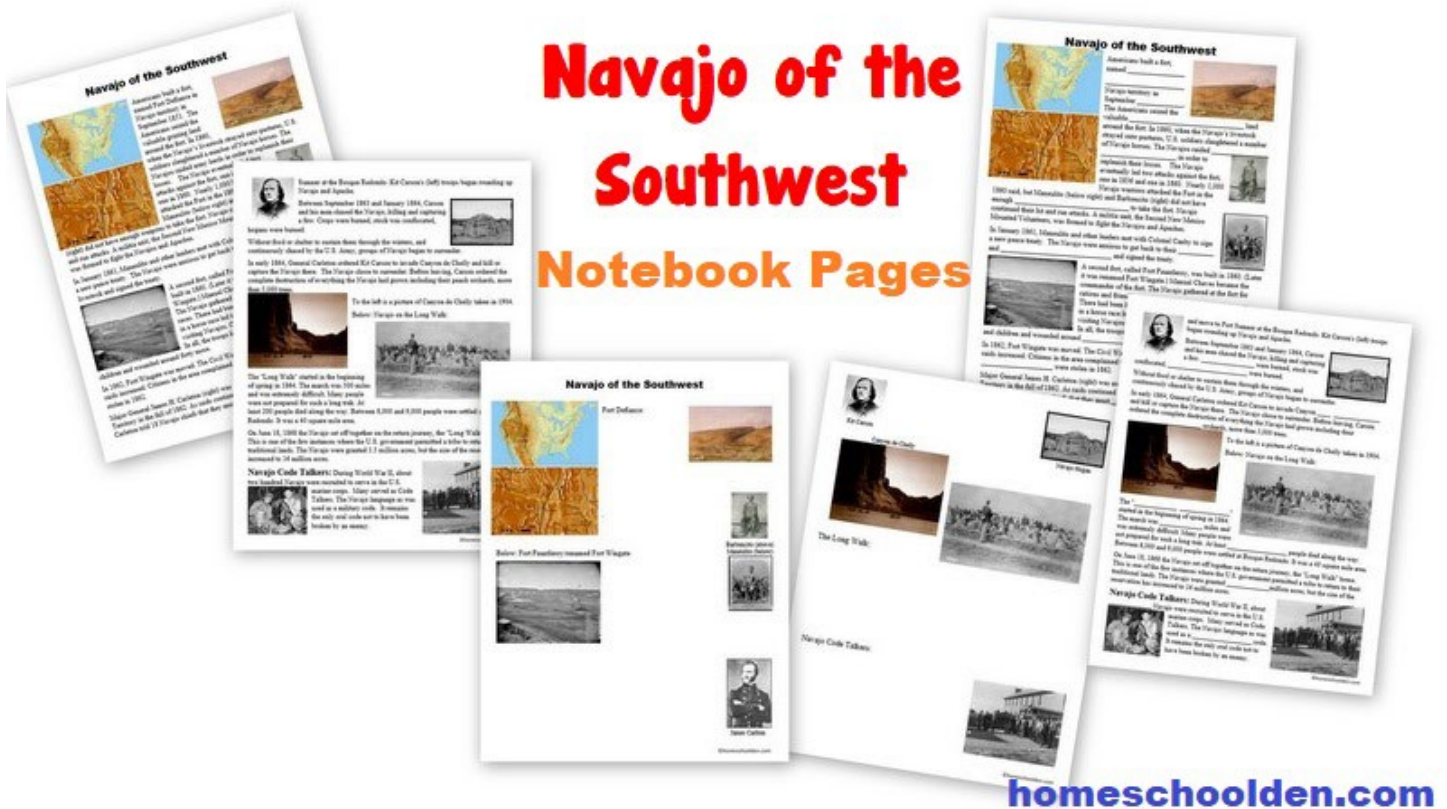


**Made by Liesl**  
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# Navajo of the Southwest



Americans built a fort, named Fort Defiance in Navajo territory in September 1851. The Americans seized the valuable grazing land around the fort. In 1860,



when the Navajo's livestock strayed onto pastures, U.S. soldiers slaughtered a number of Navajo horses. The Navajos raided army herds in order to replenish their losses. The Navajo eventually led two attacks against the fort, one in 1856 and one in 1860. Nearly 1,000 Navajo warriors attacked the Fort in the 1860 raid, but Maneulito (below right) and Barboncito (right) did not have

enough weapons to take the fort. Navajo continued their hit and run attacks. A militia unit, the Second New Mexico Mounted Volunteers, was formed to fight the Navajos and Apaches.

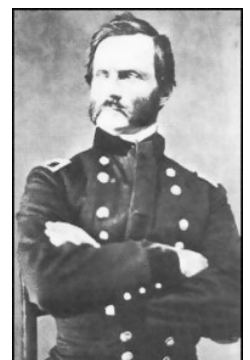
In January 1861, Maneulito and other leaders met with Colonel Canby to sign a new peace treaty. The Navajo were anxious to get back to their crops and livestock and signed the treaty.



A second fort, called Fort Fauntleroy, was built in 1860. (Later it was renamed Fort Wingate.) Manuel Chaves became the commander of the fort. The Navajo gathered at the fort for rations and friendly horse races. There had been heavy betting. Allegations of cheating in a horse race led to a fight between Chaves's men and visiting Navajos. Chaves ordered his men to fire at the Navajo. In all, the troops killed twelve Navajo men, women, and children and wounded around forty more.

In 1862, Fort Wingate was moved. The Civil War was in full swing. Navajo raids increased. Citizens in the area complained that nearly 30,000 sheep were stolen in 1862.

Major General James H. Carleton (right) was assigned to the New Mexico Territory in the fall of 1862. As raids continued in 1862 and into 1863, Carleton told 18 Navajo chiefs that they must surrender and move to Fort



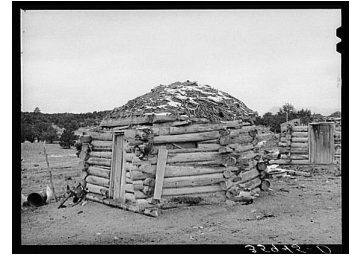




Sumner at the Bosque Redondo. Kit Carson's (left) troops began rounding up Navajo and Apache.

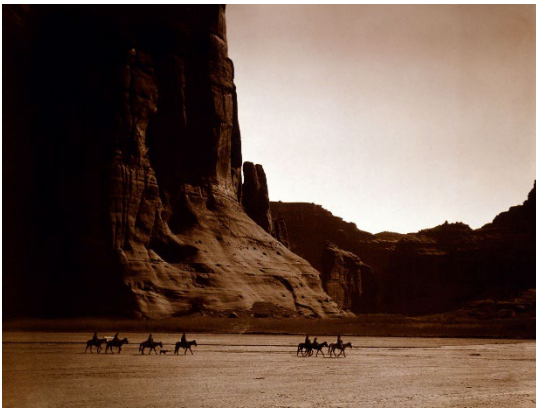
Between September 1863 and January 1864, Carson and his men chased the Navajo, killing and capturing a few. Crops were burned, stock was confiscated,

hogans were burned.



Without food or shelter to sustain them through the winters, and continuously chased by the U.S. Army, groups of Navajo began to surrender.

In early 1864, General Carleton ordered Kit Carson to invade Canyon de Chelly and kill or capture the Navajo there. The Navajo chose to surrender. Before leaving, Carson ordered the complete destruction of everything the Navajo had grown including their peach orchards, more than 5,000 trees.



To the left is a picture of Canyon de Chelly taken in 1904.

Below: Navajo on the Long Walk:



The "Long Walk" started in the beginning of spring in 1864. The march was 300 miles and was extremely difficult. Many people were not prepared for such a long trek. At least 200 people died along the way. Between 8,000 and 9,000 people were settled at Bosque Redondo. It was a 40 square mile area.

On June 18, 1868 the Navajo set off together on the return journey, the "Long Walk" home. This is one of the few instances where the U.S. government permitted a tribe to return to their traditional lands. The Navajo were granted 3.5 million acres, but the size of the reservation has increased to 16 million acres.

**Navajo Code Talkers:** During World War II, about two hundred Navajo were recruited to serve in the U.S.



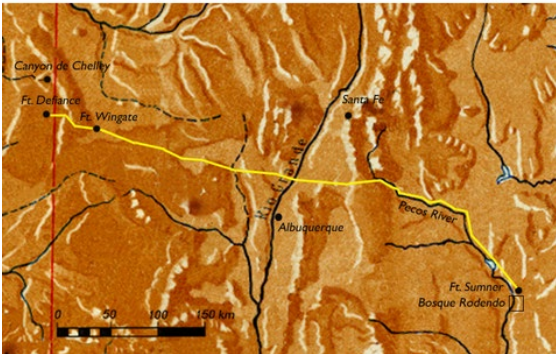
marine corps. Many served as Code Talkers. The Navajo language as was used as a military code. It remains the only oral code not to have been broken by an enemy.



# Navajo of the Southwest



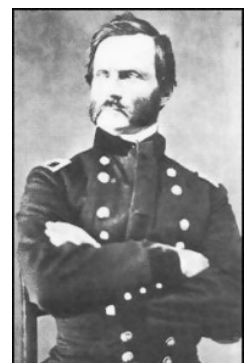
Fort Defiance:



Below: Fort Fauntleroy/renamed Fort Wingate



Barboncito (above)  
Maneulito (below)



James Carlton



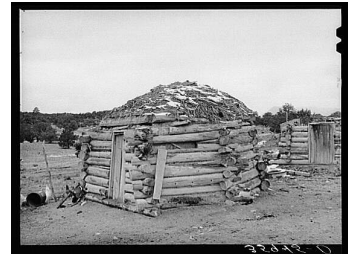


Kit Carson

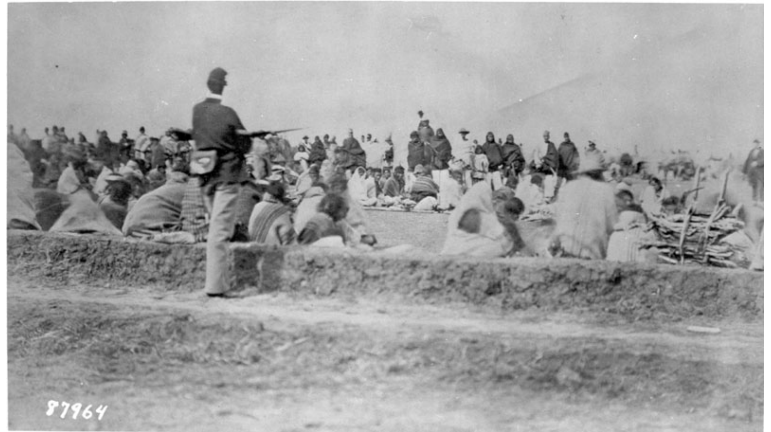
Canyon de Chelly



The Long Walk:



Navajo Hogan



Navajo Code Talkers:



# Navajo of the Southwest



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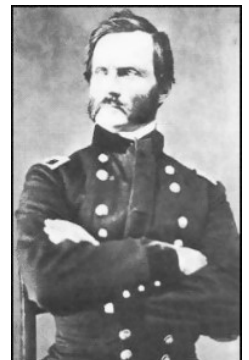


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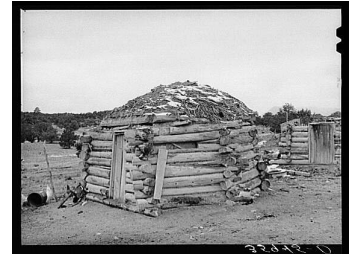


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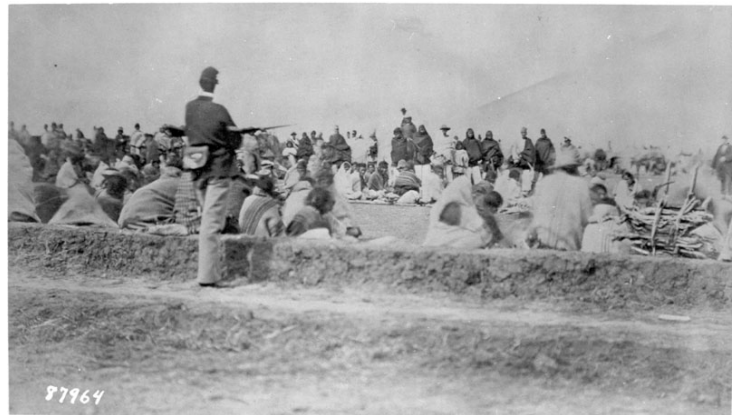


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## **A Visit to Canyon de Chelly in the Navajo Nation**

After we studied this material, we made a wonderful trip to Canyon de Chelly. I wanted to share our pictures with you now, if they are of interest. ~Liesl and the Kids

Here is the post I wrote about our stay:

We arrived at the Spider Rock Campground at Canyon de Chelly in the evening after a full day (about 10 hours!!) of driving... Howard, the owner of the campground was amazing and treated us like long-lost friends!! (I had emailed with him a number of times to make sure we had accommodations since the kids and I had to drive hundreds (and hundreds!!) of miles to get there.)

We had a tent, but opted to stay in a traditional Navajo Hogan. The kids absolutely loved that (and so did I)!! We soon got ourselves settled in and Howard brought us some firewood (which was great because a) we had s'mores (Yum!!) and b) it cooled off pretty quickly (since it was May).



**Staying in a Hogan at Canyon de Chelly,  
Navajo Reservation in Arizona**





The whole experience at Canyon de Chelly was unforgettable... in part because we had spent so much time learning about the history of the Navajo in the spring and in part because Howard was such an amazing host and guide.

ED and I were the first ones up. We decided to go for a walk out to the edge of the canyon. Canyon de Chelly is about 27 miles long. Our campground hosts' dogs escorted us all the way out to the edge of the canyon (which ED loved, of course!!).



**Morning walk to the edge of  
Canyon de Chelly**



Our campground host, Howard, was our guide the next day in Canyon de Chelly.

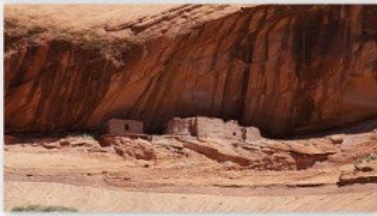
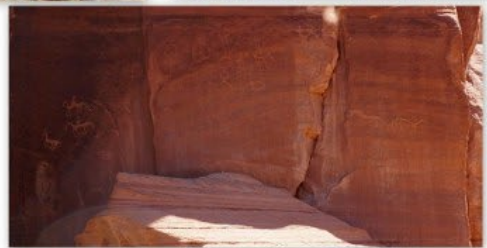


We did a jeep tour within the canyon. It was fun 4-wheel-driving across and through the river all along the canyon!





It was a truly amazing tour and Howard went above and beyond... spending a ton of time explaining the history of the area, pointing out the ancient 6,000 year old Anasazi ruins and pictographs within the canyon.





These pictographs were done by ancient Anasazi Indians who lived in the region.



White

**House Ruins**



[homeschoolden.com](http://homeschoolden.com)

**Navajo Pictograph at Standing Cow Ruin**





This mural shows an entourage of Spanish soldiers accompanied by a priest, several Indians and dogs.

According to some online sources, this is a 19th century pictograph which depicts Lt Antonio Narbona and his Spanish forces. Narbona took troop of soldiers to the area in January 1805 in response to a Navajo raid. The Navajo had made attacks on a Spanish military posts and nearby settlements because they were trying to recover grazing lands at the foot of Mt. Taylor (one of their sacred mountains).

The Spanish force battled the Navajos in 1805 and massacred 115 of them. They and took 33 women and children as slaves.



### **Fortress Rock & Kit Carson's Campaign against the Navajo**

At one point, Howard stopped and talked about Kit Carson's campaign against the Navajo. As many of you know, the kids and I spent a couple of months studying some of the history about the Navajos (Cheyenne and Lakota Sioux) before we left on our trip. (See our free packet about Navajo history here.) But to see where this took place in person was amazing!

Kit Carson had a reputation for being sympathetic and accommodating to tribes such as the Mescaleros, Kiowas, and Navajo, but Carson waged a brutal campaign against the Navajo in 1863. Many Navajo were rounded up and soldiers destroyed homes and supplies, burned crops and peach orchards.

Two Navajo chiefs, Barboncito and Manuelito had both vowed not to surrender. The two led their followers to a rocky butte known as Fortress Rock, where the two canyons (Canyon de Chelly and Canyon del Muerto) join up.



Here the Navajos had stockpiled food and were able to hold out against the army's incursions into the canyon.

Howard pointed to the end of the rock and said that the Navajo had long ladders which would allow them to descend into the canyon at night for water. They were able to hold out for quite some time. However, this isolated position left the Navajo without many necessities for the coming winter. Howard told us that at one point a young Navajo made noise (shot at the soldiers, I think he told us) and the Navajo were discovered and were forced to come down. Then they too were forced to make the **Long Walk** some three hundred miles from their home in Arizona to a reservation in eastern New Mexico. (There were more than 50 forced marches between August 1864 and the end of 1866.) Many Navajo died along the way.





*Note:* In 1868, the Navajo people were allowed to return to their lands. This is one of the few instances where the U.S. government permitted a tribe to return to their traditional boundaries. The Navajo were granted 3.5 million acres and eventually this increased to about 16 million acres. This semi-autonomous territory is called the Navajo Nation.



At one point, we asked Howard if he knew anyone who a Navajo Code Talker (in World War II). He told us that his uncle was trained to be a Code Talker. He was to be a replacement if there were casualties, but he was never sent overseas.

After the tour, Howard dropped us off at the visitor center and then the kids and I drove along the rim and checked out the area we had just spent hours exploring!! The views from the top were beautiful... but seeing the 6,000 year old Anasazi cliff ruins and all of the ancient pictographs was unforgettable! Not to mention Howard and his insights and stories!!



About 40 Navajo families live within the canyon:





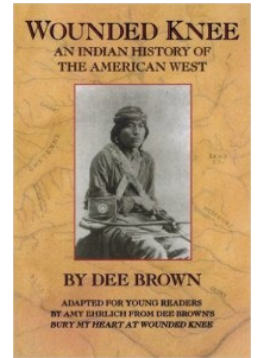
The next morning, we packed up and headed on for more adventures in Arizona... the Petrified Forest and Montezuma's Castle. We'll share more about that in our next post! :)

About a year and a half ago, we did a unit on Native Americans. We covered the [Algonquian Indians](#) and [Iroquois of the Northeast](#), the [Cherokee and Seminole Indians of the Southeast \(and Trail of Tears\)](#), but after that we had to move on to another unit. (These links will take you to those notebook pages)

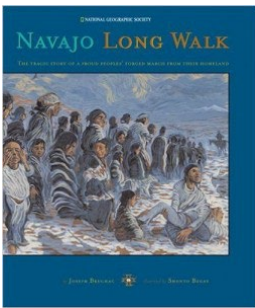
We took a trip out West and hope to spent time both in Arizona visiting some of the national parks on (and near) Navajo Nation lands. We visited Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, the Petrified Forest as well as Antelope Canyon.

To make the whole experience more meaningful, we dove into some history of the West in the 1860s-1890s.

As our spine, we are using [Wounded Knee : an Indian history of the American West](#) (*affiliate link*) by Dee Brown ; adapted for young readers by Amy Ehrlich. I read Dee Brown's classic [Bury my heart at Wounded Knee](#) (*affiliate link*) years ago, but chose to use the adapted version with my kids (they are currently 8, 10, 12).



We read the first chapter, *The Long Walk of the Navajo*, for this part of our unit. The kids were moved (and saddened).



We also read the powerful book by Joseph Bruchac, [Navajo Long Walk: The Tragic Story of a Proud People's Forced March from their Homeland](#). We got more out of this book having read and learned a bit about the Navajo first. I definitely recommend this book. It is recommended for grades 4 to 8, but my 2nd grader was riveted by it too. Again, they were shocked by things like the Navajo children being sold as slaves and the description of the walk itself.

We are also reading a novel about a Navajo girl on the Long Walk. I'm not sure how I feel about it yet, so won't recommend it til we're closer to the end. We also got a couple of books on the Navajo from the library and recommend that you see what your library has on hand because my kids enjoyed pouring through the pictures and maps.

## Photo Credits:

Manuelito - <https://www.loc.gov/item/97519186/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Barboncito.jpg>

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kit\\_Carson,\\_about\\_1860.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kit_Carson,_about_1860.jpg)

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/code-talkers/images/letter-02.jpg>

<https://www.loc.gov/item/93505931/>

<http://www.museumsyndicate.com/tag.php?id=62>

Cpl. Henry Bake, Jr., and Pfc. George H. Kirk, Navajos serving in December 1943 with a Marine Corps signal unit, operate a portable radio set in a clearing that they have hacked in the dense jungle close behind the front lines. (NARA, 127-N-69889B)

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# History Units - Homeschool Den

You might be interested in some of our other history packets:

## World History – Ancient

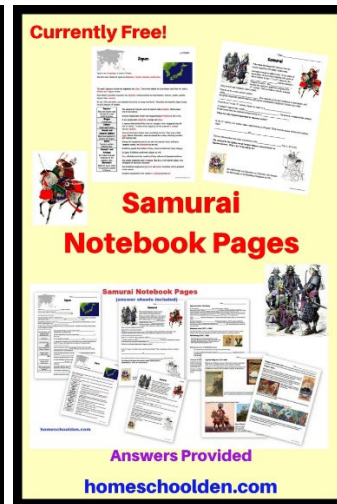
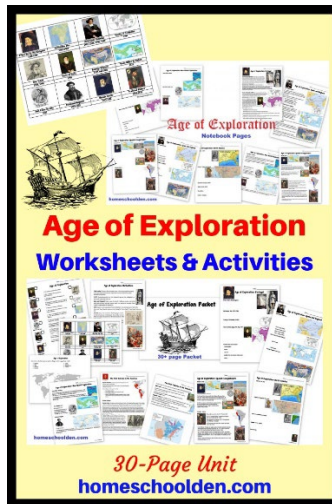
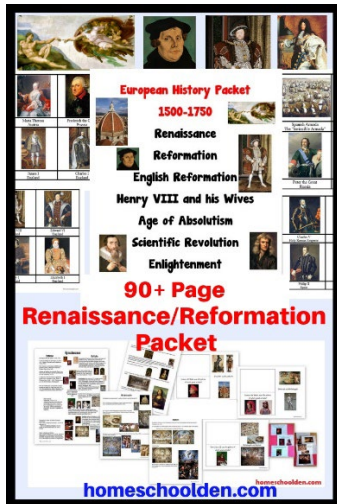


## World History 800-1300s - Middle Ages





## World History 1400-1550s - Renaissance, Reformation, Age of Exploration



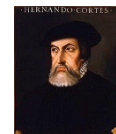
## U.S. History and Government

Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas (We did this when the kids were in elementary. We did a lot of fun, color crafts for this unit.)

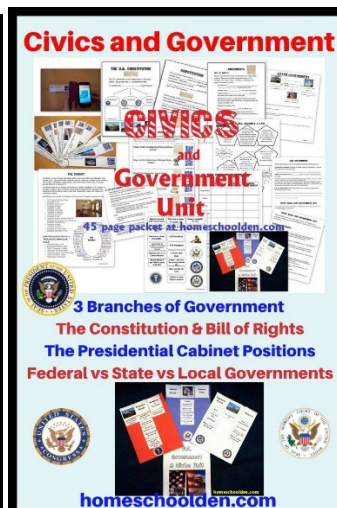
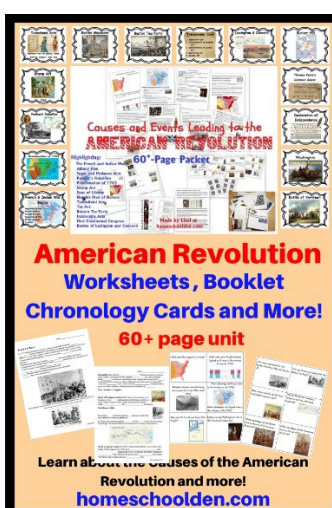
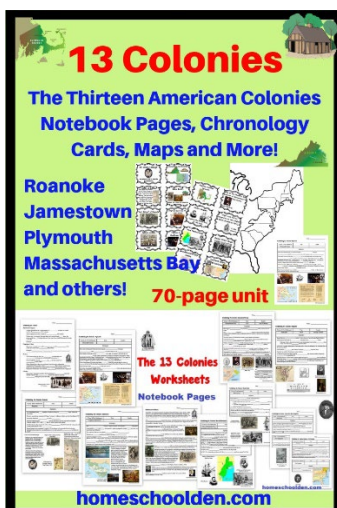
- [Ancient Mayan Civilization Unit](#)
- [History of Chocolate from the Mayans to Today](#)
- [Ancient Mayan Indian Unit: Rugs](#)
- [Ancient Mayan Indian Unit: Wood Animalitos – Oaxacan \(Mexican\) Folk Art](#)
- [Ancient Mayan Indian Unit: God's Eye Yarn Craft](#)
- [Aztecs and Incas](#)



We studied Cortez, Coronado, Pizarro, de Soto in our Age of Exploration Unit when the kids were older.

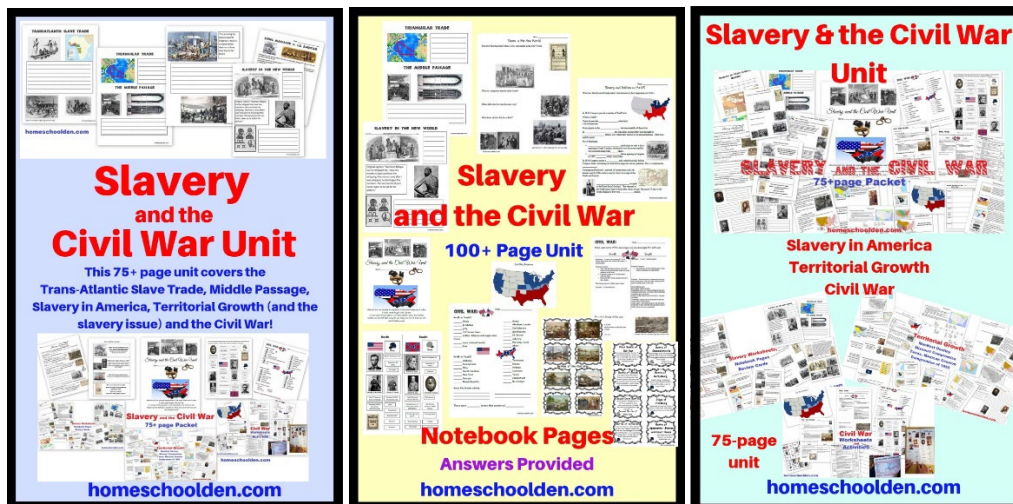


## American Colonies, American Revolution, U.S. Constitution (3 Branches of Government)





## Slavery, Territorial Growth (manifest destiny), the Civil War



## The West



## Twentieth Century History

