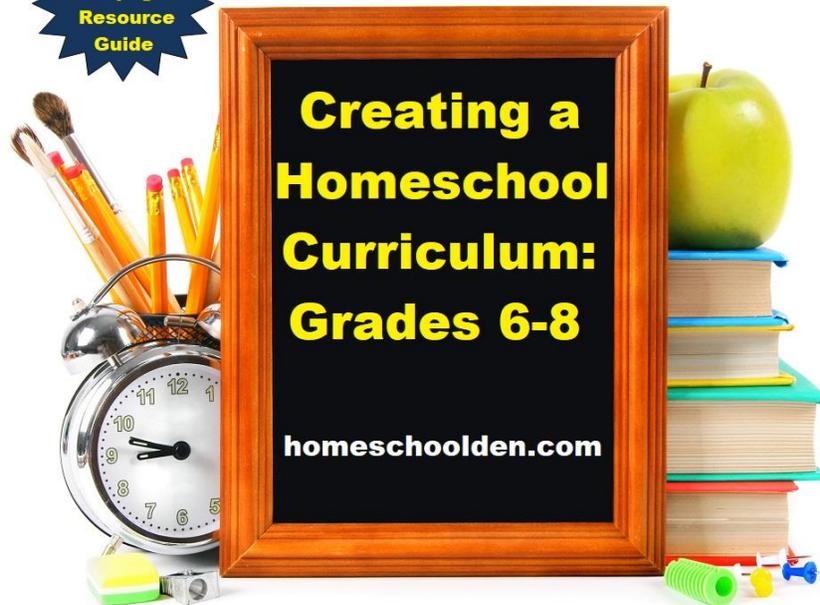


How to Create Your Own Homeschool Curriculum:

Grade 6 - 8 Resource Guide

FREE
30-page
Resource
Guide



What subjects should I teach my kid/s? Where do I start? How do I know what to teach my kids? What skills do they need as we look toward high school?

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How do I get started homeschooling my middle schooler? How do I know what to teach my 6th, 7th or 8th grader?

This free 30+ page Homeschool Curriculum Resource Guide provides some insight into how our family is navigating the middle school years. There are some basic checklists in each of the subjects from language arts and math to science, history and foreign languages. This guide includes some of the specific topics our family may (hopefully!) cover as the kids move through the middle school years, though as the guide will tell you... all three of my kids will have a different experience coming up through these grades -- and yours will too!!

Why did I create this series, How to Create Your Own Homeschool Curriculum?

I first set out to create this Curriculum Resource Guide series because I had so many reader questions. Quite a number of people wanted to know what we did in 2nd grade, 4th grade or 7th grade. I found that a difficult question to answer because like many homeschool families we do many of our subjects together. But, the question is still legitimate, right? We are all curious about what other families are doing with kids about the same ages as theirs.

What I hope to do with this series is give you a framework of what we did. You can look at what we did and pick and choose what might work for your family. That's the wonderful thing about homeschooling, you create a curriculum path that works for you! Remember there are free resource guides like this one for

- [Kindergarten – First Grade](#)
- [Grades 2-3](#)
- [Grades 4-5](#)
- and now this curriculum guide for grades 6-8

How to Create Your Own Homeschool Curriculum: Gr. 6-8

This is the 4th in a series of curriculum resource guides I have created. This one has, by far, been the most challenging to put together. I think that's because my girls are still coming up through the middle school years. All three of my kids have had a different homeschool experience as they've come up through the grades. (Does that sound familiar?!)

I'm also worried that you are going to look everything on this list and faint! You might wonder how you'll possibly get through all of this. The thing is, many of these are topics we covered in earlier grades so our family just reviewed/hurried through the topics. Some topics we went into a *lot* of depth and other topics we scratched the surface, but then ran out of time.

So, just as each of my kids will all have completely different middle school experiences, know that your kids and your family will also pick and choose along the way. Some topics might excite your kids, other topics you glance off the surface, and still other topics they won't cover until high school or college... or not at all.

You might cover given topics/subjects for a variety of reasons....

Your family might study a topic because your kids are fascinated or interested in a topic.

Your family might study a topic because *you* are fascinated. (We've all had instructors who ooze enthusiasm and excitement for a topic we never knew could be so interesting!)

Some topics are a means to polishing other skills... writing essays or doing research.

Some topics (like cells or geography) might serve as the foundations and bricks for other topics. For example, a knowledge of cell function and organelles helps in the study of the digestive system or the understanding taxonomy. And a knowledge of geography is imperative as you study the tensions and

transitions of modern Europe from 1900 (the period of nationalism) through the end of WWII. These topics help, but that doesn't mean students can't pick up what they need to know later. 😊

And often (for my kids at least) we study a topic simply because they don't know much about it.

You will never cover everything!

Again, when you look through these suggestions, see them as a smorgasbord... Pick and choose. You might come back and look at topics again in more depth later. Or, you might skip some topics altogether.

No teacher in any classroom can cover everything (take that from a high school and college history teacher!! We educators *always* skim over some areas and spend more time on others.)

My kids each will have had a completely different experience coming up through the middle school years. None of them will have gone through everything. My main goal is that we dive and explore different topics and they are inspired and excited by what they've learned. And, that they build skills and continue to be excited about learning!

This year my kids are ages 10, 12 and 14. But people continue to ask for this guide, so as long as you realize this is a work in progress I'm happy to share my thoughts! By the time my youngest (now in 4th grade) finish middle school, I'm sure I'll have a whole lot more thoughts and wisdom to add to this guide! Keeping that in mind, you can use this as a starting point!

How should I cover this material?

This is a tough question, partly because there are now SO many options!

- You can go with an online curriculum program.
- You can go with complete curriculum for all subject areas (There are too many to list here, but Sonlight, Abeka, BJU, Time for Learning, are just a few...).
- You can purchase individual curriculums in the different subject areas (for example, getting Cover Story for writing or Saxon for math).
- You can do a combination of purchased curriculum and your own unit studies.
- You can purchase (traditional) textbooks and supplement with other resources.
- You can develop your own curriculum journey by borrowing books from the library and purchasing used curriculum.
- You can have your kids take online classes (there are many quality teaching resources out there from coursera, to open courseware from universities such as MIT, there is Khan Academy and many, many other options.

You can do projects, lapbooks, or notebook pages. You can do experiments, crafts, posters, mini-research projects and all kinds of things to help your kids learn. You can read aloud non-fiction and fiction books. You can watch videos... by middle school our family incorporated a lot of documentaries and college lectures (from Coursera or other mooc courses). In the right context, (fictional) novels and movies can be very educational as well! You can go on field trips, to museums, and explore the online world. ... and much, much more!

My highest goals have been to make the learning creative and engaging for the kids. I want them to have the skills they need to write well (and creatively), to think critically, to be able to learn new things on their own, to be polite, kind people. I want them to value education and to see what it will do for them. I keep the end goals in mind... And that's *your* first step. Decide what skills you want the kids to have at the end of the year and at the end of this homeschool journey. Then slowly work towards those!

Unit Studies Science: We have continued to do unit studies through the middle school years. I have found that we have generally covered a unit on chemistry, the human body, physical science and biology each year through the middle school years. This year, for example (with DD in 7th grade) we did Earth Science again (supplementing with lectures from a coursera course called Planet Earth), scientific classification & taxonomy, the digestive system (and nutrition), a chemistry unit, and a quick botany unit.

Unit Studies History: We have kept moving progressively through time. We are probably going into more depth and detail than public schools tend to. This year, for example, we spent a lot of time studying Japan and the samurai period, the Age of Absolutism, enlightenment, scientific revolution, French Revolution and Napoleon. Public schools tend to race through much more material, but as homeschoolers, I feel like we have the time to really dive deep into the material.

What style is your family?

We are eclectic homeschoolers. We use many different types of curriculum... from online courses, purchased homeschool curriculum, traditional textbooks, library books, documentary, films, and great books. I often pull from at least a half-dozen resources when we are covering a unit... plus I make a lot of our material to make sure the kids are learning on a deeper level.

At this point, the kids also do a lot of their own learning and then share what they've learned with the rest of us. They do power point presentations fairly regularly and share what they've discovered. My middle daughter said that she *loves* this type of learning and honestly says that she learns the most when she is doing the research & presentation!

Do I have to complete the entire curriculum/textbook/program?

Keep in mind that you will not and do not have to cover “everything.” If you purchase a homeschool curriculum (or any of our packets), you do not have to cover every page. If you look at a checklist of curriculum options... you do not have to cover everything. Use those as a resource, not as to-do list (or a ball-and-chain)!!

All that was kind of a disclaimer. I want to offer you a starting point (if it helps), but want you to know the YOU can and will create an amazing homeschool experience!! You CAN do this!! You know your kids better than anyone else!!

So, let's jump into the meat of things – building a curriculum for Grades 6 to 8. 😊 ~Liesl

Building Powerful Reasons for Homeschooling!

You know you had amazing reasons for beginning your homeschool journey, but have you continued to nurture you and your kids' homeschool dreams? Do you have powerful reasons for homeschooling that keep you motivated all throughout the year? Do you have the energy and inspiration you need to plan lessons and make the kids' learning experience incredible, memorable, fulfilling and powerful?

Why do you homeschool? List your reasons below:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Now that you have thought about why you are homeschooling in a general way, think about the subjects and/or topics your kids are learning.

Why are they studying these subjects/topics?

<p>Subject/Topic: _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<p>Subject/Topic: _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<p>Subject/Topic: _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<p>Subject/Topic: _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____<input type="checkbox"/> _____

As you look closely at what your kids are learning and why, you'll probably come up with even more reasons why homeschooling works for your family!

When you look at what you want to accomplish for each subject/topic, you start looking at the specific skills you want your kids to build.

For example, you might be studying history not only to discover how different countries interact with one another over time, to see the role religion has played in uniting or breaking regions apart or how human ingenuity has improved (or destroyed) lives, but also you might emphasize building skills in writing, research, using power point, presenting information orally and things like that.

And as you look more closely at your homeschool and how it functions, some of your reasons for homeschooling might be even more apparent!

Grade 6 - 8

Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	Arts, Music, Foreign Language
<p>Great Literature Novels</p> <p>Literature Selections (poetry, short stories, plays, etc.) We used literature anthologies.</p> <p>Writing Workshop</p> <p>Essay & Research Writing</p> <p>Grammar & Editing Skills</p>	<p>Fractions, Percentages, Decimals, Factoring</p> <p>Pre-Algebra</p> <p>Algebra</p> <p>Geometry</p>	<p>Ancients (if not previously covered)</p> <p>World History: China, India, Africa (if not previously covered)</p> <p>Middle Ages</p> <p>Renaissance</p> <p>Reformation</p> <p>Age of Absolutism</p> <p>Enlightenment</p> <p>Scientific Revolution</p> <p>Revolutions - American Revolution; French Revolution</p> <p>20th Century History Isms: Nationalism, Industrialization, WWI, Great Depression, WWII, 1950s, Cold War, Civil Rights Movement, etc.</p> <p>American History Some families do a year on this.</p>	<p>Physical Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Astronomy *Earth's Systems *Atmosphere, Weather and Climate *Geosphere: Earth's changing surface - plate movements, faults, earthquakes, volcanoes *Rocks & Minerals, Natural resources *Hydrosphere - Oceans <p>Physics & STEM</p> <p>Newton's Laws</p> <p>Motion & Stability</p> <p>Forces</p> <p>Optics</p> <p>Waves & their applications</p> <p>Sound</p> <p>Light</p> <p>Astronomy</p> <p>Biology/Life Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Biosphere - Ecology Biomes, Food Chains & Webs *Classifying Organisms, Dissection *Genetics Heredity, inheritance & Variation of traits *Adaptations 	<p>Music and Music Theory - My kids were taking private lessons and we've been involved in a homeschool band and wind ensemble.</p> <p>Art We touched on art history in our history studies, but we haven't had any formal art instruction.</p> <p>Foreign Language: In Europe, most kids start to learn a foreign language early. We decided to do that in our homeschool as well. We are learning German (because that's what I learned). Introduce basic vocabulary such as: numbers, greetings, colors, animals, words in a house, family words, words in a school room, etc.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Building Skills in Middle School:</p> <p>Essay writing</p> <p>Editing your own work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commas • quotation marks • indenting 	<p style="text-align: center;">Building Skills in Middle School:</p> <p>Make sure kids know how to factor numbers easily. They will need this for Algebra!</p>	<p>Civics and Government 3 branches of government. Types of Governments Types of Societies World Leaders</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Building Skills in Middle School:</p> <p>Essay writing.</p> <p>Research, writing & presentation. (I have had my kids do quite a number of power point presentations... adding in a new skill requirement with successive assignment (like animation)</p> <p>Begin to see long-term trends and patterns in history.</p> <p>Begin to understand historical cause and effect.</p> <p>Begin to use primary and secondary sources, including graphs, maps, and images.</p> <p>Have a strong knowledge of how our own government works</p> <p>Continue building a strong knowledge of geography</p>	<p>* Animal & Plant Cells * Cells, Tissues, Organs, Systems * Anatomy & Physiology - Human Body Systems * Botany</p> <p>Chemistry Periodic Table, Atoms & Molecules, Elements, Classifying Matter - Metals/Nonmetals, Mixtures & Substances, Bohr Diagrams, Electron configuration, Lewis Structures, Covalent & Ionic Bonds, Making Molecules, States of Matter Properties of Matter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Building Skills in Middle School:</p> <p>Have lots of hands-on experiences & do experiments that allow students to make predictions.</p> <p>Have familiarity with basic science terminology in each of the major science subjects.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Building Skills in Middle School:</p> <p>Build strengths in their areas of interest and passion.</p> <p>Learn to practice regularly – daily if possible!</p>
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Grade 6 - 8

Language Arts	Math	History & Geography	Science	Arts, Music, Foreign Language
See pages 33 to 37	See pages 27	See pages 28 to 32	See pages 8 to 26	Foreign Language Checklist: pages 32 to 34

Looking Ahead to High School

High School Level Classes
See pages 38

Science

Here are some of the activities that we did, with clickable links to the posts.

Some of these topics we covered in earlier years and just quickly reviewed as we went into a similar/related topic.

Remember, I have three kids and we do some of our subjects together (science, history, foreign language), so some of these units we returned to every couple of years and added more depth to the unit the second (or third!) time around. (For example, we covered Earth Science when the kids were quite young, in mid-elementary school and again when they were 10, 12 and 14 when we went into considerably more depth -- looking into the composition on lava and how this influences the power and explosive force of volcanic eruptions. Similarly, we did a unit on ecology/biology when my son was in middle school... as the girls hit middle school, we will review this unit but then move on to heredity, inheritance, variation of traits & adaptations.

My goal is for the kids to have a pretty solid foundation in sciences as they move into high school, but they won't necessarily hit all the topics listed in the middle school years. (For example, my son really hasn't done genetics or botany.) I'm not worried, though, because they will go into more depth in their high school courses!

I found it more important to delve into our units in as much depth as suited their interests.

If I were a bran-new homeschooler trying to choose topics/units for my middle schooler, what would I choose? I would ask the kids if they had any particular interest... and would start with one of these... or I might do one of these units below (though I would do cells (#1) before biology/ecology/classification (#2).)

1. Cells – I would try to give the kids a good foundation on the organelles of the cells and the difference between plant & animal cells, eukaryotic & prokaryotic cells
2. Biology/ecology & the classification of organisms – We did these as two different units in different years because we watched the entire Planet Earth documentary series when we did biology/ecology/biomes/habitats. But, if I were a new homeschooler & my kids were keen, I would probably also go into taxonomy/classification of animals as well since it ties back to cells (eukaryotic & prokaryotic cells) and ties to the biomes and habitats.
3. Earth Science – This is a fun unit at any age. We went into depth when the kids were middle school age and supplemented our unit with the lectures wonderful coursera.org class from the Univ. of Illinois. Remember, those classes are free!
4. Chemistry – I would make sure the kids had a good understanding of the Periodic Table, atomic structure, valence electrons, groups – metals/non-metals/metalloids and so forth... If you have time, I would go into ions and isotopes and the formation of molecules. There are lots of wonderful chemistry experiments your family can do together!

Middle School Science Topics (Quick Overview)

Biology/Life Science:

- Cells – Plants vs. Animal Cells; eukaryotic vs. prokaryotic cells, human body cells – (We also did a study of leaves and talked about photosynthesis when we did this unit again.)
 - Ecology/Biology – the biosphere: biomes, habitats, food chains & the food web, trophic levels, the energy pyramid, biological relationships, feeding relationships – When we did this unit, we also watched the BBC documentary, Planet Earth with David Attenborough. The kids loved this series!
 - Scientific Classification & Taxonomy – Classifying Organisms, Dissection
- When my kids were younger, we studied some of the basic animal characteristics. In this unit, we went into depth about the differences between animal phyla (annelids/earthworms vs. platyhelminths/flatworms, for example!). Plus, in this unit we did some basic dissection (clams/oysters, crabs, fish)
- Oceans – ocean life, fish form & function; bioluminescence; marine habitats; Note: we studied this both from a biological perspective, but also as one of the 4 major Earth Systems... so we talked about marine habitats, the ocean floor, sonar, salinity, ocean tides, ocean currents and so forth.
 - Genetics – This is generally a unit in high school biology, but if you have advanced students, you might want to do a basic unit about DNA & genetics.
 - Botany – 4 Main Plant Groups: Flowering Plants, Mosses, Ferns, and Cone-bearing plants – Plant Life Cycle, parts of a flower, parts of a seed, etc.

Anatomy & Physiology (note: we generally reviewed the cells/tissues/organs/systems each year and studied ONE of the human body systems in depth each year)

- Cells, tissue, organs, body systems
- Skeletal System – structure & function of the bones
- Muscular System
- Circulatory System
- Digestive System; Micro Flora;
- Nutrition & Health (fiber, vitamins – we did this after our study of the Digestive System)
- The Brain & the Nervous System
- Reproductive System
- Body Growth & Development

Chemistry:

- States of Matter (Make sure your kids know these and terms like deposition and sublimation, but I wouldn't do a whole unit on this.)
- Physical & Chemical Properties of Matter – Talk about Matter, pure substances vs. mixtures, elements, compounds, solutions and suspensions, talk about the physical properties of matter (viscosity, cohesion, capillary action, and density) and chemical properties of matter.

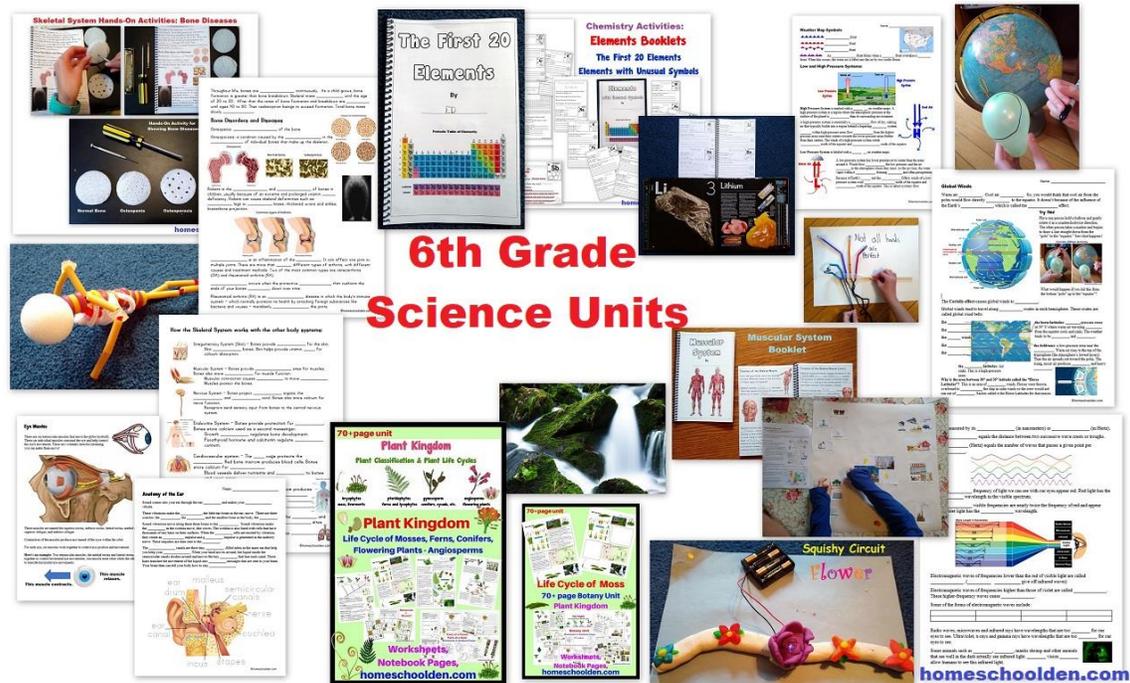
- Compounds & Chemical Change; chemical bonds (ionic & covalent bonds); Molecules; Building Molecules
- Periodic Table: Atoms – Atomic Structure; Bohr Model;
- Elements and the Periodic Table (classifying matter: metals & nonmetals, mixtures & pure substances); names of elements – chemical symbols; symbols & atomic structure; periodic patterns; chemical families

Physical Science

- Solar System; planetary orbits (elliptical orbits; Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion; the Sun (energy, layers of the Sun, Sun's atmosphere, etc.) the Universe
- Earth Science – We did this unit when the kids were younger, but then we came back and covered these topics again in considerable more depth. (plate tectonics, faults, earthquakes, mountain making, volcanoes – the different types of lava, types of eruptions, types of volcanoes
- Oceans – ocean plates; tides & currents; ocean depth; water forms;
- Rocks & Minerals, rock cycle, Earth's surface (water; weathering), erosion, soil & soil types, mass movements
- Layers of the Atmospheres
- Weather & Climate; Meteorology
 - The Earth & its atmosphere
 - Layers of the atmosphere
 - Causes of weather
 - Weather systems, global wind systems, jet streams, fronts, air masses
 - Storms
 - Climate
 - Weather analysis & forecasts
- **Electricity & Circuits** (basic concepts of charge, current, basic atomic theory, electric current, resistance, circuits & schematic diagrams, series & parallel circuits. We did this after we covered the physical properties of matter. We went on to talk in-depth about electricity and did a lot of fun activities building circuits, talking about conduction, insulators, etc.
- Energy motion, Forces – Gravity, Friction, Work & Energy (potential & kinetic energy), Machines, Newton's 3 Laws of Motion

Here is a post about what my youngest did in 6th grade:

[science-year-in-review-6th-grade/](#)



My youngest is in 7th grade this year. Some of the units we did this year include:

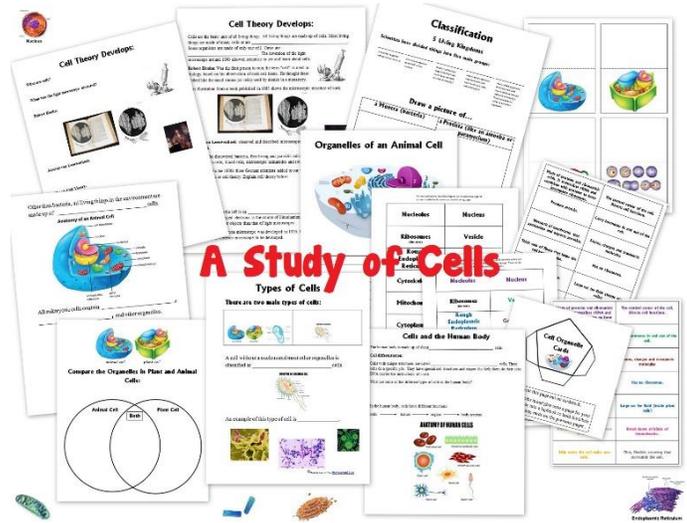
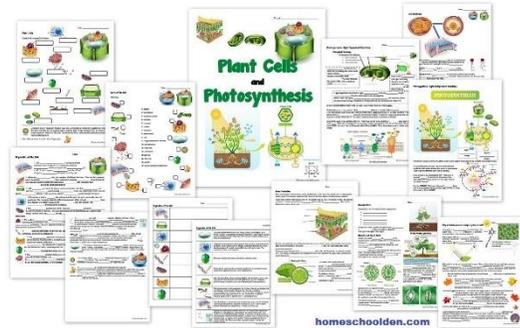
- Earth Systems (just a quick review of the [4 major Earth Systems](#) and then she moved on to the Hydrosphere... i.e. Earth's Oceans!)
- Oceans Unit
- Scientific Classification and Taxonomy
- Energy Unit – Kinetic vs Potential Energy, Renewable vs Non-renewable Energy (Review of some of the things she covered in 6th grade)
- Waves, the Electromagnetic Spectrum and Light Worksheets
- Rocks and Minerals Unit
- Chemistry – Valence Electrons (Bohr Diagrams and Electron Configuration)
- Endocrine System Unit [We've been doing various Human Body Systems throughout the years. This was the first time she covered this. The endocrine system includes glands that secrete hormones... (i.e. rather than glands that secrete a substance like tears, milk or sweat).] ... on the other hand, when my middle daughter was in 6th grade and my oldest was in 8th grade we did the Circulatory System!
- Plant Cells and Photosynthesis Worksheets
- Astronomy (the Apollo Program & the race to the Moon)



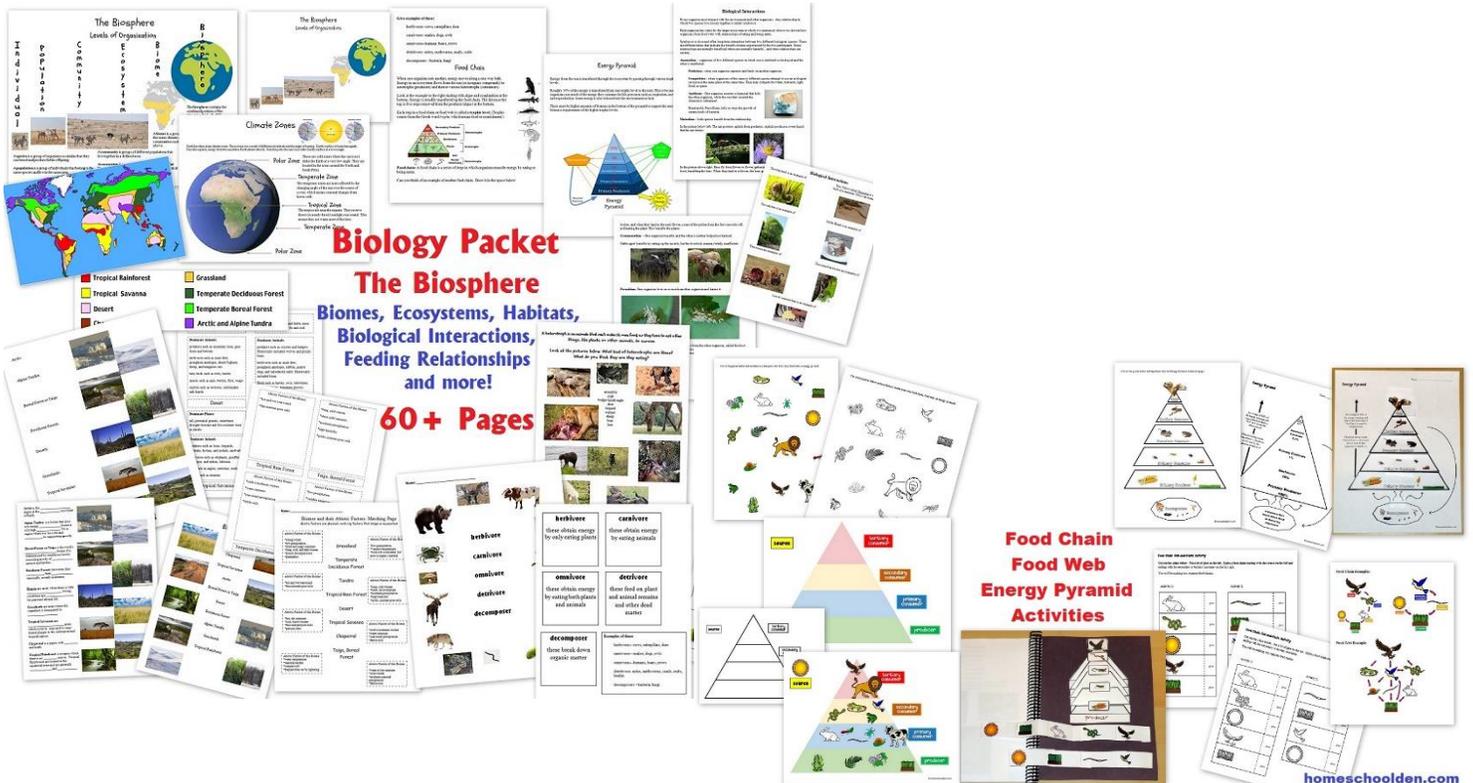
Science

Biology/Life Science:

Cells – Plants vs. Animal Cells; eukaryotic vs. prokaryotic cells, human body cells – (We also did a study of leaves and talked about photosynthesis when we did this unit again.)



Ecology/Biology – the biosphere: biomes, habitats, food chains & the food web, trophic levels, the energy pyramid, biological relationships, feeding relationships – When we did this unit, we also watched the BBC documentary, Planet Earth with David Attenborough. The kids loved this series!



Scientific Classification & Taxonomy – Classifying Organisms, Dissection

When my kids were younger, we studied some of the basic animal characteristics. In this unit, we went into depth about the differences between animal phyla (annelids/earthworms vs. platyhelminths/flatworms, for example!). Plus in this unit, we did some basic dissection (clams/oysters, crabs, fish)

Scientific Classification and Taxonomy Packet
60+ pages
homeschoolden.com

Scientific Classification & Taxonomy: Cnidarians, Platyhelminthes, Nematodes & Annelids

homeschoolden.com

Insects Scientific Classification & Taxonomy

homeschoolden.com

Scientific Classification & Taxonomy Activities

Bingo Game of the Animalia Phyla
I have... Who has Activity
Scientific Classification and Taxonomy Unit
Bingo Game of the Animalia Phyla
homeschoolden.com

Genetics – You might want to do a basic unit about DNA & genetics. (We'll probably do that in the next year or so)

Anatomy & Physiology (note: we generally reviewed the cells/tissues/organs/systems each year and studied ONE of the human body systems in depth each year) See our [Human Body BUNDLE](#) here.

[Cells, tissue, organs, body systems](#)

[Skeletal System](#) – structure & function of the bones

[Muscular System](#)

[Circulatory System](#)

[Digestive System](#)

[Nutrition & Health](#) (fiber, vitamins – we did this after our study of the Digestive System)

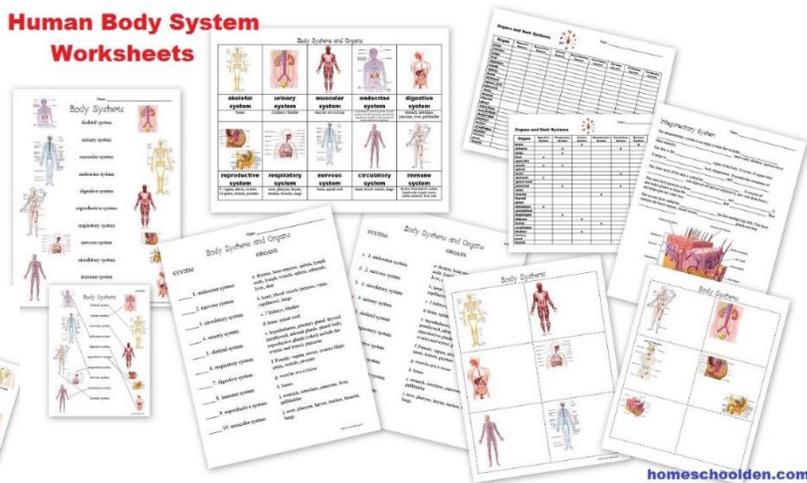
The Brain & the [Nervous System](#)

[Endocrine System](#)

Reproductive System

Body Growth & Development

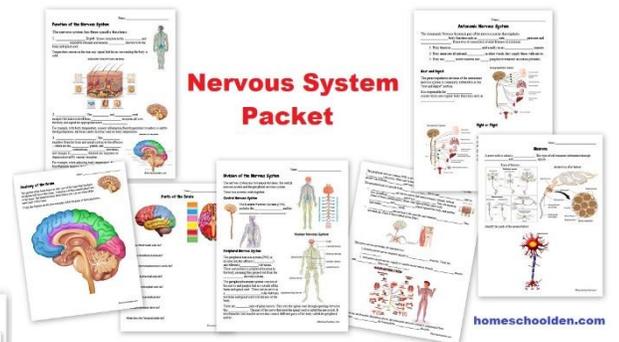
Human Body System Worksheets



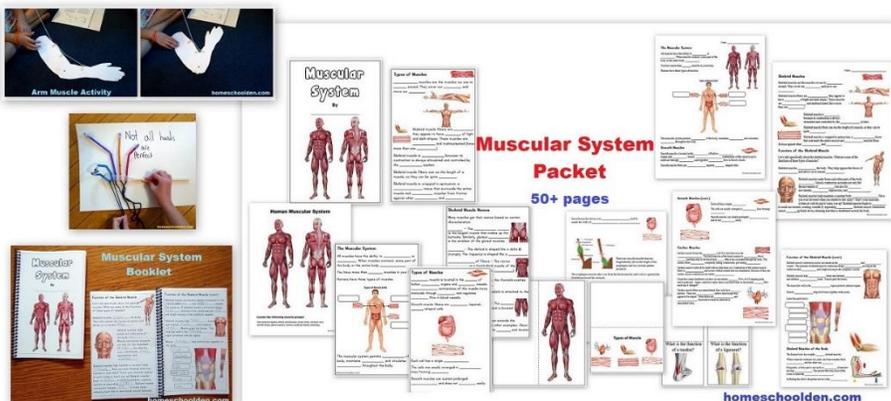
Skeleton Packet
Includes Skeleton Worksheets, Lapbook and Notebook Pages and Hands-on Activity Ideas
90+ Pages



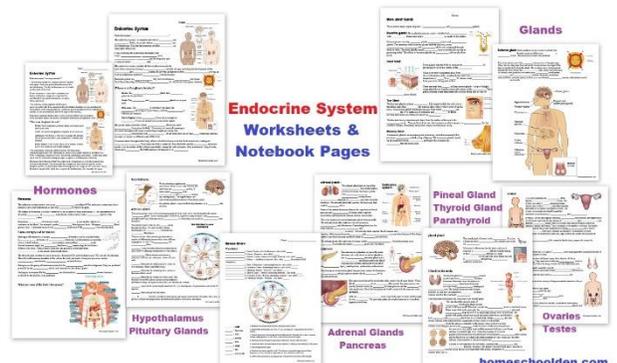
Nervous System Packet



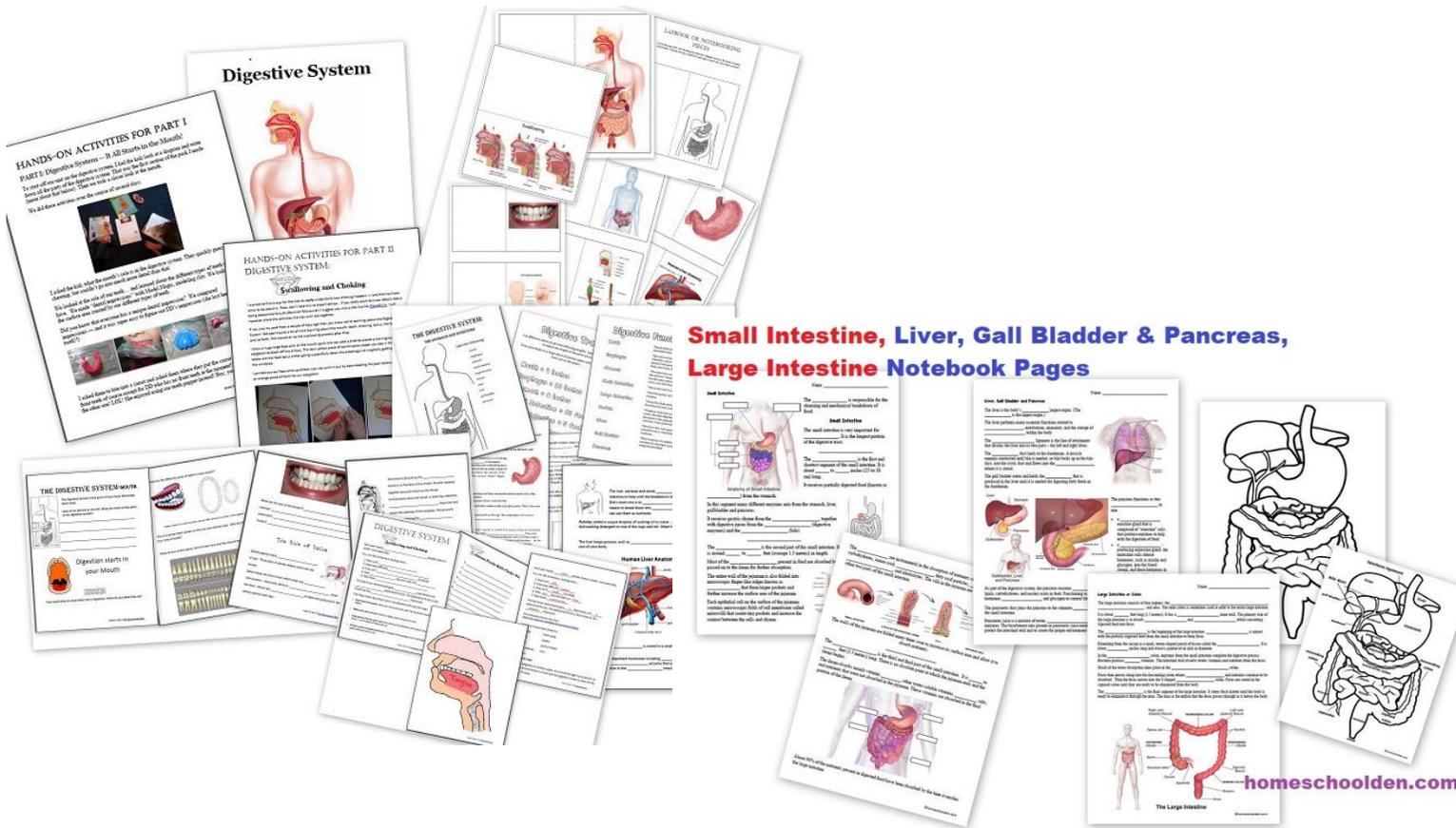
Muscular System Packet
50+ pages



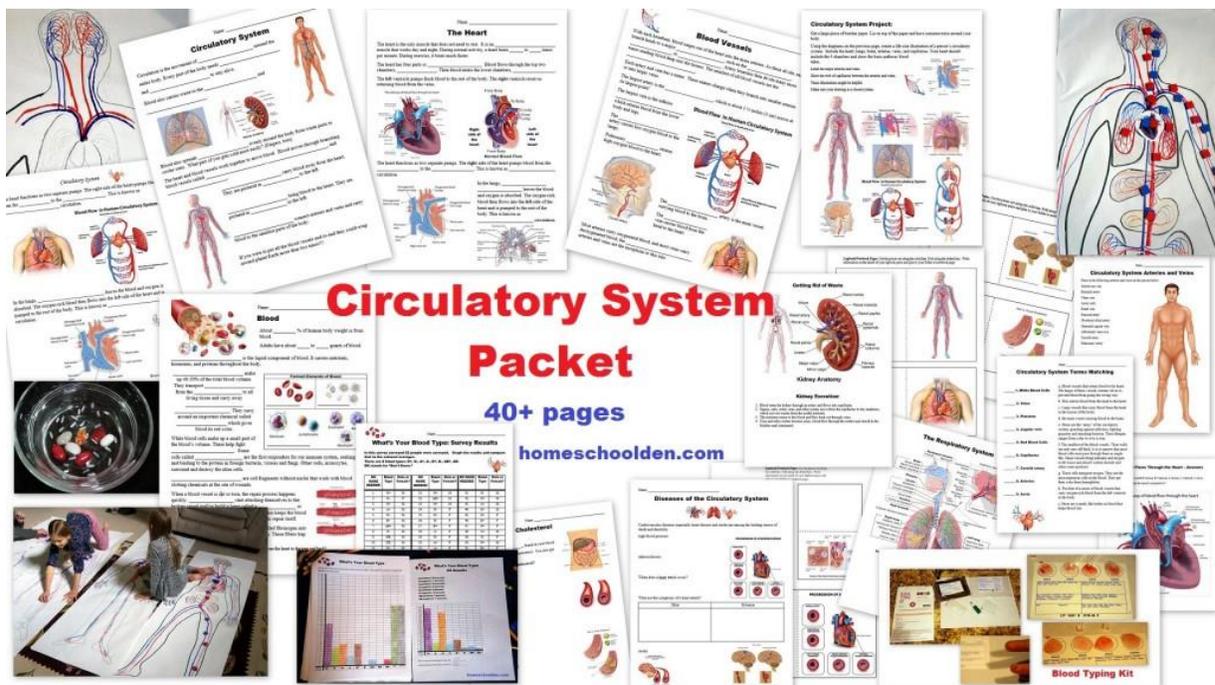
Endocrine System Worksheets & Notebook Pages



We studied the [Digestive system](#) when the kids were younger, but then did this unit again and went over the parts of the small and large intestines and went into much more detail about the liver, gall bladder and pancreas. We also did a unit on nutrition, vitamins and fiber (to touch on health/nutrition).



[Circulatory System](#) – We talked about the heart, blood vessels – arteries, veins, and capillaries, what blood is composed of, blood types and more:



Botany – 4 Main Plant Groups

Flowering Plants, Mosses, Ferns, and Cone-bearing plants – Plant Life Cycle, parts of a flower, parts of a seed, etc.

We went over the parts of a flower when the kids were younger, but I want to go over botany in more detail when the girls are in middle school. We covered the Plant Kingdom and talked about mosses, ferns, gymnosperms and angiosperms.

Plant Kingdom
Plant Classification & Plant Life Cycles

lyophytes moss, liverworts
pteridophytes ferns and lycophytes
gymnosperm conifers, cycads, etc.
angiosperm flowering plants

Botany Unit
Worksheets & Notebook Pages
70+ pages

Plant Classification
Plant Life Cycles
Mosses
Ferns
Gymnosperms - Conifers, Cycads
Angiosperms - Flower Plants

Monocots
OR
Dicots?

Parts of a Flower
Parts of a Seed
Worksheets & Notebook Pages

homeschoolden.com

Chemistry:

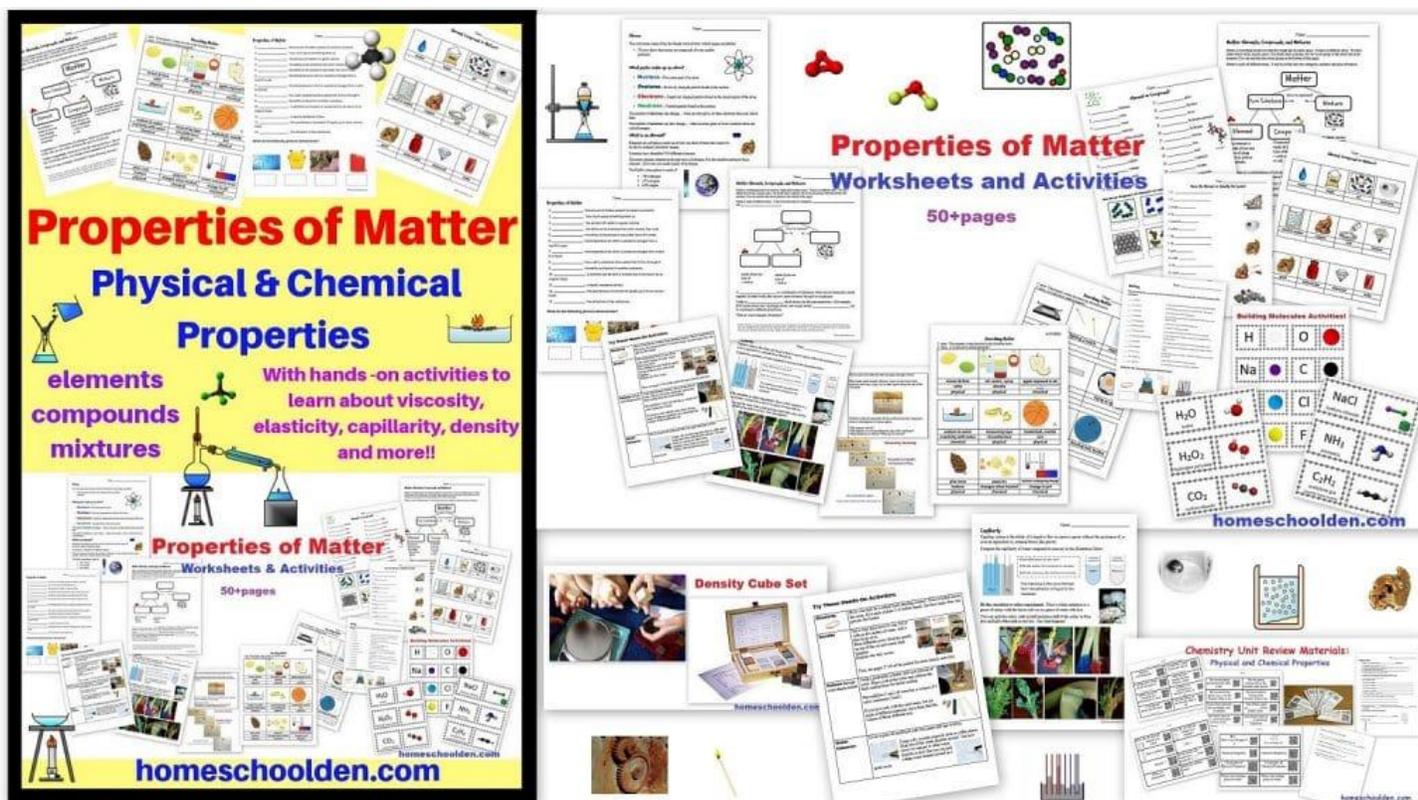
Periodic Table:

Atoms – Atomic Structure; Bohr Model;

Elements and the Periodic Table (classifying matter: metals & nonmetals, mixtures & pure substances); names of elements – chemical symbols; symbols & atomic structure; periodic patterns; chemical families

Compounds & Chemical Change; chemical bonds (ionic & covalent bonds); Molecules; Building Molecules

States of Matter, Physical & Chemical Properties of Matter, density



Properties of Matter Unit:

- Atoms
- Elements & Compounds
- Molecular vs. structural formulas
- Physical and Chemical Properties
- Basic definitions (of terms such as viscosity, elasticity, capillarity, ductility, malleability, etc.)
- Hands-On Activities of some of these properties (viscosity, cohesion, capillary action, etc.)
- Density Activities
- Mixtures: Solutions, Colloids and Suspensions
- Separating Mixtures



Chemistry Unit

The Chemistry Unit goes into detail about the periodic table, valence electrons, periods, groups, Lewis Diagrams, and basic vocabulary such as ions and isotopes.

Students are introduced to the structure of the periodic table, Bohr Diagrams, Lewis Diagrams and electron configuration in a fun, hands-on way! There are also booklets for students to become familiar with the first 20 elements and elements with unusual names.

Chemistry Packet
Elements and the Periodic Table
 Groups, Bohr Diagrams, Electron Configuration

The collage features a central image of a student's hand holding a card with an element symbol (Cu) in front of a large periodic table. Surrounding this are various worksheets and activity sheets:

- Who came up with the periodic table?** - A worksheet with a small periodic table and text about Dmitri Mendeleev.
- Build your own periodic table** - A worksheet with a grid for students to place element cards.
- Color the elements!** - A worksheet with a periodic table and instructions to color different groups.
- Group and Number** - A worksheet explaining the significance of groups and periods.
- Constructing your periodic table** - A worksheet with a grid and instructions to place element cards.
- The Periodic Table of Elements** - A standard periodic table with element symbols and names.
- Group 1: Alkali Metals** - A worksheet with a Bohr diagram and text about Group 1 elements.
- Group 2: Alkaline Earth Metals** - A worksheet with a Bohr diagram and text about Group 2 elements.
- Group 3-10: Transition Metals** - A worksheet with a Bohr diagram and text about transition metals.
- Group 11: Hydrogen and Alkali Metals** - A worksheet with a Bohr diagram and text about Group 11 elements.
- Group 12: Noble Gases** - A worksheet with a Bohr diagram and text about noble gases.
- Also known as the Oxygen Family** - A worksheet with a Bohr diagram and text about Group 16 elements.
- Group 18: Halogens** - A worksheet with a Bohr diagram and text about Group 17 elements.

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Periodic Table -- atomic number, atomic weight, chemical symbols & the element names

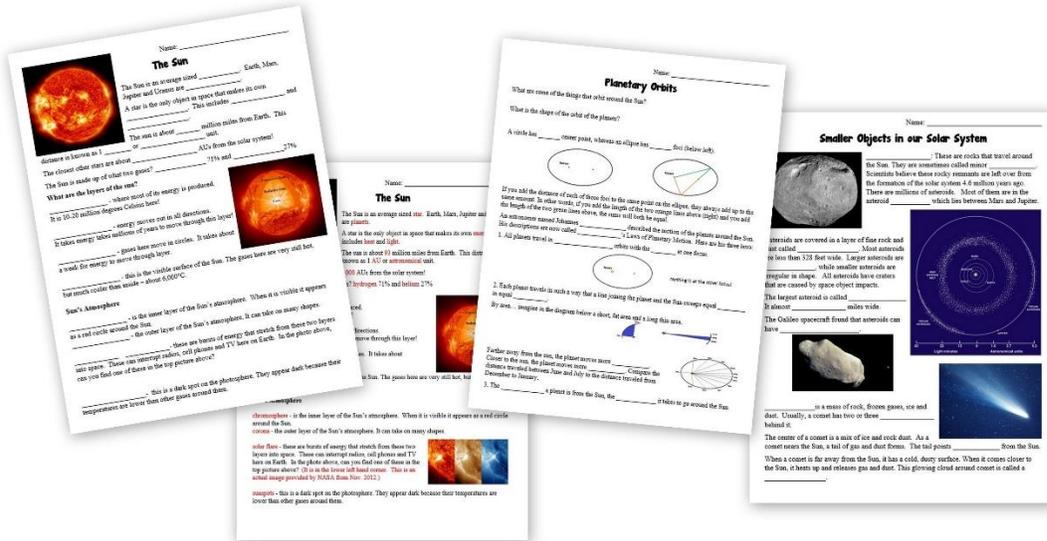
This collage focuses on the periodic table and elements with unusual symbols. It includes:

- Periodic Table of the Elements** - A standard periodic table with element symbols and names.
- Periodic Table** - A worksheet with a periodic table and instructions to fill in atomic number, atomic mass, chemical symbol, and element name.
- Unusual Chemical Symbols** - A worksheet with a list of elements and their symbols, and instructions to identify the element from the symbol.
- Elements with Unusual Symbols** - A worksheet with a list of elements and their symbols, and instructions to identify the element from the symbol.
- Elements with Unusual Symbols** - A worksheet with a list of elements and their symbols, and instructions to identify the element from the symbol.
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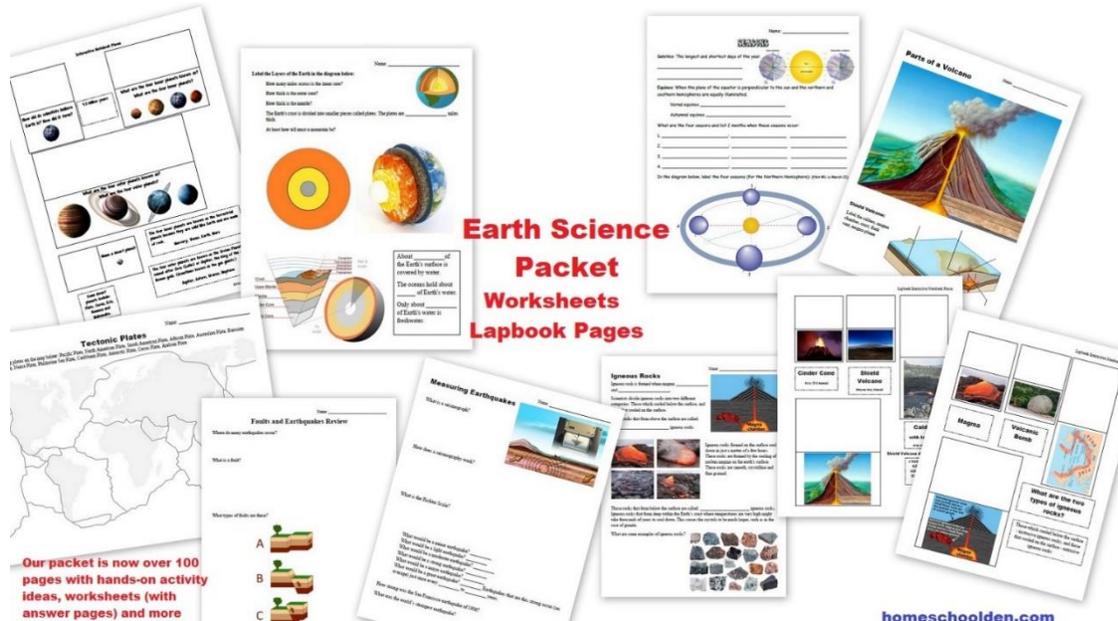
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Physical Science

Solar System; planetary orbits (elliptical orbits; Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion; the Sun (energy, layers of the Sun, Sun's atmosphere, etc.) the Universe. (We did a brief unit on this and have some free notebook pages about the layers of the sun, sun spots, elliptical orbits and things like that. You'll find these here: [Astronomy Middle School – free worksheets](#))

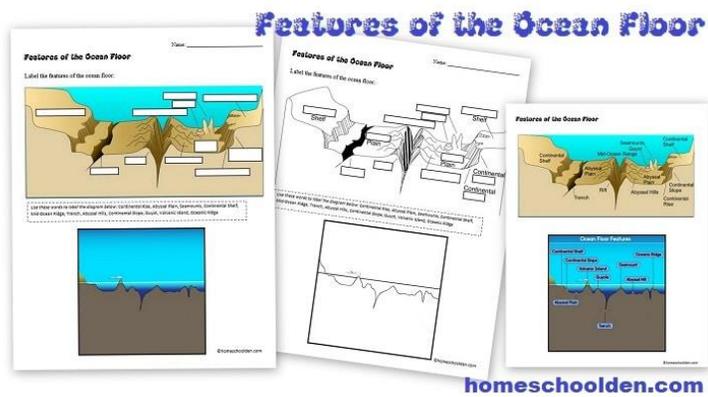


[Earth Science](#) – We did this unit when the kids were younger, but then we came back and covered these topics again in more depth. (plate tectonics, faults, earthquakes, mountain making, volcanoes – the different types of lava, types of eruptions, types of volcanoes and more.) Plus, we used lectures by a professor from the Univ. of Illinois (on coursera)

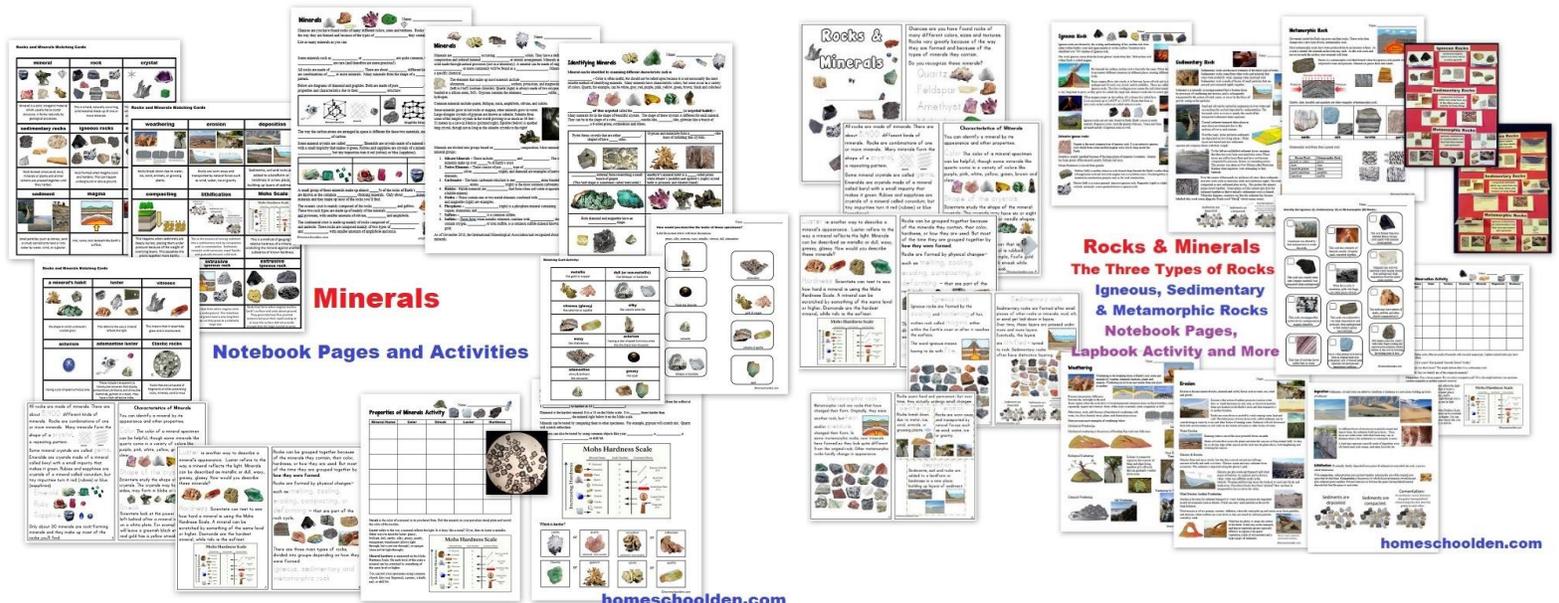
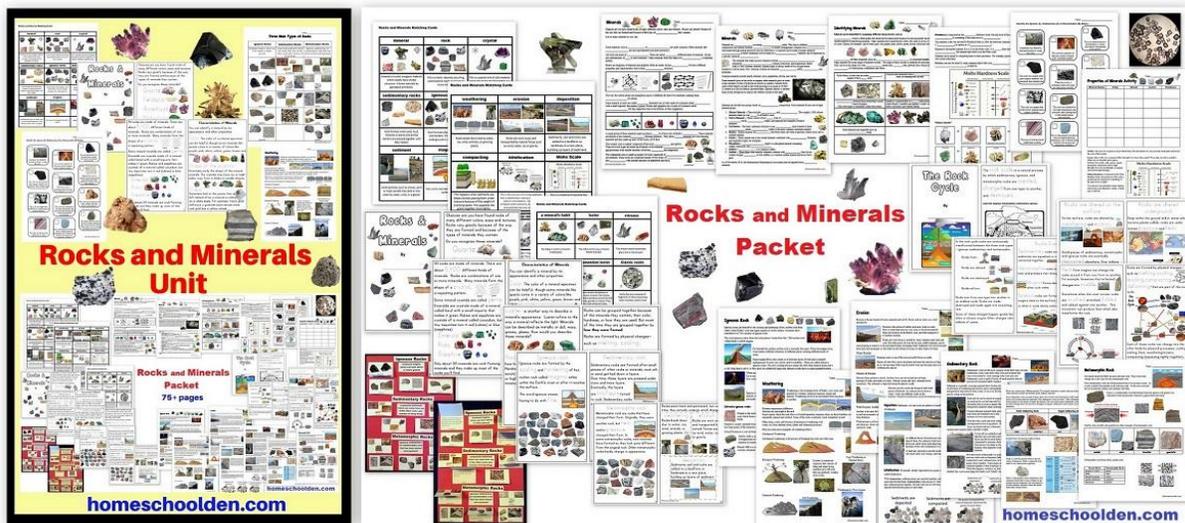


Our packet is now over 100 pages with hands-on activity ideas, worksheets (with answer pages) and more

Oceans – You can do this both from the biology angle and also from the physical science perspective: ocean plates; tides & currents; ocean depth; water forms



Rocks & Minerals, We did this unit when my youngest was in 7th her older sister did it too because it had been so long since we had talked about it! We talked in a lot of detail about minerals – how to identify minerals and terms like luster, mineral habit, vitreous, asterism, intrusive, extrusive, weathering, erosion, deposition, the three types of rocks, rock cycle, etc.



Physical Science

Energy: Motion, Forces – Gravity, Friction, Work & Energy (potential & kinetic energy), Machines, Newton's 3 Laws of Motion

70-pages

Energy Unit
Kinetic vs. Potential Energy
Renewable Non-renewable Resources
Fossil Fuel
Carbon Cycle
Energy Packet
Kinetic or Potential Energy, Converting Energy, Sources of Energy, Non-renewable vs. Renewable Energy
Fossil Fuels and the Carbon Cycle

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Energy Packet
Kinetic or Potential Energy, Converting Energy, Sources of Energy, Non-renewable vs. Renewable Energy
Fossil Fuels and the Carbon Cycle

There are many different types of energy!

Mechanical Energy: The energy acquired by the objects upon which mechanical energy. Mechanical energy is the energy that is possessed by an object due to its motion or position. Mechanical energy can be either kinetic energy (energy of motion) or potential energy (stored energy of position).

Chemical energy: energy stored in the bonds of chemical compounds like atoms and molecules. Energy becomes available when these chemical compounds undergo a chemical reaction.

Nuclear energy: comes from the nucleus of atoms. There are three types of nuclear energy: kinetic energy, potential energy, and nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is the energy that is released from the nucleus of an atom. Nuclear energy is the energy that is released from the nucleus of an atom. Nuclear energy is the energy that is released from the nucleus of an atom.

Thermal energy: is the energy that is possessed and measured by the temperature of an object. Thermal energy is the energy that is possessed and measured by the temperature of an object.

Types of Energy Worksheets and Activities

Mechanical Energy, Chemical Energy, Nuclear Energy, Thermal, Electrical, Elastic, Sound, Radiant & Gravitational Energy

Thermal energy: is the energy that is possessed and measured by the temperature of an object. Thermal energy is the energy that is possessed and measured by the temperature of an object.

Electrical energy: is the energy that is possessed and measured by the flow of electric charges. Electrical energy is the energy that is possessed and measured by the flow of electric charges.

Sound energy: is the energy that is possessed and measured by the vibration of particles. Sound energy is the energy that is possessed and measured by the vibration of particles.

Gravitational energy: is the energy that is possessed and measured by the force of gravity. Gravitational energy is the energy that is possessed and measured by the force of gravity.

There are many different types of energy. Can you see the pictures on the next page and give them the correct category?

Mechanical Energy: The energy acquired by the objects upon which mechanical energy. Mechanical energy is the energy that is possessed by an object due to its motion or position. Mechanical energy can be either kinetic energy (energy of motion) or potential energy (stored energy of position).

Chemical energy: energy stored in the bonds of chemical compounds, like atoms and molecules. Energy becomes available when these chemical compounds undergo a chemical reaction.

Nuclear energy: comes from the nucleus of atoms. There are three types of nuclear energy: kinetic energy, potential energy, and nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is the energy that is released from the nucleus of an atom. Nuclear energy is the energy that is released from the nucleus of an atom. Nuclear energy is the energy that is released from the nucleus of an atom.

Thermal energy: is the energy that is possessed and measured by the temperature of an object. Thermal energy is the energy that is possessed and measured by the temperature of an object.

Put the pictures which show a transformation of energy in the correct category.

Electrical energy: is the energy that is possessed and measured by the flow of electric charges. Electrical energy is the energy that is possessed and measured by the flow of electric charges.

Thermal energy: is the energy that is possessed and measured by the temperature of an object. Thermal energy is the energy that is possessed and measured by the temperature of an object.

Sound energy: is the energy that is possessed and measured by the vibration of particles. Sound energy is the energy that is possessed and measured by the vibration of particles.

Gravitational energy: is the energy that is possessed and measured by the force of gravity. Gravitational energy is the energy that is possessed and measured by the force of gravity.

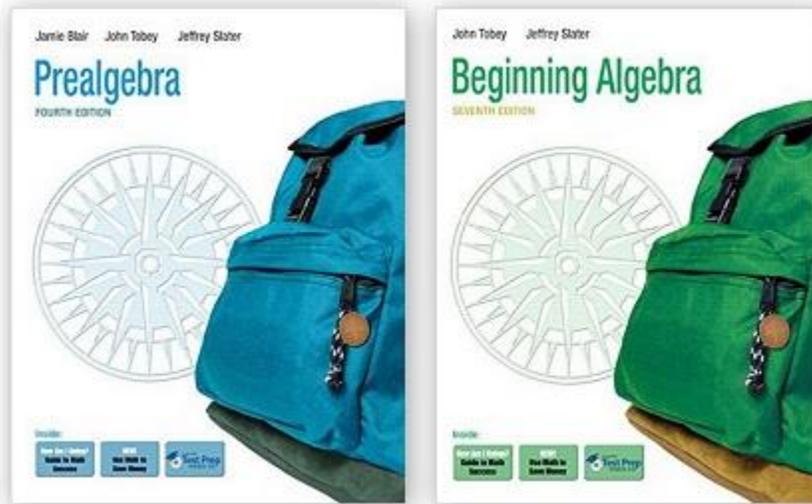
What types of energy are these?

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Middle School Math

There are tons of math curriculum options. We used Spectrum math workbooks and Math Reasoning (by the Critical Thinking Company) in the elementary years in addition to numerous worksheets that I made for the kids.

In middle school, we used PreAlgebra and Algebra by Toby and Slater. Those have worked well for our family. I used an older edition so that I could purchase the Teacher's Edition (to be able to check answers) for a reasonable price used from Amazon. We used these on the recommendation of another homeschooling family and they worked well for us. They have good example problems & explanations.



You might also want to ask your homeschooling connections on and off line to see what worked for their families. 😊

Note: When my kids were ready for Geometry, Algebra II, PreCalculus and Calculus we used Thinkwell. We purchased the textbook/workbook that goes along with those. This program provides video lectures (usually about 4-8 minutes long) with practice exercises that follow. We didn't use Thinkwell for Grade 6, PreAlgebra and Algebra (because I really liked the Toby & Slater books, but I know some homeschoolers who used Thinkwell in Middle School as well.

If you are interested, my share code will give you 15% off

<http://thinkwellhomeschoo.refr.cc/lieslm>

Social Studies & History

Geography

I put this section first because if people have a good solid feel for geography they'll be able to understand the nuances of world history much better!

- Countries of the world: 10 Days in Europe; 10 Days in Africa; 10 Days in Asia (These board games are fabulous for helping kids learn the location of countries on these continents!)
- Geographic features, landforms, world landmarks
- We actually used pin maps quite a lot in grades 6-8 to help review the location of various places around the world.
- World's deserts; oceans, seas & straits;
- World Facts

History

The topics you choose, will really depend on what you've covered already. If your child hasn't had much history yet, you can start with the Ancients and move forward from there! Our family has chosen to weave in various American History Units along the way, but some families spend a year studying American History from the Colonial Period through Civil Rights

- American History (Colonial Period through the 20th century) **See Am. His Checklist
- Ancient History – Mesopotamia/Sumer/Babylon, Egypt, Greece, Rome
- World History: China, India, Africa & and introduction to World Religions
- Middle Ages
- European History 1450-1650: Renaissance; Reformation; Age of Exploration; Age of Absolutism; Scientific Revolution; Enlightenment
- American Revolution
- French Revolution, Napoleon and post-Napoleonic Europe
- American History – Many schools do an entire year of American History in 8th grade and again as an honors or AP class in high school

20th Century and Beyond:

- Industrialization
- Nationalism
- WWI
- Roaring 20s
- Crash & Great Depression
- Rise of Hitler (30s)
- WWII
- Containment; Fear of Communism; Domino Effect; Berlin Crisis; Korean War
- 1950s America
- Vietnam War
- Anti-War Movement
- Civil Rights Movement
- Great Society, Civil Rights Act
- 1970s

Analyzing historical texts, interpretations, and evidence.

Civics & Government

If you haven't covered this already, you may want to go over the 3 branches of government; role of the federal vs. state and local governments; cabinet positions; basic facts about the U.S. constitution (What are the basic roles and functions of each branch of government? How many years can a President serve? How many years can a Senator or Congressman serve? How old do you have to be to hold a public office?)

Types of Government – As you move into the Age of Absolutism & Enlightenment this might be a good time to introduce your kids to the different forms of government (monarchs, democracy, oligarchy, junta)

Types of Society – I introduced my kids to these terms – socialism, communism, fascism, capitalism

World Leaders – Current Events



American History Checklist



American Beginnings

- Native Americans
- Age of Exploration – Spanish conquest/settlement of the Americas
- Colonies
- Conflict with Indians & the Colonial Empire/s
- Causes/Events leading to the American Revolution; War for Independence

The New Nation

- Starting the New Nation (Articles of Confederation; Constitution)
- Federalist Era
- 1800-1830 Jefferson, Madison, Monroe (Lewis & Clark; War of 1812; Monroe Doctrine)
- Age of Jackson (2 party system; Trail of Tears)
- Era of Reforms – **Inventions** (McCormick, Goodyear, Howe/Singer, Fulton, Morse) – **Societal Reform** (Dorothea Dix, Garrison, Nat Turner, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman) **Women struggle for equality** (Lucretia Mott; Grimke sisters; Emma Willard; Amelia Bloomer; Elizabeth Blackwell; Elizabeth Cady Stanton; Susan B. Anthony; Julia Ward Howe – 19th Amendment in 1920)

The Nation Grows, Divides, Reunites

- Slavery; Territorial Growth, War with Mexico, Expansion & Conflict
- Civil War
- Reconstruction – Radical Reconstruction
- Jim Crow Laws

The Growth of the Industrial Giant

- American West – Great Plains Conflicts
- Industrial Age (1876-1900) Industries (iron, steel, coal) expand, RRs, unionism, populist movement, urban growth

- Cities and immigrants (immigrant restrictions)
- Progressive Era

World Stage -

- Hawaii, War with Spain;
- WWI
- Roaring 20s, Isolationism
- Great Depression, New Deal & Reform
- 1930s Europe; WWII
- Cold War, Korean War
- Vietnam War

Societal Changes

- 1950s - Suburbia
- 1960s – Kennedy’s New Frontier
- Civil Rights Movement (Kennedy; LBJ)
- Nixon Years
- 1970s – Ford (Pardon of Nixon, Japan, Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, Oil shortages/OPEC, Cambodia) and Carter (Energy Crisis, inflation, ERA defeated, SALT, Camp David Accords, Iranian Revolution - Iran hostage crisis)
- Reagan years (End of the cold war - Evil Empire; telling Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall”; Reaganomics; GOP; Peace through strength; Star wars – strategic defense initiative; nuclear weapons cuts; tax reforms; air traffic control strike)
- George H.W. Bush; Clinton; George W. Bush; Obama; Trump

History

I wanted to mention that in the middle school years, I am having the kids work on different writing and research skills. I've had the kids

- do research papers
- do research and create power point presentations
- write essays
- start reading primary source documents and talk about how those fit into history
- start reading contemporary texts/books (like Uncle Tom's Cabin, for example) and talk about how that fits into the period
- see long term trends... I spend quite a bit of time trying to help them see long term trends... like how country relationships change over time... and influence other regions in the world.

I know that DBQ's (that stands for document based questions) and history essay writing are on the horizon for high school and college level history classes.

Language Arts

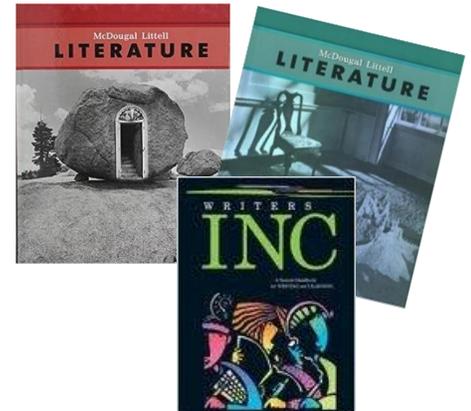
Language Arts – The list of literature books that kids can read is so long, I hesitate to even include any... but here are a few classics that you could start with:

Literature Books: There are so many amazing books, it's hard to create a comprehensive list. Here are a few options to get you started!

<i>Call of the Wild</i>	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry</i>
<i>Tom Sawyer</i>	<i>Lord of the Rings</i>	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	<i>Flowers for Algernon</i>	<i>Animal Farm</i>
<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	<i>Chronicals of Narnia</i>	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
<i>Anne Frank, Diary of a Young Girl</i>		<i>To Be a Slave</i>
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	<i>Little Women</i>	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>
<i>Catch 22</i>	<i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i>	<i>Their Eyes were Watching God</i>
<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	<i>The Sun Also Rises</i>	

Literature Genres: Short stories, poetry, plays. Our family has been using Literature textbooks (McDougal Littell). I have the kids read for 20-30 minutes a day and they really love the selections in these books.

Grammar: This is a really great reference book for **Middle and High School Writing/Grammar:** *Writers Inc, A Student Handbook for Writing and Learning*. It is an excellent writing resource to have on hand for writing itself.



Practice Writing, writing, writing!

Essay Writing Skills (History for Long Essay Questions and Document-Based Questions)

- Thesis Statements
- Documents as Evidence
- Outside Evidence - using historical evidence to support your argument in your essays
- Structuring your Essay
- Contextualization
- Explaining Documents - POV, Situation, Audience, and Purpose
- Historical Reasoning

Language Arts Homeschool Checklist

- Write strong and varied sentences
- Creative writing
- Essay writing
- Research
 - note taking
 - outlines
 - writing papers
- Letter writing
 - informal
 - formal
- Using writing tools
 - power points
 - Word
 - Excel spreadsheets
 - blog writing
- Note taking skills (from lectures)
- Note taking skills (from books)
- Study Skills (being able to condense information and learn it using a method that works for them -- highlighting, index cards, etc.)
- Resumes (eventually, not when the kids are really young!)

WRITING GENRES:

Be familiar with various writing genres. Practice a wide variety of genres in their writing, so they are comfortable and familiar with different styles of writing:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> short stories | <input type="checkbox"/> poetry | <input type="checkbox"/> reference articles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> novels | <input type="checkbox"/> haiku | <input type="checkbox"/> editorials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> novellas | <input type="checkbox"/> limerick | <input type="checkbox"/> TV shows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> historical fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> narrative poem | <input type="checkbox"/> advertising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> science fiction fantasy | <input type="checkbox"/> drama | <input type="checkbox"/> websites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> comedies | <input type="checkbox"/> brochures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> crime | <input type="checkbox"/> historical dramas | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ghost stories/horror | <input type="checkbox"/> radio plays | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> myths | <input type="checkbox"/> biography | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> legends | <input type="checkbox"/> autobiography | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tall tales | <input type="checkbox"/> essays | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fables | <input type="checkbox"/> speeches | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> folk tales | <input type="checkbox"/> news articles | |

LITERARY ANALYSIS:

- plot
- conflict
- setting
- characters
 - character trait
 - words
 - actions
 - protagonist, antagonist
 - archetype
- Voice
 - active vs. passive voice
- Elements of style:
 - point of view
 - first person
 - second person
 - third person
 - dialogue
 - word choice
 - sentence structure
 - imagery
- Sound devices
 - rhyme
 - rhythm
 - repetition
 - alliteration
 - onomatopoeia
- figurative speech
 - metaphor
 - simile
 - personification
- identify and analyze symbols and symbolism
- topics vs. themes
- recurring themes
- universal themes
- Main idea - supporting details
- tone

- mood
- making inferences
- sequences
- foreshadowing
- argument - claim, support, counterargument
- persuasive techniques
 - bandwagon appeal ("everyone else" likes or does something)
 - testimonial (endorsements)
 - snob appeal - desire to be a part of a group
 - loyalty - people's affiliation to a group
 - emotional appeal - pity, fear, vanity
 - word choice

GRAMMAR SKILLS

- capital letters
- commas
- semicolons
- quotation marks
- apostrophes
- italics/underlining
- homophones - their/they're/there, etc.
- plurals
- parts of speech:
 - subject, adjective, adverb, preposition, direct object, indirect object, object of a preposition, pronouns, clause, phrase, article, coordinating conjunctions, interjection, verbs - past, past participle, etc.
- diagramming a sentence
- editing

Polishing your Essay Writing Skills

1. **Assign the essay:** Make sure you have a good grasp on the topic.
2. **Give a set amount of time.**
3. **Read the essay aloud** (Or, read it aloud to yourself.)
4. Go over the **basic expectations of an essay**. Make sure you know how essays are graded.
Evaluate your own essay!

a. Did you show a good understanding of the material? Is the analysis thoughtful and insightful? Do you show original thought?

b. Is the content fair, good, wonderful or superb? Did you cover the basic facts?

c. Did you provide specific details? Did you go above and beyond, really providing some amazing details?

d. Is the main idea clear? Do you have a strong, clear thesis? Is it supported throughout the essay?

e. Is the essay readable? Does it flow well?

f. Are there many grammar and spelling mistakes?

g. Was there a strong introduction that hooked the reader in?

h. How was the conclusion?

5. **Make corrections:**

Identify the places where you've made mistakes. Read through your essays and, using a **red/colored pen or pencil, add in any missing commas and circle any spelling mistakes.**

Foreign Language Checklist

Are you teaching your kids a foreign language in your homeschool? I put together a free checklist of topics and units you might want to cover... no matter which language your student is learning.

I thought it might be useful if I put together a checklist of units and topics you might want to cover as your child starts learning a new language.

By the time your kids are in middle school, you will want to think about adding a foreign language to your homeschool program. Research shows that it is considerably easier for children to pick up a language. In Europe, most students start learning a foreign language in primary school. Most have definitely started by the age of 10. When I taught in a gymnasium (grades 7-12 school) in Hungary, most of my students could speak one language fluently by 10th grade and were well on their way to becoming fluent in their second foreign language as well!

Most of us think of the languages that were offered when we were school: typically, Spanish, French and German. These days there are lots of other options as well: Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Russian, Latin, Italian, and more. Another great option is ASL (American Sign Language). Many people don't realize that learning ASL will fulfill the requirements of a foreign language as well.

There are many options now to at least help students get started:

- Learn songs in the foreign language. (youtube has a lot of options!)
- Play games like bingo to help with vocabulary building
- Role play (Hello, My name is Joe Smith. What is your name? How old are you?)
- Online Programs and Apps can like Duolingo, Memrise, busuu, 24/7 Tutor
- Online Courses: There are lots of different options from courses with video lessons like homeschoolspanishcurriculum.com
- Programs such as Rosetta Stone or Pimsleur. (My sister used Rosetta Stone with her kids for German. I have a friend who had her daughter use Rosetta Stone for Spanish.) These programs did not work for our family when we started.
- Watch TV programs and movies in the foreign language. (This year, my kids have watched about 15 or 20 movies in German!) This helps students learn the rhythm and cadence of the language.

What if you don't have the skill and background to teach a foreign language?

- use an online program
- look for a homeschool class in your area (and ask around in your local homeschool community).
- see if you can trade expertise with another homeschooling parent who can help your kids learn a foreign language
- hire a tutor in person or find an online tutor

Foreign Language Checklist

	Topic	Comments/Notes
	Numbers First Words: hello, goodbye, yes, no, I speak ____ . I don't speak ____ . What is that? What does __ mean? Stand up, Sit down, Listen (pay attention)	
	Greetings and Questions How are you? What is your name? My name is... How old are you? I am __ years old.	
	Family Words Conversation /Role Play What's your name? How old are you? This is my brother/sister/etc. Possessive Pronouns	
	What is that? Do you have? Objects: Things around the room	
	Parts of the Body What do people look like (My brother has brown eyes.)	
	Clothes Colors The pants are blue. etc. Introduction to adjectives (grammar)	
	Animals Pets Wild Animals	
	Food Fruits and vegetables Meals Ordering Going shopping role play	

	House – Household Items	
	Time – Numbers	
	Weather, seasons, holidays What is the weather? What season is it? Over time we built up our vocabulary of fall words, winter words, spring words, summer words	
	Health and Illness I have a fever. I'm sick. Do you have a runny nose?	
	Daily routines getting up brushing teeth, eating breakfast going to bed etc.	
	Chores around the house Washing the dishes Doing the laundry Making the bed Vacuuming, etc.	
	Hobbies, activities Playing soccer, piano, chess Riding a bike, etc.	
	Verbs (Grammar) Regular vs. Irregular verbs	
	Country words, Farm City words, buildings Directions Traveling (airport, train station, transportation)	
	Jobs, occupations Student subjects in school	
	Vacation Role playing	

High School, Level Courses

This is a list of some of the type of courses available to students at the high school level. This is probably not a complete list but might be a starting point as you look towards homeschooling through high school.

High School Mathematics

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2
- Trigonometry
- Pre-Calculus
- Calculus 1 & 2

English

- American literature
- British literature
- Contemporary literature
- Creative writing
- Communication skills
- Debate
- English language and composition
- English literature and composition
- Humanities
- Journalism
- Literary analysis

Science

- Agriculture
- Astronomy
- Biology
- Botany
- Chemistry
- Earth science
- Electronics
- Environmental science
- Environmental studies
- Forensic science
- Geology
- Marine biology
- Oceanography
- Physical science
- Physics
- Zoology

Other Courses

- Psychology

Business

- Accounting
- Business law
- Business management
- Consumer education
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Introduction to business
- Marketing
- Personal finance

Computer Science/Information Technology

- Animation
- App development
- Audio production
- Computer programming
- Computer repair
- Film production
- Graphic design
- Media technology
- Music production
- Typing
- Video game development
- Web design
- Web programming
- Word processing

If your student knows what college he/she is interested in, you might want to check out the kind of requirements needed for that college/university. Some schools require math through a certain level, two or four years of a foreign language, science courses such as biology, chemistry and physics and so forth. The earlier you look into college applications, the less stressful the process will be down the road!

Performing Arts

- Choir
- Concert band
- Dance
- Drama
- Guitar
- Jazz band
- Marching band
- Music theory
- Orchestra
- Percussion
- Piano
- Theater technology
- World music

Visual Arts

- 3-D art
- Art history
- Ceramics
- Digital media
- Drawing
- Film production
- Jewelry design
- Painting
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture

Vocational Education

- Auto body repair
- Auto mechanics
- Building construction
- Computer-aided drafting
- Cosmetology
- Criminal justice
- Driver education
- Electronics
- FFA
- Fire science
- Heating and cooling systems
- Hospitality and tourism
- JROTC
- Metalworking
- Networking
- Plumbing
- Production technology
- Refrigeration fundamentals
- Robotics
- Woodworking

Advanced Placement Courses

- US Government
- European History
- World History
- U.S. History
- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Environmental Science
- Human Geography
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Statistics
- Computer Science
- Computer Science Principles
- Music Theory
- Art History
- Physics
- Psychology
- Foreign Languages (Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Spanish, Spanish Literature)

College-Level Courses

- American Government
- Beginning Algebra
- Biology
- Calculus
- Chemistry
- College Algebra
- Economics
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Physics 1

SAT Subject Tests: Some colleges request/require certain SAT subject test. Every test is now a one-hour timed test; multiple choice questions. There are 20 SAT Subject Tests in five general subject areas: English, history, languages, mathematics and science.

[This is a list of the colleges that require, recommend and/or consider the SAT subject test.](#)

AP vs. CLEP exams –AP=prestige science or engineering, AP offers more suitable tests CLEP= Not as prestigious. No need for an expensive course. CLEP was designed with self-study in mind. Year-round testing available.

We are a team! If you have suggestions of subjects, topics or skills to add to this resource guide, please feel free to send me a note! You can always reach me by email here:

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~Liesl