

APRIL - MAY 2020

HOM.ED

**WHAT EXACTLY IS
HOMESCHOOLING?**

**NEW
MAGAZINE
FREE!**

**A time to
reflect on
spiritual
matters**

**MAKING
LEARNING
FUN**
AT HOME THROUGH
MOBILE GAMING





A letter to Africa in
these trying times:



We are a persistent and resilient people. Tried and tested by the flames of time and adversity for millennia. In these most trying times, let's understand that we have, we will and we can. Let's tell our children that it will be alright; tests are the taxes we have to pay for being alive on this beautiful blue planet called earth.

However, during this reset, let us decide what we really want for ourselves and our children. We are a resilient people and very persistent. Individual decision coupled with collective effort will realize a thriving Africa. Let us thrive together. 🌍

PS. WE LOVE YOU.



HOM. Ed

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Editor's note:

Homeschooling precedes formal education in every conceivable way. One might even argue that it is the primary way everyone learns the fundamentals of life, from home, through parents and siblings.



We are thrilled to be embarking on this journey with you.

Consequently, homeschooling is not really a new concept, however, it has been refined to meet the needs of our current society.



In this beta edition of Home.Ed, our aim is to pass on critical information to curious parents who would want to homeschool their children, foster communication between those pioneering in the field of homeschooling and provide a media for expression for both parents and their children.

We are thrilled to be embarking on this journey with you. 🌟



Mary Muriuki.





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HOMESCHOOLING WITH THE CAMBRIDGE IGCSE CURRICULUM

By Mary Muriuki

A low cost online school offering the Cambridge British curriculum is now available in Kenya through Cambrilearn.com.

Maintaining the cost of school fees for an international education in the coming months will be a concern for many parents due to the loss of income throughout the season of Covid-19 pandemic. Many private international schools have successfully maintained online classes for their students at home during

this season when schools are closed but others have not. Either way many parents are concerned about how they will continue to pay school fees in the future.

Through the regional agent Elimu Nyumbani, Cambrilearn is offering parents a free trial until 30th April, 2020.

Cambrilearn online school which is based in South Africa presents a viable solution. In general terms, what a parent would pay per student for one term in a private international school is what they would pay for a year with

Cambrilearn online school.

Would you like to try it out for the rest of this month? Through the regional agent Elimu Nyumbani, Cambrilearn is offering parents a **FREE TRIAL** until 30th April, 2020. This is access for all grades from year 1 up to year 13 and can be used on any device. A free voucher for each student is available on request through mary@cambrilearn.com.

This voucher enables you to sample the online content only which includes multisensory content and videos. The rest of the services are only available to prescribed users. These are online tutors, marked assignments and exams

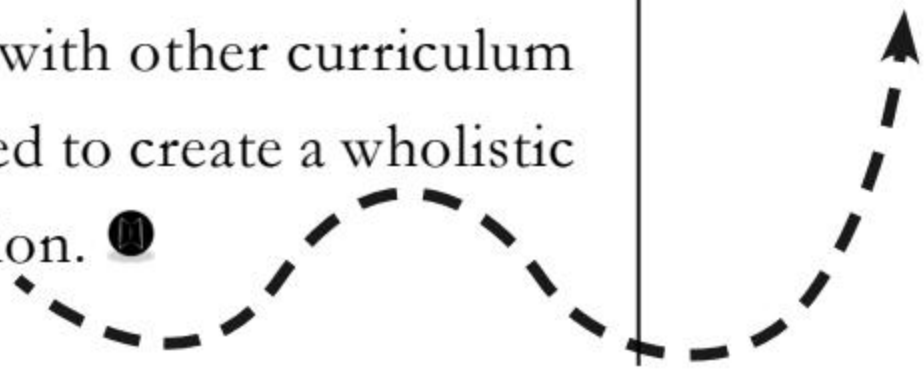
as well as student workbooks.

Cambrilearn online school can be used in a homeschool, tutor center or full school. Bulk discounts are offered to schools. Elimu Nyumbani also offers Kenyan part-time or full time tutors to assist students studying at home.

Here is more information on how Cambrilearn can be integrated with other curriculum and used to create a wholistic education.



“Why online basic education is the future.”



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WHAT IS HOMESCHOOLING?

By Mary Muriuki

Homeschooling is an alternative form of education in which school-aged children learn at home under the supervision of their parents. In this form of education, students do not attend traditional schools. Other terms used are: Home Education and Home Based Learning.

It can also take a different form, depending on the family circumstances. Parents can also engage tutors to teach on their behalf, or alongside them for specific subjects.

Unlike the traditional school system which is designed for group learning, the aim of homeschooling is individualized

“
Homeschooling has the advantage of flexibility and one-on-one tutoring which gives a student the best possible chance of success.”



education which enables each student to learn at their own pace. Students of the same age do not have to learn at the same pace. Rather, the focus is to nurture the strengths and weaknesses of each student regardless of their age. Homeschooling has the advantage of flexibility and one-on-one tutoring which gives a student the best possible chance of success.

To experience optimum results in homeschooling, parents need to make a paradigm shift from the way things are done in traditional schools. For example, schools require specialized teachers for each subject because they teach different classes/streams of the same or several subjects. Homeschooling, on the other hand, requires a parent or tutor to plan, teach, supervise and guide the student using a variety of resources to achieve the same goal and beyond.

Another example of a paradigm shift is that traditional schools have pre-determined systems and activities planned by the school staff. Parents pay school

fees and the school does all the rest. In a home school, everything has to be determined by the parents. The parents are the actual owners of the schools, as well as being the principal and teacher. They decide which curriculum will be used, and this can be one or several to be used simultaneously.

The parents also decide how many hours the children should learn in a day, which co-curricular activities will be taught and by whom, how the time table runs, whom the children will socialize with, which value system will be taught, what they will eat, how much money will be spent, which area or room(s) in the house will be the learning environment and so on.

In conclusion, each family

ultimately ends up having a unique system of homeschooling, different from another, because each has a unique set of parents and children. However, many families who are like-minded end up having a lot of things in common which causes them to gravitate together and form a community of their own for socialization, support, and exchange of information. ■





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deserves a
Wholistic
Education.
”

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**Elimu
Nyumbani**
Home Schooling



HOW TO STAY
SAFE DURING
COVID 19!

SEMA'S
LAB

KID-FRIENDLY RESOURCES TO HELP YOUR CHILD STAY SAFE DURING COVID 19

By Kukua

As parents, we know the lingering questions your kids have during this unprecedented period: Why is everyone getting sick? Why is my school closed? When can I see my friends again? Why do I always have to wash my hands? Why do we have to stay at home? Finding ways to answer their questions honestly in a calm, reassuring way can be tricky, which is why we have compiled

these resources to make the conversation easier and keep your kids safe and supa.

These activities will keep your kids busy and teach them healthy habits in a fun, kid-friendly way.

1. Coronavirus Explained For Kids

In this video, Sema's Lab super hosts Stycie and Seth, share what coronavirus is and offer simple tips on the good habits kids can adopt to protect themselves from the disease.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwyyCM9at58>

2. Vox - How soap kills the coronavirus

Washing your hands with soap is the best way to prevent the spread of the virus. A question your kids probably have is, how does soap kill the coronavirus? This simple and detailed video by



VOX is a great way to help you break it down to your kid. Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LKVUarht-vE&feature=emb_title

3. The Water And Pepper Science Trick

This simple and cool science activity is a great way to demonstrate to kids why it is important to wash their hands with soap. All materials used are items you already have in the house. Watch, learn, and try out this simple and fun activity today. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RA-p-4EzdI&feature=youtu.be>

4. Techniques For Washing Hands

Washing hands is the most effective way to protect yourself from germs, and the technique applied when washing hands is very important. This video offers a great step by step demonstration for your kids to watch and follow. Link: <https://www.>



youtube.com/watch?v=nEzJ_QKjT14

5. The COVID 19 Supa Handwashing Song For Kids

The supa hand-washing song is a fun and catchy song dedicated to making handwashing enjoyable for kids. The Supa Song helps children wash their hands for 20 seconds, as recommended by health experts, thus ensuring they stay Safe and Supa! Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pfe5g94F-c&t=2s>



6. Ndlovu Choir

Music can be a great way to communicate with kids about COVID 19, and we love this song by Ndlovu Choir. It's vibrant, joyful, and full of color, and a tune your kids will probably enjoy listening to. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GN94pZqP1Rc>



7. How To Stay Safe From Corona By African Animation Studios

If your kid loves cartoons, this animation by African animation studios will be a great watch for them. In the video, animated characters, Musa and Wazi, share pointers on what kids can do to stay safe during the corona lockdown. Link: https://www.instagram.com/p/B-rbhujDiB-W/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link



8. Masaka Kids Africana Dancing Lets Fight COVID 19

This dance video by kids for kids is a good way to communicate with your kids about the virus.

They use drama, music, and dance to communicate in a very effective way. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAy2KpNCApE>

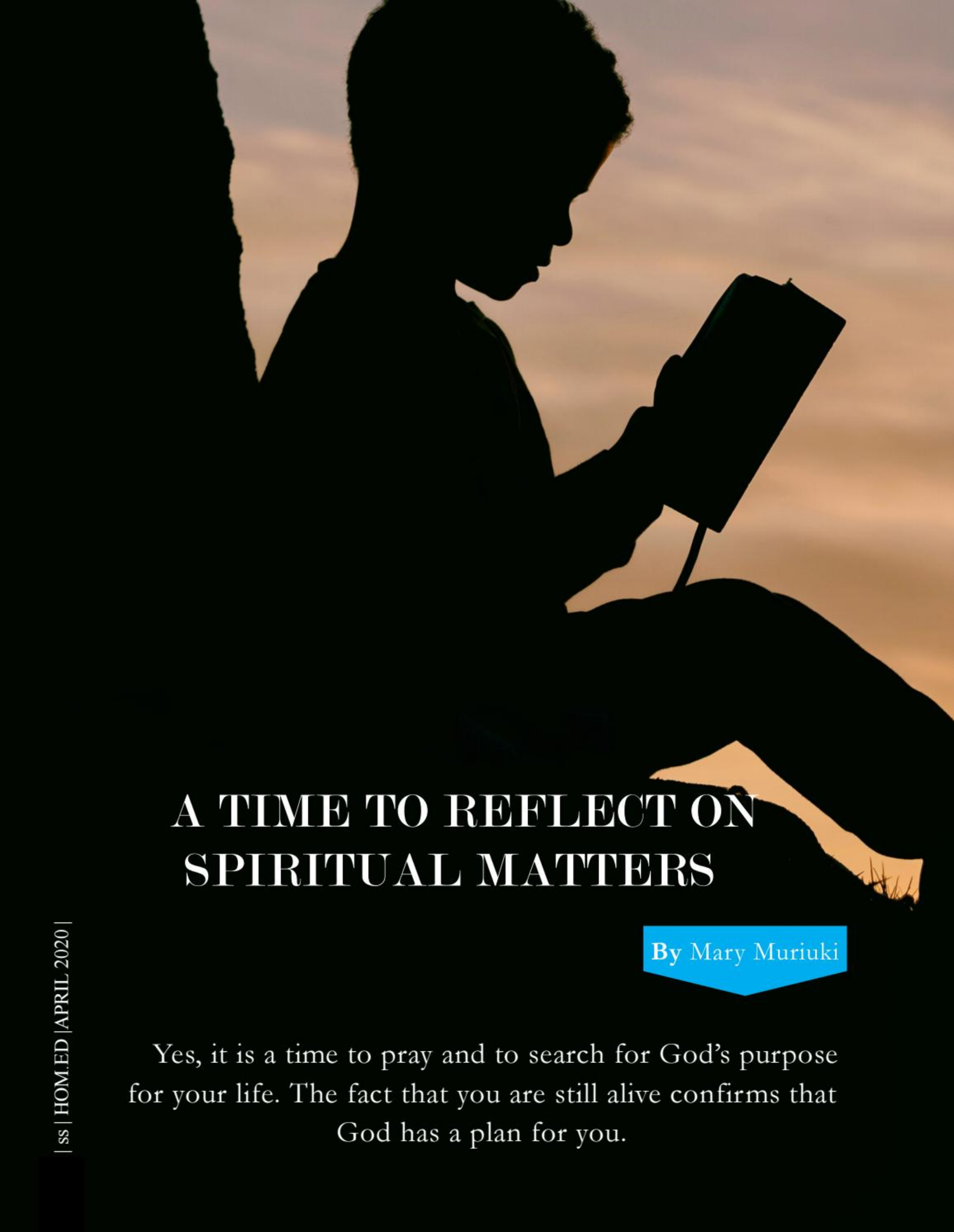


**Happy viewing and remember
to stay safe and supa!! 🙏**



The experiments done on Sema's Lab are easy to do and require materials easily accessible at home. As you watch, try them out with your kids; share the lessons, fun, laughter and bonding moments using the hashtag **#semaslab** to encourage other parents as we all figure out how to Homeschool effectively.





A TIME TO REFLECT ON SPIRITUAL MATTERS

By Mary Muriuki

Yes, it is a time to pray and to search for God's purpose for your life. The fact that you are still alive confirms that God has a plan for you.

The year 2020 started off with high hopes for most people; believing and claiming double blessings. However, as we got to February, parts of the world began to experience serious effects of the COVID - 19 virus, and the trend became a worry for most people. By March 2020, Kenya became a victim and at the time of writing this article, our lives have been seriously disrupted in many areas due to the measures we have had to take to curb the spread of the virus.

Many of us are reflecting on spiritual matters and evaluating where we stand with God.

We are asking ourselves, “Is my

life pleasing to God? If I caught the virus today and died, where would I go? Would God receive me?” The year 2020 is turning out to be the year to return to God and take His word seriously.

Yes, it is a time to pray and to search for God’s purpose for your life. The fact that you are still alive confirms that God has a plan for you. The prophet Jeremiah wrote a letter to the surviving exiles in Babylon saying:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when

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Experience one of our recorded Live Lessons on YouTube: [youtube.com/cambrilearn](https://www.youtube.com/cambrilearn)

(since the 1970s) that Kenya is a special country with an end-time spiritual purpose. Kenya is a country highly favored by God and therefore being Kenyan



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD.



means you are highly favored.

During this trying time when you get to spend more time at home with your children, teach them about God by modeling your own walk and relationship with Him, and they too will desire to please God. If each family is striving to please God, then that is how He will hear us and fulfill his end-time purpose for His beloved Kenya. 🙏

you seek me with all your heart.”
- Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)

Seeking God with all your heart involves much prayer, repentance, turning around and walking in His ways. God is merciful and responds to a sincere heart that is resolved to follow His will.

There has been much talk



MAKING LEARNING AT HOME FUN THROUGH MOBILE GAMING.

By Kukua

Can we convert the time spent by children on the phone playing mobile games into something constructive? Kukua is certainly helping us do so. Kukua has 3 unique learning mobile applications to help children aged 4-6 learn letter sounds in a fun and engaging way.

In this issue of Hom.Ed Magazine , we feature one of the Sema apps,

SEMA RUN - which aims to get children to improve their letter & phonics identification skills while



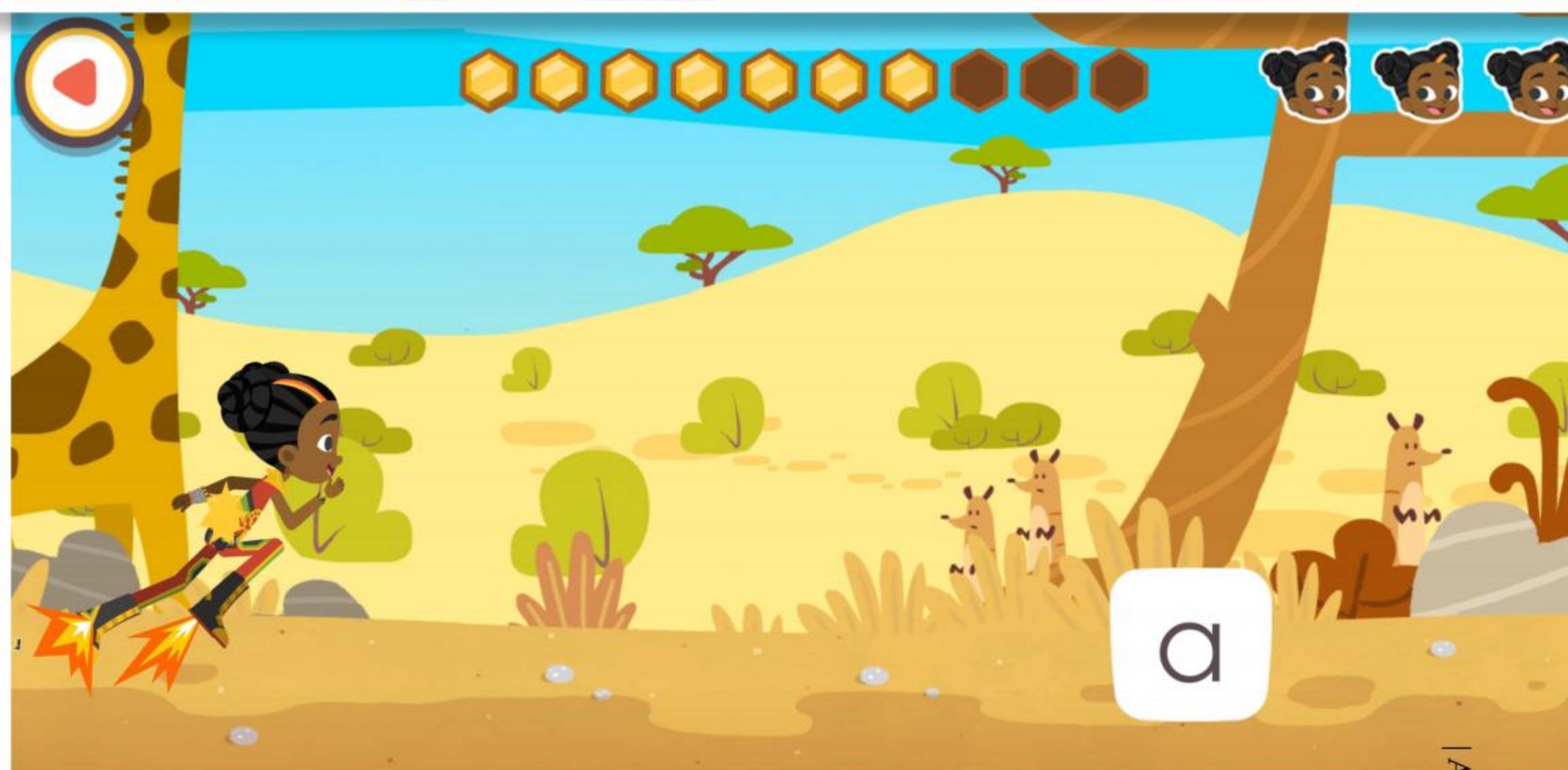
enjoying playing an interactive mobile game.

In the game, children follow the main character, SEMA, on a magical adventure in her village Dunia, as they help her defeat the troublemakers known as the Bongolalas, who are stealing all the letters from the village. The game applies simple dynamics, kids need to tap on the lead character, Sema, to help her collect the correct letter. To motivate them to keep learning, children get a reward that they can use as a sticker on their selfie at the

end of each level, and there is an assessment to help them master the letter sound, after every 3 levels.

Once downloaded, Sema Run, works offline hence users can access the app without an internet connection. The main character SEMA takes children on a magical adventure while empowering them to learn how to read as she gains technological powers and navigates through obstacles .

Early impact tests on the application show that children using Sema Run for 6+ weeks master up to ten more new letter sounds.

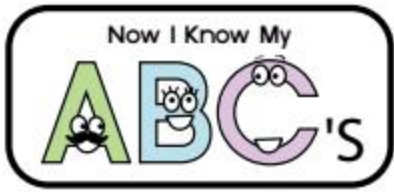


The app embeds the Early Grade Reading Test (EGRA), a world standard for measuring the literacy levels of children, after every 3 levels. Sema Run is free and can

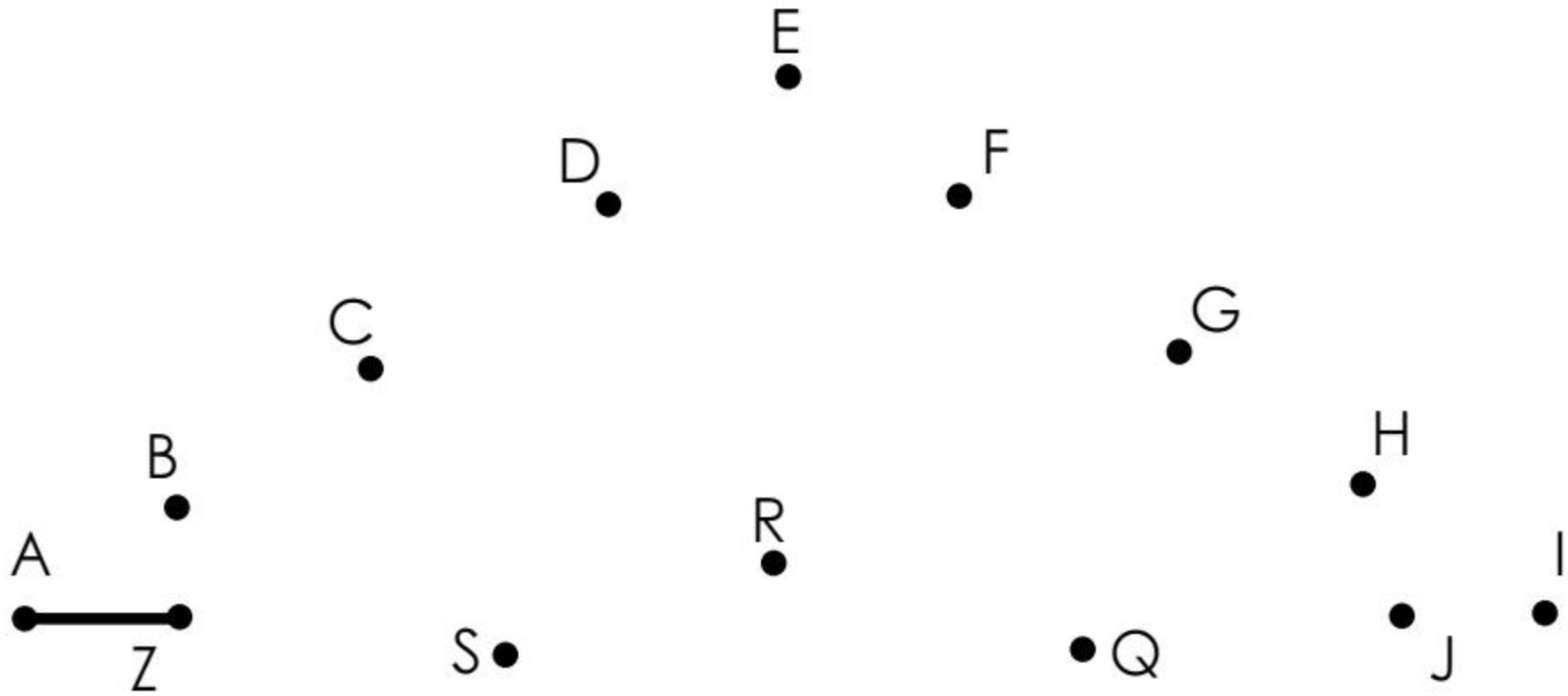
be downloaded from the Google Play Store and Apple Store. 📱



THE ACTIVITY PAGE



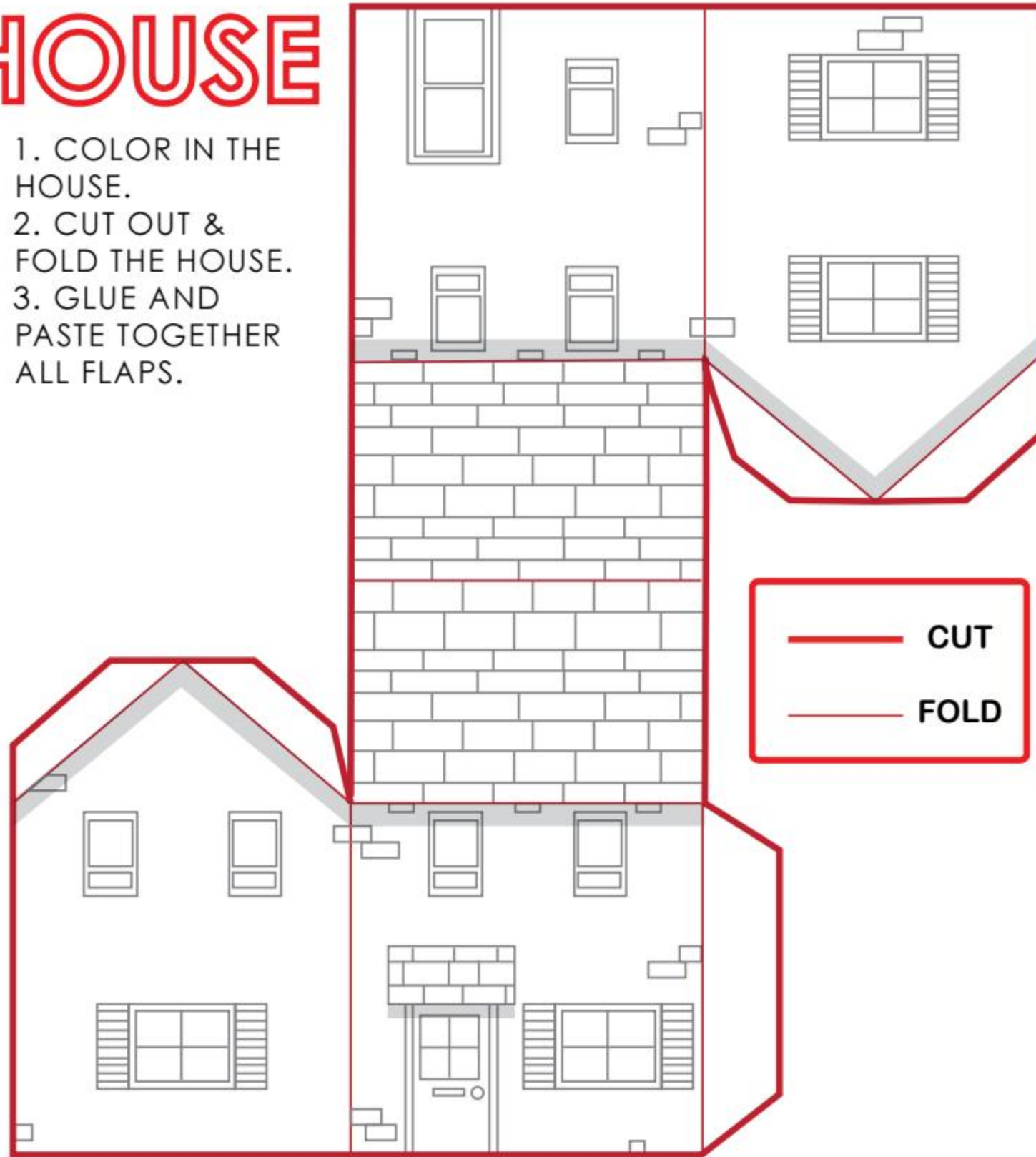
Connect the dots then color in the hidden picture!
Connect the dots from A to Z in alphabetical order.



BUILD A CITY

HOUSE

1. COLOR IN THE HOUSE.
2. CUT OUT & FOLD THE HOUSE.
3. GLUE AND PASTE TOGETHER ALL FLAPS.



Click here to help us improve HOM.ED.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO HOME SCHOOL?

By Mary Muriuki

Each family determines its own fees structure based on what they can afford. Each family is unique and will find their own creative ways of improvising and coming up with solutions to make homeschooling work in their home.

There is no standard cost for all home schools, just like in traditional schools. Similar to how every school determines its own school fees structure, so does each homeschooling family. The cost is determined by the choices one makes on

curriculum, books, learning resources, equipment, co-curricular activities, human resource and so on.

For example, a family can decide to home school with the CBC curriculum or the British curriculum, or even the American curriculum. Out

of these three, the cheapest is the CBC.

This question is like asking an architect, “How much does it cost to build a family house?” The architect will ask you questions, first, before giving you a figure: “How many bedrooms? How many stories? What material; stone, brick, wood, prefab? Where is the land located? How much can you afford? How much do you have in mind to spend?”

Even the cheapest curriculum choice in Kenya has variations of cost. For example, students currently at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to continue learning at home

through the assistance of their parents or guardians. Some are continuing smoothly because they have laptops, tablets, and phones which are being used by school teachers to transmit knowledge, homework, and exams.

The Google Classroom platform, WhatsApp, text messages, TV and radio are media being used by those who have the

necessary equipment. All this to top off having someone present to supervise the learning of the students.

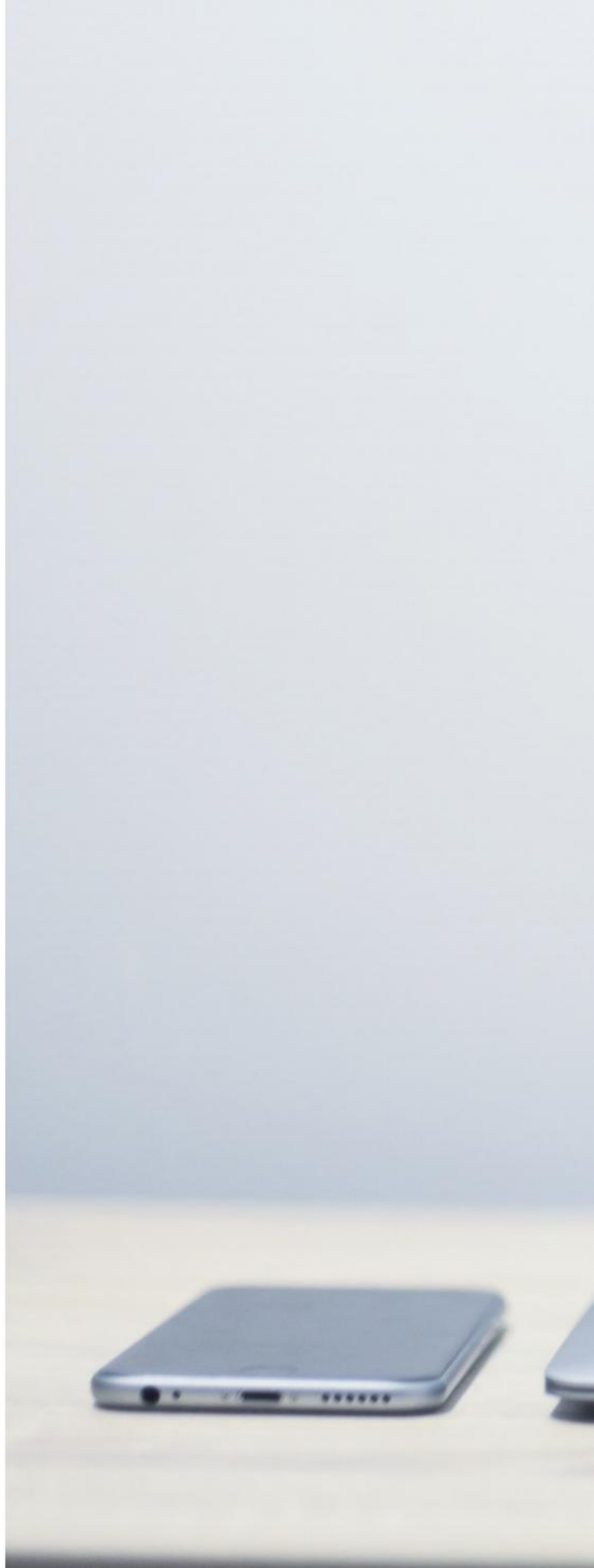
On the other hand, some families do not have even one of these gadgets, and the parents have to go out and work for daily food, therefore there is no supervision. Many of these students are

“**How much does it cost to build a family house?**”

therefore outdoors playing most of the day and are not continuing with their education. Some of the students also don't eat all day until evening when the parent brings some food home. Such a student cannot study efficiently.

These two examples are of parents using the same CBC curriculum but are challenged in different ways. This brings me back to where I began; there is no standard cost for homeschooling. Each family determines its own fees structure based on what they can afford. Each family is unique and will find their own creative ways of improvising and coming up with solutions to make homeschooling work in their home. 🎯

**Click
me**



WE WOULD LOVE TO
READ FROM YOU...





SEMA'S LAB, AFRICA'S FIRST STEM WEB SERIES FOR CHILDREN, IS ENGAGING AT-HOME KIDS.

By Kukua

Kukua is a Nairobi-based entertainment-education startup whose vision is to be “The Disney of Africa”. Kukua is creating the first African children’s franchise around an animated superhero character called Super Sema.



The idea of working from home while caring for and educating children is overwhelming. This has created a sudden demand for entertaining educational content to engage the estimated 1.2 billion kids who are suddenly out of schools due to COVID-19.

African edutainment company Kukua is filling that gap with Sema's Lab, the first African STEM series launched on the Super Sema Youtube Channel that follows two Kenyan children doing science-focused inventions

and DIY crafts. Hosted by 11 year-old Stycie Waweru and Seth

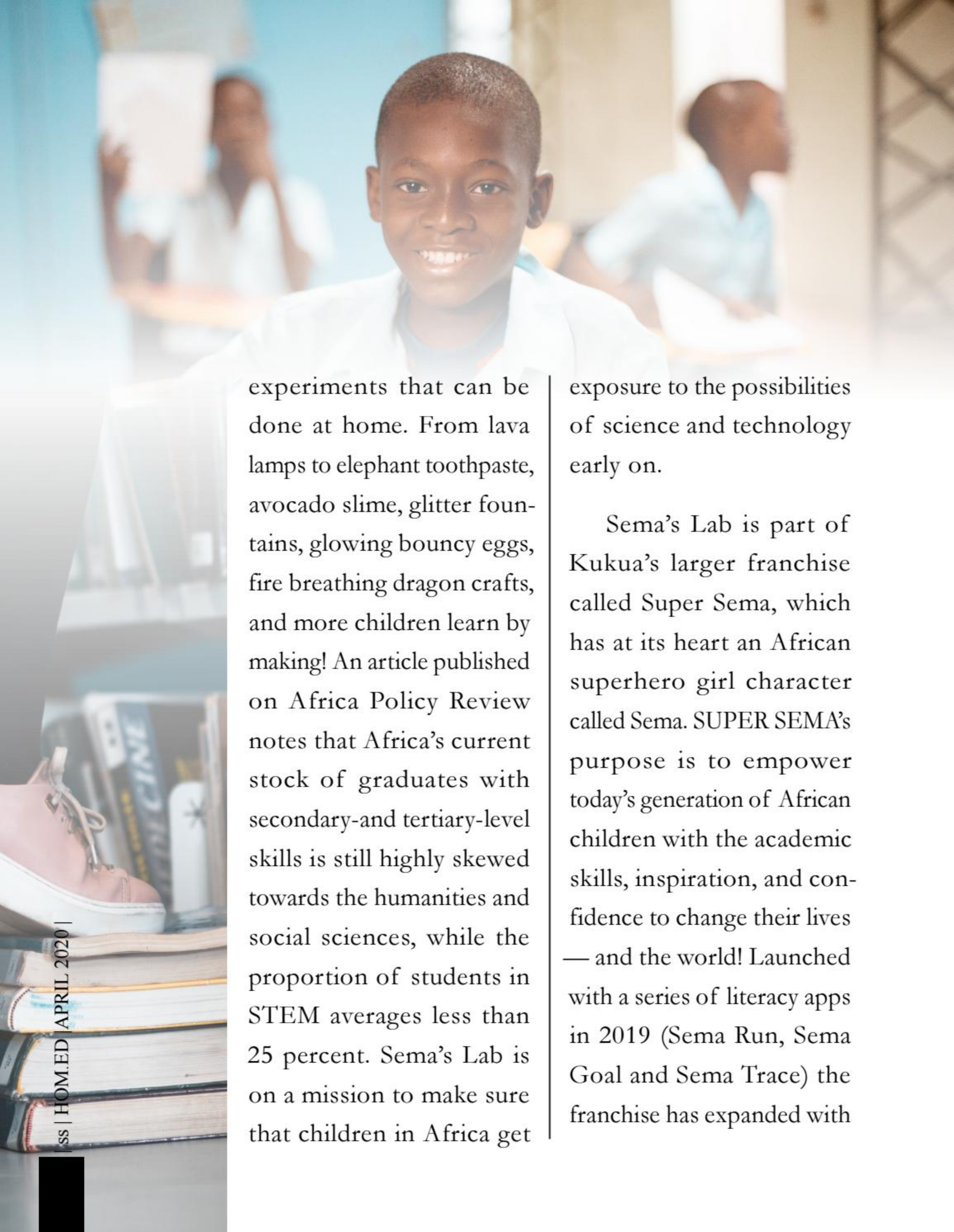


The proportion of students in STEM averages less than 25 percent. Sema's Lab is on a mission to make sure that children in Africa get exposure to the possibilities of science and technology early on.



Prewitt inside an animated dream-like lab, each three-minute episode covers a range of topics including science, technology, and art targeted at Generation Alpha, kids born in 2010 or later who are said to be the most tech-savvy generation ever.

Sema's Lab focuses on both educating and inspiring children in Africa and beyond to STEM subjects, infusing these more difficult areas of learning with fun, hands-on



experiments that can be done at home. From lava lamps to elephant toothpaste, avocado slime, glitter fountains, glowing bouncy eggs, fire breathing dragon crafts, and more children learn by making! An article published on Africa Policy Review notes that Africa's current stock of graduates with secondary-and tertiary-level skills is still highly skewed towards the humanities and social sciences, while the proportion of students in STEM averages less than 25 percent. Sema's Lab is on a mission to make sure that children in Africa get

exposure to the possibilities of science and technology early on.

Sema's Lab is part of Kukua's larger franchise called Super Sema, which has at its heart an African superhero girl character called Sema. SUPER SEMA's purpose is to empower today's generation of African children with the academic skills, inspiration, and confidence to change their lives — and the world! Launched with a series of literacy apps in 2019 (Sema Run, Sema Goal and Sema Trace) the franchise has expanded with

Youtube video formats such as Sema's Lab and Supa Kids and is launching the Super Sema animated series this summer.

“We are excited to contribute towards bringing more diversity to STEM-related content. We see a huge potential in the young generation, their intelligence, resourcefulness, curiosity, and tech-savviness,” says Kukua's Head of Content, Magda Kanjejo. “Through Sema's Lab, we want to raise

children's' aspirations and



“Through Sema's Lab, we want to raise children's' aspirations and promote STEM in Africa and to the world.”



promote STEM in Africa and to the world.” ●

ABOUT KUKUA

Kukua is a Nairobi-based entertainment-education startup whose vision is to be “The Disney of Africa”. Kukua is creating the first African children's franchise around an animated superhero character called Super Sema. The franchise is brought to life through

educational game-based apps and the first African animated superhero series to inspire children to STEM subjects. Super Sema was born out of the lack of African content with strong positive role models for children and families and aspires to become the leading and most impactful brand in Africa. ●

