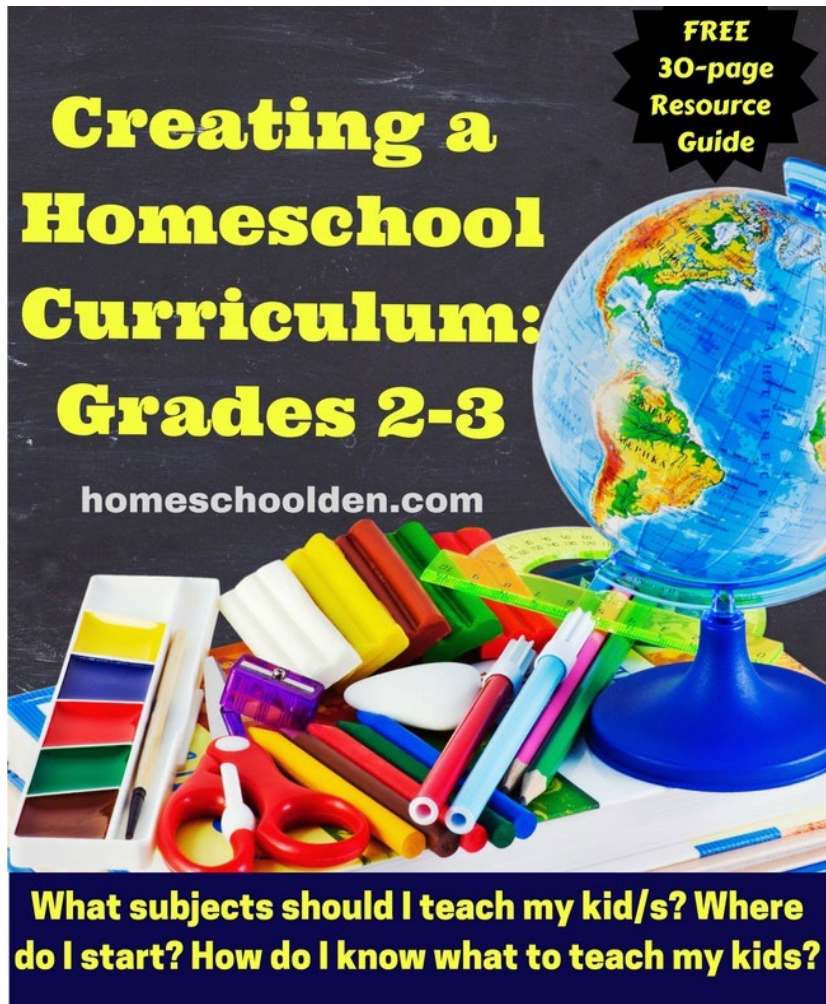


# How to Create Your Own Homeschool Curriculum

## Grade 2 - 3



I have often been asked questions from my readers such as “**Where do I start? How do I know what to teach? What units did your kids do when they were in \_\_ Grade?**” The simple answer is every homeschooling family will have their own journey. And in fact, each of my three kids had a different homeschool journey as well! But I wanted to put together these guides to show you what our family did along the way. Maybe it will give you a few ideas as you forge your own amazing homeschool path!!

**Creating Your Own Homeschool Curriculum:** These are some resources I made that might be helpful as you create your own homeschool plans.

# Grade 2 - 3 Resource Guide



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## How to Create Your Own Homeschool Curriculum: Gr. 2-3

One of the things I hear a lot about our blog is that there is so much to take in, it can be overwhelming. That is especially true if you are a new homeschooler just starting out. I've dragged my feet about creating a resource like this is because so much of what we covered is not "grade" or "age" specific. Keeping that in mind, you can use this as a starting point!

I have three kids. All three of my kids have had a different experience as they've come up through the grades. That's partly while you'll find SO many options on our blog!

We do most of our units together, so my 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and my 8<sup>th</sup> grader would have been doing the same units at the same time. The material might have been a stretch for my youngest daughter. A few years later, though, we would cycle around and do our units again so the kids will get the material again on a different level. The reverse is also true. Sometimes we would do a unit geared more for my youngest like the States of Matter that we did this fall (for Gr. 3). My older two participated/reviewed the material. Then we went on into more depth (in this case with the Physical and Chemical Properties of Matter unit), which was challenging at times for my 3<sup>rd</sup> grader.

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!

You can cover the material with purchased homeschool curriculum. Or, you can just borrow books from the library. 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... anything from the Magic School Bus (for younger kids) to documentaries (for older students). In the right context, (fictional) 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: By the time the kids were in Grades 2 and 3, we were doing a lot of unit studies. This worked for us because I did not want to spend an entire year on any of the 4 main sciences (biology, chemistry, Earth Sciences, physics). Neither I nor the kids had that long of an attention span!

Unit Studies History: Likewise, we didn't spend an entire year on one region/time period in history. I wanted to cover world history, American history, Civics and Government, and geography... and touch on topics more than once. My vision of history when we first started homeschooling was to start "at the beginning" and go from there. But we wound up touching on topics that weren't chronological, but made sense at the time. For example, we did a large unit on India. We ended that particular unit by talking about Gandhi... which led naturally into a large extended unit on the Civil Rights Movement. But, that unit would also have made a lot of sense after studying Slavery and the Civil War... See what I mean? You'll find a logical path for your own homeschool!!!

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!!

I highly recommend you take a look at the resource I made for Kindergarten - Grade 1. You can always cover those unit/materials as well! Again, let me mention that much of what we covered is not "grade" or "age" specific. If your child is interested in something specific, run with that!! 😊

I have included some of the (purchased) curriculums that we used at this age. Just know that there are **TONS** of homeschool curriculum options out there. You might want to order the **HUGE** catalog from Rainbow Resource Center (it's free) to look for curriculum that fits with your needs.

So, let's jump into the meat of things - building a curriculum for Grades 2 and 3.



## Grade 2 - 3 Overview

Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	Arts, Music, Foreign Language
<p><b>Independent Reading</b> - By this point, my kids were reading well. I just supplied them with lots of books and made sure they read a lot each day! We did not use a formal reading curriculum.</p> <p><b>Read Aloud Books</b> We always had a novel going. And, we also had stacks of non-fiction and fiction books to accompany science and history units</p> <p><b>Writing Workshop</b> Writing Mini-Lesson and 20 minutes writing.</p> <p><b>Spelling</b> - We <a href="#">All About Spelling</a> (and love this program!!!)</p> <p><b>Handwriting</b> (Handwriting without Tears) - My kids did the cursive books at this age. <a href="#">Write Source Skillsbook</a> My kids started using this series to cover the basics of grammar... capitalization, basic punctuation, abbreviations, commas, etc. Plus, I had them do lots of grammar worksheets on commas, quotation marks...</p>	<p><b>Addition Facts</b></p> <p><b>Subtraction Facts</b></p> <p><b>Skip Counting</b> first by 2s, 5s, 10s. Then by 4s. We did 9s next (because of the easy pattern). 6s and 7s (we had great songs for these). Finally, we did the 8s.</p> <p><b>Analogue Clocks (Again!)</b></p> <p><b>Multiplication Facts</b> 2s thru 9s</p> <p><b>Double-digit</b></p> <p><b>Multiplication</b></p> <p><b>Long Division</b></p> <p><b>Fractions</b></p>	<p><b>*Ancient History</b> If you haven't done these, I would start with this (Story of the World is great and use children's myths)</p> <p><b>*Geography Activities</b> - Pin maps, Playdough Maps, Cookie Dough Maps, etc.!</p> <p><b>*Middle Ages</b></p> <p><b>American History</b> Colonies Native Americans The West Civil Rights Movement</p> <p><b>Civics and Government</b> We touched on this most every year at some point... going over the 3 branches of government.</p>	<p><b>Simple Machines Unit</b> My kids really loved this hands-on unit!</p> <p><b>Animals and Animal Classification</b> classification and animal characteristics, invertebrates vs vertebrates, nocturnal vs diurnal animals, animal homes and shelters</p> <p><b>Biomes (intro) - Rainforest Unit</b> We went into more depth in grade 2-3. We also did a unit on the desert around this age.</p> <p><b>Solar System</b></p> <p><b>Earth Science Unit</b> Layers of the Earth, Plate movement, volcanoes, earthquakes and more</p> <p><b>Rocks and Minerals</b></p> <p><b>Earth's Atmosphere</b> (layers of the atmosphere)</p> <p><b>Weather and Water</b> (Clouds, Water Cycle, Natural disasters)</p> <p><b>Botany</b> Carnivorous plants</p> <p><b>Chemistry Unit</b> When my daughter was in Gr. 2 we used <a href="#">Real Science 4 Kids pre-Level 1 Chemistry</a> and did a lot of Chemistry Experiments</p> <p><b>States of Matter</b> the 3 states of matter and changing states of matter. Fun activities!</p> <p><b>Human Body Systems</b> We studied one body system each year: Skeletal System, Digestive System, Circulatory System, etc.</p>	<p><b>Music and Music Theory</b> - I wanted the kids to learn basic music symbols and music notes. We have a free curriculum here.</p> <p><b>Art</b></p> <p><b>Foreign Language:</b> 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>

## Grade 2 - 3

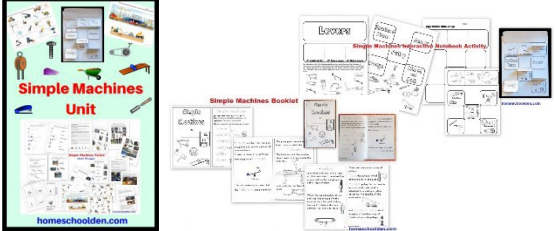


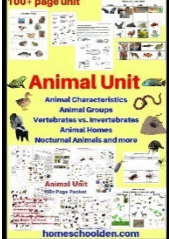






Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	Arts, Music, Foreign Language
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## Grade 2 - 3 Overview

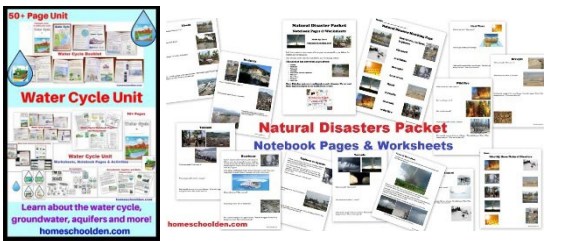
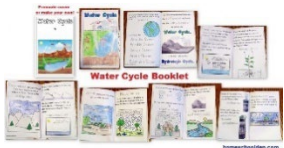
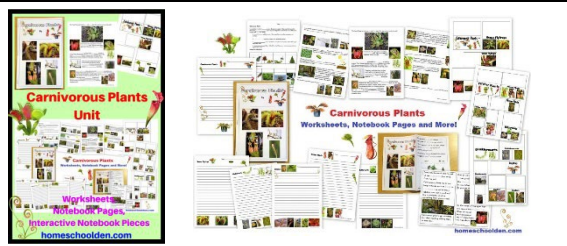





### Table of Contents

Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	Arts, Music, Foreign Language
<b>See pages 26 to 33</b>	<b>See page 34</b>	<b>See pages 18 to 25</b>	<b>See pages 8 to 17</b>	<b>See pages 35-38</b>

## Grade 2-3 Science

 <p><b>Simple Machines Unit</b></p>	<h3>Simple Machines</h3> <p>the six types of simple machines: lever, wheel and axle, inclined plane, wedge, pulley and screw</p>  <p>Make your own car! Make a paddleboat!</p> 
 <p><b>Animal Unit</b></p>	<h3>We continued to study zoology.</h3> <p><b>Animals and Animal Classification:</b> classification and animal characteristics, invertebrates vs vertebrates, nocturnal vs diurnal animals, animal homes and shelters, animal tracks</p>
 <p><b>Rainforest Unit</b></p>	<p><b>Rainforest Unit:</b> This packet covers the layers of the rainforest, rainfall, biodiversity, animals and insects of the rainforest, and more! It includes notebook pages, animal and insect identification pages, animal and insect Montessori 3-part cards, layers of the rainforest worksheets and other activities.</p>
 <p><b>Solar System to Scale Activity</b></p>	<p><b>Solar System:</b> You might want to review the planets of the solar system again.</p>
 <p><b>Earth Science Unit</b></p>	<p><b>Earth Science:</b> the layers of the earth, Earth's mantle, plate movements, tectonic plates, faults, earthquakes, volcanoes</p> <p>We did this unit several times over the years. We did the hands-on activities when they were younger and went into more depth when they were middle school.</p>
 <p><b>Rocks and Minerals</b></p>	<p><b>Rocks and Minerals</b> When the kids were around 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, we did a lot of hands-on activities and talked about the three types of rocks and the rock cycle.</p>  <p>Quickly, move the index card up and down and watch the layers shift.</p>
 <p><b>Layers of the Atmosphere</b></p>	<h3>Earth Systems: Atmosphere</h3> <p>The Layers of the Atmosphere is a topic your kids may have covered in late elementary, but its Earth Science – the geosphere – Earth's changing surface, plate movements, faults, earthquakes, volcanoes</p>



 <p><b>50+ Page Unit</b> <b>Water Cycle Unit</b> Learn about the water cycle, groundwater, aquifers and more! homeschoolden.com</p> <p><b>Natural Disasters Packet</b> Notebook Pages &amp; Worksheets homeschoolden.com</p>	<p><b>Weather: the Water Cycle, Clouds, Natural Disasters</b> At this age, we covered the water cycle, the types of clouds, natural disasters</p> 
 <p><b>Carnivorous Plants Unit</b> Worksheets, Notebook Pages and More! homeschoolden.com</p>	<p><b>Carnivorous Plants</b> My kids were fascinated by carnivorous plants and did this mini-unit (which is part of our Botany Unit). This was the first time we covered some basic plant classification.</p>
 <p><b>Parts of a Seed</b> <b>Parts of a Flower</b> Worksheets, Notebook Pages, Interactive Notebook Pieces homeschoolden.com</p>	<p><b>Parts of a seed, parts of a flower</b> We covered some basic plant anatomy around this age. We also went around the yard digging up different plant/weed roots to examine them.</p>
 <p><b>Chemistry Experiments</b> 100+ pages for ages 10-12 homeschoolden.com</p>	<p><b>Chemistry Experiments</b> We have a <a href="#">free Chemistry Experiment Packet</a> (for ~Grade 2)</p>
 <p><b>States of Matter Unit</b> melting, freezing, evaporation, condensation, sublimation, deposition homeschoolden.com</p>	<p><b>States of Matter</b> Solids, liquids, gases &amp; terms like melting, freezing, evaporation, condensation, sublimation, deposition. We did some fun hands-on activities such as experiments with dry ice (to show deposition).</p> 
 <p><b>Skeletal System</b> Worksheets, Hands-on Activities and More! 90+ Page Unit homeschoolden.com</p> <p><b>Digestive System Activities</b> 100+ page Digestive System Unit! homeschoolden.com</p> <p><b>Circulatory System</b> Worksheets, Hands-on Activities and More! 40+ Page Unit homeschoolden.com</p>	<p><b>Human Body Systems</b> We usually studied one body system each year. We did the skeletal system, digestive system and circulatory system early on.</p>



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

Remember, I have three kids, so some of these units we returned to every couple of years and added more depth to the unit the second time around. (For example, we covered the water cycle at some point. Then we came back and did natural disasters and the water cycle, then a couple years later we did weather and the water cycle. Another year we talked about watersheds so we touched on the water cycle yet again.) You get the idea!!

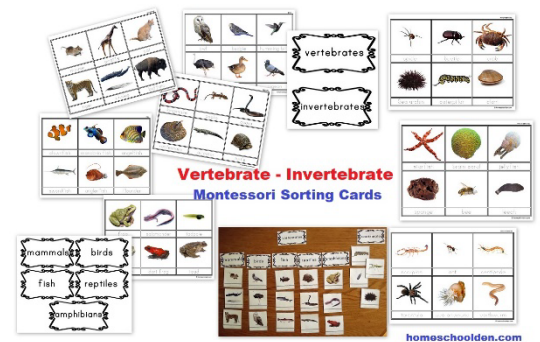
## Science

### Animals/Zoology:

If your child is interested in a particular type of animals, by all means delve into that!! Get out lots of books from the library. Have them create a lapbook or poster. Make it fun, engaging and spark their interest! It doesn't have to be a formal unit. That said, when my daughter was in Grade 2, we did an Animal Unit where we studied about [the 5 classes of animals: animals and their characteristics](#), (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals)

[Animal Packet](#) (classification, domestic vs. wild animals, animal tracks, etc.)

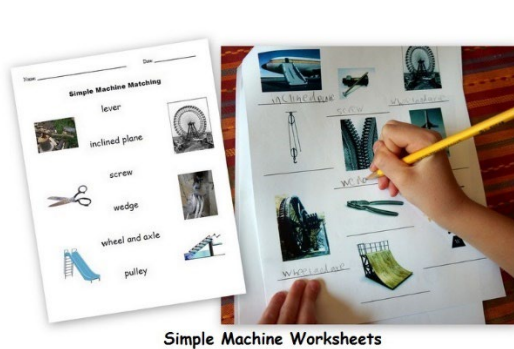
- 5 types of vertebrates (recently updated [here](#))
- main characteristic of each vertebrate group: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish.
- It also covers many of the invertebrate groups starting with the differences between insects and spiders. Then going into more detail about some of the other invertebrate groups: crustaceans, mollusks, echinoderms, porifera, and others.
- There is a section on domesticated vs. wild animals.
- Plus, it has a huge section on animal tracks (fun to do in the winter!) and
- It has a bit about food webs, though we really went into depth about that in our unit on the biosphere/biology which we did immediately following this unit.



(Check out the animal-related posts and resources in the K-Gr. 1 Resource Packet as well.)

## Simple Machines

- [Simple Machine Packet](#)
- My kids really enjoyed this hands-on unit. We read quite a number of books aloud together and they did numerous projects on each of the simple machines. This is a fun unit to do with 7-8 year olds!

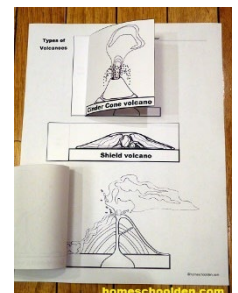
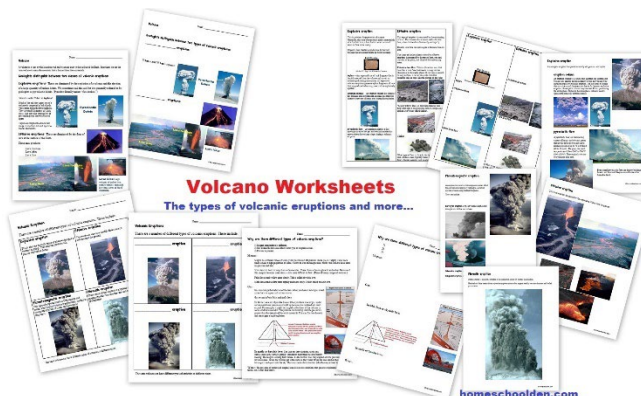
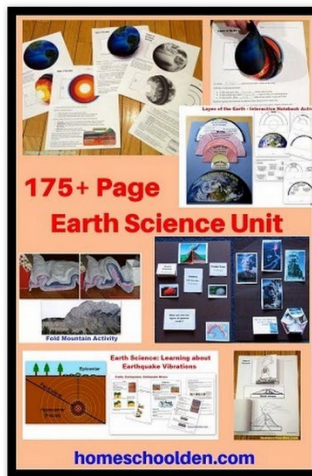


- Hands-On Activities  
About: [Lever](#), [wheel and axle](#), [screw](#), [pulley](#), [wedge](#), [ramp](#)

## Earth Science

- Layers of the Earth,
- Plate Tectonics,
- Earthquakes,
- Volcanoes,
- 4 Types of Mountains and More!

We have an [Earth Science Packet](#) includes worksheets about the solar system, the layers of the Earth, plate tectonics, the ring of fire, earthquake activity and volcanoes. I also included more than a dozen hands-on activities we did with this unit including activities about plate tectonics, using a compass, earthquakes, volcanoes, instructions on how to make a shake table and more!





## Rocks and Minerals

- [Rocks and Minerals Packet](#)
- [3 Types of Rocks](#)

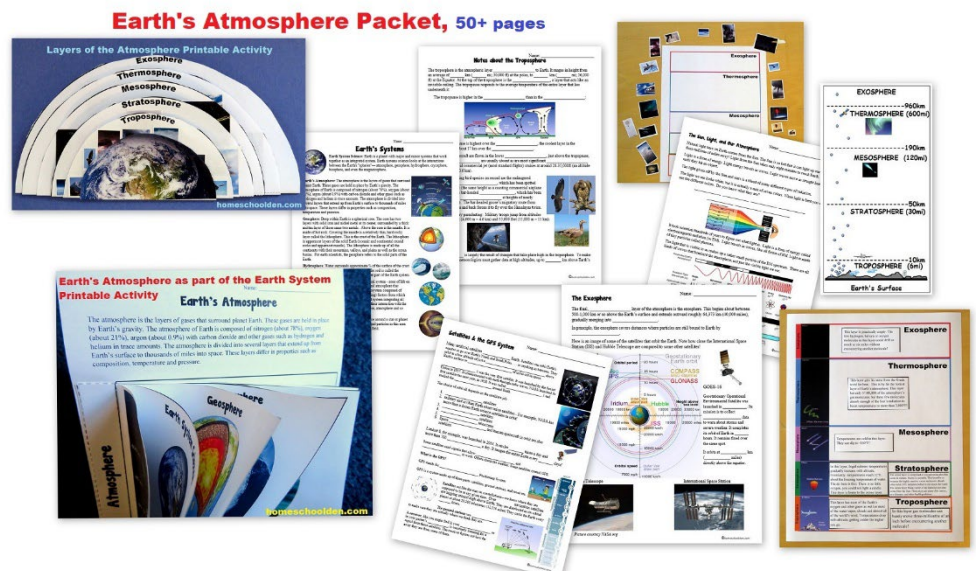
### Hands-On Activities:

- [Igneous Rock Activities](#)
- [Sedimentary Rock Activities](#)
- [Sedimentary Rock Activity](#) (much older post, using sand)
- [Metamorphic Rock Activities](#)
- [Metamorphic Rock Activity](#) (another older post, where we took “core samples,” excavated and examined this baked rock — a cupcake!)
- [Minerals: Our Hands-On Activities and Seeing the BIGGEST Diamond in the World](#)
- [Earth-Space Science: Topographic Map](#)



## Earth's Atmosphere

In this unit, the kids learned about the different layers of the atmosphere. We talked about some of the properties of air (air has weight, hot air rises, etc.) You can find out more in our [Earth's Atmosphere packet](#).



# Weather, Water, and the Water Cycle

After studying the Earth's atmosphere, we went on to study some basics about the [water cycle](#) and [weather](#).

We talked about [water and the water cycle](#). Where does water go after precipitation falls? We talked about percolation, aquifers, divides and watersheds.

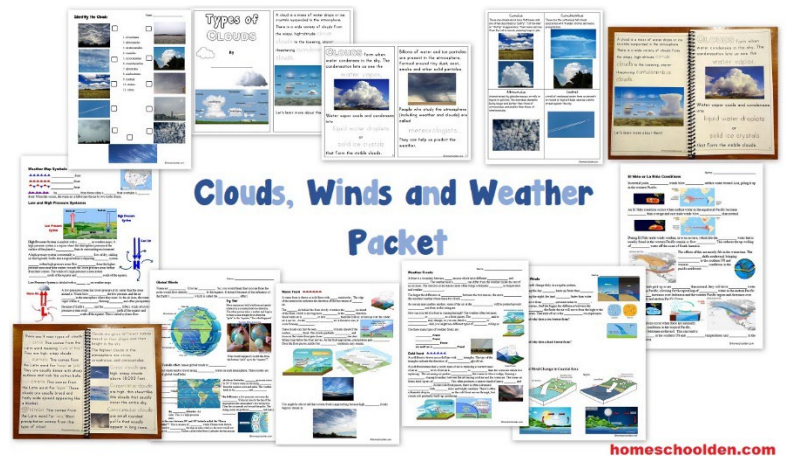




## Clouds, Winds and Weather

Some of the topics we studied included

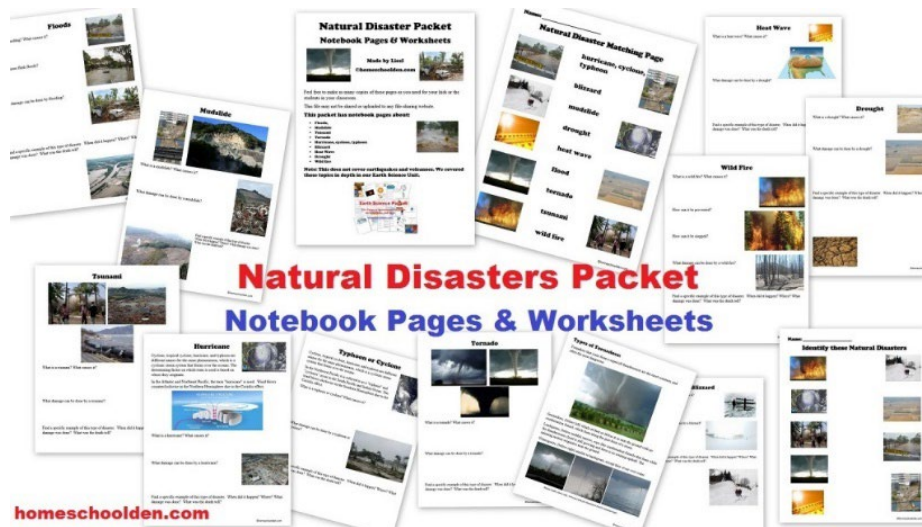
- meteorology,
- air masses,
- air pressure,
- weather fronts
- clouds,
- wind



(Note: My girls did the Weather unit again when they were 12 and 14 years old and we covered [clouds, winds and weather](#)).

## **Weather, Water, and the Water Cycle (cont.)**

And we spent time talking about [Natural Disasters](#).



About this age, my kids all loved [Raging Planet](#) episodes (*affiliate link*) They watched the entire series when we did the natural disasters unit! Here's the description on Amazon: revealing the speed of a twister, the power of a hurricane, the lethal force of a lightning bolt, the instant devastation of a flood, or the explosive punch of a volcano. Feel what it's like to be inside a house when a storm rips the roof off, when a cloud of volcanic ash overtakes you, or what a street sign picked up by a tornado would do to your car window. This is Nature at its wildest and most furious.





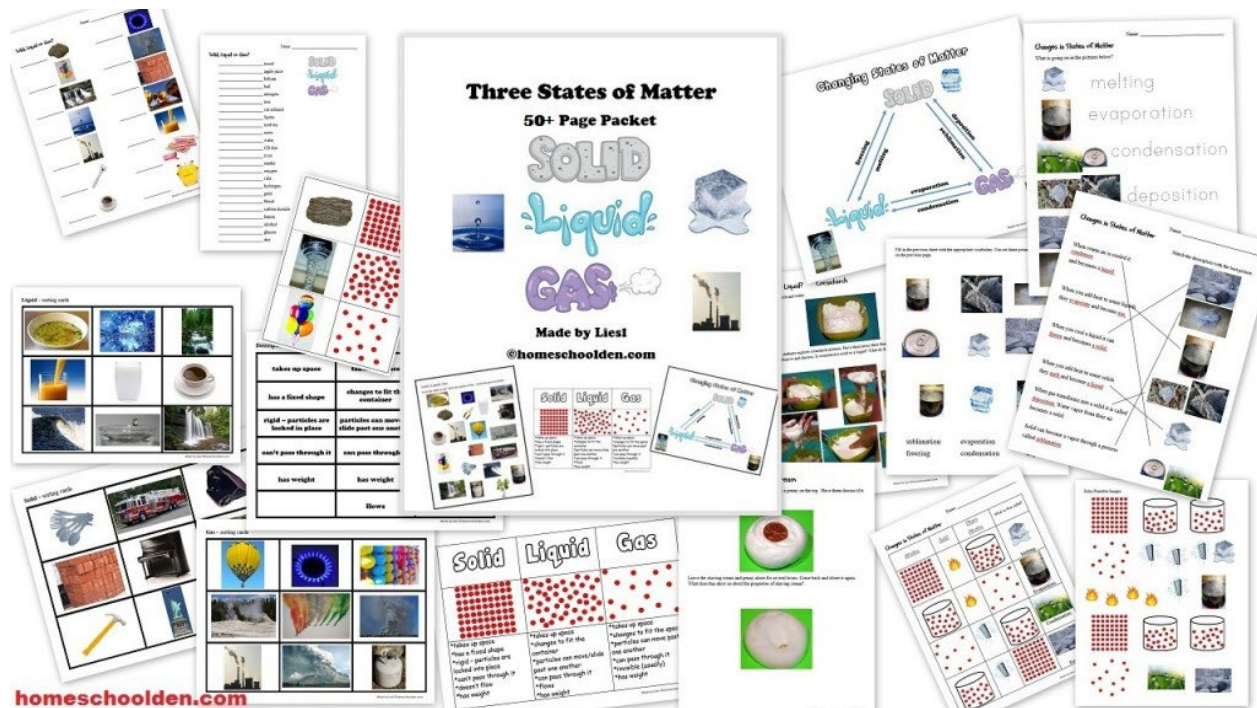
## Chemistry Unit

When my daughter was in Gr. 2, she did her first chemistry unit. We used in Gr. 2 we used [Real Science 4 Kids pre-Level 1 Chemistry](#) (*affiliate link*) as our text (I highly recommend it!) and did a lot of Chemistry Science Experiments which you can download in this [FREE Chemistry Science Experiment Packet](#)



## States of Matter Unit

When my daughter was in Gr. 3, we did a unit on the three States of Matter (her siblings had done a unit on this a number of years before, but she didn't remember any of that unit). We did quite a number of fun hands-on activities to show that air takes of space, has weight. My kids loved the activities that had to do with sublimation and deposition the most!! [States of Matter Packet](#)

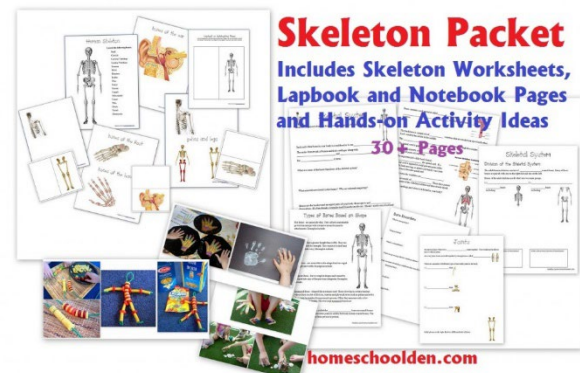


## Human Body (We try to do one different human body system unit each year.)

- Human Body BUNDLE – You can check out all of our units here, but the ones we focused on when they were younger included these...
- [Five Senses](#) – We covered the five senses when the kids were in PreK and early elementary... and actually covered it once more to go into more detail about the anatomy... how the eye works and how the ear works.



- [Skeletal System](#) – We've done this unit quite a number of times, each time going into more depth. We've learned about the bones of the body, the appendicular and axial systems, Basic functions of the skeletal system (support, protection, assistance in movement, the storage and release of minerals, blood cell reproduction), how bones grow and repair themselves, bone remodeling, bone marrow, and the spine, bones and Cartilage
- [Skeletal System Packet](#): We learned about the bones of the body, the appendicular and axial systems, Basic functions of the skeletal system (support, protection, assistance in movement, the storage and release of minerals, blood cell reproduction), how bones grow and repair themselves, bone remodeling, bone marrow, and the spine, Bones and Cartilage
- There are a lot of hands-on activities you can do with your kids for this unit. We have really enjoyed the projects and models from [The Body Book: Easy-to-Make Hands-on Models That Teach](#) (*affiliate link*)
- At this age, my kids also got a lot out of the [Squishy Human Body](#) (*affiliate link*)





- Again, you can check out our [Human Body BUNDLE](#) here (these units are sold separately or can be purchased together).



- Digestive System – This is another unit we had fun with when the kids were on the younger side. There are lots of hands-on activities you can do! We've did this unit a couple of times... doing it first when they were in early elementary and then going into more depth when my oldest was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

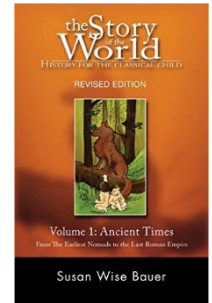




# Social Studies

**Ancient World History** (You could do these units in K, Gr. 1 but if you haven't covered these I would start with Ancient history before jumping to the Middle Ages.)

We used [Story of the World, vol. 1](#) ([affiliate link](#)) and used a lot of children's myths. We took an entire semester studying Africa and Ancient Egypt one year. Our study of Ancient Greece also took almost a semester because we did lots of crafts, read lots of myths, children's versions of the Odyssey, etc.



- [Ancient Egypt](#)

We loved these resources. These are *affiliate links*.

- [Ralph Masiello's Ancient Egypt Drawing Book](#)
- [The Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt](#) by Leonard Fisher
- [Egyptian Treasures: Mummies and Myths](#)
- [Great Ancient EGYPT Projects: You Can Build Yourself](#)
- [Pyramids!: 50 Hands-On Activities to Experience Ancient Egypt](#)
- You can find out more about our [Ancient Egypt Packet here](#).



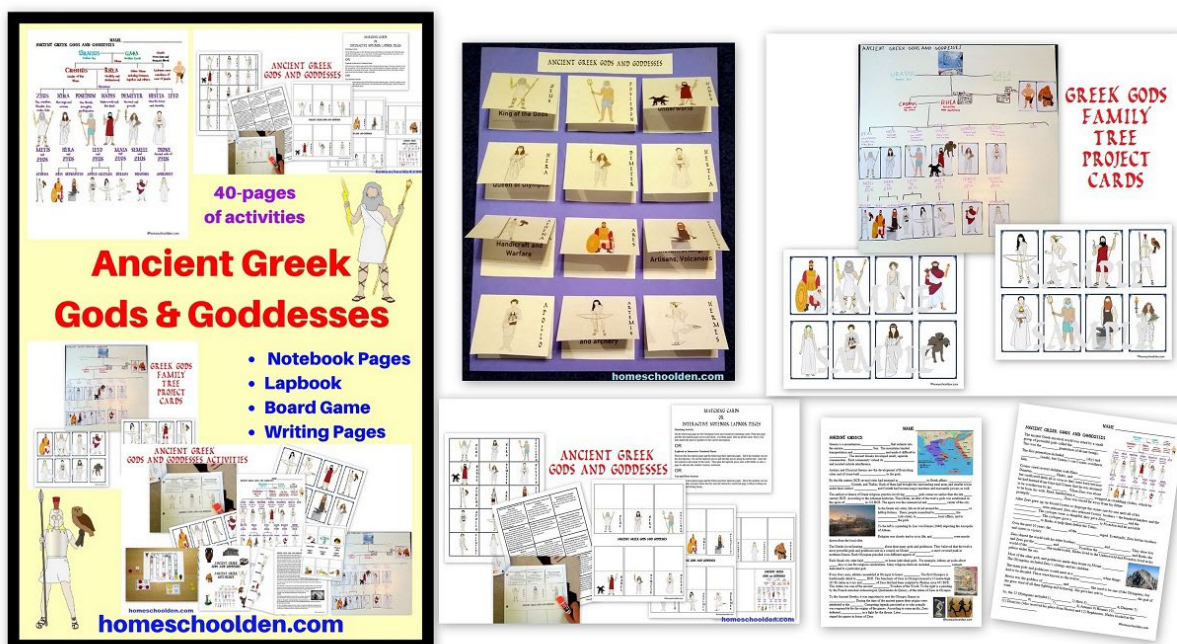
- [Ancient Greece](#): here are some of the activities we did when the kids were younger!



We loved these resources These are *affiliate links*.

- [\*The Gods and Goddesses of Olympus\*](#)
- We've read [Perseus and the Monstrous Medusa](#), [Odysseus and the Wooden Horse](#), [The Secret of Pandora's Box](#). There is also [King Midas's Goldfingers](#).
- The Magic Tree House, [\*Hour of the Olympics\*](#).
- [Tales from the Odyssey, Part 1](#) and [Tales from the Odyssey, Part 2](#).
- [\*D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths\*](#) (*affiliate link*)
- [Classical Kids: An Activity Guide to Life in Ancient Greece and Rome](#)

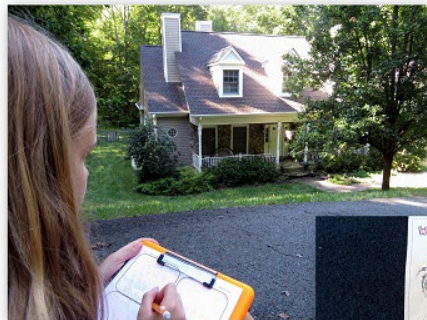
When my youngest studied Ancient Greece, I created a packet about the [Greek Gods and Goddesses](#)! She loved this unit and really enjoyed making her huge poster-sized Olympian gods family tree!



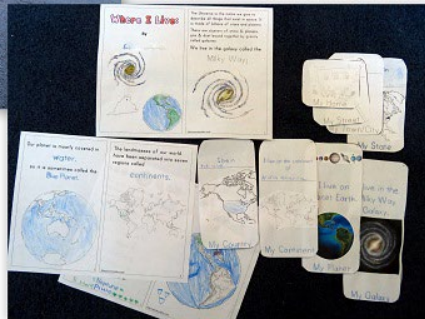


# Geography

If your kids haven't done activities like this, the [Where I Live activities](#) are really good for early elementary



## Where I Live Activity

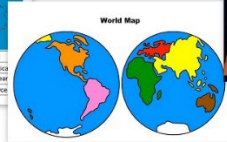


homeschoolden.com



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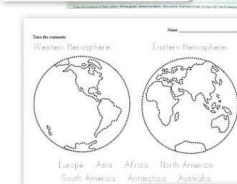
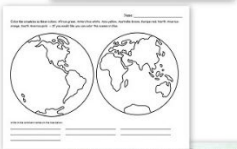
This packet also includes some basic world geography materials for reviewing the continents and oceans.



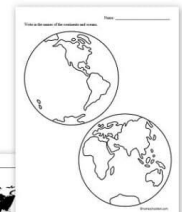
## Montessori World Map Activities



Includes color and black & white 3-part card sets.



## Montessori Map Worksheets

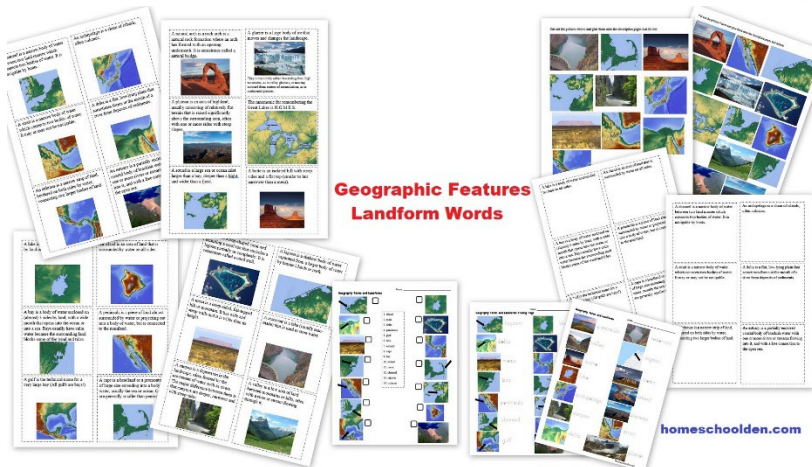


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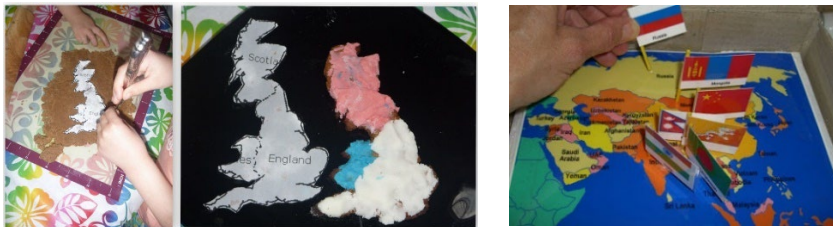
We often start the year with a review of some basic world facts: [World Facts Packet](#)

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.

This packet also goes over some of the famous world landmarks.



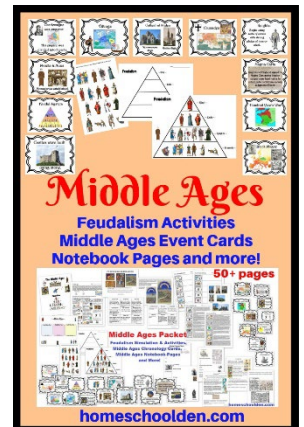
- [Geography Projects for Ages 4 to 10](#)



- [Geography Activities for 4-6 year olds](#)

## Middle Ages

- [Feudalism and Medieval Life Packet](#) – We did this unit a couple of times – first when my youngest was around 7 and then again when my youngest daughter was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.



- 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)



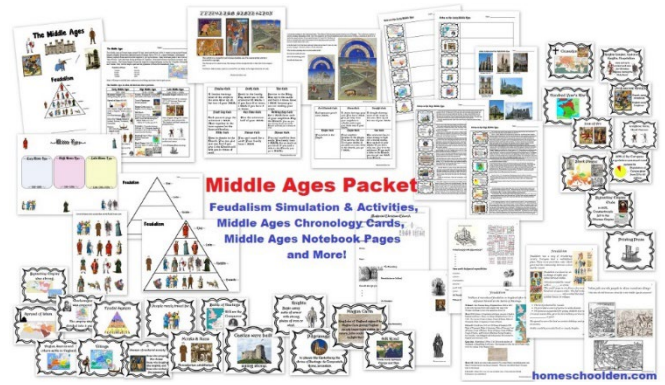


## Crusades Notebook Pages (Middle Ages Unit)

- 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](#)



**American History** -- We often do a unit or two about American history and a unit or two about world history each year. That seems to work best for our family. That way, we also have the opportunity to review concepts we've gone over the previous year.

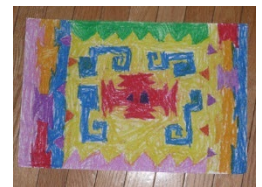
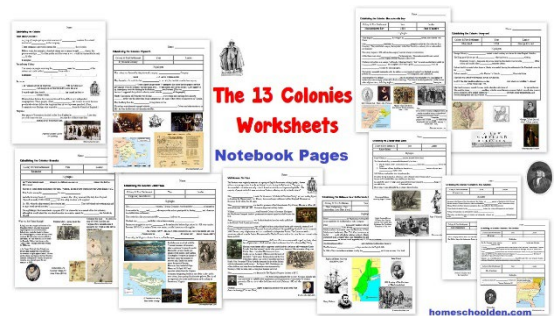
**Topics you might want to cover:**

### American Colonies

**Native Americans Unit** (We've studied different Native American groups different years.)

We studied the 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](#)



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



pages

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



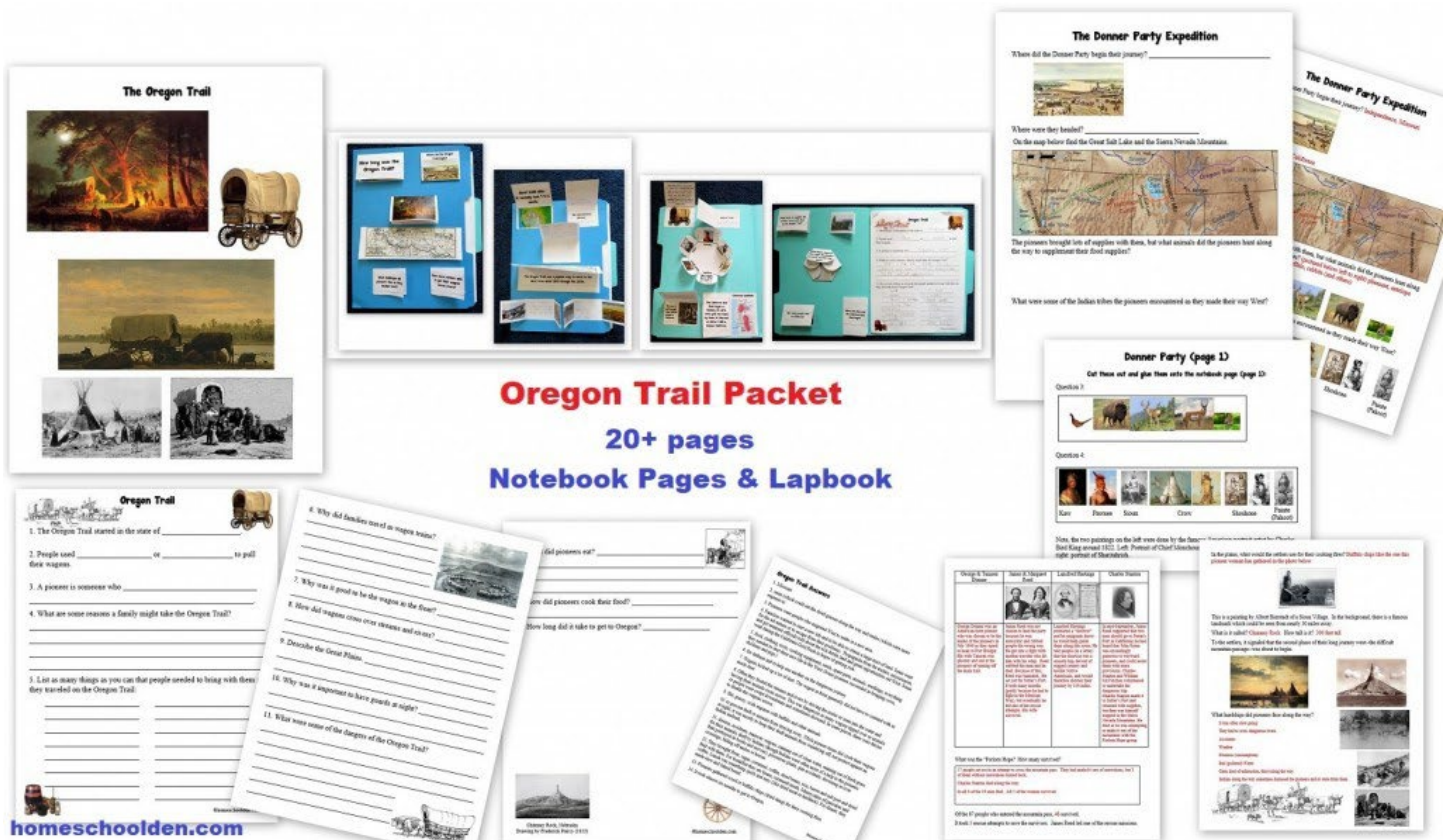
Free Notebook Pages -- Native Americans of the Southeast:  
Seminole and Cherokee Indians, Trail of Tears

The Homeschool Den

- [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](#)
- [Navajo Indians](#)

The West (the kids were quite young when we did unit. My oldest was in about 2<sup>nd</sup> grade):

- [American West Unit: Forts](#)
- [Lewis and Clark, Fruit Leather and More](#)
- [American West Geography and the Louisiana Purchase](#)
- [The Oregon Trail](#) – My girls loved doing a unit on the Oregon Trail around this age.

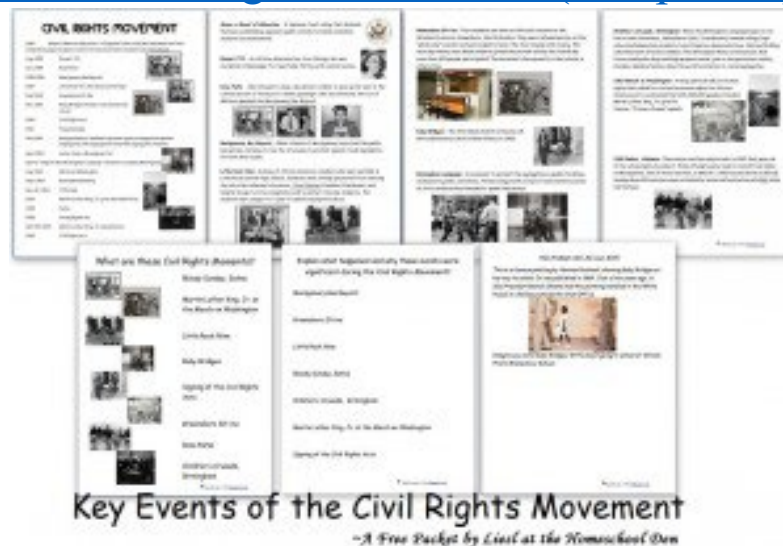


**Civil Right Movement** (There are a lot of \*amazing\* books for children on this topic. We first covered this when my middle daughter was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – my other two were in K and 5<sup>th</sup>) [Civil Rights Books for Elementary](#)

- [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.



- [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](#)

[illegible]

# Language Arts

**Independent Reading:** At this age, I just wanted the kids to read a lot. I just supplied them with lots of books! They transitioned into reading some Newbery winning books by 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade

[25 Beloved Picture Books for Kids Ages 4-8](#)

[15 Chapter Books my 7-year Old Loved!](#)

[Books and Series my 8 Year old has been Racing Through](#)

[25 Beloved Books for Kids Ages 8-12](#)

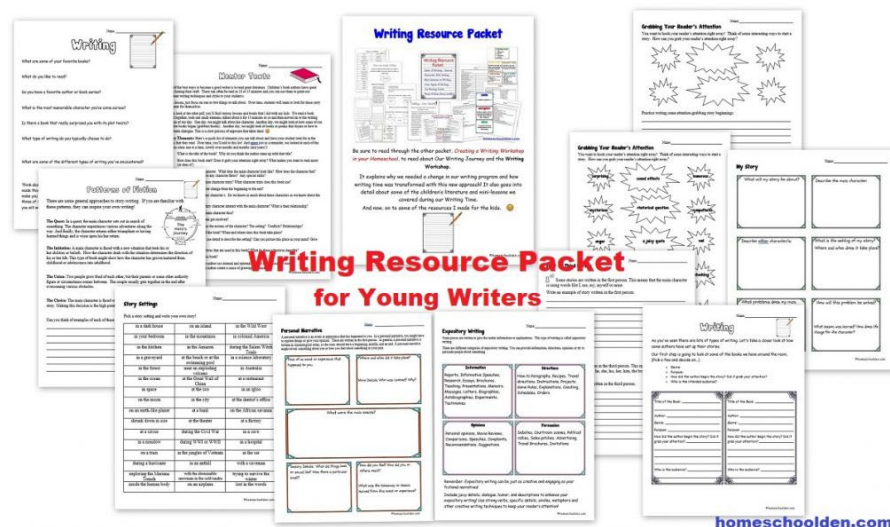
[10 Books \(and Series\) My Kids Love \(Ages 9, 11\)](#)

**Read Alouds:** We always have at least one (and often more than one) read aloud novel going in our homeschool. We read good novels (many of them Newbery Winners or Honors books) and/or books related to our history/science units.

[25 Beloved Books for Kids Ages 8-12](#) – Books from this post make wonderful read alouds. My kids loved the (sad)

**Writing:** We used a writing workshop method. You can watch a video I made about it here - [homeschoolden.com/writing-workshop](https://homeschoolden.com/writing-workshop)

- You'll find our **Writing Workshop & Writing Resource BUNDLE** in our store. 😊 or at [homeschoolden.com/writing-workshop](https://homeschoolden.com/writing-workshop)



Here is a quick overview of how the writing workshop works in our homeschool.

- See the **Writing Workshop VIDEO** here: [homeschoolden.com/writing-workshop](http://homeschoolden.com/writing-workshop)
- I selected a children's book that used one of the techniques I really wanted to emphasize that day, I then did a mini-lesson with the kids about a particular literature topic: character, plot, setting, point of view, voice, rhyming, onomatopoeia, similes or metaphors, etc. etc. I chose the book specifically because it had good examples of the topic I wanted to emphasize.
- Any children's book can be a Mentor Text!! Here are some popular, well-known authors...



- We all (including me) sat together to write for 20 minutes in absolute silence. (I would not help with spelling... the goal was for them to learn to write/brainstorm on their own!!)
- Sometimes I gave a topic to write about, most of the time they were free to choose the topics and style of their writing (story, poem, letter to a friend, research, etc.)
- We shared our writing aloud.
- When we first started using the writing workshop model, there were several books that influence me a lot: If I had to recommend just one book, it would have to be [No More “I’m Done!”](#) (*affiliate link*) This was the book that really explained why writing workshops work well and help students become independent writers. She has a lot of practical ideas on how to get started and mini-lessons to do with your student. I found it to be quick, easy reading and I came out with practical ideas to implement right away. At times, I need ideas right at my finger-tips. We’re busy and I don’t always want to think up the next writing mini-lesson. I have found [25 Mini-Lessons](#) or [The Most Wonderful Writing Lessons Ever](#) (*affiliate links*) extremely helpful. You’ll find more writing resources at this post: [Mini-Lessons and Useful Resources](#)

**Do you want to learn more about starting your own Homeschool Writing Workshop? Here are some related posts:**

- [Creating a Homeschool Writing Workshop – Post #1 — How/Why we needed a change in our writing program](#)
- [Creating a Homeschool Writing Workshop – Post #2: Creating a Writing Workshop Area and Materials to Have on Hand](#)
- [Creating a Writing Workshop Post #3: This post is about Mini-Lessons](#) during writing time, mentor texts and includes reviews of 8 or 9 writing books that you might find helpful.



- [Writing Resource Pack](#): I made for our writing workshop. Reference pages on the 6 +1 Writing Traits, Mini-Lessons, the types of writing, creating a powerful beginning, techniques for ending a story/paper, and so forth. (These writing resources are free to download.)



- [Writing Workshop: Dr. Seuss Style](#): The kids and I had fun writing in the style of Dr. Seuss!
- [Biography Research Paper Resource Pack](#)



- [Practical Pointers for Working with a Reluctant Writer \(or any Writer\)](#)
- [Writing Activity to Spark Kids' Imagination!](#)
- [40 Journal Writing Prompts \(Free Printable\)](#)
- [Animal Portfolio Project](#): writing, art and geography activities that go with any animals... With many activities to choose from. Writing activities include both fiction and non-fiction suggestions such as
  - Write a speech or a letter to the president on why your animal needs protection in the wild.
  - Menu: Create a humorous menu at a restaurant where your animals would like to eat.

- [WWII Portfolio Project](#)



- [Writing Workshop Rules!](#) Why the Writing Workshop continues to work so well in our homeschool.

## Mini-Lessons to Use in a Writing Workshop:

1. [What makes a good book or story?](#)
2. [Make your story come alive with details and description.](#)
3. [Creating Interesting Characters](#)
4. [Story Openings: Set the mood or feeling of your story](#)
5. [Gathering story ideas from your own life](#)
6. [Alliteration and more](#)
7. [MiniLesson – Describing in Detail – Adding Details Exercise](#) - Fun Activity!(Don't miss this one, the kids LOVED this activity!!)
8. [Writing Workshop: Conflict in Literature \(Man vs. Man, Man vs. Self, etc\)](#)
9. [Writing Workshop Mini-Lesson: Rules for Writing and the Story Writing Process](#)
10. [Writing Workshop Mini-Lesson: Rules for Writing and the Story Writing Process](#) — Have your kids read *the Plot Chicken*? We started our Writing Workshop this year off with this book. What a great buk, buk!! In fact, I liked it so much that I created a chicken writing rules printable to go along with the book!
11. [Writing: Show Don't Tell Practice Worksheets \(Free Packet\)](#)



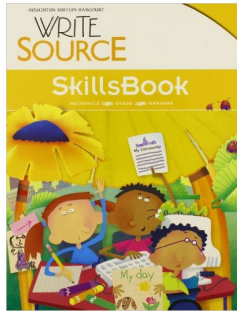
**Many of my homeschooling friends use a writing curriculum they purchased called IEW - Institute for Excellence in Writing. At this point, we have never used it, but since I hear so many great things about it, I wanted to mention it as an option for your family in case a writing workshop model doesn't appeal to you. ☺**



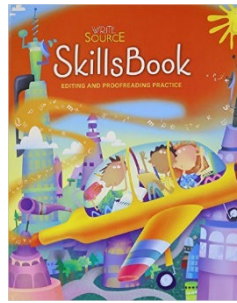
## K Sound Word Sort Activities

**Grammar:** I started the kids with a series of grammar workbooks called Write Source Skillsbooks. These are under \$10 and I found them easy for the kids to follow. They have an explanation of the rule and then a page or two of practice sentences for the kids to work on. I felt that the grade levels worked well for the abilities of my kids. These are affiliate links.

### [Write Source Skillsbook Grade 2](#)



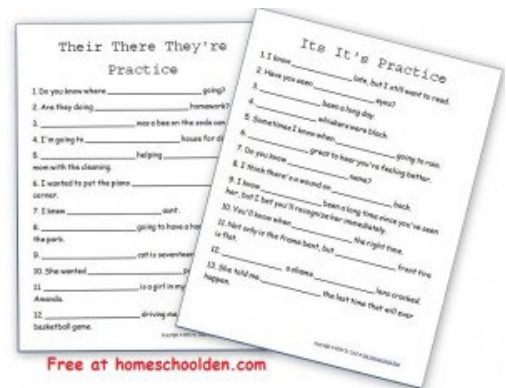
### [Write Source Skillsbook Grade 3](#)



I also made a lot of grammar sheets for the kids to practice various grammar skills. These were some of the grammar skills they needed more work on through the years. There are too many (free worksheets) to list here... so be sure to check out [the Language Arts Resource Page over on the blog](#) for the full list! Again, these are all currently FREE!

I'll highlight some of the most popular:

- [Comma Rules Practice Pages](#)
- [Comma Rules and Practice Pages](#)
- [Comma Rules and Practice Worksheets \(fall theme\)](#)
- [Their, They're, There – Its, It's Free Practice Sheets](#)
- Here is a recent [practice sheet I made for their/there/they're and its/it's](#)
- [Grammar Practice: Possessive Nouns and Pronouns](#)
- [Free Grammar Worksheets: Homophones](#) (words that sound the same, but are spelled differently)
- The [use of apostrophes, quotation marks and underlining](#)



Again, don't feel like you have to cover everything!! Your kids have years to learn all this! ☺

In our family, I usually spend a couple of months on spelling and then switch over and work on grammar for a while. It seems I never have time to do both subjects.



# Math

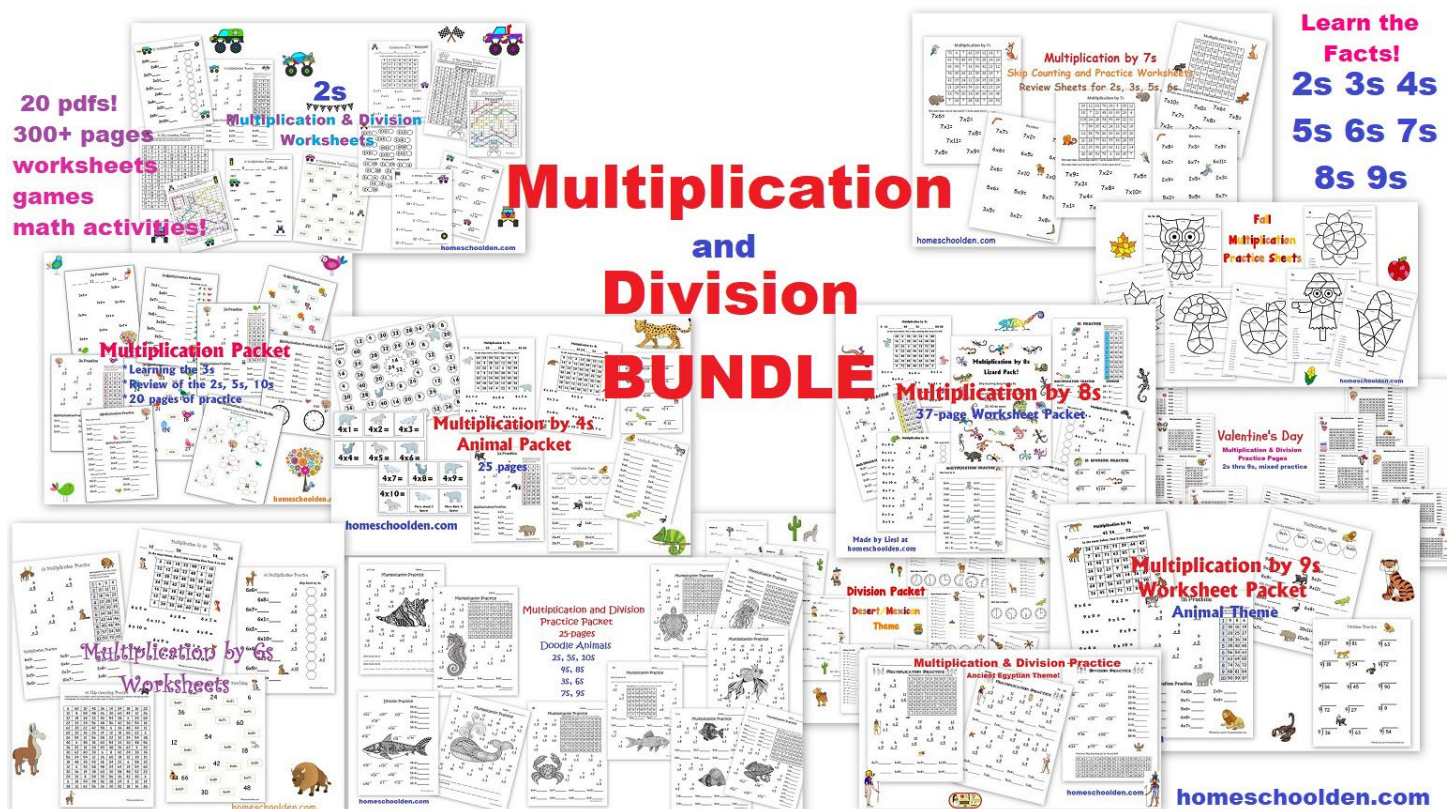
My daughter loved math and picked up her addition and multiplication facts pretty quickly. She started working on her multiplication math facts in Grade 2 (though it's more typical for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to memorize their multiplication tables).

**What order did she learn her math facts?** 2s, 5s, 10s, 3s, 6s and 7s (because those skip counting songs were easy for her!), 4s, 9s, 8s.

I looked around for the kind of multiplication practice that would help her this past year. The math book she was using went through the math facts a bit too quickly for her. She needed quite a bit of repetition and wanted bright, colorful worksheets. I wound up making my own sets of practice pages and games. She loved that!

We have a huge bundle of multiplication worksheets, games and activities that you might want to check out. You can find out more at this post:

[Learning the Multiplication Tables \(2s through 9s\)](#)



**Some math curriculum options** that you might want to check out:

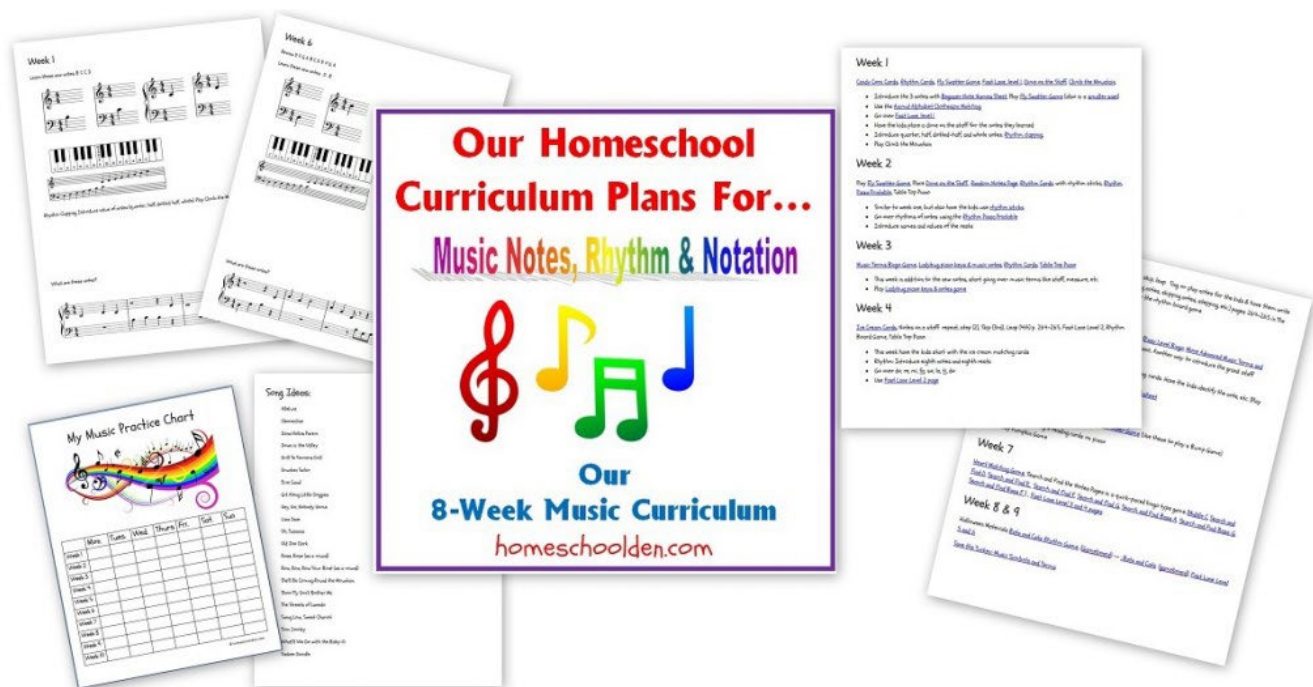
Singapore Math, Saxon Math, Life of Fred, Beast Academy (fun cartoon-style math books with math problem books), and Math Mammoth to name just a few. My kids used simple math workbooks called Spectrum Math as our spine all through elementary (though we tried Singapore, Saxon and Right Start Math we always returned to those math workbooks).



**Art:** There are some great art curriculum options that tie into history, things like Meet the Masters or Artistic Pursuits. Or, you can check out the lessons provided by some art teachers online such as ArtProjectsforKids.com or DeepSpaceSparkle.com. You might also look around your community. In our area, there are several homeschool art classes available during the day.

## Music

**Music and Music Theory** - I wanted the kids to learn basic music symbols and music notes. We have a FREE curriculum here. [Free Beginner's Music Curriculum: Learning Notes, Rhythm, Music Notation and More!](#)



**Music Appreciation** - Some families start to learn about some of the famous music composers and listen to famous pieces. We have some [free resources about Famous Music Composers](#) here

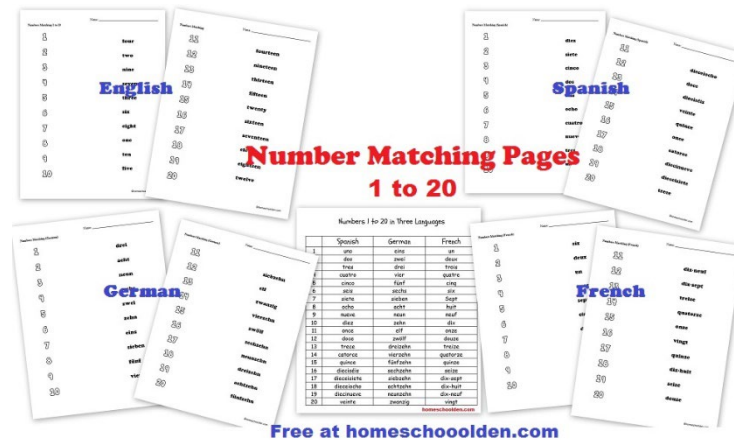


# Foreign Language

In Europe, most kids start learning a foreign language between the age of 6-9. That's about when we started learning some of the basics: numbers, colors, greetings, animals and basic words around the house.

Here are some free number sheets in Spanish, German or French:

- [Number Matching Pages \(in Spanish, German or French\)](#)



We are learning German simply because that's the language that I know. (That's what I studied in high school and college.)

**German Worksheets for Kids:** If you are teaching your kids German, you might find some of our Free German printables helpful.

- [Free German Worksheets for Beginners](#)
- [Free German Worksheets for Kids](#)



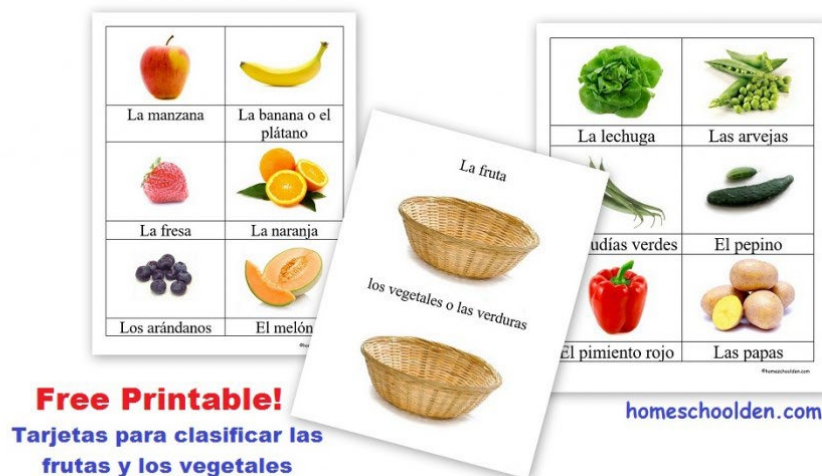


**Spanish Worksheets for Kids:** If you are teaching your kids Spanish, you might find some of our free Spanish printables helpful. I teamed up with Sra. Morato from [homeschoolspanishcurriculum.com](http://homeschoolspanishcurriculum.com) and we've been putting together a series of free worksheets over at the blog.

- [Daily Calendar in Spanish! La Página de calendario de Hoy](#) – It will help your kids learn the days of the week, the months of the year, the weather and other skills!



- [Spanish Fruit and Vegetable Cards: Tarjetas para clasificar las frutas y los vegetales](#)

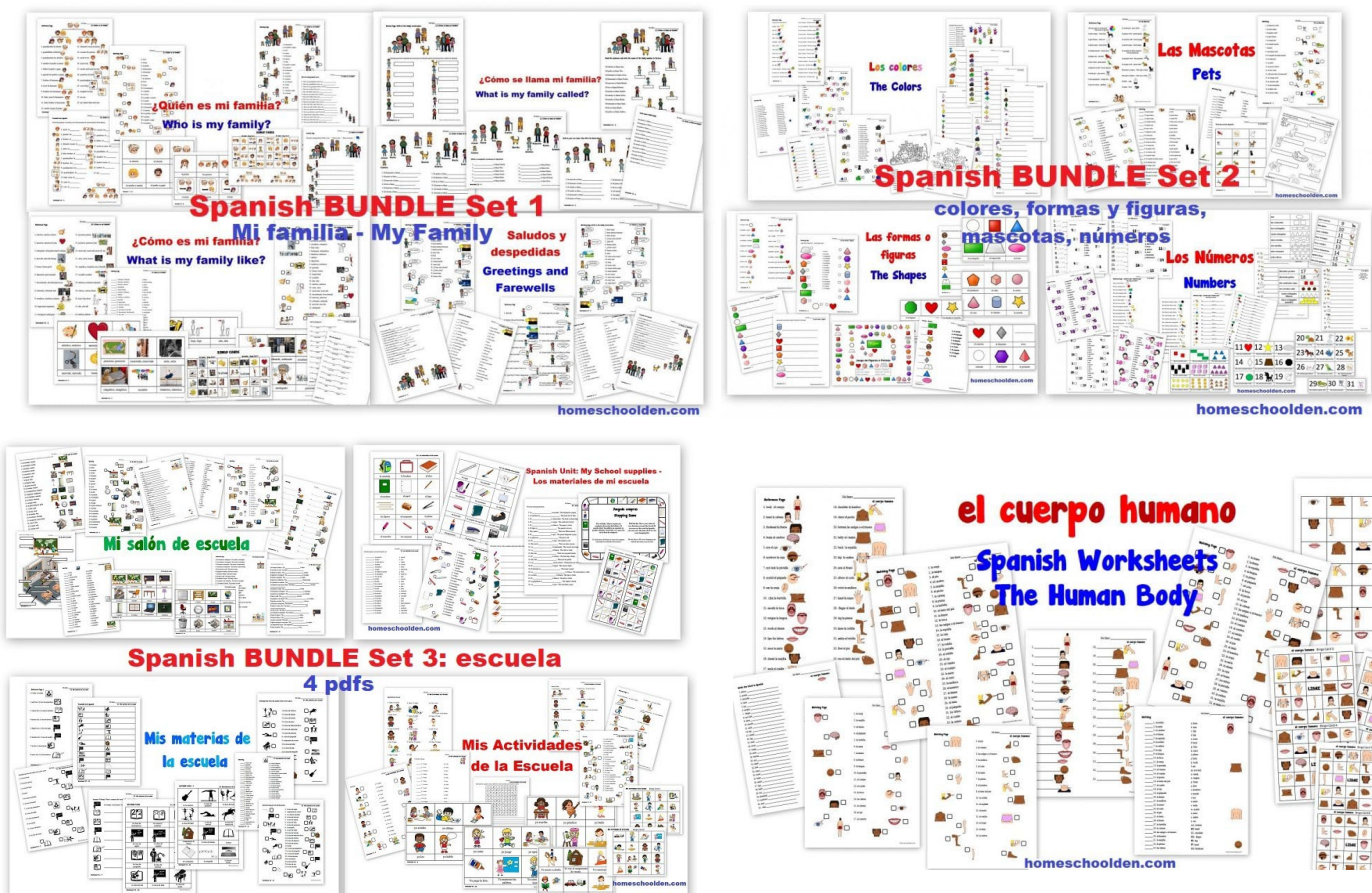


- [Fall Words and Color Practice Worksheets \(Spanish\)](#)



You might want to look into [HomeschoolSpanishCurriculum.com](http://HomeschoolSpanishCurriculum.com) to see if these online classes might be a good fit for your family.

Plus, we have an entire series of Spanish Packets... that cover the family, shapes, colors and pets, school supplies, activities & classes... and more! See <http://homeschoolden.com/spanish-store/>



## Creating a Homeschool Curriculum: Kindergarten - Grade 1 Resource Guide

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