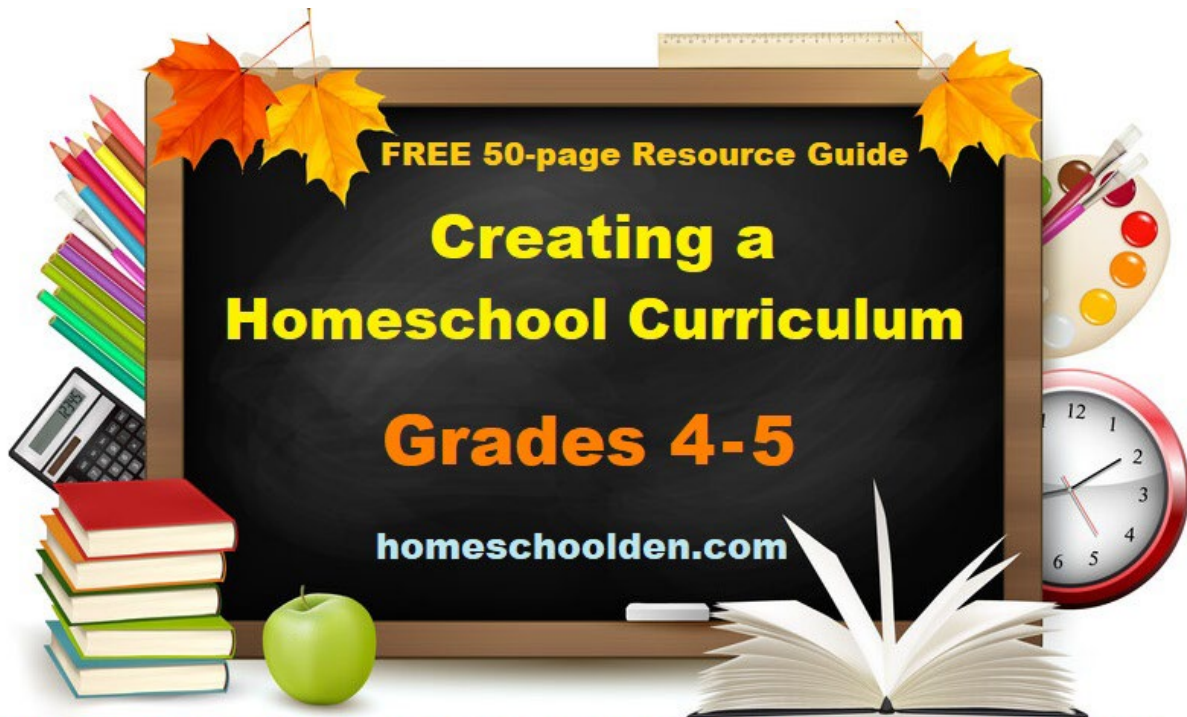


How to Create Your Own Homeschool Curriculum:

Grade 4 - 5 Resource Guide



**What subjects should I teach my kid/s? Where do I start?
How do I know what to teach my kids?**

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Hello My Fellow Homeschooler,

Before I launch into the resource guide, I just want to say hi and tell you a few things about our family.

We are eclectic homeschoolers, which means that we use a wide variety of curriculum, books, resources and materials. We've also created a lot of our own packets, worksheets, and games to go along with our studies.

We tend to really love hands-on activities and experiments. We watch a lot of documentaries and movies (when they fit in with a unit). We read a lot of books aloud together (including some of the textbooks we've used). And, we play a lot of games in our homeschool as well (even my oldest still loves those). Don't worry if our style doesn't suit you, that's definitely not a bad thing. Just take what sounds interesting or useful and disregard the rest!

We have three kids in our family. We often do science and history together. That means that we don't have a set plan for each grade. But, as our blog has grown and as the number of resources we have available has increased, I have gotten more and more emails from people asking where to start. This series is my humble attempt to try to address some of the emails I've gotten

- I'm overwhelmed, I don't even know where to start.
- What should I teach my child in Grade ____?
- How do I know what to teach my kids?

Every homeschool is very different. Just as each family is unique, each homeschooling family will wind up following their own enriching, exciting educational journey.

Creating your homeschool curriculum is easier than you might think. Decide on the basic subjects you'll want to cover – and then choose the topics you want to start with. Sounds easy, right? But when there is SO much you can cover, it's hard to know where to start.

I wanted to pull together some of the topics we covered and resources we used as my kids moved through 4th and 5th grades.

My hope is that this helps new homeschoolers to see some of the possibilities. But you'll want to listen to your own kids and follow your strengths and instincts as an educator. It is quite possible you'll look at some of the things we covered and reject it all. That's helpful too, right?!!

I'm worried that this resource is a bit rough around the edges... Life has been very busy and I feel like it could use some editing and polishing. Maybe I'll get to that at some point, but I wanted to publish and share it because a number of readers have been asking for it.

So, for what it is worth, here is the next in the series. I really hope it is helpful.

Warmly,

Liesl

P.S. You can always email me at Liesl@homeschoolden.com if you have questions (or just to say hi and tell me about your homeschooling family!!)

How to Create Your Own Homeschool Curriculum: Gr. 4-5

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 resource 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 2nd grader and my 7th 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 3rd 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! We continued that in 4th, 5th and in to middle school.

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 Grade 2-3. 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 4 and 5.

Grade 4 - 5 Overview

Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	Arts, Music, Foreign Language
<p>Independent Reading – 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>Read Aloud Books We always had a novel going. We started reading historical fiction that corresponded with our history units.</p> <p>Writing Workshop Writing Mini-Lesson and 25-30 minutes writing/daily.</p> <p>Spelling – We continued to use All About Spelling (and love this program!!!) for Grades 4 and 5.</p> <p>Grammar: My kids used Write Source Skillsbooks each year. (A consumable workbook.) 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... I have a detailed post about grammar here: Grammar in our Homeschool this has links to lots of our FREE grammar worksheets!</p>	<p>Multiplication and Division Facts 2s thru 11s Double-Digit Multiplication</p> <p>Long Division</p> <p>Fractions</p> <p>Equivalent Fractions, Finding Common Denominators, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division of Fractions</p> <p>Decimals – Fractions as Decimals</p> <p>Percentages (5th grade+)</p> <p>Geometry – We used a supplementary book around 5th or 6th grade that my kids worked through.</p>	<p>*Ancient History If you are new to homeschooling, your kids might be interested in starting with Ancient History. In these grades our family studied Ancient China and India in quite some depth. If you've been homeschooling for a while you might be moving on chronologically with</p> <p>*Middle Ages *Renaissance *Reformation *Age of Exploration</p> <p>Our family tended to do a unit on World History and then switch to doing a unit on American History (other families spend an entire year on one of the other).</p> <p>American History Colonies Native Americans/The West Slavery and the Civil War Civil Rights Movement</p> <p>Civics and Government We did a fairly in-depth unit when my kids were this age.</p> <p>*Geography Activities – Pin maps, Playdough Maps, Cookie Dough Maps, etc.!</p>	<p>Earth's Atmosphere (layers of the atmosphere) Weather and Water (Water Cycle)</p> <p>Earth Science Unit Layers of the Earth, Plate movement, volcanoes, earthquakes and more</p> <p>Rocks and Minerals, Rock Cycle (if you haven't done this)</p> <p>Chemistry Unit – states of matter (review) properties of matter, electricity and circuits</p> <p>Cells – organelles and their function, Animal vs. Plant cells, Eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells</p> <p>Scientific Classification and Taxonomy We covered this for the first time in 4th grade (repeating every couple of years)</p> <p>Basic Botany, Deciduous vs Coniferous trees, Photosynthesis, Fungi, carnivorous plants</p> <p>Human Body Systems We studied one body system each year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Body Systems (organization from cells, tissues, organs to the body system) • Skeletal System, • Muscular System • Digestive System, Circulatory System, etc. 	<p>Music and Music Theory – I wanted the kids to learn basic music symbols and music notes. We have a beginning music curriculum here.</p> <p>Art</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. Over on the blog we also have some free Spanish worksheets for kids on food, the body, fall words, Christmas words, Valentine's theme vocabulary, garden words and more! Plus, there are Spanish units (4 PDFs per unit) in the Spanish store.</p> <p>My youngest started learning German when she was in 1st or 2nd grade and she started learning Spanish (with Sra. Morato's online Homeschool Elementary Spanish classes) in 5th grade.</p>

Grade 4 - 5

Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	Arts, Music, Foreign Language
<p>Independent Reading – 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>Read Aloud Books We always had a novel going. We started reading historical fiction that corresponded with our history units.</p> <p>Writing Workshop Writing Mini-Lesson and 25-30 minutes writing/daily.</p> <p>Spelling – We continued to use All About Spelling (and love this program!!!) for Grades 4 and 5.</p> <p>Grammar:</p> <p>My kids used Write Source Skillsbooks each year. (A consumable workbook.) 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... I have a detailed post about grammar here: Grammar in our Homeschool this has links to lots of our FREE grammar worksheets!</p>	<p>Multiplication and Division Facts 2s thru 9s Double-Digit Multiplication</p> <p>Long Division</p> <p>Fractions</p> <p>Equivalent Fractions, Finding Common Denominators, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division of Fractions</p> <p>Decimals – Fractions as Decimals</p> <p>Percentages (5th grade+)</p> <p>Geometry – We used a supplementary book around 5th or 6th grade that my kids worked through.</p>	<p>*Ancient History If you are new to homeschooling, your kids might be interested in starting with Ancient History. In these grades our family studied Ancient China and India in quite some depth. If you've been homeschooling for a while you might be moving on chronologically with</p> <p>*Middle Ages *Renaissance *Reformation *Age of Exploration</p> <p>Our family tended to do a unit on World History and then switch to doing a unit on American History (other families spend an entire year on one of the other).</p> <p>American History Colonies Native Americans/The West Slavery and the Civil War Civil Rights Movement</p> <p>Civics and Government We did a fairly in-depth unit when my kids were this age.</p> <p>*Geography Activities – Pin maps, Playdough Maps, Cookie Dough Maps, etc.!</p>	<p>Earth's Atmosphere (layers of the atmosphere) Weather, Clouds, Winds, Weather Fronts</p> <p>Earth Science Unit Layers of the Earth, Plate movement, volcanoes, earthquakes and more</p> <p>Rocks and Minerals, Rock Cycle</p> <p>Chemistry Unit – properties of matter, electricity and circuits</p> <p>Cells</p> <p>Scientific Classification and Taxonomy</p> <p>Basic Botany, Deciduous vs Coniferous trees, Photosynthesis, Fungi, carnivorous plants</p> <p>Human Body Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Body Systems (organization from cells, tissues, organs to the body system) Skeletal System, Muscular System Digestive System, Circulatory System, etc. 	<p>Music and Music Theory – I wanted the kids to learn basic music symbols and music notes. We have a free curriculum here. When the kids were 9, they could join our local Homeschool Band. My kids have chosen to play the saxophone, flute and French horn. That fills our music needs for 4th grade +</p> <p>Art</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. Over on the blog we also have some free Spanish worksheets for kids on food, the body, fall words, Christmas words, Valentine's theme vocabulary, garden words and more!</p> <p>My youngest started learning German when she was in 1st or 2nd grade and she started learning Spanish (with Sra. Morato's online Homeschool Elementary Spanish classes) in 5th grade.</p>

Grade 4 - 5

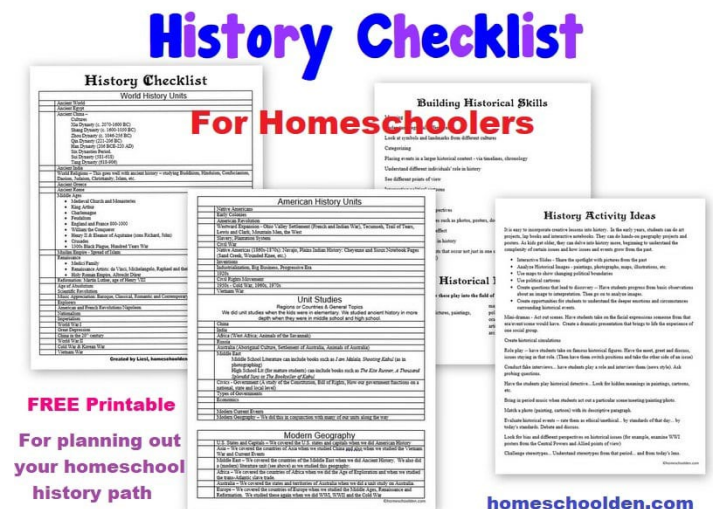
Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	Arts, Music,
See pages 28 to 34	See page 46	See pages 35 to 45	See pages 8 to 27	See pages 47 Foreign Language See Pages 48-55

You might find these free resources more helpful if you have been homeschooling for a while. These are units and topics I hope to cover from K-8.

[Homeschool Science Unit Checklist for Elementary and Middle School](#)

[Language Arts Homeschool Checklist](#)

[Homeschool History Checklist](#)



Grade 4-5 Science



Earth Science: the layers of the earth, Earth's mantle, plate movements, tectonic plates, faults, earthquakes, volcanoes

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.



Rocks and Minerals This is a fun, hands-on unit. You might cover this if your kids haven't covered this yet.



Magnets and the Magnetosphere

We talked about magnets when the kids were in PreK or K and played around with them, but around 4th/5th grade we did a unit exploring the properties of magnets and then talking about the Earth's Magnetosphere.



Earth Systems: Atmosphere

We covered the Layers of the Atmosphere just before talking about weather and weather fronts.



Weather: Clouds, Winds, Weather Fronts

We did a unit on Natural Disasters in 2nd or 3rd grade and then covered clouds, wind, weather fronts a year or two later.



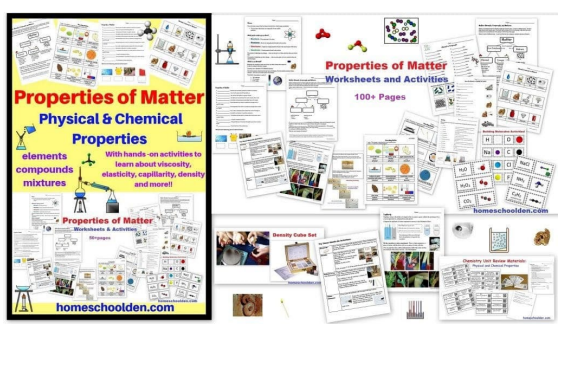
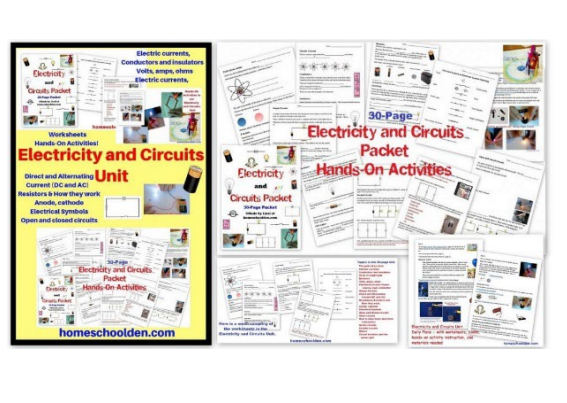


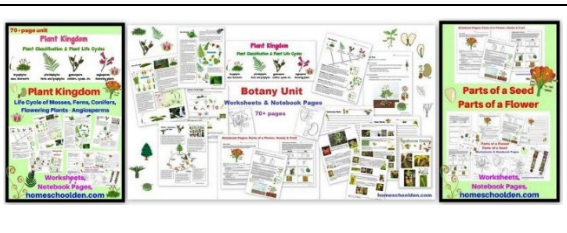

Trash and Recycling

Learn what happens to our trash, what can be recycled, plastics, and more



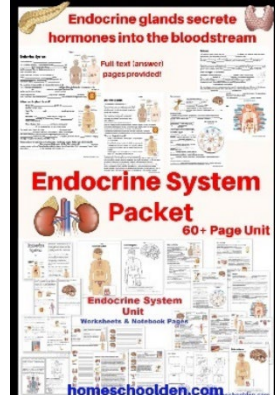
States of Matter Solids, liquids, gases & terms like melting, freezing, evaporation, condensation, sublimation, deposition. We did some fun hands-on activities such as experiments with dry ice (to show deposition).

We covered this first in 2nd or 3rd grade but reviewed some of the terms before talking about the Properties of Matter.

	<p>Properties of Matter Depending on your kids ability level you might cover this around 5th grade. We covered topics such as 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; Building Molecules Activities (and activity cards) – You will probably want to review this again in middle school</p>
	<p>Electricity and Circuits Unit – This is a fun, hands-on unit! We did this unit after we covered the Properties of Matter. This is a really fun, hands-on unit. Topics in this unit included The parts of an atom; Electric currents; Conductors and insulators; Parts of a light bulb; Batteries; Volts, amps, ohms; Electrical circuits: Power source, load, conductor; Simple Circuits; Direct and Alternating Current (DC and AC); Resistance, Resistors and How they work; Anode, cathode; Electrical Symbols; Open and closed circuits; Short circuits; How to draw basic electrical schematics; Series circuits; Parallel circuits; Motors; Circuit breakers and the power grid</p>
	<p>Cells Unit My middle daughter was in 4th grade when we covered the organelles of the cell for the first time. We made playdough cells and learned about the basic functions of the organelles. Then we reviewed the organelles every year or two (going into more depth as the kids got older.</p>
	<p>Scientific Classification and Taxonomy Packet dichotomous key activity, Linnaeus & the history of classification, learn the Animalia phyla (Annelids, Platyhelminthes, Nematodes, Cnidaria, Animalia, etc.) My youngest was in 4th grade when we did this unit. Since this is a complicated unit, we tended to bring out the classification chart most every year after that at least for some quick review.</p>
	<p>Botany Packet – Plant Classification, Life Cycle of the Moss, Fern, Conifer, Angiosperms, Parts of a Flower, Parts of a Seed, Seed & Fruit Development, Monocots vs Dicots – plus Carnivorous Plants Mini-Unit We also did a little bit of botany most every year. We covered deciduous/coniferous trees and fungi around 4th or 5th grade.</p>
	<p>Human Body Systems We usually studied one body system each year. We did the skeletal system, digestive system and circulatory system early on.</p>

Human Body Systems

We continued our routine of covering one or two human body systems each year. We covered most of these units at least once when my kids were in elementary, but went into more depth in middle school.

 <p>Human Body Systems</p> <p>Human Body Worksheets</p> <p>How the body is organized: from smallest cells to tissues, organs to body systems</p> <p>homeschoolden.com</p>	<h2>Human Body Systems</h2> <p>What are the major human body Systems? How do they work (in general) from cells, tissues, organs to body systems?</p>	 <p>Circulatory System</p> <p>Worksheets, Hands-on Activities and More! 40+ Page Unit</p> <p>homeschoolden.com</p>	<h2>Circulatory System</h2>
 <p>Skeletal System</p> <p>Worksheets, Hands-on Activities and More! 90+ Page Unit</p> <p>homeschoolden.com</p>	<h2>Skeletal System</h2>	 <p>Endocrine System</p> <p>Packet 60+ Page Unit</p> <p>homeschoolden.com</p>	<h2>Endocrine System</h2>
 <p>Muscular System</p> <p>50-page unit</p> <p>homeschoolden.com</p>	<h2>Muscular System</h2>	 <p>Nervous System</p> <p>Packet</p> <p>homeschoolden.com</p>	<h2>Nervous System</h2>
 <p>Digestive System</p> <p>Packet</p> <p>100+ Pages</p> <p>Notebook Pages, Interactive Notebook Pieces and More</p> <p>homeschoolden.com</p>	<h2>Digestive System</h2> <p>In middle school we went on to talk about nutrition: vitamins, fiber, enzymes, etc.</p>		

Science

Many of science units can be done with kids of different ages because you can do so many hands-on activities. We also borrowed a lot of non-fiction books from the library.

If I were a brand-new homeschooler and hadn't done any specific units with my kids, I would probably choose to start with the following my first year homeschooling 4th or 5th grade. Of course, you make the choice that works best for your family!! ☺

1. Earth Science Unit – because this one is full of so many fun, engaging hands-on activities. The year after I would probably do a unit Atmosphere/Weather/Water.
2. Cells, Human Body Systems, Skeletal System and Digestive System (if there were time... That's actually quite a lot to cover, so I might just shave it down to Cells, Human Body Systems and Skeletal System) The year after I would probably review the organelles of the cell and basic human body systems and then go into the Circulatory System.
3. An introduction to chemistry (talking about atoms and molecules, practice building simple molecules). I would probably cover the properties of matter and then do the electricity and circuits unit around 4th/5th grade because it is a fun, hands-on engaging unit.
4. Remember, **we did not do all of these units** in one or two years! My kids did these anywhere from grade 3 to grade 7 (because I have 3 kids and we did science together!)

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 first did Earth Science activities when the kids were ages 3, 5 and 7. Then we returned and did this unit again when the kids were in Grades 1,4, and 6 (That's when I put together the packet you'll see below). If you haven't done this unit before, your kids might really have fun with this. The second time we did this unit, we dove into the material in more depth talking about the solar system and Earth's axis. Then learning how to find latitude and longitude, plate tectonics and convection currents. We talked about the different types faults, mountains, and volcanoes, earthquakes and more.

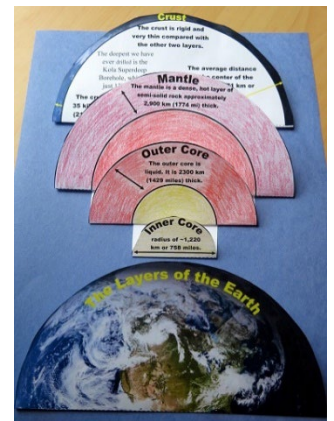
Earth Science

- Layers of the Earth,
- Earth's Geologic Timeline
- Using a Compass
- Latitude, Longitude
- Plate Tectonics, Faults
- Earthquakes,
- 4 Types of Mountains
- Volcanoes terms and types, and More!





We have an [Earth Science Packet](#) includes worksheets about the solar system, the layers of the Earth, plate tectonics, the different types of faults (and where they are located), the ring of fire, earthquake activities, and volcanoes. I also included 15+ 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/Rock Cycle: We covered Rocks and Minerals and the Rock Cycle in earlier grades, but if you haven't covered this, it makes sense to include this in your Earth Science Unit. We have resources here:

[Rocks and the Rock Cycle: Sedimentary, Metamorphic and Igneous Rock Activities](#)

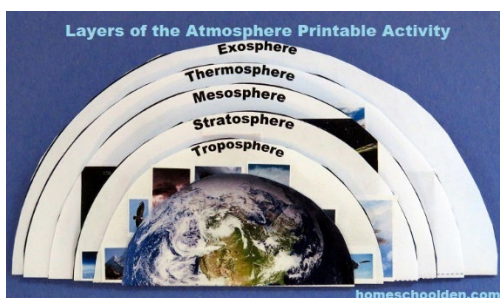
[Rocks and Minerals Packet](#)



Another year we studied another of the Earth Systems:

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](#).



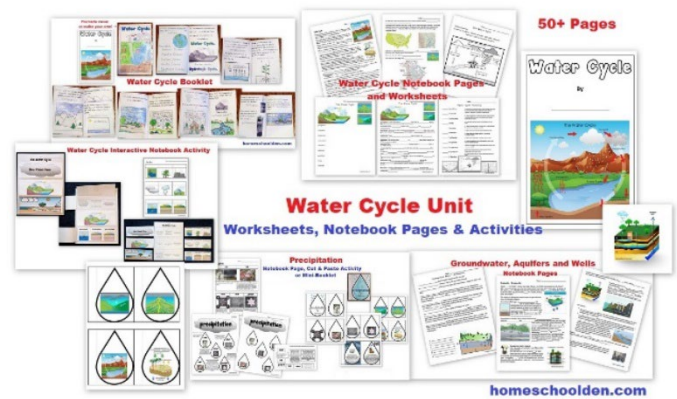
Weather, Water, and the Water Cycle

After studying the Earth's atmosphere, we went on to study some basics about [weather](#). Some of the topics we studied included

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



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



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

If you haven't covered Natural Disasters already, you might cover that too. And we have spent time talking about [Natural Disasters](#). My kids all loved the Raging Planet series. When we talked about natural disasters.



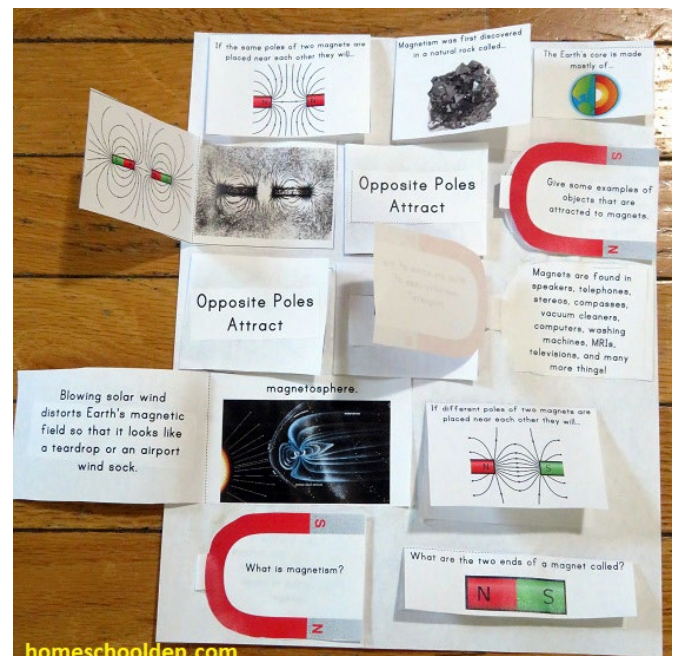
Magnets and the Magnetosphere



In this unit we talked about

- how magnets were discovered,
- magnetic poles,
- magnetic attraction and repulsion,
- **magnetic fields** and the lines of magnetic force,
- magnetic induction & domains,
- Earth's magnetic field – the **magnetosphere**,
- compasses, and
- finally animal's ability to use Earth's magnetic field in order to orient themselves and **migrate** thousands of miles.

This unit was especially fun because of all the experiments and hands-on activities the kids got involved in!



Environmental Science

We had covered the Water Cycle and Rock Cycle in earlier grades. I wanted also to spend time talking about Trash & Recycling before covering the Carbon Cycle (and moving into energy and waves (light waves, sound waves)).



We talked about topics such as

- What happens to our garbage? (with questions that have students find out what happens on a local level)
- What can be recycled
- Disposing of hazardous materials
- Why it's important to recycle
- Statistics and facts about recycling aluminum
- Statistics and facts about recycling Plastics
- Recycling Numbers (on plastics) and what each of these 7 types of plastics can be made into if recycled
- Plastics in our Oceans
- Composting
- What products can be made from recycled materials?



Energy Unit: Some of the things we talked about included Kinetic and Potential Energy, Renewable and Non-renewable Resources, The Carbon Cycle & Fossil Fuels, Light & Sound Waves. I did this in upper elementary or middle school with my kids.


Energy & Force

Name: _____

Energy is one of the most basic ideas of science. Energy is defined as "the ability to do _____". Energy is how things _____ and _____.

Physicists define work in a way that does not always agree with the way we use the word. In physics, work is done when a _____ is applied to an object at a distance in the _____ of the force.


What is Force? Force is something that changes the _____ of an object. In physics, force is a push or pull. A force can cause an object to accelerate, slow down, stop, or change shape.



Balanced or Unbalanced Forces






If forces are balanced, the objects are not _____ or forces _____ are greater than the other and the object will _____.

As the illustrations below demonstrate balanced or unbalanced forces.



Energy

Name: _____

Kinetic Energy <small>Energy of motion</small>	Potential Energy <small>Stored Energy</small>
Mechanical Energy 	Chemical Energy
Electrical Energy 	Nuclear Energy
Thermal Energy 	Gravitational Energy
Radiant Energy 	Elastic Energy
Sound Energy 	

Work

Work is done when a force is applied to an object and the object moves in the direction of the force.

What is Work? Work is something that changes the _____ of an object. In physics, work is a push or pull. A force can cause an object to accelerate, slow down, stop, or change shape.

Work and Energy

Work and energy are closely related. Work is done when a force is applied to an object and the object moves in the direction of the force. Energy is the ability to do work.

Types of Energy

There are many types of energy. Some of the most common are:

- Kinetic Energy:** The energy of motion.
- Potential Energy:** The energy stored in an object.
- Chemical Energy:** The energy stored in the bonds between atoms and molecules.
- Electrical Energy:** The energy of moving electric charges.
- Thermal Energy:** The energy of heat.
- Radiant Energy:** The energy of light and other electromagnetic waves.
- Sound Energy:** The energy of sound waves.
- Gravitational Energy:** The energy of an object's position in a gravitational field.
- Elastic Energy:** The energy stored in a stretched or compressed object.

Energy Transformations

Energy can be transformed from one form to another. For example, a light bulb transforms electrical energy into light and thermal energy. A car transforms chemical energy into kinetic energy.

Conservation of Energy

The total amount of energy in a closed system is always constant. Energy can be transformed, but it cannot be created or destroyed.

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I need to polish this up and share it on the blog. I'll be doing that very soon! This is on my to-do list. You can check the [store area](#) to see if it's available yet! 😊

Energy Unit

The Carbon Cycle & Fossil Fuels

What is fossil fuel?

Fossil fuels formed from the remains of animals and plants that lived millions of years ago.

Coal is formed from dead plant matter submerged in water for millions of years. Over time, the plant matter is buried under layers of sediment, and carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere.

Oil is formed from dead animals that lived millions of years ago. Over time, the animal matter is buried under layers of sediment, and carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere.

How coal was formed

1. Plants die and fall to the ground.

2. The plants are buried under layers of sediment.

3. Over time, the plants are transformed into coal.

Oil & Natural Gas are formed from dead animals that lived millions of years ago. Over time, the animal matter is buried under layers of sediment, and carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere.

Processes and natural gas formation

1. Animals die and fall to the ground.

2. The animals are buried under layers of sediment.

3. Over time, the animals are transformed into oil and natural gas.

Oil and Gas Formation

Plants, animals, and other organic matter are buried under layers of sediment. Over time, the organic matter is transformed into oil and natural gas.

What are some common hydrocarbons? Common hydrocarbons include:

- Methane (CH₄)
- Ethane (C₂H₆)
- Propane (C₃H₈)
- Butane (C₄H₁₀)
- Pentane (C₅H₁₂)
- Hexane (C₆H₁₄)
- Heptane (C₇H₁₆)
- Octane (C₈H₁₈)
- Nonane (C₉H₂₀)
- Decane (C₁₀H₂₂)

Carbon Cycle

The carbon cycle is the process by which carbon is exchanged between the atmosphere, land, and water. Carbon is taken up by plants through photosynthesis and is released back into the atmosphere through respiration and decomposition.

Coal Formation

Plants die and fall to the ground. Over time, the plants are buried under layers of sediment. The plants are transformed into coal.

Where is coal found in the U.S.?

Coal is found in many states, including West Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois.

U.S. Coal Mines, Surface Mines and Underground Mines

Coal is mined in many states, including West Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois. Coal is used for electricity and as a fuel for industry.

Surface Mining

Surface mining involves removing the top layer of soil and rock to reach the coal. This method is used for open-pit and mountaintop removal mining.

Underground Mining

Underground mining involves digging tunnels into the earth to reach the coal. This method is used for deep-shaft and drift mining.

Deep Mining

Deep mining involves digging deep shafts into the earth to reach the coal. This method is used for deep-shaft and drift mining.

The Carbon Cycle

The carbon cycle is the process by which carbon is exchanged between the atmosphere, land, and water. Carbon is taken up by plants through photosynthesis and is released back into the atmosphere through respiration and decomposition.

Photosynthesis

Plants take up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and use it to produce glucose and oxygen. This process is called photosynthesis.

Respiration

Plants and animals release carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere through respiration.

Decomposition

When plants and animals die, they are decomposed by bacteria and fungi. This process releases carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere.

Oil and Gas Formation

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Carbon Cycle

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Intro. Chemistry Unit

In 4th or 5th grade, my kids used *Real Science 4 Kids, Chemistry Level 1*. We really liked these books and they worked well for my kids.

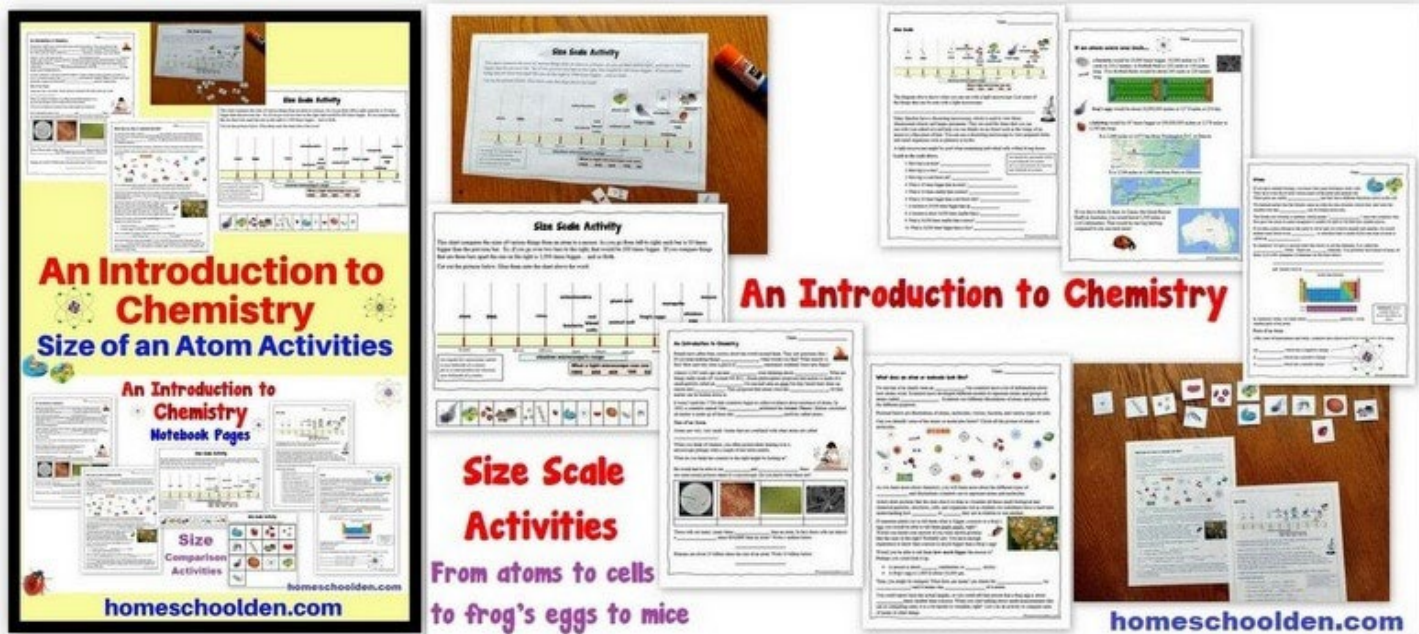
You can find some fun chemistry experiments here. I made this when my youngest was in Gr. 2, but they would be engaging at any age. [Chemistry Experiments \(to get the free printable\)](#) and this is a similar post of [chemistry experiments](#) we did prior to our Properties of Matter



Over the years, I have practiced building molecules with the kids a number of different times.

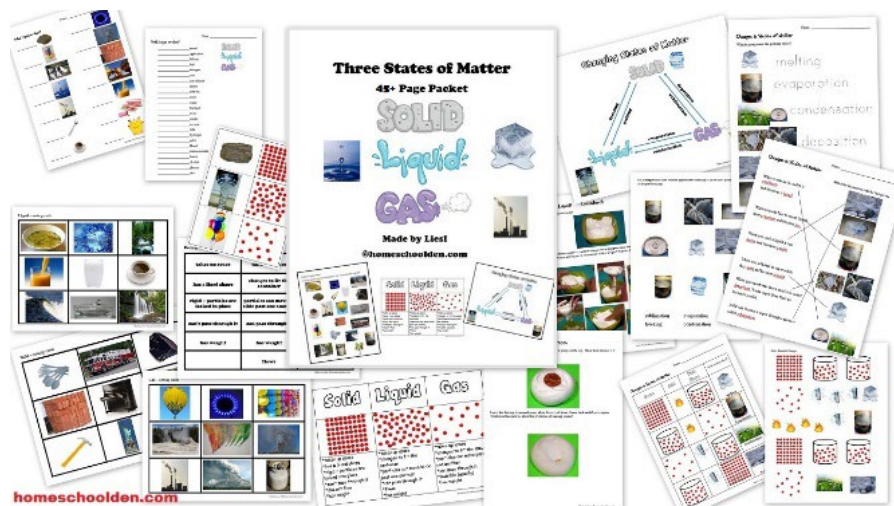
When we first talked about chemistry, my son was 9 (Grade 4). Here are some of the posts:

We talked about the **Size of Atoms**

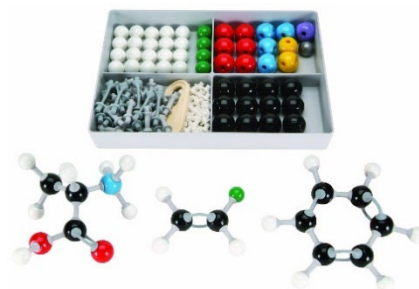


[Molecule Movement Activity – Chemistry Review Worksheet](#)

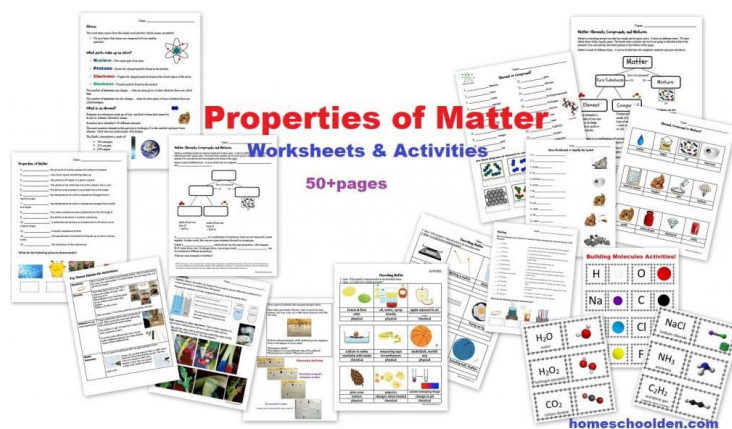
We talked about the States of Matter (My oldest was in Gr. 4 when we talked about this. A number of years later I did this unit again for my youngest. She was in Grade 3. You can see the [States of Matter packet](#) (and hands-on activities) I made here:



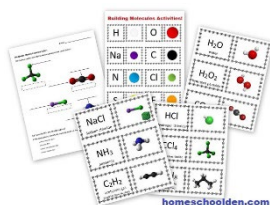
I recommend you invest in a good molecule-building set like this one (Molymod). (I got a cheaper version that is now available and that worked well!) You can start to introduce in the younger grades and it's really useful once you get to the Properties of Matter and start exploring the Periodic Table, etc.



Properties of Matter: Another year we did a unit on the [Physical and Chemical properties of matter](#) (probably best for Grades 5-8 or so. My older two were in Grades 6 and 8 when we did this unit. My youngest was in Grade 3, but it was very challenging/difficult for her.). We talked about terms such as density, mass, volume, conductivity, hardness, freezing and boiling points, malleability etc. (physical properties). Some of the chemical properties we discussed included oxidation, reactivity, toxicity, rust, etc. Other topics we went into:



- Elements & Compounds
- Overview of the Periodic Table
- Physical and Chemical Properties
- molecular vs. structural formulas
- Activities on Density
- Mixtures: Solutions, Colloids and Suspensions
- Solutions: Solvent, Solutes, Saturation Point



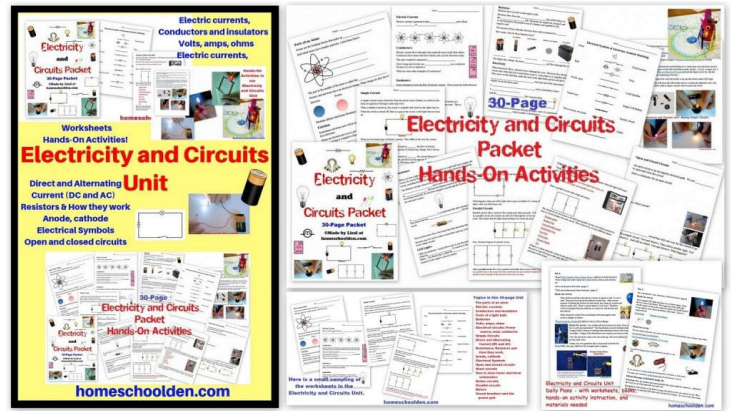
While we were doing this unit, we did a lot of **molecule building**.

Electricity and Circuits Unit

Once we talked about the properties of matter, we then segued into electricity and circuits. This is such a **hands-on**, fun unit!!

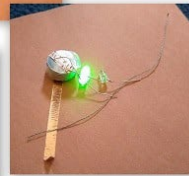
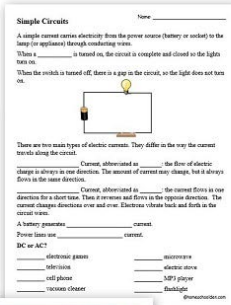
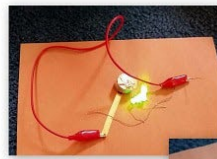
Electricity and Circuits Unit (Grades 4-8).

This was such a hands-on unit, all of my kids really loved this. My kids were Grades 3, 6, and 8 when we did this unit. We did this immediately after our Physical/Chemical Properties of Matter unit – in part, because we spent time talking about conductivity of different elements (including copper).

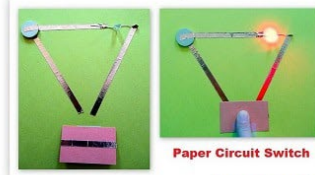


The kids built their own circuits, did paper circuits, squishy circuits and built an art bot! I've added pictures on the next page.

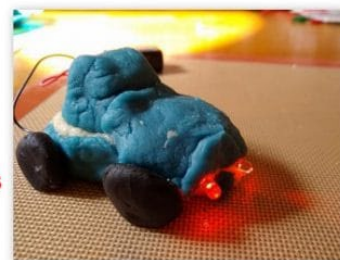
Electricity & Circuits



batteries, lights & simple circuits



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Conductors & Insulators Squishy Circuits Hands-On Activity

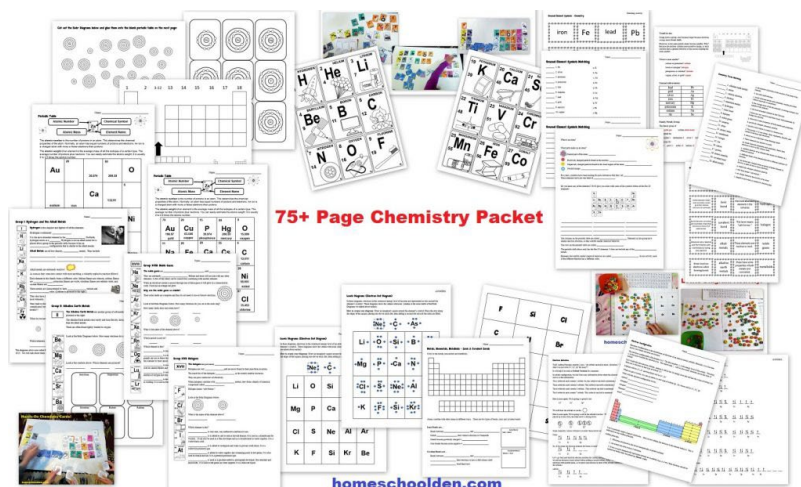


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Chemistry Unit

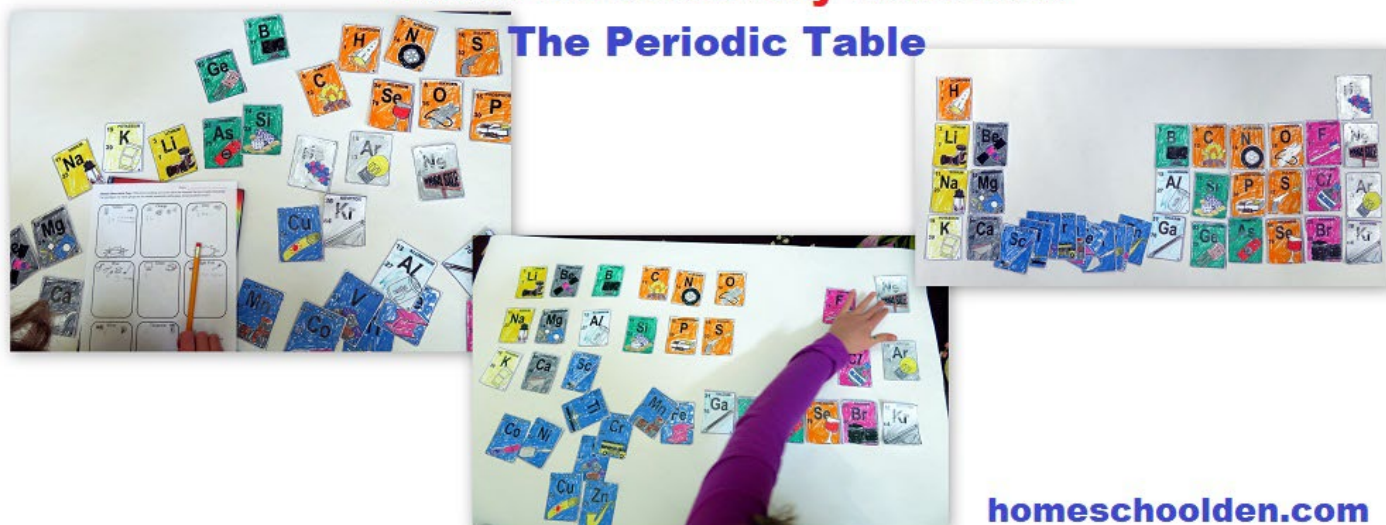
This is probably a good unit for middle school... but if your kids love science a 5th grader might do this (or if you have older kids and your youngest is in 5th grade or so, they can follow along because it's pretty visual). We then came back to it and reviewed this material again as ED got older. Plus, I added in a booklet on the Periodic Table that she did in 5th grade.

The video series we watched talked about the history of chemistry through the ages. We talked about Bohr Diagrams and more.

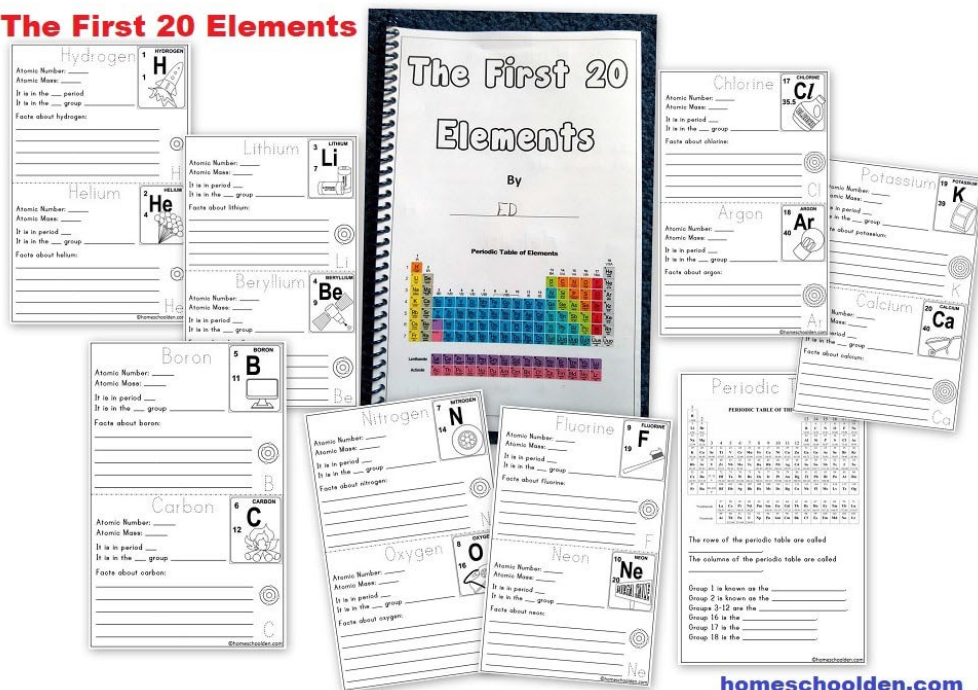


Hands-On Chemistry Activities

The Periodic Table



The First 20 Elements



Egg Experiments -- We did a huge unit all about Eggs in April of one year when my oldest was in 4th grade. Fun STEM activities!! ☺

The Egg-speriment packet is FREE at the blog.

- [Science EggSperiments: Just in time for Easter! \(Part 1 of 4\)](#)
- [3 More Quick EggSperiments: How strong is that egg? \(part 2 of 4\)](#)
- [4 More Science EggSperiments: \(Part 3 of 4\)](#)
- Finally, it's here!! The [Free EggSperiment Pack!](#)
- [Protect Your Egg](#) – Seatbelt Safety
- [Human Body Experiment](#) – Protect That Brain!



The Homeschool Den

[Spring Packet: Animals, Life Cycles, and Eggs – FREE Printables](#)

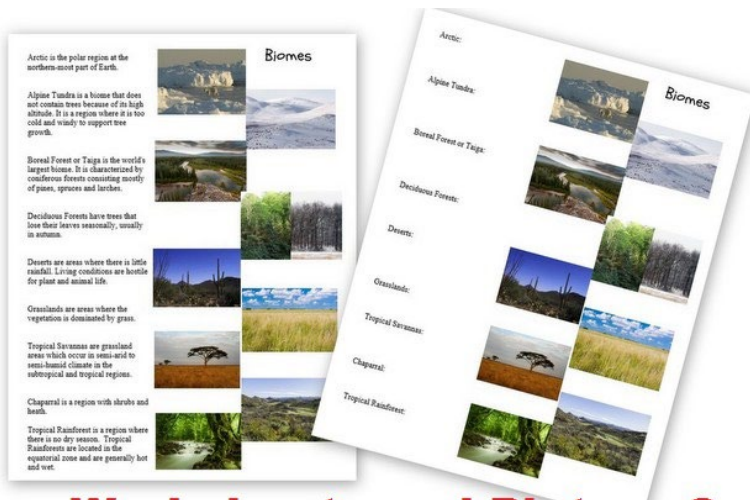
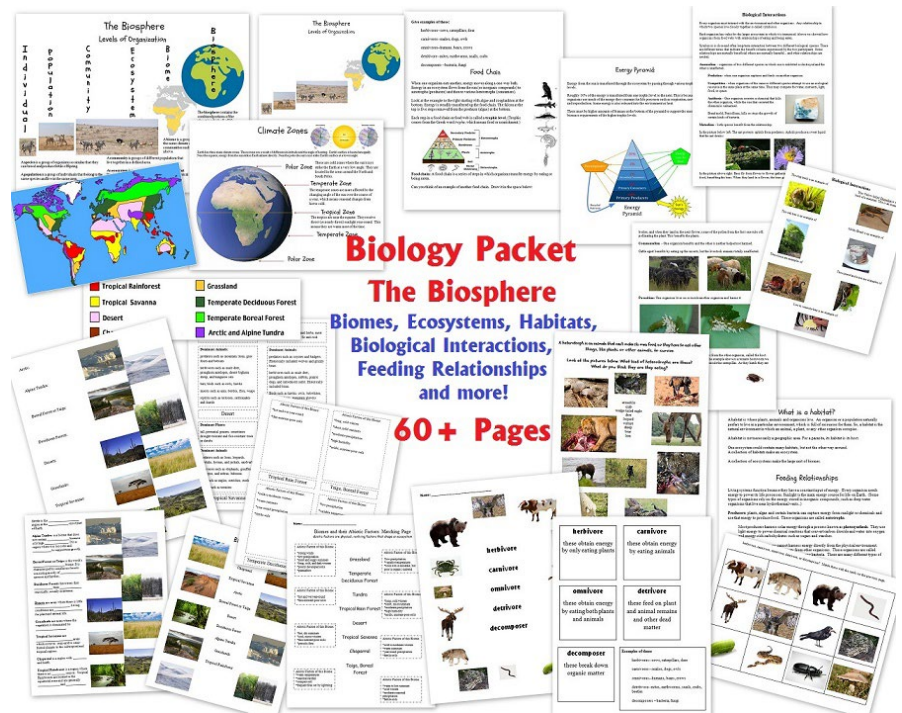


Biology Unit

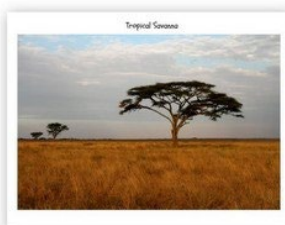
My daughter was in 5th grade when we did our Biology Unit. My son was in 7th. This unit would be fine from 5th thru 8th grade, especially if your kids have a passion for animals!

We had spent years talking about animal classification and the characteristics of animals. In this unit, the kids learned about the difference between biomes, ecosystems, and habitats. We talked about the different features of the world's biomes – not only talking about the different plants and animals in each area, but also the abiotic factors (such as soil, climate, etc.). WE talked about different feeding relationships as well as the different biological relationships (amensalism, parasitism, etc.)

We also watched the BBC series called Life with this unit. My kids adored these and David Attenborough is now one of their heroes! (Kidding of course, but they *really* like all the documentaries he's done. They went on to watch others!)



Biome Worksheets and Picture Cards

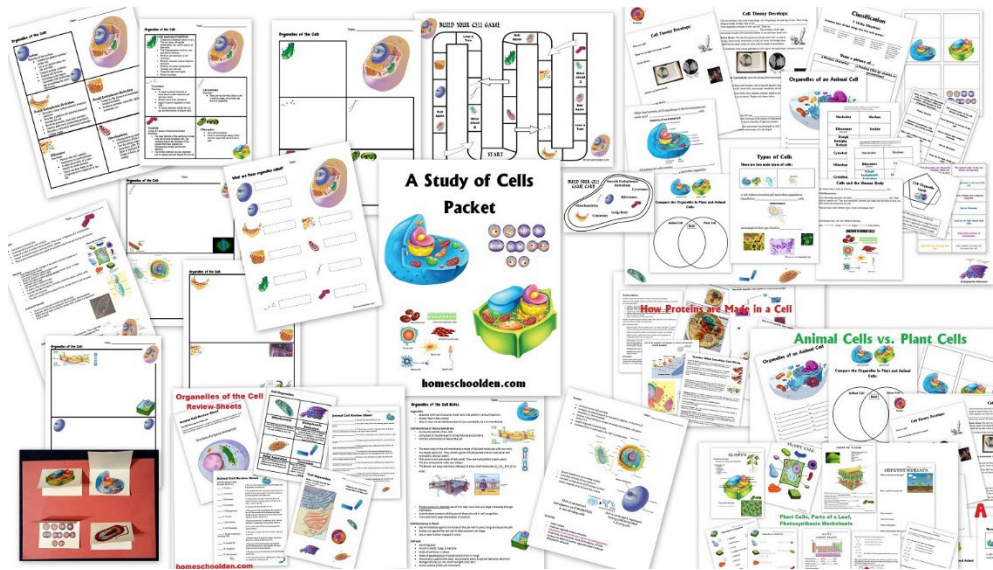


8 x 11 Printable Photos of the 9 Biomes
(or print 4-per-page for smaller cards)

Following this unit, we went on to study the Ocean. I'm going to talk about the [Ocean Unit](#) more in the Grades 6-8 Curriculum Resource Guide

Cell Unit

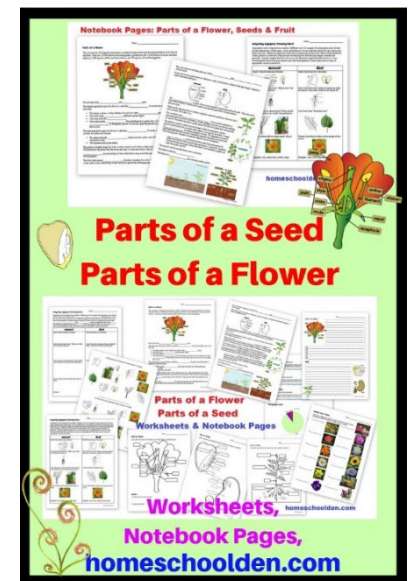
When the kids were in grades 4 and 6 (and my youngest was in Gr. 1) We started our Human Body Unit with a [Study of Cells](#) – The kids learned the different organelles and their functions, the difference between Eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells, plant vs. animal cells and more. Then, most years after that, we've spent at least a day or two reviewing the organelles (to keep that vocabulary fresh in their minds).



Basic Botany and Photosynthesis

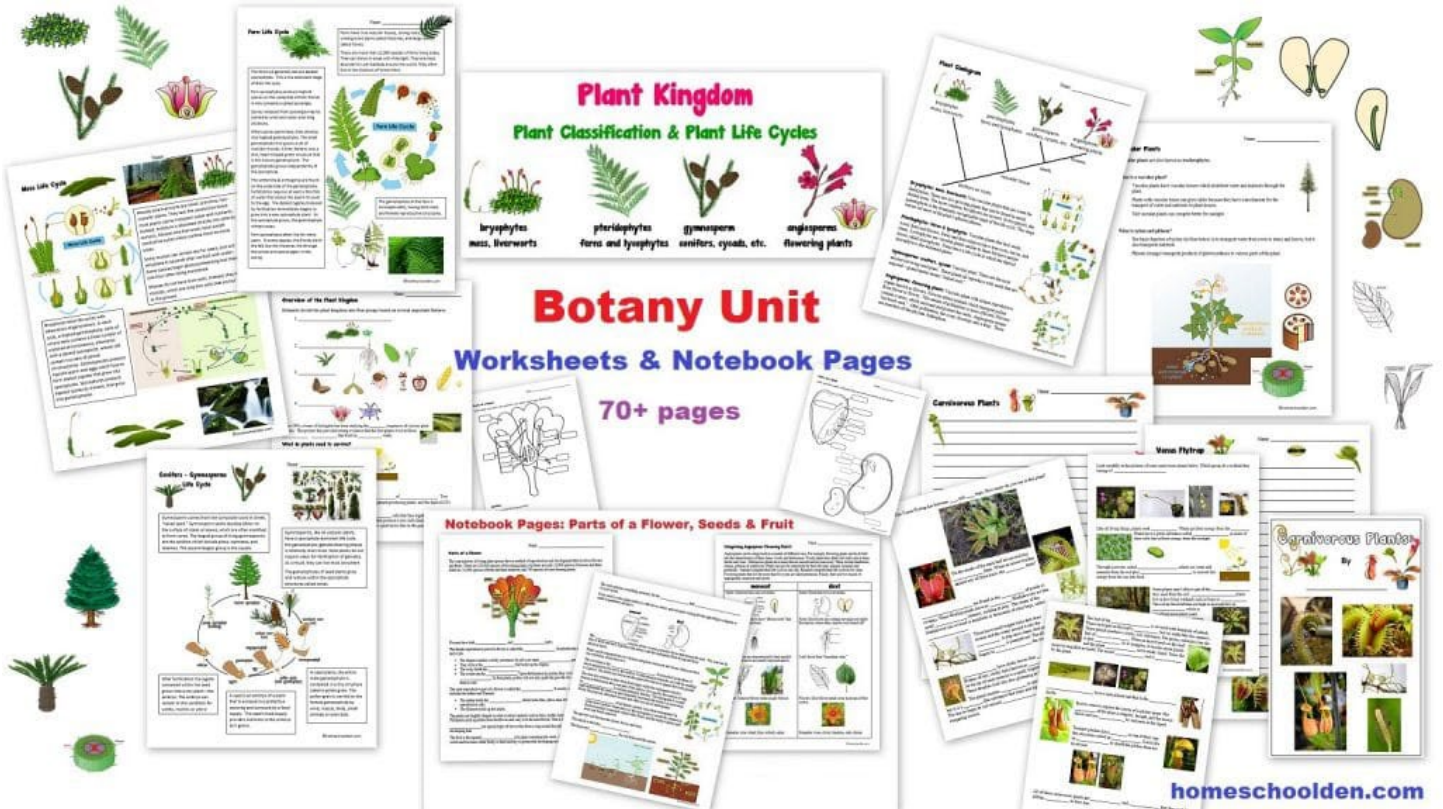
Because we talked about plant cells, we spent a bit of time talking about the parts of the plant, [parts of a seed](#), [parts of a flower](#) and [photosynthesis](#).

The [Botany Unit](#) (which includes the material on the [Parts of a Seed/Parts of a Flower](#)) also includes a mini-unit on carnivorous plants that my kids did in



Botany Unit

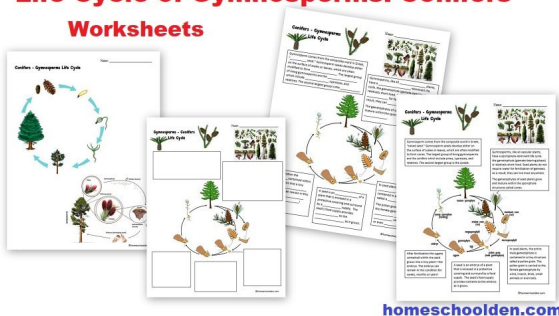
Our botany also includes material on the Plant Kingdom and the four main groups of plants. In our family, we covered that lightly in the carnivorous plants unit, but didn't go into more detail about those 4 groups until middle school. Still, it's included in the Botany Unit in case you want to cover it all at once (and I included worksheets for younger kids).



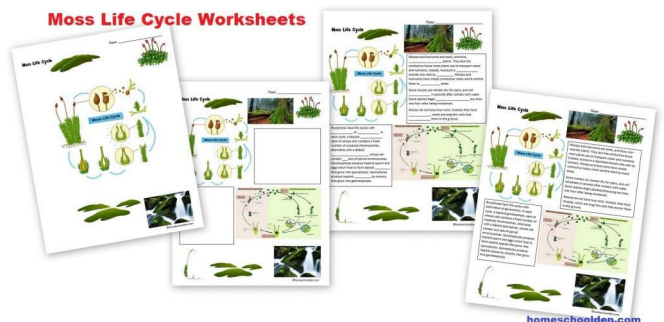
Plant Kingdom



Life Cycle of Gymnosperms: Conifers Worksheets



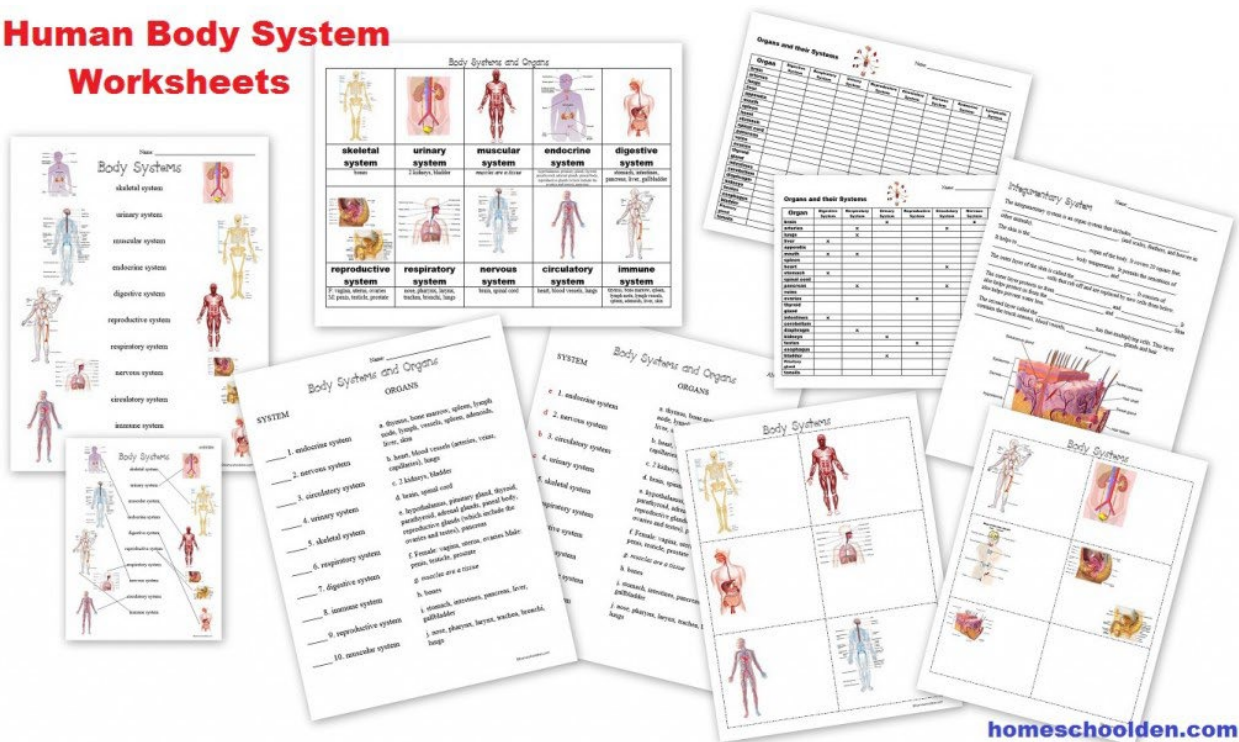
Moss Life Cycle Worksheets



Human Body Units (We try to do one different human body system unit each year.) You can check out our [Human Body BUNDLE](#) here.

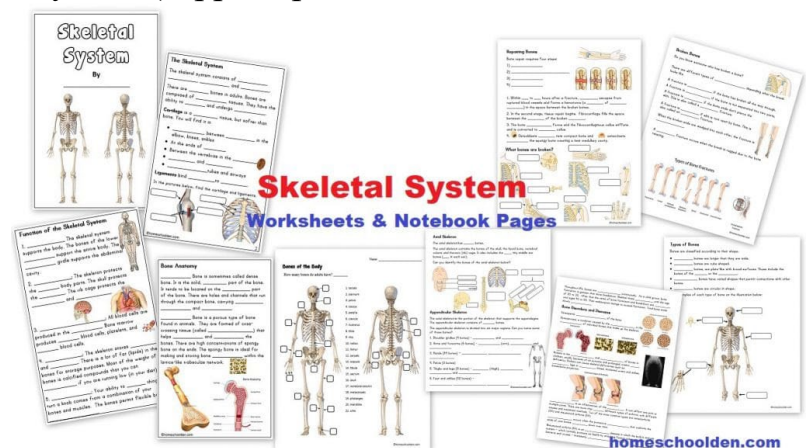
Human Body Systems: Organization from cells to tissues, organs and body systems. After our Cell Unit, we talked about the Human Body Systems in a general way. [Human Body Worksheets: Cells, Tissues, Organs, and the Human Body Systems](#)

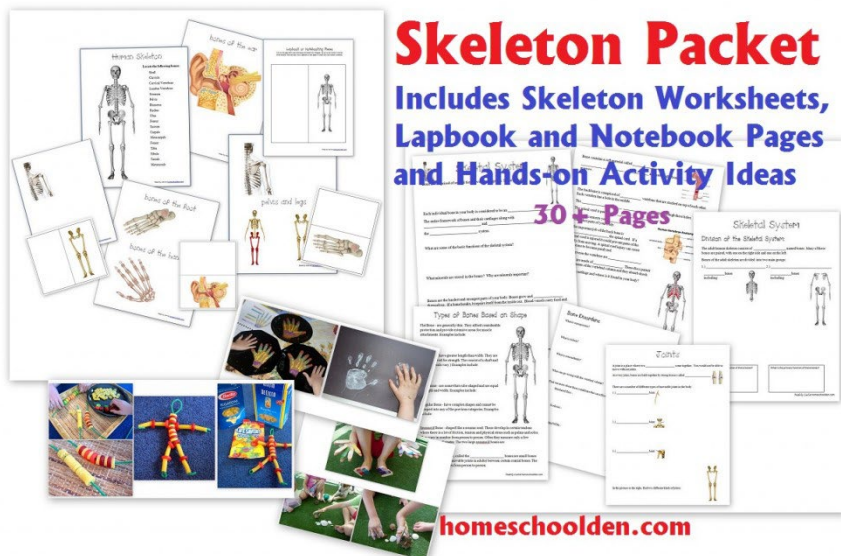
Human Body System Worksheets



Skeletal System

- [Skeletal System](#) – This is another unit we cover/review every year or so to keep some of the names of the bones fresh in their minds. (That's useful because if you know that the femur is the large bone in the leg, it's easier to remember the femoral artery... just as an example.) In this unit 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
- We have a packet of notebook pages and our hands-on activities.

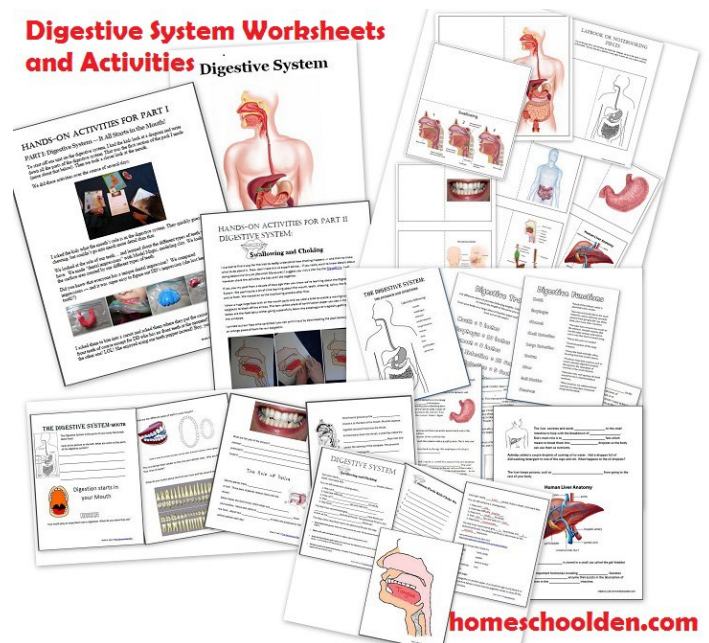




[Skeletal System Packet](#): We learned about the bones of the body, the appendicular and axial systems, Basic functions of the skeletal system (support, protection, assistance in movement, the storage and release of minerals, blood cell reproduction), how bones grow and repair themselves, bone remodeling, bone marrow, and the spine, Bones and Cartilage

Digestive System

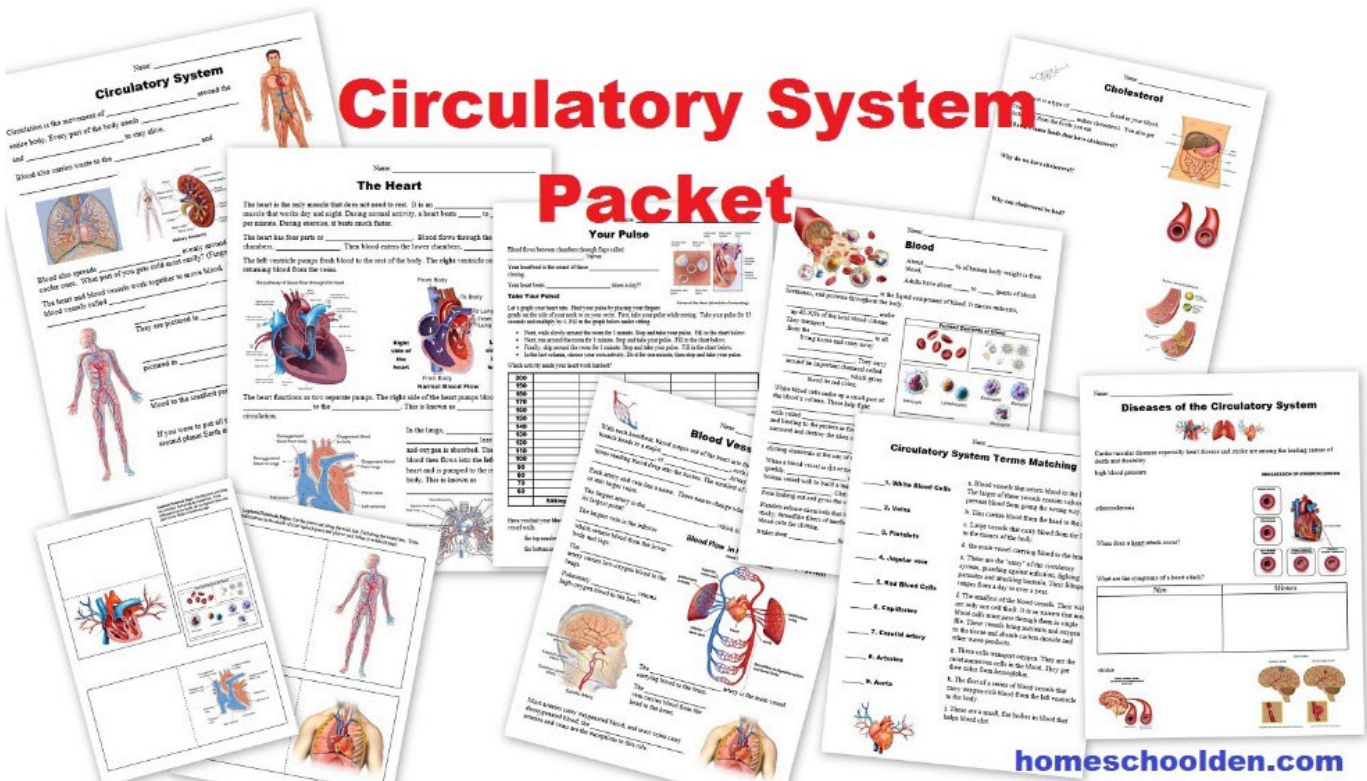
- I would probably recommend doing the Digestive System for 4th grade (if you haven't covered it). You can cover the circulatory system in a general way at any age... but going more in depth as we did I recommend for 5th grade on up. My kids were in Grades 3, 6 and 8 when we did the circulatory system unit.
- [Digestive System](#) – This is a unit we'll return to after a few years to go into more depth. There are a lot of hands-on activities you can do with this unit so you can make it work for any age – going into more depth with your older kids.



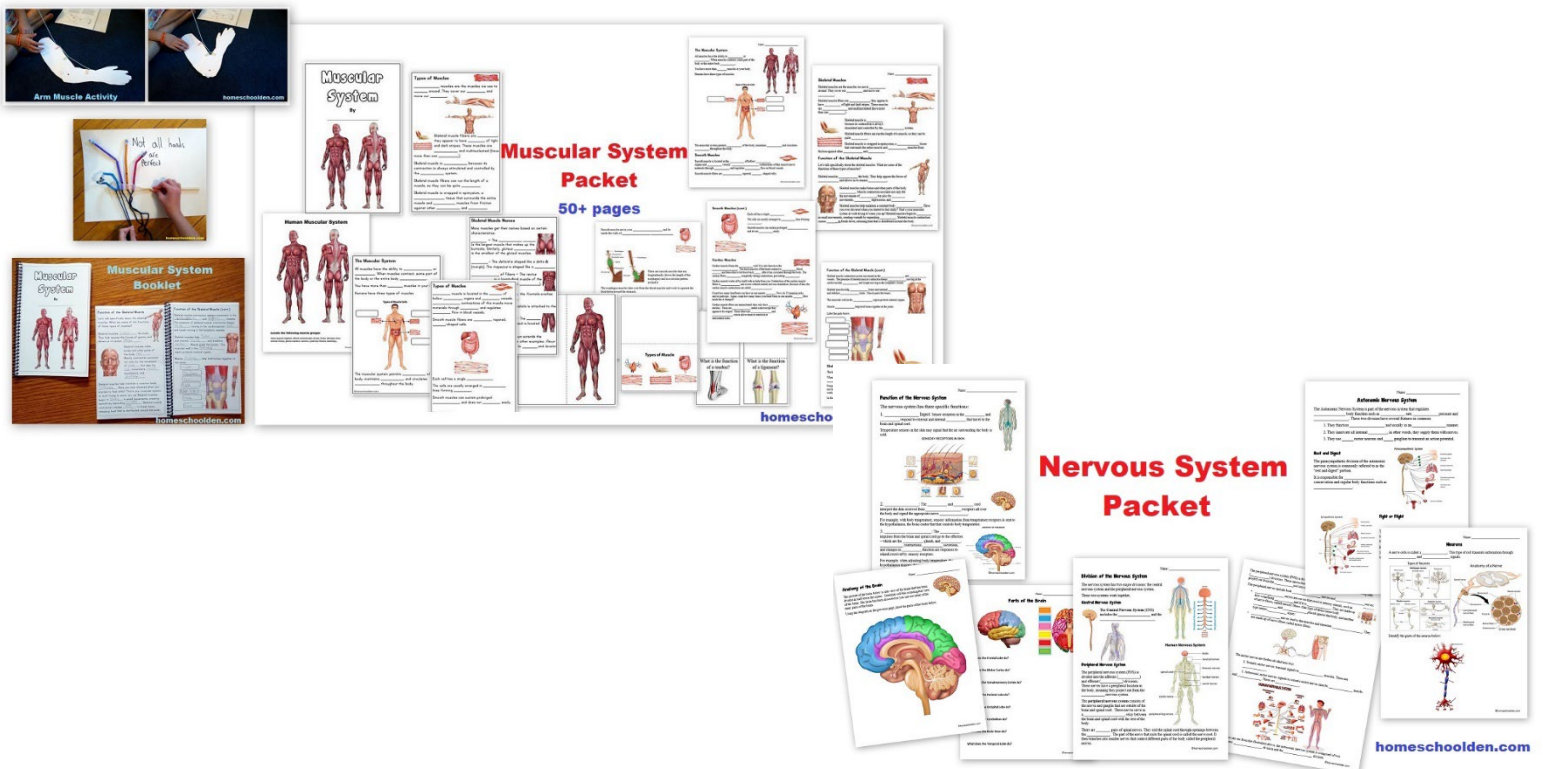
Circulatory System

- Circulatory System – We first tackled this unit in a very general way when the kids were about 4, 7, and 9.
- [Circulatory System Packet: Worksheets and Hands-on Activities](#)
When we covered this unit again, we dove into much more depth. Some of the topics we talked about included
 - Circulatory System's function
 - The Heart
 - Your Pulse
 - Blood Vessels – Arteries, Veins, Capillaries
 - Blood flow through the heart – pulmonary and systemic systems

- Blood – parts of the blood and their jobs
- Blood types – blood typing project
- Cholesterol
- Diseases of the Circulatory system



My kids covered the Muscular System & Nervous System in middle school, but it is also included in the [Human Body BUNDLE](#).



Language Arts

Independent Reading: At this age, I just wanted the kids to read a lot. I just supplied them with lots of books! Here are some award-winning books that we read in this age range. Some of these the kids read on their own. Some of them we read aloud together. A few of them we listened to as books on tape.

Some families have the kids do study guides to go along with these. Our family didn't, but there are some good Literature guides out there for homeschooling families.

Reading List – Grade 4-6

Because of Winn Dixie
Freckle Juice
Sign of the Beaver
Sarah Plain and Tall
Sounder
The Witch of Blackbird Pond
The Giver
The Trumpet of the Swan
Island of the Blue Dolphins
The Westing Game
Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing
The Hundred Dresses
Harriet the Spy
Julie of the Wolves
The Chronicles of Narnia
Bridge to Terabithia
Chocolate Fever
Ella Enchanted
Little House on the Prairie
Heidi
Hatchet

Manic Magee
Matilda
Number the Stars
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIHM
One and Only Ivan
Snow Treasure
Holes
A Wrinkle in Time
Findle
Old Yeller
My Side of the Mountain
The Golden Compass
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon
The Giver
Bud, Not Buddy
Kit's Wilderness
The Secret Garden
The Slave Dancer
Crispin
Pippi Longstocking
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

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, like the ones above) 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.

Literature and History: We also have chosen to read historical fiction to go along with our history units. Let me highlight a few memorable ones:

China Unit: We spent almost an entire semester studying China when LD was in 5th grade. We read two novels, *Bound* (a Chinese Cinderella story) and *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, aloud together and learned a lot. This post has some of the other books that went along with that unit:

<http://homeschoolden.com/2014/04/01/china-unit-books-books-a-huge-list-of-childrens-books/>

Civil Rights Movement: After we studied China, we switched over to studying India. We ended with a study of Gandhi... which was a good segue into the study of the Civil Rights Movement. There are a lot of fabulous children's books on the Civil Rights Movement and I highly recommend doing a unit on that in the 4th-5th grade range. We have several free packets over on the blog that I created as our family learned about this period. This post has some of the other books that went along with that unit:

[Civil Rights Books for Elementary](#)

You probably get the idea, right? We always have tons of books checked out of our library to enrich whatever history (and science) units we are currently covering!

Literature Textbooks: When my daughter was in Grade 5, we added traditional literature books to our homeschool routine. (We would read out of the texts for 15 minutes at the beginning of our Writing Workshop.

My daughter loves (loves, loves!) to read and she loved the selections in these giant books. She read several thick literature books over the course of 5th grade (and another 2 in 6th grade). She also asked to read several of the books (that had selections in the textbook). These texts cover things like plot, setting, persuasion and so forth. You can buy these fairly cheaply used on Amazon. I talk more about those literature textbooks here at this post: [Language Arts Update: Literature, Spelling, Vocabulary and Grammar](#) That might not be your family's style, but they worked well for us.

Writing:

Writing Assignments: In Grades 4 and 5, I had my kids do various writing assignments over the course of the year. So, while our daily writing routine is to use a writing workshop (more about that below), my kids also had to do various things/assignments: research and create a poster or brochure, do a research paper, do a biography, do an interview and write it up, and things like that. As they moved into the upper grades, I also worked more on note-taking skills. You might want to consider how you'll move into more formal writing assignments as the kids get older.

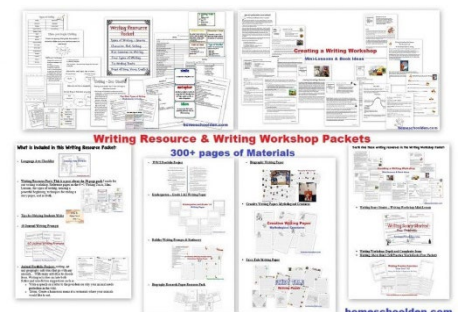
We used a writing workshop method. Here is a quick overview of how that works.

- I often chose a children's book to read aloud. 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.
- 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!"* (I would love it if you support our blog by using the affiliate link at this post in the recommended resources area.) 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* 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:

- [Writing Workshop Page:](#)
<https://homeschoolden.com/writing-workshop/>

At that post you can also watch a quick video where I talked about creating a Writing Workshop in your homeschool.



- [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: This is a post about the 30-page 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](#)
- [Wonderful Free Writing Resource for Young Writers](#)



- [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 \(Free Packet\)](#)



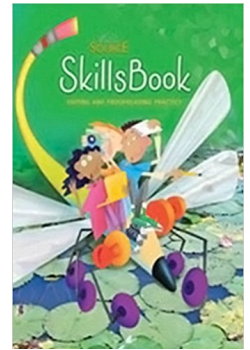
Many of my homeschooling friends use a writing curriculum they purchased called IEW - Institute for Excellence in Writing. At this point, we have never used it, but since I hear so many great things about it, I wanted to mention it as an option for your family in case a writing workshop model doesn't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

When my kids were in Middle School, we used Cover Story (in addition to our Writing Workshop). We really liked that!!

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. These have worked well for our family, though I wish the answers were provided especially in the upper grades. We only do grammar for a couple of months in the spring semester.

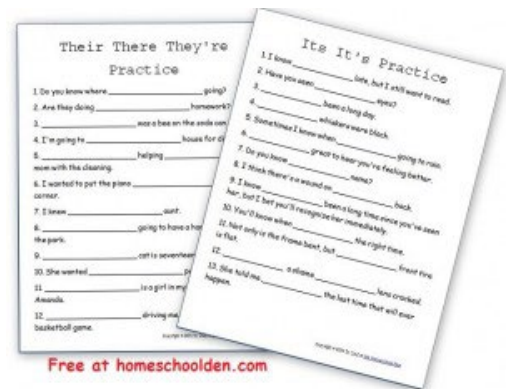


There are other homeschool grammar programs out there. This series worked for our family, so we've stuck with them. You can check out the Rainbow Resource catalog for dozens of other options! ☺

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.

Social Studies/History

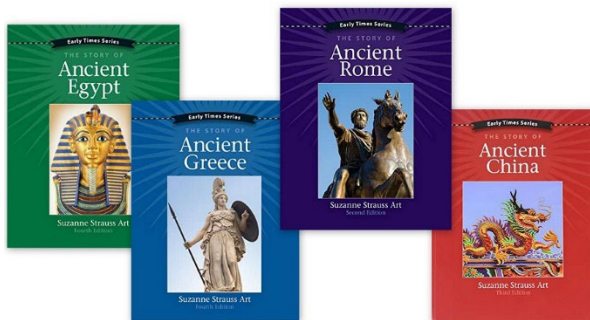
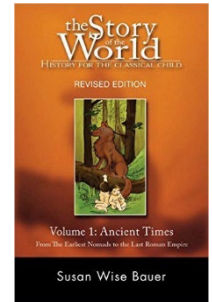
You can't really go wrong with history. You can choose units that your child/ren are interested in studying. Or you can start with the ancients and move chronologically. You can do unit studies. You can use a textbook as a spine or use lots of reference books from the library. There are lots of options! I'll share a little bit of what our family did, for what it's worth. Your family will enjoy your own journey through time!

Ancient World History

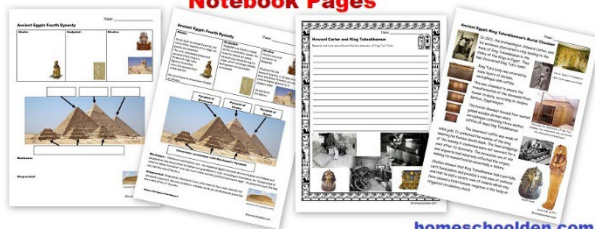
Story of the World is really popular with many homeschoolers. It is an easy, engaging read. I highly recommend this for K through Grade 3. And, when we read this aloud to my youngest when she was in Grade 3, my older two insisted on listening in. The all *loved* it!

I recommend you take a look through it before seeing if it's a good fit for Grades 4 or 5. We turned to the books by Suzanne Strauss Art. They worked really well as read alouds for our family. You might want to check out our [Ancient Egypt Packet](#) as well. It includes notebook pages, timeline cards, lapbook/interactive notebook materials and various activities all about Ancient Egypt and will work really well with mixed ages. I tried to include activities for early

elementary kids as well as more advanced materials for homeschoolers with older kids. I'll be using the timeline cards, some of the notebook pages and the materials on the Egyptian gods and goddesses with my kids this coming fall (and they are in middle school and high school.)



Ancient Egypt Timeline Cards
Notebook Pages



homeschoolden.com



Ancient Egypt Packet
Notebook Pages, Lapbook, Worksheets,
Timeline Cards, and More!

homeschoolden.com



Ancient Egypt Lapbook
Interactive Notebook



homeschoolden.com

History and Mythology of Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt Timeline Cards
Notebook Pages

2666-2613 BCE
Old Kingdom, Dynasties 3-6
Great Sphinx built. Pyramids of Giza built.

2613-2130 BCE
Middle Kingdom, Dynasties 11-13
First pyramid erected in Abydos. First of great art and literature.

2130-1550 BCE
New Kingdom, Dynasties 18-20
Great Sphinx built. Pyramids of Giza built.

Ancient Egypt Unit

75+ pages

Egyptian Gods & Goddesses

Interactive Notebook
Lapbook Activities

homeschoolden.com

Ancient Egypt Packet

Notebook Pages, Lapbook, Worksheets, Timeline Cards, and More!

Ancient Egypt Lapbook
Interactive Notebook

homeschoolden.com

Ancient China Unit

100+ pages

Ancient China Unit

Dynasties of China
Xia, Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han, Sui, Tang, Song

homeschoolden.com

Ancient China Unit

100+ pages

Xia Dynasty
Ancient China Worksheets

Shang Dynasty
Ancient China Worksheets

Zhou Dynasty
Ancient History Notebook Pages

Warring States Period
Ancient China Worksheets

Qin Dynasty
Ancient China Worksheets

Han Dynasty
Ancient China Worksheets

Three Kingdoms Period
Ancient China Worksheets

Sui Dynasty
Ancient China Worksheets

Tang Dynasty
Ancient China Worksheets

Song Dynasty
Ancient China Worksheets

The Dynasties of Ancient China
Ancient China Worksheets

homeschoolden.com

China: When my son was in 5th grade we did a unit on Ancient China (I mentioned this in the language arts section).

We used the *The Story of Ancient China* by Suzanne Strauss Art (comprehensive history of China through the Tang Dynasty. Great spine for grades 4-8) This book is a wonderful, rich and full of details about Chinese history. Great read-aloud for my 3rd and 5th graders. Would be great for Middle School/early High School independently.

We have some free resources about China here (from when we did that unit):

[Ancient China Packet](#)

[Chinese Brush Painting Lesson](#)

[Free Confucius Notebook Pages](#)

[Buddhism Learning Pack](#)

[Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan](#) — Free Notebook Pages, Books and Resources

[Marco Polo](#) — Free Notebook Pages

India: We followed that up with a unit on India.

India Unit

- [Free India Learning Packet](#)
- [Learning about Hinduism: The Hindu Gods and Goddesses](#)
- [Buddhism Learning Pack](#)
- [Gandhi – free worksheets/notebook pages](#)

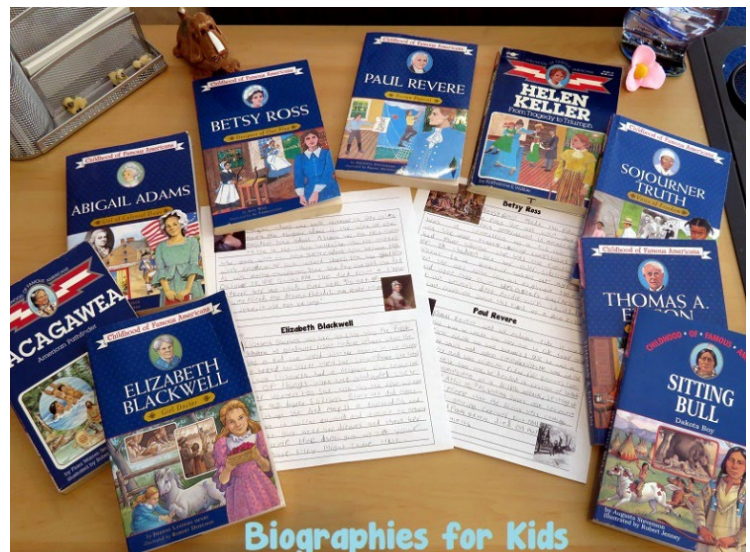


And as we finished our India unit, we talked about Gandhi. That made a good segue into the Civil Rights Movement, more about that unit in just a minute!

History Biographies: Two of my three kids read a number of American history biographies in 4th or 5th grade. One of my daughters did a little more research about each person and wrote a paragraph or so about each of the historical figures

You might want to check one or two of them out to see if they appeal to your kids.

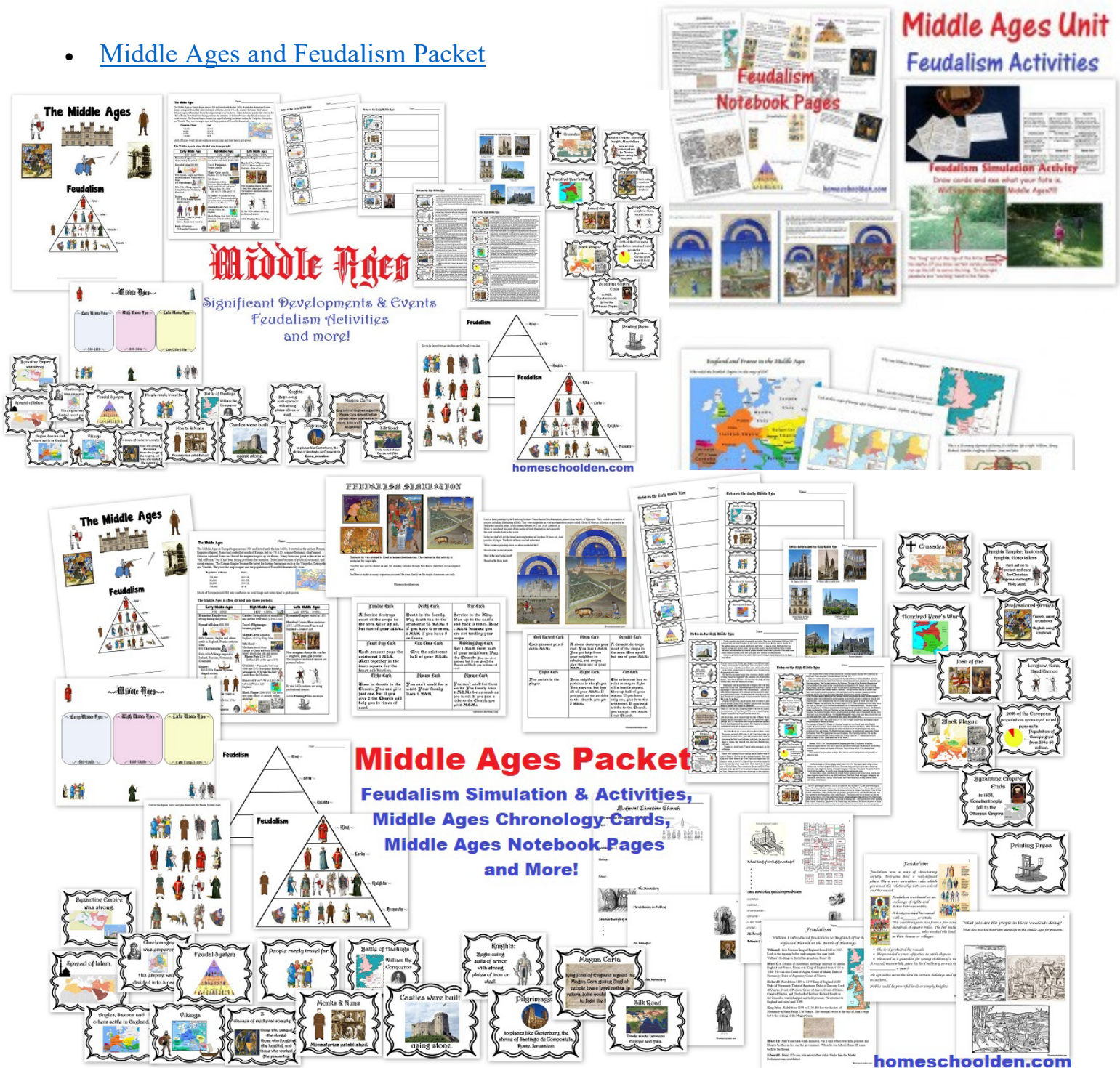
- [Pocahontas: Young Peacemaker](#)
- [Betsy Ross: Designer of Our Flag](#)
- [Abigail Adams: Girl of Colonial Days](#)
- [Paul Revere: Boston Patriot](#)
- [Sacagawea: American Pathfinder](#)
- [Harriet Tubman: Freedom's Trailblazer](#)
- [Sojourner Truth: Voice of Freedom](#)
- [Sitting Bull: Dakota Boy](#)
- [Thomas Edison: Young Inventor](#)



Middle Ages

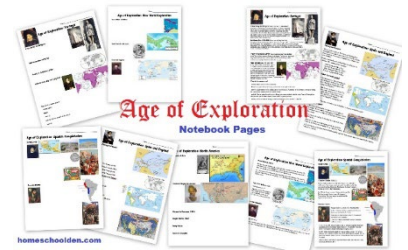
We studied the Middle Ages as a more in-depth unit when the kids were in Grades 6, 4 and 1. We used another book by Suzanne Strauss Art as our spine for this unit (Remember, we used a history book by her about Ancient China as well). It is called *Early Times: The Story of the Middle Ages*. The kids enjoyed it. I recommended it to my homeschooling friend. Her kids enjoyed it too.

- [Middle Ages and Feudalism Packet](#)



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.

- [US States and Capitals](#)
- [Age of Exploration](#)
- [13 Colonies](#)
- [Native Americans](#) (check out our free packets)
- [American Revolution](#)
- [The Oregon Trail \(and the Donner Party\)](#)
- [Slavery & the Civil War](#)
- [Civil Rights Movement](#) (free materials – We did this when the kids were in elementary.)



100+ page unit

US States & Capitals Worksheets and Booklet

Learn the States and Capitals of the USA!

homeschoolden.com

13 Colonies

The Thirteen American Colonies
Notebook Pages, Chronology
Cards, Maps and More!

Roanoke
Jamestown
Plymouth
Massachusetts Bay
and others!

70-page unit

homeschoolden.com

American Revolution
Worksheets, Booklet
Chronology Cards and More!

60+ page unit

Learn about the Causes of the American Revolution and more!

homeschoolden.com

Lapbook Notebook Pages

Oregon Trail Packet

Oregon Trail Notebook Pages and Lapbook

homeschoolden.com

Slavery and the Civil War

100+ Page Unit

Notebook Pages
Answers Provided

homeschoolden.com

Civil Rights Movement
Timeline Activities
Notebook Pages and More

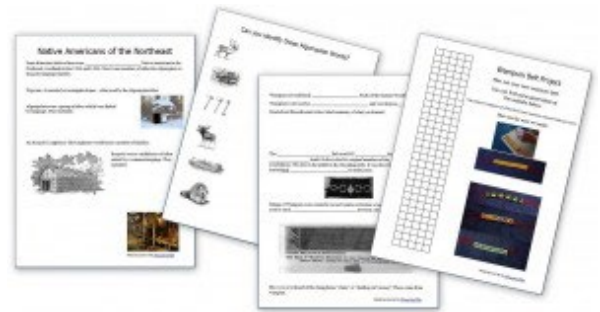
Currently FREE!

homeschoolden.com

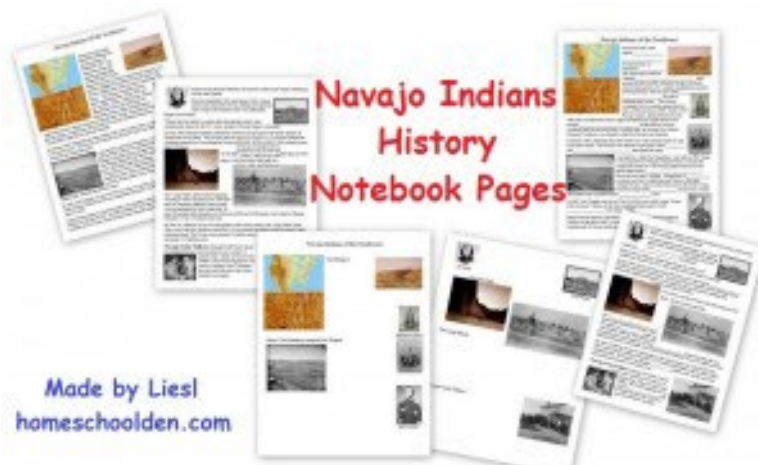
We covered modern history – Industrialism, Imperialism, WWI, the 1920s, Great Depression, World War II, Cold War – Korean and Vietnam War in late middle school/high school.

Let me link to some of our free resources on Native American tribes:

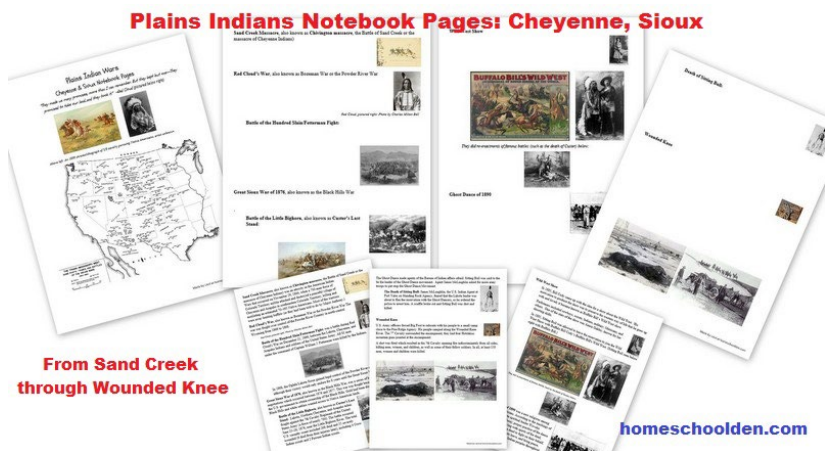
- [Native Americans of the Northeast Unit \(Part I, Algonquian Indians\)](#) - free notebook pages
- [Native Americans of the Northeast Unit \(Part II, Iroquois Indians\)](#)



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



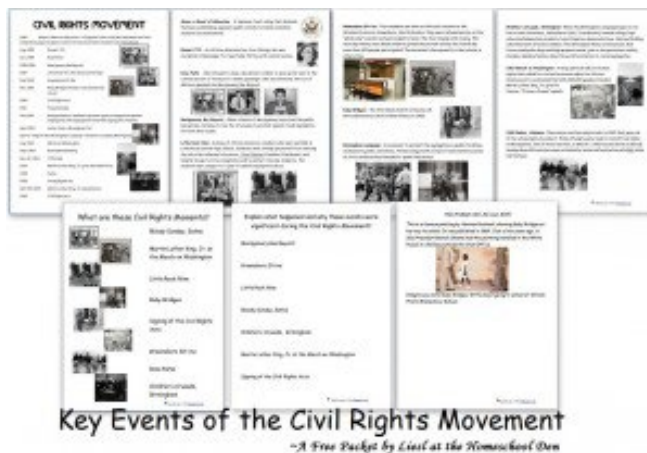
- [Plains Indian History: Cheyenne and Sioux \(Sand Creek, Wounded Knee, etc.](#) This is some rough/sad history. My kids were in Grades 7, 5 and 2 when we studied this. We did this unit because we took a long family trip out West after completing this unit.



Civil Rights Movement: There are a lot of *amazing* books for children on this topic. We first covered this when my oldest was in 5th grade. My two daughters were in Grade 3 and K)

Children's Books about the Civil Rights Movement: [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

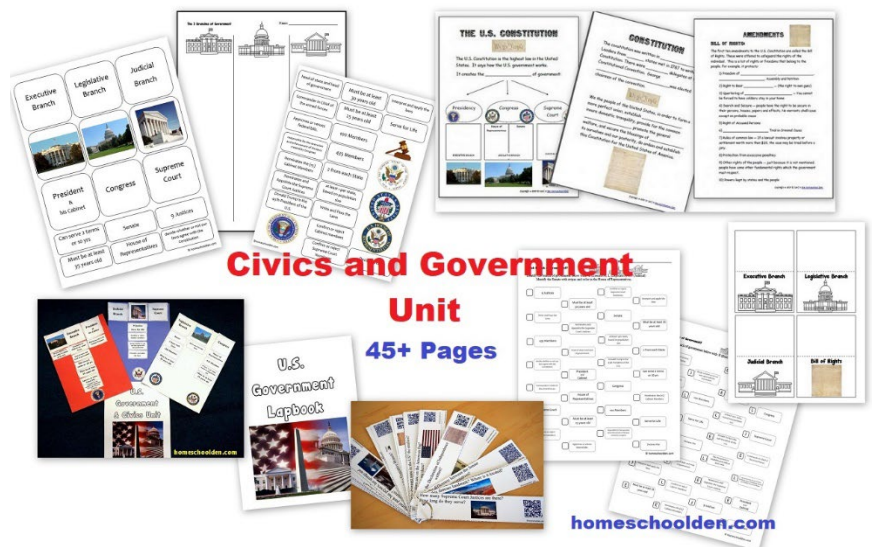
Civics and Government

We did a unit on [Civics and Government](#) when my oldest was in Grade 6, my middle daughter was in Grade 4 and my youngest was in Grade 1 (It was challenging for my youngest, though she did the cut-and-paste activity).



Each spring since then we have reviewed the material using the review cards you see (on the key ring in the photo there).

We followed this up with a unit on the Types of Government... but that is really better for middle school (my older two were in Grades 6 and 8 for that), so I'll talk about that in the next Curriculum Resource Guide.)



Geography

We often start the year with a review of some basic world facts:

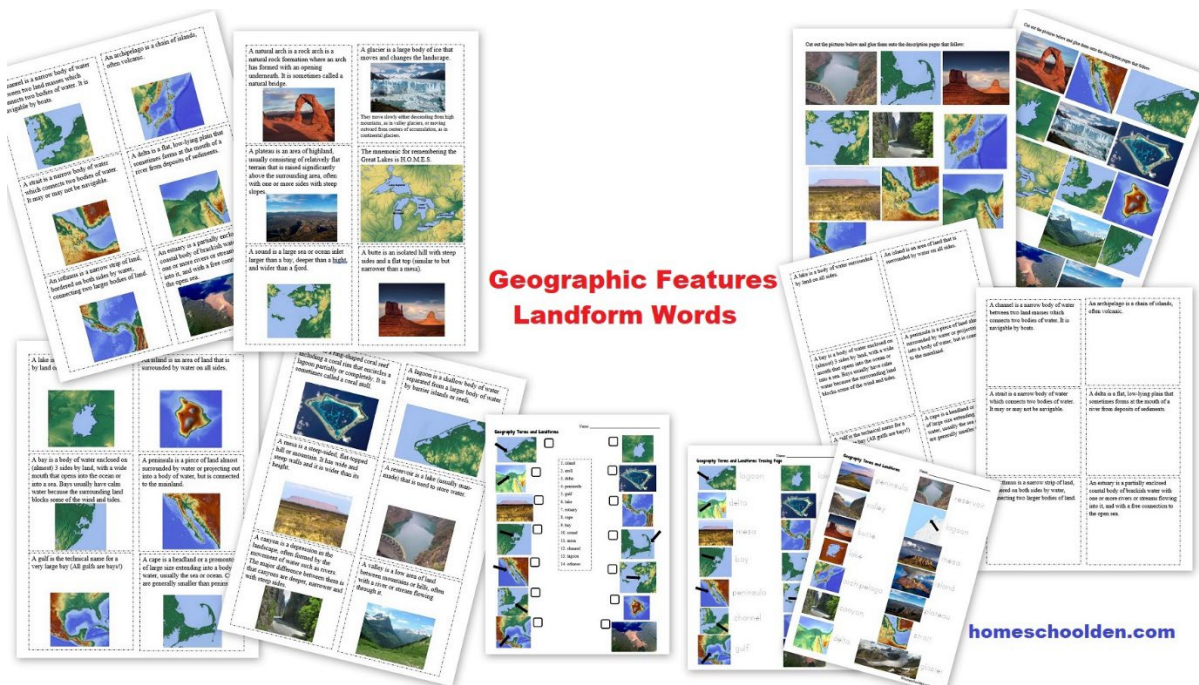
World Facts Packet:

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.



One year we also went over geographical features, landforms and the deserts of the world. I added these materials to [the World Facts Packet](#) too. 😊



I'll also link to some fun activities we've done over the years to study geography over the years:

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



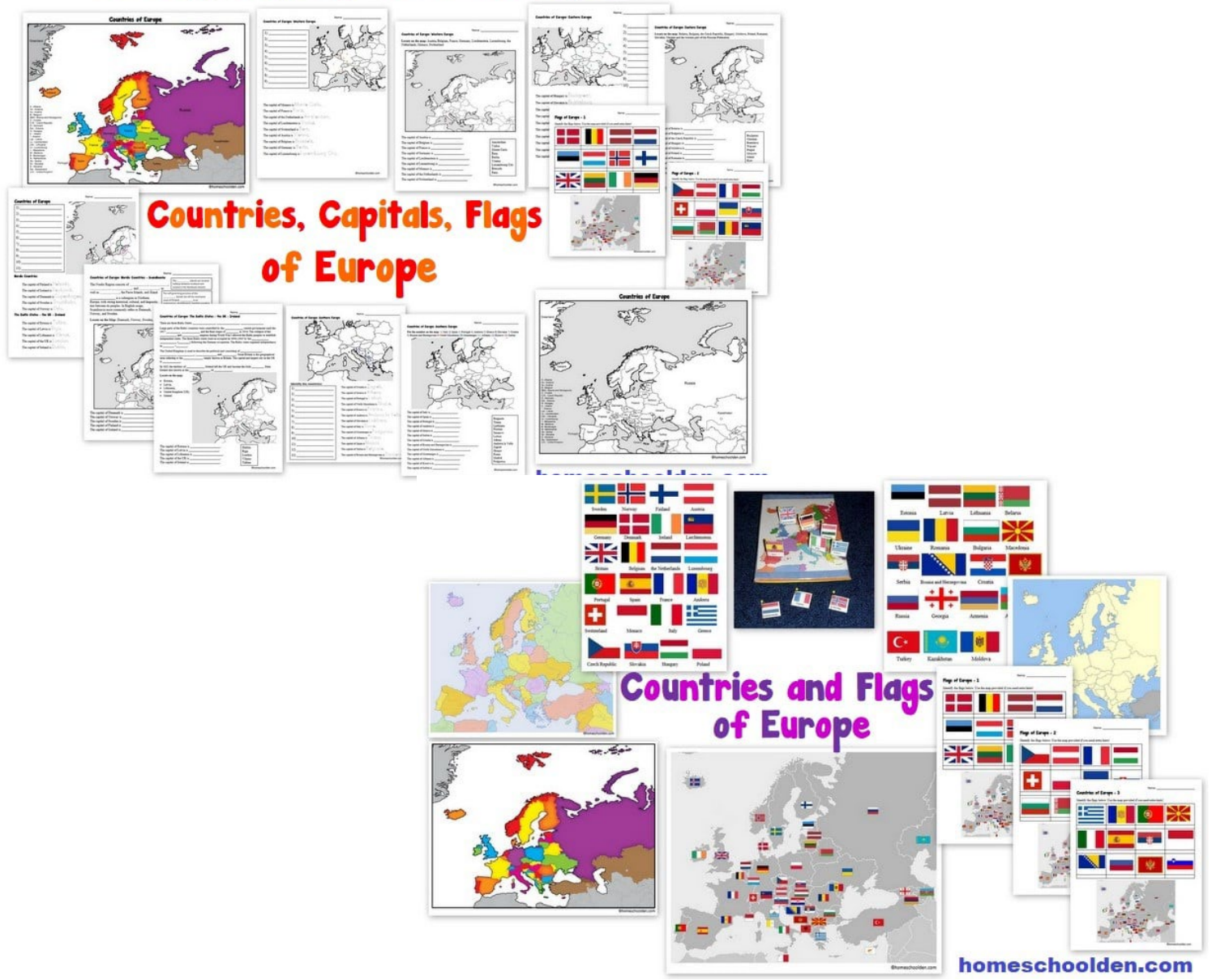
- [Pin Maps Video Post](#) – We've continued to use pin maps even through middle and high school (to review the countries of southeast Asia when we studied the Vietnam War, for example)



Not only did we study the U.S. States and Capitals but we did the geography of Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa over the years.



Geography of Europe



Math

My kids loved math and picked up their addition and multiplication facts pretty quickly.

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 my daughter. 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 and division worksheets, games and activities that you might want to check out. You can find out more at [this post](#):

[Multiplication and Division BUNDLE page](#)



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).

Some 4th-5th grade skills they learned:

Multiplication and Division Facts

Double Digit Multiplication

Long Division

Fractions

Equivalent Fractions, Finding Common Denominators, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division of Fractions

Decimals – Fractions as Decimals

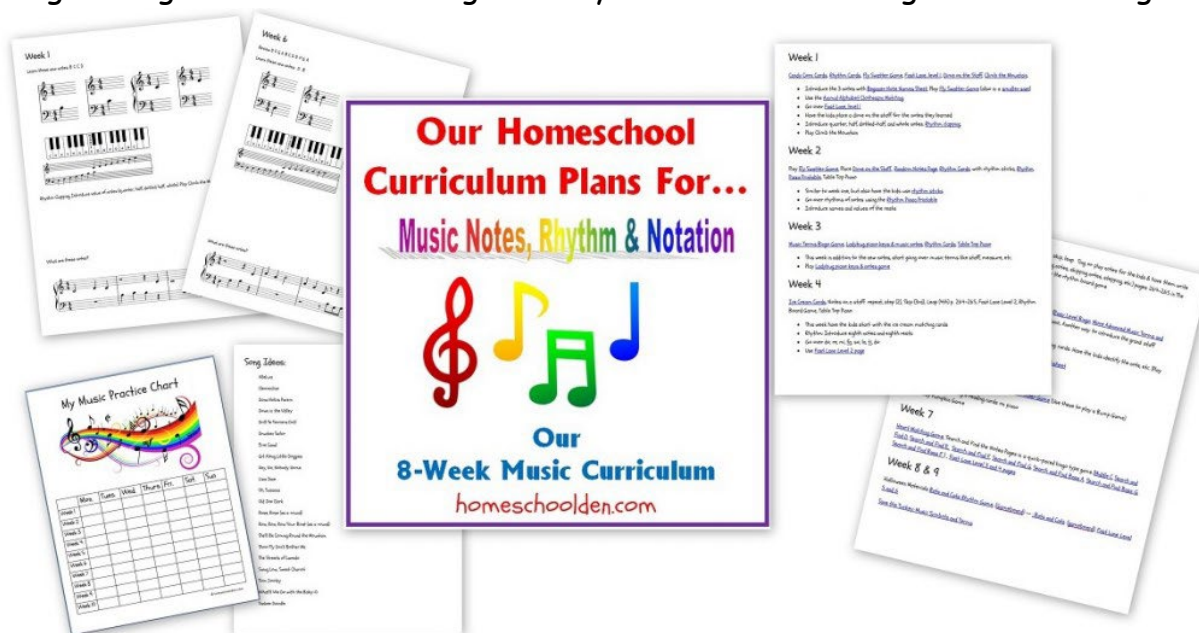
Percentages (5th grade+)

Geometry – We used a supplementary book around 5th or 6th grade that my kids worked through.

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!](#) When my daughter was in 5th grade, she started learning the flute. (My younger daughter started in 3rd grade. My son started learning the sax in 8th grade.)



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

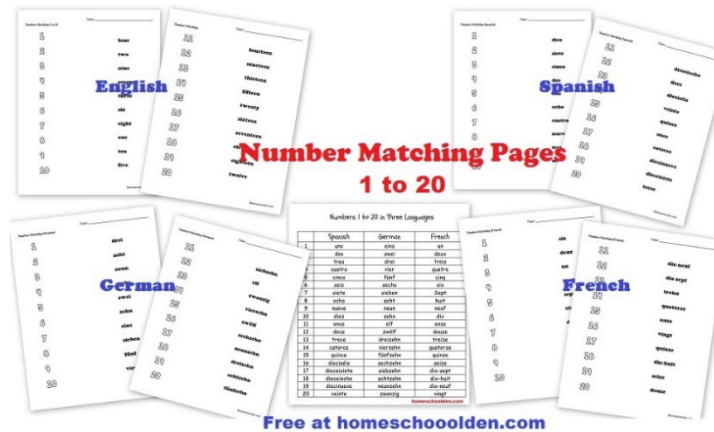


Foreign Language

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](#)



[German for Beginners: Weihnachtswörter – Christmas Words](#)

Other German Resources: I have made a number of German Packets and Vocabulary Builder Packets for the kids because I had a hard time finding German resources that worked for them at their age. These are some of our German Packets:

[German Family Vocabulary Practice — die Familie](#)



[German Conversation Practice Set: Weather, \(Winter Words\) Days of the Week, Months, Seasons, Sickness/Illness](#)



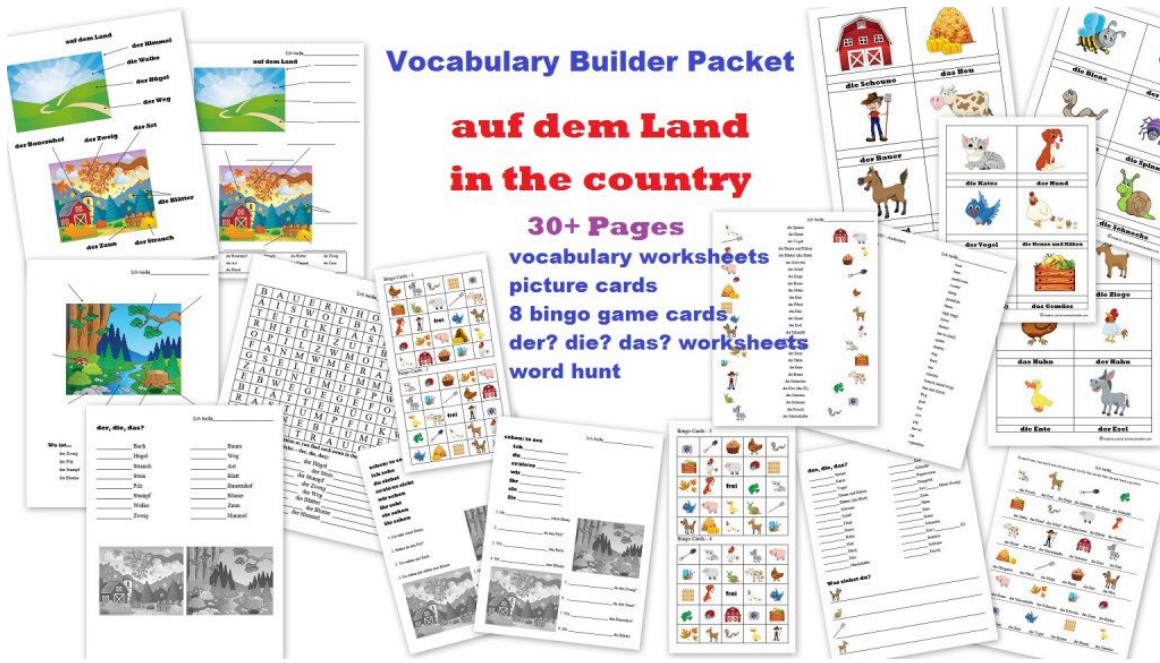
German Conversation Cards and Worksheets: Clothing – die Kleidung



[Daily Routines, Activities, Hobbies German Packet](#) with worksheets, matching pages, picture cards, bingo cards and more. Find out more here:



auf dem Land – in the countryside – Vocabulary Builder Worksheets and Activities

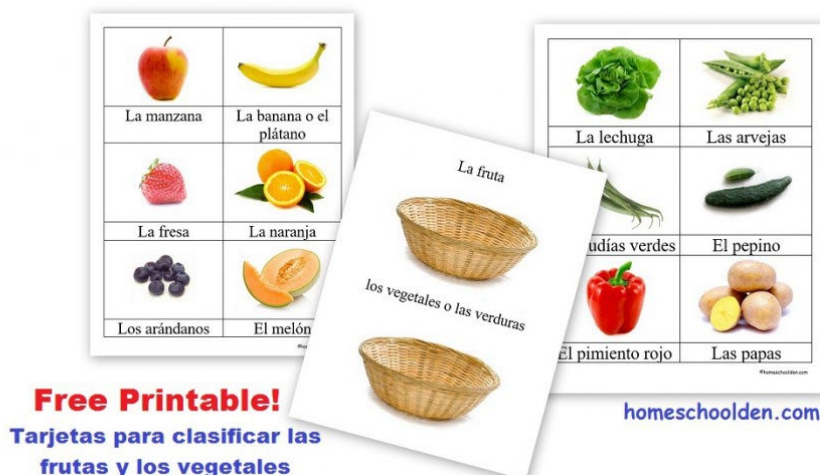


Spanish Worksheets for Kids: If you are teaching your kids Spanish, you might find some of our free Spanish printables helpful. I teamed up with Sra. Morato from homeschoolspanishcurriculum.com and we've been putting together a series of free worksheets over at the blog.

- [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 \(Spanish\)](#)



[Free Spanish Worksheet: Parts of the Body – El Cuerpo](#)



- [Free Spanish Worksheets: Christmas Words – Palabras de Navidad](#)



- [Free Valentine's Day Words - Palabras del Día de San Valentín](#)

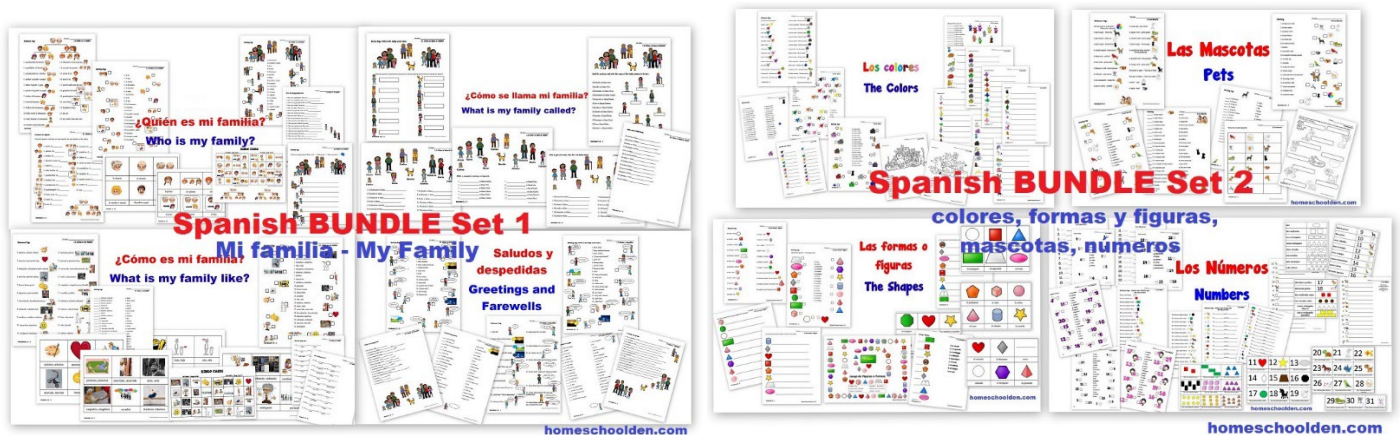


[Free Spanish Worksheets for Kids: In the Garden! ¡En el jardín!](#)



You might want to look into HomeschoolSpanishCurriculum.com to see if these online classes (Spanish for Primary, Spanish 1, Spanish 2) might be a good fit for your family.

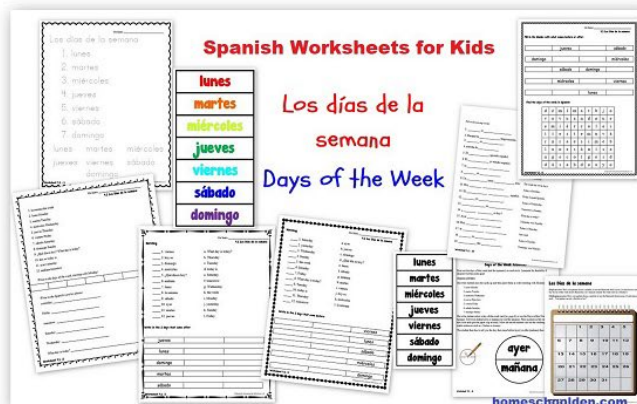
If you know how to speak Spanish, you might want to check out our [Spanish Store](#) and see the Worksheet Sets with vocabulary units that Sra. Morato and I have made together (from HomeschoolSpanishCurriculum.com). These include worksheets, flashcards, games and more!



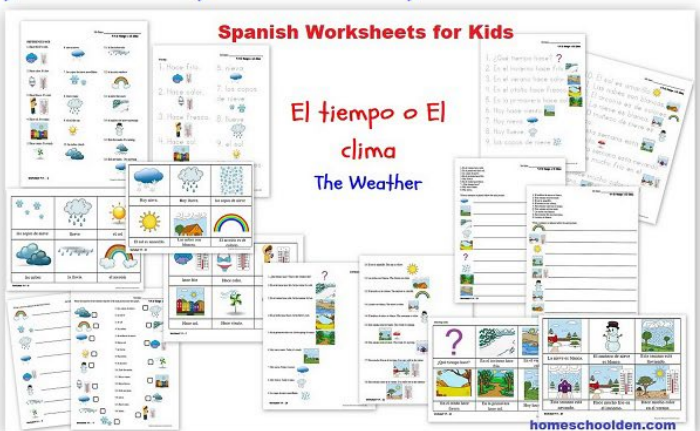


Spanish BUNDLE Set 3: escuela

4 pdfs

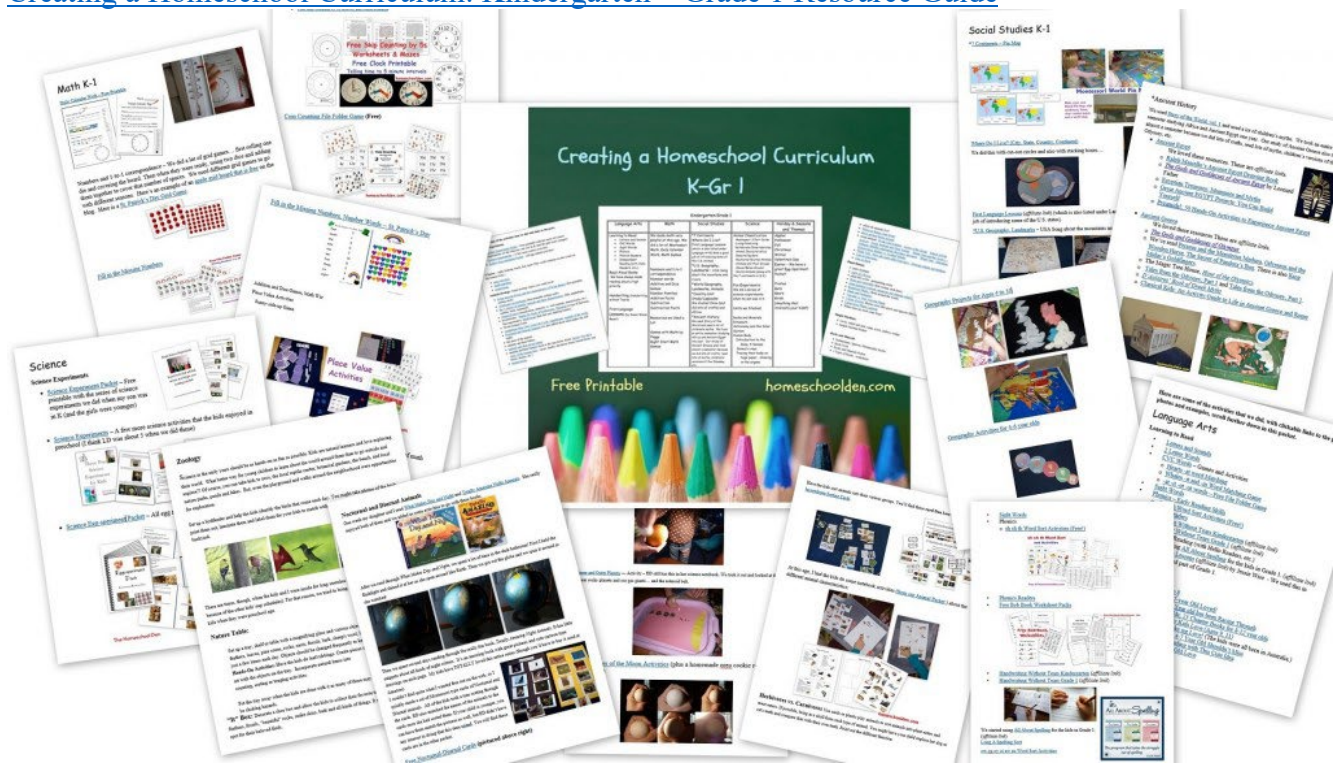


Spanish BUNDLE Set 4: days, months, seasons, weather

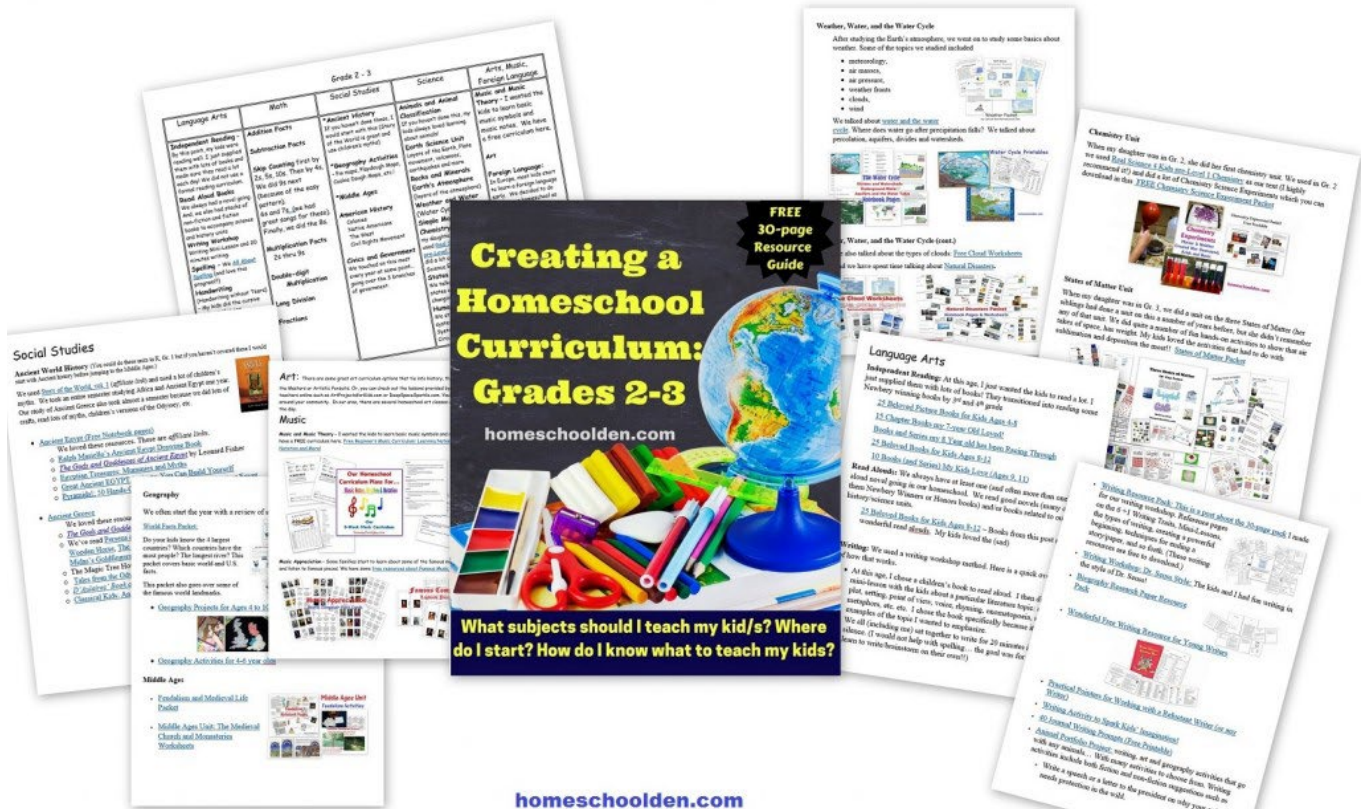


You might want to check out these related free guides:

[Creating a Homeschool Curriculum: Kindergarten – Grade 1 Resource Guide](#)



and here is the second free Resource Guide in this series: [Creating a Homeschool Curriculum: Grades 2-3](#)



Creating a Homeschool Curriculum: Grades 6-8

[illegible]

Free Resource Guide for Homeschooling High School – Grades 9-12

**FREE 25-page
Resource Guide**

**Creating Your High School
Homeschool Curriculum**

**Free 25-page
Resource Guide**

**Homeschooling
thru High School
Grades 9-12**

**What subjects should I teach?
Where do I start?**

homeschoolden.com

[illegible]

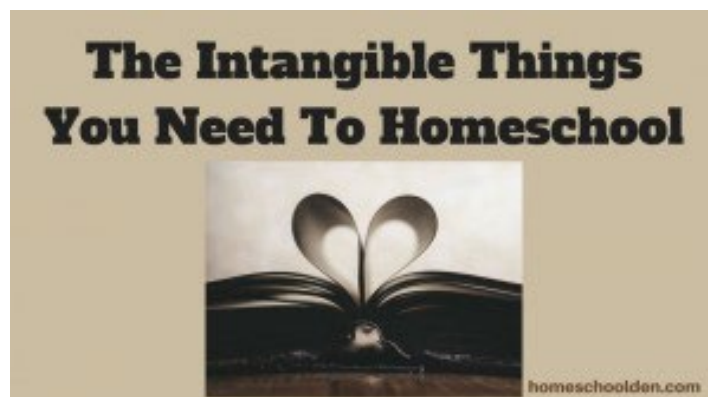
A Few Tips for Homeschooling Without Feeling Overwhelmed

1. **You are not alone!** We all have times when we feel inadequate, overwhelmed, or inexperienced... but think about the whole picture. You have amazing kids. They've already learned so much from you. You *can* do this!
2. **Stay positive** and focus on the small (and big) victories.
3. **Think about dinner** early in the day! I'm often pretty drained and tired by the evening. It feels great if that piece of my day is taken care of.
4. **Don't compare your reality to your thoughts, plans, and aspirations before the school year began.** In the quiet of summer, I often have (and make!) big plans. But, if we don't get to everything I planned over the course of the year, I just put it on the back burner for later!
5. Similarly, **don't compare your homeschool** to what you see on blogs, Facebook, Pinterest or even the stories you hear from friends. That's just a partial, incomplete glimpse of someone's day.
6. **Protect your time** – make sure you turn off the computer, say NO when you need to, let the answering machine pick up.
7. **Create a enthusiastic, supportive atmosphere:** Focus on having an enjoyable learning experience together... which means feel free to stray from the curriculum, follow rabbit holes, and spend an entire day focusing on something unexpected but engaging to the kids! That's when true learning really takes place! 😊
8. **Aim Small:** It's easy to worry about the big picture, but for me I need to focus on just one week at a time. We *love* hands-on activities, so I try to plan out just one or two for the week. I look forward to those moments when the kids are *excited* and *engaged* so I really try to make sure those happen. Find what excites and motivates you and your kids and add in just one or two a week. It could be anything from [lapbooks](#) to experiments, reading together to field trips.
9. **You are never behind!** There is no one that says that the kids *have* to have gained mastery of a certain skill or learned a certain topic/subject by a certain grade or age. You are on a long journey together.
10. **Get help when you can:** Enlist help from your spouse, the kids, extended family. Hire teenage help. Think about joining a co-op (but don't feel obligated!)
11. **Plans are not engraved in stone:** If you need to end a unit early, change curriculum, stop reading a novel half-way through, do a unit later (I can't tell you how many times we've had to do this!), take time off... Do it!
12. **Remember all the reasons why you started homeschooling.** Feel confident in your choice. You didn't make this choice lightly or frivolously. You took the plunge because you believed it was the right thing to do at this point in time. It will be challenging. It will be hard. You'll have a lot to juggle. But it will also be rewarding, memorable and full of surprises along the way!
13. **It all boils down to LOVE!** Love your kids. Love your time together. Cherish each other. Build memories. Nurture and care for your family. And love learning along the way.

Here are some other resources here on the blog:

Homeschool Encouragement Posts

- [Homeschool Encouragement: Intangible Things You Need To Homeschool](#)



- [8 Things to Remember about Homeschooling](#)



- [5 Common Homeschool Mistakes to Avoid](#)
- [Homeschooling Multiple Ages from 8 on Down](#)
- [Challenging and Inspiring Your Homeschooled Kids](#)
- [Homeschool Thoughts: Spending Time Reviewing](#)
- [10 Ways to Avoid Homeschool Burnout](#)
- [Organization: How We Keep On Top of Homeschooling](#)
- [Homeschooling is Like Coaching an Olympic Sport](#)
- [High Standards and a Nurturing Atmosphere](#)
- [What are Some of the Benefits and Challenges of Homeschooling?](#)
- [A Story of the Wise Teacher and the Student](#)
- [Life Happens](#) – Things crop up and we have to be flexible.
- [Thoughts on Teaching: Creating a Power Morning](#)
- [Homeschool Motivation: 10 Ways to Keep Going](#)
- [How to Start Homeschooling After the Holidays](#)

Homeschool Ideas

- [Meaningful Teaching Activities](#): A long list of activities you could incorporate into your routine no matter what subjects you're working on — things like plays, simulations, debates, and all kinds of projects.
- [Making Learning Active, Engaging, Relevant and More](#)
- [4 Active Math Games](#)



- [Language Arts Update: Resources we use for Literature, Spelling, Grammar, and Vocabulary](#)

Science BUNDLES

Let me provide quick links to these pages for you below.



We often try to do 6-8 science units each year in the major science areas. We have these science bundles available, but our packets are also sold separately. Remember that all of our resources are **PDF digital downloads**.

Science BUNDLE links:

- [Earth and physical science](#),
- [Animal Bundle – Zoology](#),
- [Biology Bundle of 7](#) ,
- [Chemistry Bundle](#),
- [Human Body Bundle](#)
- [Nature Studies Bundle](#)