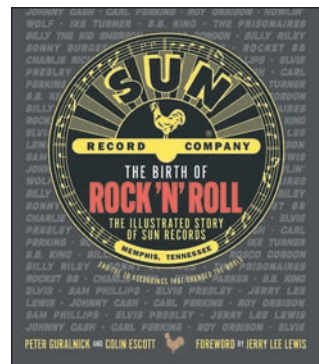
BABY ROCK: You can’t talk about the birth of rock ‘n’ roll without talking about Sun Records, which recorded Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny

Cash. To celebrate Sun’s 70th anniversary comes “The Birth of Rock ‘n’ Roll: The Illustrated History of Sun Records & the 70 Records that Changed the World” (Simon and Schuster). It’s written by Peter Guralnick and Colin Escott, and has entries for such hits as “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On,” “Breathless,” “I Walk the Line,” “Mystery Train” and “Good Rockin’ Tonight.” Cost: \$60.

SIR PAUL: Paul McCartney’s three solo albums have been packaged into a single box. His first, “McCartney,” was released in 1970 and features “Every Night,” “Junk” and “Maybe I’m Amazed.” “McCartney II” came out in 1980 and contained “Coming Up,” “Waterfalls” and “Temporary Secretary.” The third, in 2020, had tracks “Find My Way” and “Women and Wives.” The vinyl versions come in creamy white or black, and there is a three-CD set. They include three photo prints with notes from McCartney about each album. Cost: \$40-100.

SMELL LIKE WHITNEY: Whitney Houston’s estate has released a perfume inspired by the singer’s “luminous” personality, warmth and zest for life. Simply named “Whitney,” the scent features notes of pear and citrus, balanced by gardenia, ylang-ylang and jasmine. A touch of amber grounds the fragrance with a warm, sensual note, according to its maker. The bottle was similarly inspired, taking its tall, sleek silhouette from Houston’s “elegant stature.” Cost: \$9.95 for a 3 ml sample.

BILLIE & ELLA: Limited edition vinyl box sets from legendary jazz vocalists Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald will make anyone’s holiday brighter. Never before released on vinyl, the four-LP box collection, “Billie Holiday: The Complete Decca Recordings”



INSIGHT EDITIONS



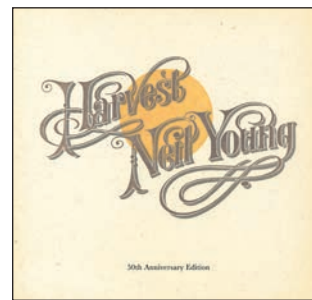
DOWNTOWN RECORDS

“For The Birds, The Birdsong Project” contains 242 recordings of original songs and readings inspired by or incorporating birdsong.

has 50 tracks, including “Guilty” and “Solitude,” and a 20-page booklet. The three-LP box set “Ella Fitzgerald: Jukebox Ella: The Complete Verve Singles, Vol.1” gathers her singles together for the first time, including “The Sun Forgot to Shine This Morning” and “Hotta Chocolatta.” Cost: \$90 for Holiday; \$45 for Fitzgerald.

IRON GIFT: In honor of the 40th anniversary of Iron Maiden’s third album, “The Number of the Beast,” the heavy metal kings have released a three-disc vinyl rerelease. That was the album that first featured Bruce Dickinson on vocals and catapulted the band to international stardom, with songs like “Run To the Hills” and “Murders In the Rue Morgue.” In the set, the band is also offering for the first time on vinyl their live concert from March 1982 at Hammersmith Odeon in London, “Beast Over Hammersmith.” Cost: \$49.50.

See MUSIC, Page S11



REPRISE RECORDS

The 50th anniversary edition of “Harvest” by Neil Young.



DECCA

The four-LP box collection, “Billie Holiday: The Complete Decca Recordings” featuring 50 tracks and a 20-page booklet.



DOC MARTENS

A collaboration between the iconic shoe maker Doc Martens and punk band The Clash.



UMC/EMI

Paul McCartney’s three solo albums are packaged into a single box.



DECCA

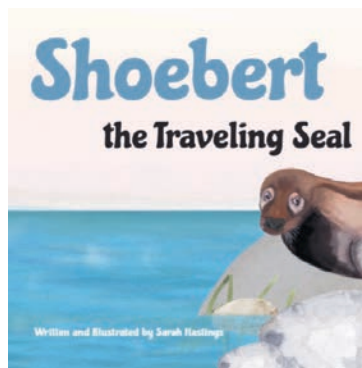
The three LP box set “Ella Fitzgerald: Jukebox Ella: The Complete Verve Singles, Vol.1.”



SCENT BEAUTY

“Whitney,” featuring notes of pear and citrus, balanced by gardenia, ylang-ylang and jasmine.

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Great gifts for school-aged children

Successful shopping for adults on a holiday list often involves identifying a loved one's favorite hobby and then finding something that makes that hobby even more enjoyable. For example, a new e-reader can be just what the family book-worm needs to make reading even more immersive.

School-aged children may not be so simple to shop for, as their interests are always evolving and they tend to outgrow toys as quickly as their growing bodies outgrow their clothes. No two kids are the same, but these gift ideas can appeal to school-aged youngsters at a time in their lives when their curiosity is always piqued.

■ **STEM gifts:** Parents know that the term "STEM" is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. These academic disciplines have gained heightened importance over the last couple of decades, and many toy manufacturers now make products that

reinforce STEM lessons kids learn in the classroom in a fun way. STEM-based toys are available for kids of all ages, including children who are still in diapers.

■ **Nature-based gifts:** Many parents do everything they can to reduce the amount of time their kids spend looking at screens, which is a tall order in the digital era. But various manufacturers produce toys designed to help kids be more physically active in the great outdoors. From age-appropriate binoculars that encourage kids to explore natural settings to birdhouses and fairy gardens kids can build and paint in their favorite colors, shoppers can choose from a host of nature-based gifts that encourage kids to get away from their screens and enjoy the great outdoors.

■ **Board games:** Board games remain a wonderful way for kids to learn and have fun doing it. Board games are made for kids of all ages, and they're not



COURTESY PHOTO

These gift ideas can appeal to school-aged youngsters at a time in their lives when their curiosity is always piqued.

just fun, but also beneficial to early childhood development. For example, clinical psychologist Beatrice Tauber Prior, Psy.D. noted to the children's book publisher and distributor Scholastic that board

games requiring strategy help the frontal lobes of the brain develop. Those lobes

are responsible for planning, organizing and decision-making. Board games

also provide opportunities for families to spend quality time together free from distractions.

■ **Cookbooks:** Cookbooks are another great gift for school-aged youngsters, who can learn a lot from pitching in at dinnertime. Children who cook with their parents can learn valuable lessons about nutrition and measuring ingredients learned in the classroom. Shoppers can choose from any number of cookbooks designed for kids, and even children as young as two can pitch in when baking cookies or preparing family meals.

Shopping for school-aged children during the holiday season can be made easier with some suggestions that can reinforce classroom lessons while keeping the focus on fun.

MUSIC

■ *Continued from Page S9*

BYRDS, PART ONE: "The Byrds: 1964-1967" is a 400-page coffee-table photo book that was curated by the band's three surviving founding members. It is available in three versions, signed by the surviving members, Chris Hillman, Roger McGuinn and David Crosby. The book features more than 500 images from legendary photographers such as Henry Diltz, Barry Feinstein, Curt Gunther, Jim Marshall, Linda McCartney, Tom Gundelfinger O'Neal and Guy Webster, as well as restored images from the Columbia Records archives. Cost: \$125-\$1,700.

BIRDS, PART TWO: Fans of our feathered friends may love a massive, 20-LP set



ABRAMS BOOKS

containing 242 recordings of original songs and readings inspired by or incorporating birdsong — all to benefit the National Audubon Society. Some of the artists included in The Birdsong Project are Mark Ronson, Beck, Karen O, Nick Cave, Elvis Costello, Robert Pattinson, Jonathan Franzen, The Flaming Lips, Bobby Cannavale, Greta Gerwig and Ad-Rock. There's also a 60-page book with essays from Randall

Poster and Shearwater's Jonathan Meiburg, and 27 artists contributed original paintings and illustrations. Cost: \$400-\$440 depending on outlet.

TOP OF THE CHARTS: Who has the best album in the land? Rolling Stone magazine has weighed into such a fraught and contentious debate with "The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time." This is a book that will spark a thousand arguments — is "Superfly" by Curtis Mayfield better than "Red" by Taylor Swift and is Pearl Jam's "Ten" correctly ranked above "The Bends" by Radiohead? The magazine got its ranking by polling critics and musicians like Stevie Nicks, Questlove and Beyoncé. Let the debates begin (likely as soon as this gift is unwrapped). Cost: \$50.

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