

History Checklist

World History Units	
	Ancient World
	Ancient Egypt
	Ancient Greece
	Ancient Rome
	Middle Ages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medieval Church and Monasteries • King Arthur • Charlemagne • Feudalism • England and France 800-1000 • Crusades • 1300s Black Plague, Hundred Years War
	Muslim Empire - Spread of Islam
	Renaissance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medici Family • Renaissance Artists: da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael and their Patrons • Holy Roman Empire, Albrecht Dürer
	Reformation
	Age of Absolutism
	Music Appreciation: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary Composers
	Explorers
	American and French Revolutions/Napoleon
	Nationalism
	Imperialism
	World War I
	Great Depression
	World War II
American History Units	
	Native Americans
	Early Colonies
	American Revolution
	Westward Expansion - Ohio Valley Settlement (French and Indian War), Tecumseh, Trail of Tears, Lewis and Clark, Mountain Men, the West
	Slavery, Plantation System
	Civil War
	Inventions
	Industrialization, Big Business, Progressive Era
	1920s
	Civil Rights Movement
	1950s - Cold War, 1960s, 1970s
	Vietnam War

Unit Studies

Regions or Countries & General Topics

	China
	India
	Africa
	Russia
	Australia (Aboriginal Culture, Settlement of Australia)
	Civics - Government (A study of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, How our government functions on a national, state and local level)
	Economics

Building Historical Skills

Mapping

Understand regional differences

Look at symbols and landmarks from different cultures

Categorizing

Placing events in a larger historical context - via timelines, chronology

Understand different individuals' role in history

See different points of view

Interpreting political cartoons

Graphing, reading tables

Identifying different perspectives

Analyzing primary sources such as photos, posters, documents, cartoons, etc.

Be able to see cause and effect

start to see turning points in history

see historical developments that occur not just in one society, but in multiple areas -- (See how events are interconnected)

Historical Props:

Start to understand how these play into the field of history:

written documents,

historic images such as pictures, paintings,
illustrations;

music and songs,

biographies,

maps,

political cartoons,

oral traditions,

artifacts,

archaeological evidence

History Activity Ideas

It is easy to incorporate creative lessons into history. In the early years, students can do art projects, lap books and interactive notebooks. They can do hands-on geography projects and posters. As kids get older, they can delve into history more, beginning to understand the complexity of certain issues and how issues and events grow from the past.

- Interactive Slides - Share the spotlight with pictures from the past
- Analyze Historical Images - paintings, photographs, maps, illustrations, etc.
- Use maps to show changing political boundaries
- Use political cartoons
- Create questions that lead to discovery -- Have students progress from basic observations about an image to interpretation. Then go on to analyze images.
- Create opportunities for students to understand the deeper emotions and circumstances surrounding historical events.

Mini-dramas - Act out scenes. Have students take on the facial expressions someone from that era/event/scene would have. Create a dramatic presentation that brings to life the experience of one social group.

Create historical simulations

Role play -- have students take on famous historical figures. Have them meet, greet and discuss, issues staying in that role. (Then have them switch positions and take the other side of an issue)

Conduct fake interviews... have students play a role and interview them (news style). Ask probing questions.

Have the students play historical detective... Look for hidden meanings in paintings, cartoons, etc.

Bring in period music when students act out a particular scene/meeting/painting/photo.

Match a photo (painting, cartoon) with its descriptive paragraph.

Evaluate historical events -- rate them as ethical/unethical... by standards of that day... by today's standards. Debate and discuss.

Look for bias and different perspectives on historical issues (for example, examine WWI posters from the Central Powers and Allied points of view)

Challenge stereotypes... Understand stereotypes from that period... and from today's lens.

Learn to analyze bias, perspective, stereotypes, etc. with **creative writing assignments**:

- Spectrum of Views: Challenge the students to find multiple perspectives on issues (such as slavery, women's rights, prohibition, etc.)
- Write a letter to the editor
- Have the students take one side of an issue and write a letter to a friend/relative from that time sharing their opinion.
- React to a quote from the time
- create a poster from the time (propaganda piece)

Experiential Exercises:

- recreate historical moments, events, circumstances
- Create a physical or emotional experience for the students
- create role-cards each containing a description of a character to play during the activity. Provide general parameters of how the character would react.
- transform the space into the historical setting
- Recreate a scene/event
- Discuss and debrief
- What did students learn being in the historical shoes of others?
- Did they connect emotionally to the role they were playing?

Examples: Assembly line -- how alienated/isolated people might feel working in that setting with a repetitive, monotonous job
Trench warfare

**Increase empathy for an event (Great Depression when people lost their life savings, the danger someone would be in hiding a fugitive slave in the 1850s or Jewish family in the WWII)

**Help students understand the conditions in order to understand the behavior of a person or group of people in history

**Capture the moment or feeling of that period

Create multimedia presentations about historical periods -- using music, dance, written resources, slides, video...

Create a Press Conference -- that helps explain the complex nature of the period, multiple view points, the volatility of that period (anger, frustrations of the people involved)

Create an advertisement to convince others of your view.

Have a panel discussion with famous historical figures or assign specific roles.

Create a frozen statue scene of an event/period. (Students get into certain pose, with create a plaque for their statue). Students have a set amount of time to discuss how to arrange themselves and create a statue that illustrates daily life, a particular scene, etc.

Mask: Have the students use a mask to help transform them into a different historical figure and role play that person.

You Make the Decision: Take a well-known event in history where one person (seemingly) made a decision. Role play and explain how/why you made a decision (or why you would change your actions.)

History Writing Assignments

- Write a letter to a historical figure explaining how you feel about them
- Write letters that convey the feelings of a person from that period (ie. have a soldier write a letter home)
- Write a dialogue between two historical figures
- Write a eulogy for a historical figure - elaborate on that person's legacy
- Create a "wanted" or "hero" poster that highlight's a historical figures "crimes" or accomplishments
- Write a historical journal entry to bring to life events of the past (use colloquial language of the time)
- Oral history
- Interviews
- Editorials - Write a letter to the editor
- Integrate your knowledge of history by writing a historical fiction story
- Read poems from that period, then write your own poem
- Create a cartoon history of...

History Questions and Research

develop essay writing skills -- write essays that include a clear thesis statement, supporting details, conclusion, etc.

learn to do research and write research papers

write a position paper that takes a definitive stand on a controversial issue

Here are some of the units we have covered so far. You will find this list here: <http://homeschoolden.com/history-units/>

World and U.S. Geography and Landmarks

- [World Facts Packet](#) – Do your kids know the 4 largest countries? Which countries have the most people? The longest river? This packet covers basic world and U.S. facts. We often start out the semester going over some basic information such as: *What are the 4 largest countries in the world? What countries have the largest population? Then we went over some basic facts about world geographical features (the longest river, tallest mountains, largest cities, etc.) and more.



- [Free World Map Printables, World at Night Images, Outline Maps, etc.](#) – A free printable with really nice quality world maps.



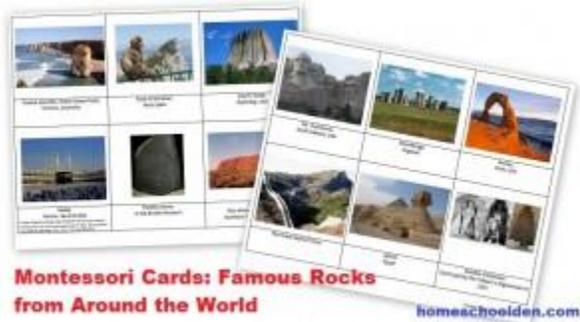
- [Famous World Landmarks – Free Montessori 3-Part Cards](#)



- [U.S. Landmarks and Symbols: Free Montessori 3-Part Cards](#)



- [Famous Rocks around the World](#)



- [Wonderful Geography Games for Kids \(ages 8-12\)](#)

Ages 3-6:

- [Montessori Geography Activities \(Free Montessori World Map Printable\)](#)

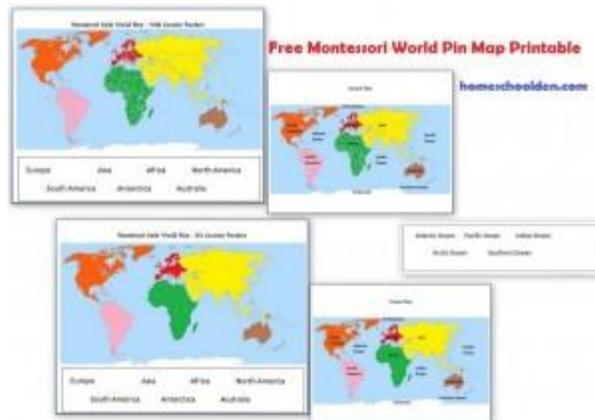


Montessori World Pin Map

Make your own World Pin Map with cardboard, foam, clear contact paper, and a world map.



homeschoolden.com



- [Hands-On Geography for 4-10 yr olds \(or so\)](#)
- [Preschool Geography](#): Activities for learning about where we live in the world, Montessori world map work and more
- [Preschool Geography: Maps and More](#)



- [PreK: The Seven Continents and World Landmarks Activity](#)



U.S. Civics and Government Unit

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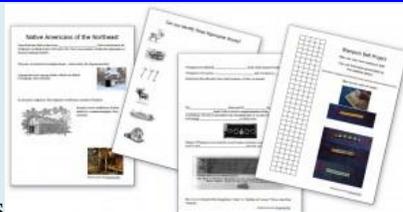
- [U.S. Civics and Government Unit \(3 Branches of Government and More!\)](#)



Native American Studies

Native Americans Unit

- [Native Americans of the Northeast Unit \(Part I, Algonquian Indians\)](#) - free notebook



pages

The American West

- [Native Americans of the Northeast Unit \(Part II, Iroquois Indians\)](#)



- [6 Native American Picture Books for Kids](#)
- [Native Americans of the Southeast: Cherokee, Seminole Indians, Trail of Tears](#)
- [A Visit with Pocahontas' Great \(x12\) Granddaughter](#)

The American West:

(the kids were quite young for this unit):

- [American West Unit: Forts](#)
- [Lewis and Clark, Fruit Leather and More](#)
- [American West Geography and the Louisiana Purchase](#)
- [The Oregon Trail](#)

Ancient Aztecs, Mayans and Incas (We did a lot of fun, color crafts for this unit. The kids were fairly young at the time.)

- [Ancient Mayan Civilization Unit](#)
- [History of Chocolate from the Mayans to Today](#)



- [Ancient Mayan Indian Unit: Rugs](#)
- [Ancient Mayan Indian Unit: Wood Animalitos – Oaxacan \(Mexican\) Folk Art](#)



- [Ancient Mayan Indian Unit: God's Eye Yarn Craft](#)
- [Aztecs and Incas](#)

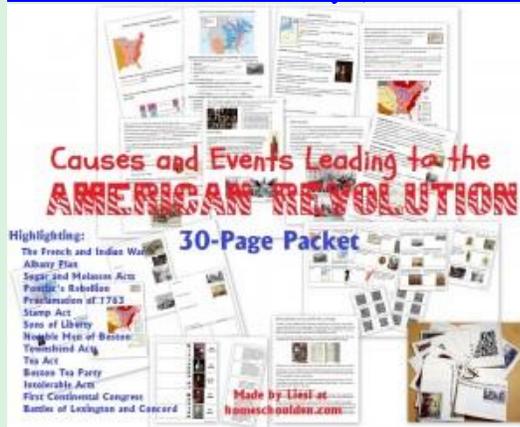
Causes of
the

Causes of the American Revolution

- [American Revolution Unit: Books, Movies and Resources for Kids](#)

American Revolution

- [Causes of and Events Leading to the American Revolution \(30-Page Packet\)](#)
- [American Revolution Play \(For 3 or More Actors\)](#)



Slavery in the U.S.

Slavery in the U.S.

We have not yet studied the Civil War formally, but we have talked extensively about slavery in the U.S.

- [Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: Free Notebook Pages](#)



- We talked about slavery here: [Free Civil Rights Packet: Timeline of Events Leading to the Civil Rights Movement](#) — This packet covers the 350 year history prior to the Civil Rights Era. It also includes several pages of photos so kids can make their own timeline.

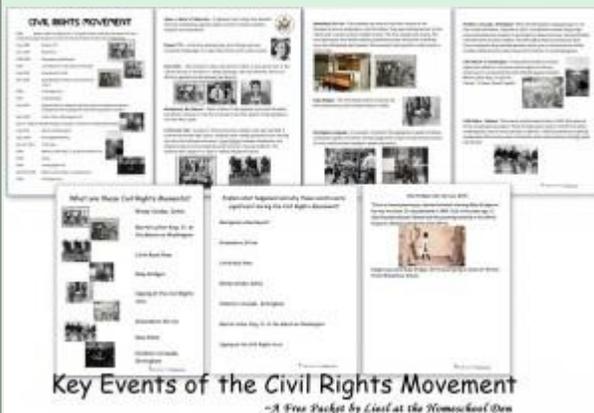
Civil Rights Movement

Civil Rights Movement

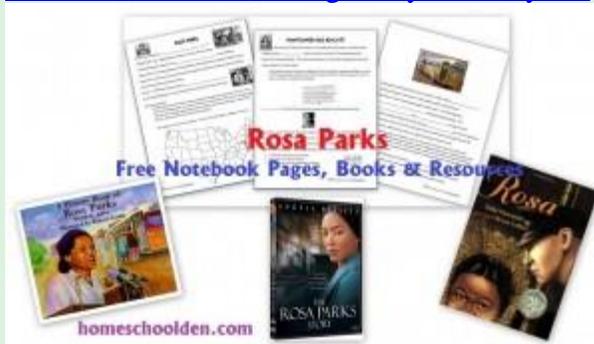
- [Civil Rights Movement Lessons \(Free Packet\)](#) – In some ways this is the core of what I want the kids to learn from this unit... what are rights? What is the difference between someone's rights and a privilege? What is it like to be a part of a group? When can it be hard/painful to be left out? Judging people by what they look like. The power of speeches. This is a 13 page packet of discussion questions and lesson ideas on all that and terms like prejudice, bias, racism, etc.



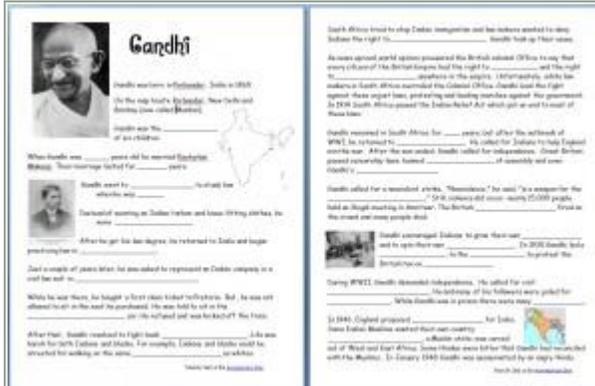
- [Civil Rights Books for Elementary](#)
- [Free Civil Rights Packet: Timeline of Events Leading to the Civil Rights Movement](#) — This packet covers the 350 year history prior to the Civil Rights Era. It also includes several pages of photos so kids can make their own timeline.
- [Key Events of the Civil Rights Movement \(free packet\)](#)



- [Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott](#)



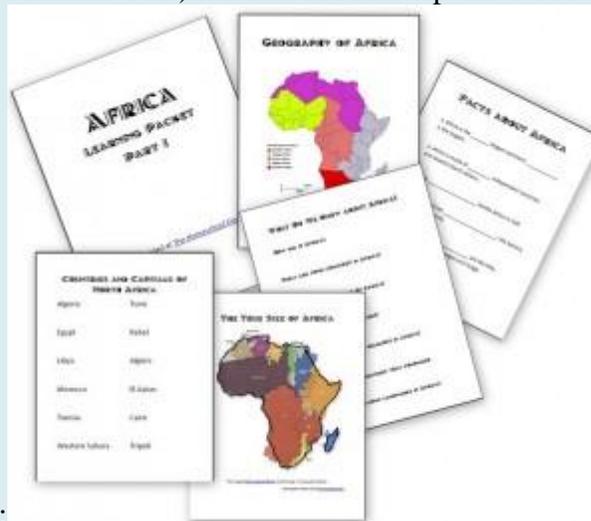
- [Civil Rights Movement: School Integration, Sit-Ins and Selma](#) – books and movies my kids loved
- [Gandhi – free worksheets/notebook pages](#)



Africa Unit

Africa: Overview of our Unit: One year we did a huge unit on Africa. We started with basic facts about the countries of North Africa. Spent some time studying Ancient Egypt (and modern Egypt), before then moving to West Africa. We studied Islam and the spread of Islam across North and West Africa. We learned about the empires of Ghana and Mali and spent time learning about Mansa Musa, emperor of Mali from 1312-1337.

- [Geography of Africa — The Countries and Physical Features](#) – We started our Africa Unit learning some basic facts about Africa... some of the countries and capitals, the size (compared to the U.S.) and more. See the picture of the free Africa Learning Packet



to the below:

- These posts on [Ancient Egypt](#) which also includes a free notebook page about the [Ancient Egyptian Gods and Goddesses worksheets](#)



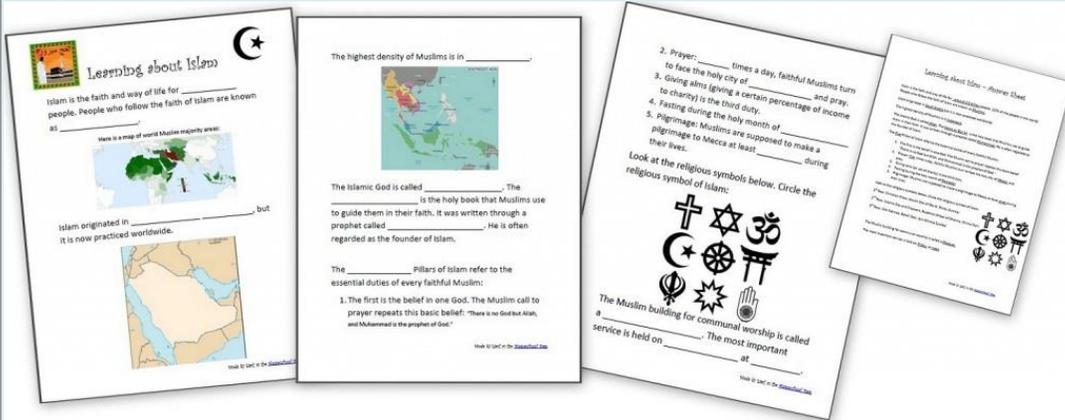
Africa Unit



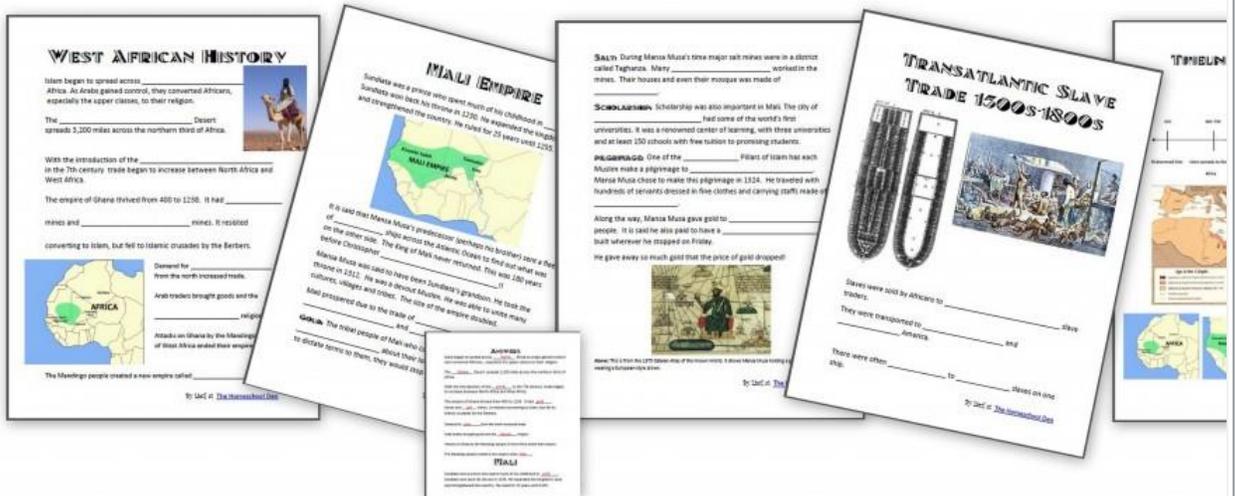
- [Ancient Egypt Death Mask Craft](#)
- [Ancient Egypt Hieroglyphic Generator](#)



- [Ancient Egypt Project: Creating the Nile River Valley](#)
- [Learning about Islam — Free Worksheets and Resources for Kids](#) (We learned the religion of Islam and then learned about the spread of Islam across North Africa and down into West Africa.)



- [West African History — Free Notebook Pages, African Picture Books](#) – which includes these free pages



- [West African Art Projects: Moroccan Tiles, African Masks, African Music](#)
- [Learning about West Africa: Children's Games and more](#)

- [Cooking with Kids: A Taste of Africa and the Middle East](#)
- [The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery in the New World](#) (includes free notebook pages)



[World Facts Packet](#)

India and China Units

One year, we spent a semester studying India and then the second semester studying China. Here are some of those posts:

India Unit

- [Free India Learning Packet](#)



India and China Units

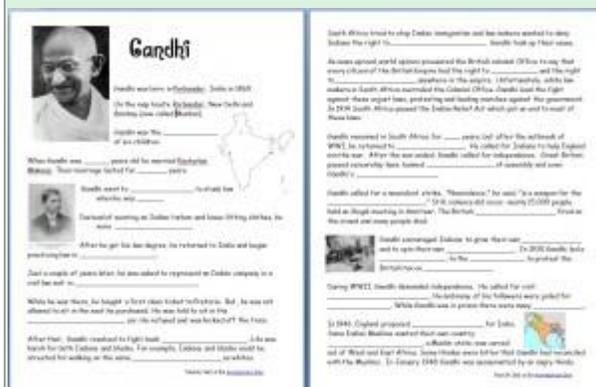
- [Learning about Hinduism: The Hindu Gods and Goddesses](#)



- [Buddhism Learning Pack](#)

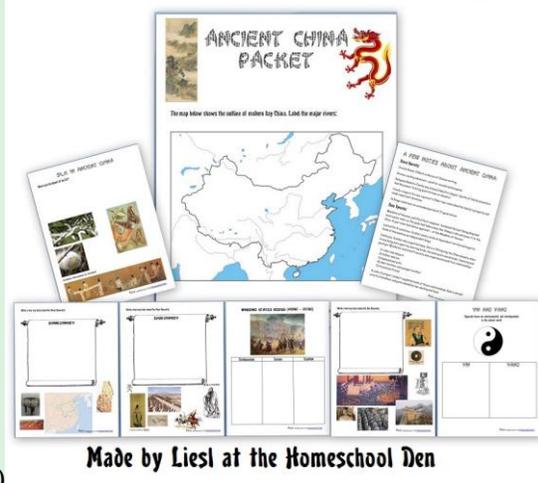


- [Gandhi – free worksheets/notebook pages](#)



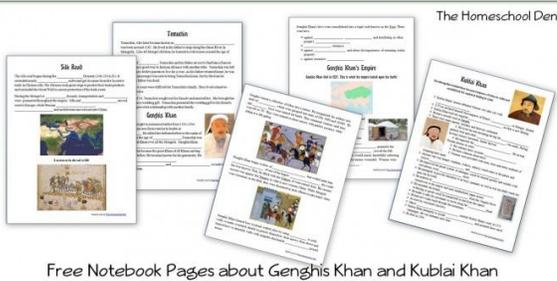
China Unit

- [China Fact Sheet](#)
- [China Unit: A Huge List of Children's Books](#)
- [Ancient China Packet](#) (Free Notebook Pages about the early dynasties: Shang, Zhou,



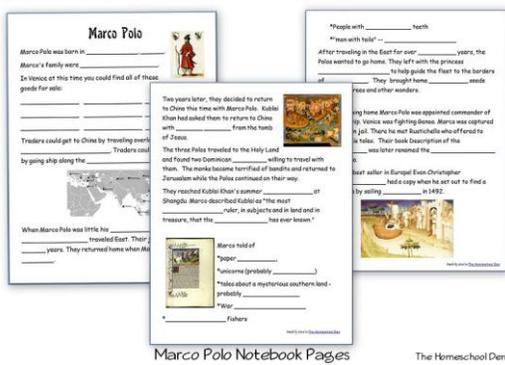
Qin)

- [Chinese Brush Painting Lesson](#)
- [Free Confucianism Notebook Pages](#)
- [Buddhism Learning Pack](#)
- [Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan — Free Notebook Pages, Books, and Resources](#)



Free Notebook Pages about Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan

- [Marco Polo – Free Notebook Pages, Books and Resources](#)



Marco Polo Notebook Pages The Homeschool Den

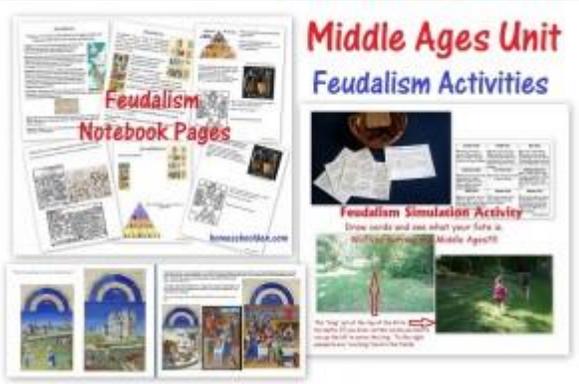
- [China for Ages 3-6: China Lapbook, Chinese New Year Activities](#)



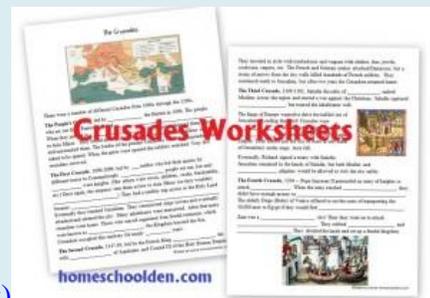
Middle Ages Unit

Middle Ages Unit

- [Feudalism and Medieval Life Packet](#)



- [Middle Ages Unit: The Medieval Church and Monasteries Worksheets](#)
- [Middle Ages: King Arthur, Charlemagne](#)
- [Middle Ages Projects and Books](#)
- [Middle Ages – Notebook Pages on England and France \(800-1200\)](#)



- [Crusades Notebook Pages \(Middle Ages Unit\)](#)
- [The Four Alls \(Learning about Feudalism in the Middle Ages\)](#) – a project we did when the kids were younger
- [Middle Ages in the 1300s: Hundred Years' War, Crusades, Black Plague, Black Plague Simulation](#)



Renaissance and Reformation

- [Early Renaissance: The Medici Family and Early Renaissance Art Notebook Pages](#)



- [Renaissance Artists Worksheets on Michelangelo, da Vinci, Raphael and their Patrons](#)



- [Renaissance Worksheets: Holy Roman Empire, Albrecht Durer](#)



- Reformation Worksheets and Lapbook Pieces – Martin Luther

Renaissance and Reformation