

# History Checklist

Made by Liesl

Homeschoolden.com

## History Checklist

### History Checklist

World History Units
Ancient World
Ancient Egypt
Ancient China -
Cultures
Xia Dynasty (c. 2070-1600 BC)
Shang Dynasty (c. 1600-1050 BC)
Zhou Dynasty (c. 1046-256 BC)
Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC)
Han Dynasty (206 BCE-220 AD)
Six Dynasties Period
Sui Dynasty (581-618)
Tang Dynasty (618-907)
Ancient India
World Religions - This goes well with ancient history - studying Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, etc.
Ancient Greece
Ancient Rome
Middle Ages
Medieval Church and Monasteries
King Arthur
Chivalry
Feudalism
England and France 800-1000
William the Conqueror
Henry II & Eleanor of Aquitaine (sons Richard, John)
Crusades
1300s Black Plague, Hundred Years War
Modern Empire - Spread of Islam
Renaissance
Medici Family
Renaissance Artists: da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael and the
Holy Roman Empire, Albrecht Dürer
Reformation: Martin Luther, age of Henry VIII
Age of Absolutism
Scientific Revolution
Music Appreciation: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary
Enlightenment
American and French Revolutions
Napoleon
Industrial Revolution
World War I
Great Depression
China in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century
World War II
Cold War & Korean War
Vietnam War

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### Building Historical Skills

Look at symbols and landmarks from different cultures

Categorizing

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

Understand different individuals' role in history

See different points of view

### For Homeschoolers

### American History Units

Native Americans
Early Colonies
American Revolution
Westward Expansion - Ohio Valley Settlement (French and Indian War), Tecumseh, Trail of Tears, Lewis and Clark, Mountain Men, the West
Slavery, Plantation System
Civil War
Native Americans (1850s-1870s): Navajo, Plains Indian History: Cheyenne and Sioux, Notebook Pages (Sand Creek, Wounded Knee, etc.)
Immigration
Industrialization, Big Business, Progressive Era
1920s
Civil Rights Movement
1950s - Cold War, 1960s, 1970s
Vietnam War

### Unit Studies

Regions or Countries & General Topics

We did unit studies when the kids were in elementary. We studied ancient history in more depth when they were in middle school and high school.

China
India
Africa (West Africa, Animals of the Savannah)
Romans
Australia (Aboriginal Culture, Settlement of Australia, Animals of Australia)
Middle East
Middle School Literature can include books such as <i>I am Malala: Shooting Kabul</i> (as in photography)
High School Lit (for mature students) can include books such as <i>The Kite Runner</i> , <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> or <i>The Book of Eli</i>
Civics - Government (A study of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, How our government functions on a national, state and local level)
Types of Governments
Economics
Modern Current Events
Modern Geography - We did this in conjunction with many of our units along the way

### Modern Geography

U.S. States and Capitals - We covered the U.S. states and capitals when we did American History
Asia - We covered the countries of Asia when we studied China and Japan when we studied the Vietnam War and Current Events
Middle East - We covered the countries of the Middle East when we did Ancient History. We also did a (modern) literature unit (see above) as we studied this geography.
Africa - We covered the countries of Africa when we did our Age of Exploration and when we studied the trans-Atlantic slave trade.
Australia - We covered the states and territories of Australia when we did a unit study on Australia.
Europe - We covered the countries of Europe when we studied the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation. We studied these again when we did WWII, WWII and the Cold War.

### History Activity Ideas

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

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

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

Create historical simulations

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

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

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

Bring in period music when students act out a particular scene (singing/painting photo).

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

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

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

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

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For planning out  
your homeschool  
history path

homeschoolden.com

Hi my fellow homeschooler!

When we started homeschooling, I knew that I wanted my kids' history and social studies experience to be different than the plan laid out by our local public school. In looking over the public-school curriculum (for elementary and middle school), I found that American history was covered more often than world history. (I forget exactly what I found, but I want to say that 4 or 5 out of 8 years focused on American history.) I wanted my kids to have a more balanced history background.

I put together a (mental) list of the units and topics that I wanted to cover. This was pretty easy for me to do because history is my field. I taught history on the high school and college level for many years. I then started jotting down the units/topics we covered and wanted to share our checklist with you here.

In the early years, we did history in a hands-on, engaging way. We did everything from arts & crafts, geography activities including pin maps and cookie maps, simulations like our **Black Plague Simulation**... the kids were “dying” to know if they would survive their travels from town to town!!



And, all throughout the years, we added in literature to help the history to come alive! We used both historical fiction, biographies, autobiographies, as well as history books and even some history textbooks as we dove into different topics. I also created a lot of history and geography packets for my kids over the years with as many images, maps, and photos as I could find. 😊

Like in science, there were some subjects/topics/skills we practiced a lot (more or less every year) and others that we covered every few years.

For example, we went over some basic world facts (largest country, most populous country, deserts of the world, terms from geography) most every year at least once up through 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Similarly, we went over the three branches of government (Civics & Government) most every year. We always covered modern geography related to the unit we were covering.

We had some songs that we sang pretty regularly as well. I highlighted them a little later in this packet. I also have been known to make up a song or two... such as this little ditty (when the kids were in preschool and early elementary...

There are 50 states in our country, the U.S.A  
Washington's our capital where laws are made each day!

It had about 20 verses but was catchy enough that the kids learned the tallest US mountains, longest rivers and more! Feel free to put on your silly hat and make up a song or two for your kids too! You'd be surprised how much they remember by singing these silly songs!

When the kids were young we did lots of unit studies... meaning that we brought in lots of books, crafts, cooking, geography activities, coloring pages, flags, and much more! You might not be able to tell in the picture to the right, but one year we created a clay map of Ancient Greece and then poured water into the pan for the Mediterranean. What I remember about that day (and what you can't see in the picture) is that the islands suddenly all started floating around in the water!! We all had a good laugh about that!!



As the kids got older, we added in more and more documentaries. When they were young we did some cartoon versions of history (like **Liberty's Kids**). By middle school we were watching many history and PBS documentaries by Ken Burns and others. There is a lot of great material out there and my kids learned a lot from them (and so did I!)

I wish you a lot of fun and wonderful experiences with your family as you homeschool your kids!

~Liesl

# History Checklist

World History Units	
	Ancient World
	Ancient Egypt
	Ancient China – Cultures Xia Dynasty (c. 2070-1600 BC) Shang Dynasty (c. 1600-1050 BC) Zhou Dynasty (c. 1046-256 BC) Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC) Han Dynasty (206 BCE-220 AD) Six Dynasties Period. Sui Dynasty (581-618) Tang Dynasty (618-906)
	Ancient India
	World Religions – This goes well with ancient history – studying Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, etc.
	Ancient Greece
	Ancient Rome
	Middle Ages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medieval Church and Monasteries</li> <li>• King Arthur</li> <li>• Charlemagne</li> <li>• Feudalism</li> <li>• England and France 800-1000</li> <li>• William the Conqueror</li> <li>• Henry II &amp; Eleanor of Aquitaine (sons Richard, John)</li> <li>• Crusades</li> <li>• 1300s Black Plague, Hundred Years War</li> </ul>
	Muslim Empire - Spread of Islam
	Renaissance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medici Family</li> <li>• Renaissance Artists: da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael and their Patrons</li> <li>• Holy Roman Empire, Albrecht Dürer</li> </ul>
	Reformation: Martin Luther, age of Henry VIII
	Age of Absolutism
	Scientific Revolution
	Music Appreciation: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary Composers
	Explorers
	American and French Revolutions/Napoleon
	Nationalism
	Imperialism
	World War I
	Great Depression
	China in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century
	World War II
	Cold War & Korean War
	Vietnam War

# American History Units

	Native Americans
	Early Colonies
	American Revolution
	Westward Expansion - Ohio Valley Settlement (French and Indian War), Tecumseh, Trail of Tears, Lewis and Clark, Mountain Men, the West
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	Industrialization, Big Business, Progressive Era
	1920s
	Civil Rights Movement
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	Vietnam War

## Unit Studies

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	India
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# Building Historical Skills

## Mapping

Understand regional differences

Look at symbols and landmarks from different cultures

## Categorizing

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

Understand different individuals' role in history

See different points of view

Interpreting political cartoons

Graphing, reading tables

Identifying different perspectives

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

Be able to see cause and effect

start to see turning points in history

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

# Historical Props:

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

written documents,  
historic images such as pictures, paintings,  
illustrations;  
music and songs,  
biographies,

maps,  
political cartoons,  
oral traditions,  
artifacts,  
archaeological evidence



# History Activity Ideas

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Create historical simulations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Experiential Exercises:**

- **Field Trips:** Jamestown Settlement (living history museum in VA), Plymouth Plantation (Plimoth Patuxet Museums), Colonial Williamsburg (Virginia), Historic Philadelphia (Independence National Historical Park), historic Boston (Freedom Trail), Yorktown, Mt. Vernon, Ferry Farm, Monticello, American Village in Montevallo, AL, National Historical Park - Harpers Ferry, Fort Sumter, Manassas Battlefield Park, Antietam, Gettysburg, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Canyon de Chelly Guided Tour, (In the Navajo Nation), Ellis Island, The National WWI Museum and Memorial (Kansas City, Missouri), Civil Rights Museum (there are museums in Memphis, TN; Greensboro, NC, and others), Smithsonian Museum (and a trip to Washington DC ); and many, many others!
- recreate historical moments, events, circumstances
- Create a physical or emotional experience for the students
- create role-cards each containing a description of a character to play during the activity. Provide general parameters of how the character would react.
- transform the space into the historical setting
- Recreate a scene/event
- Discuss and debrief
- What did students learn being in the historical shoes of others?
- Did they connect emotionally to the role they were playing?

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

Trench warfare

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

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

**\*\*Capture the moment or feeling of that period**



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

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

Create an advertisement to convince others of your view.

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

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

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

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

# History Writing Assignments

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

# History Questions and Research

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

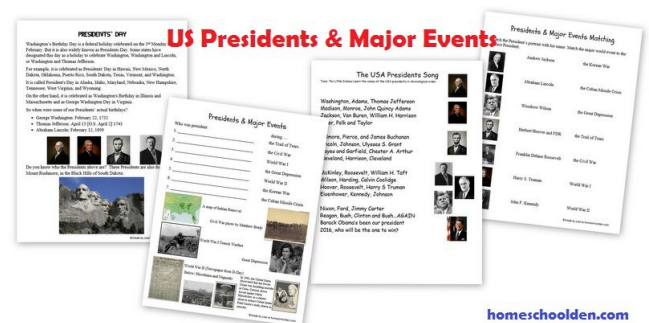
learn to do research and write research papers

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

## Geography Songs



A few songs really stand out in our homeschool life. The kids learned all of the U.S. states by using this song: Here is the fun video of [50 States That Rhyme](#). I included the song lyrics at the end of the [U.S. States and Capitals packet](#) or you can find it here: [The Fifty States that Rhyme Song Lyrics](#)



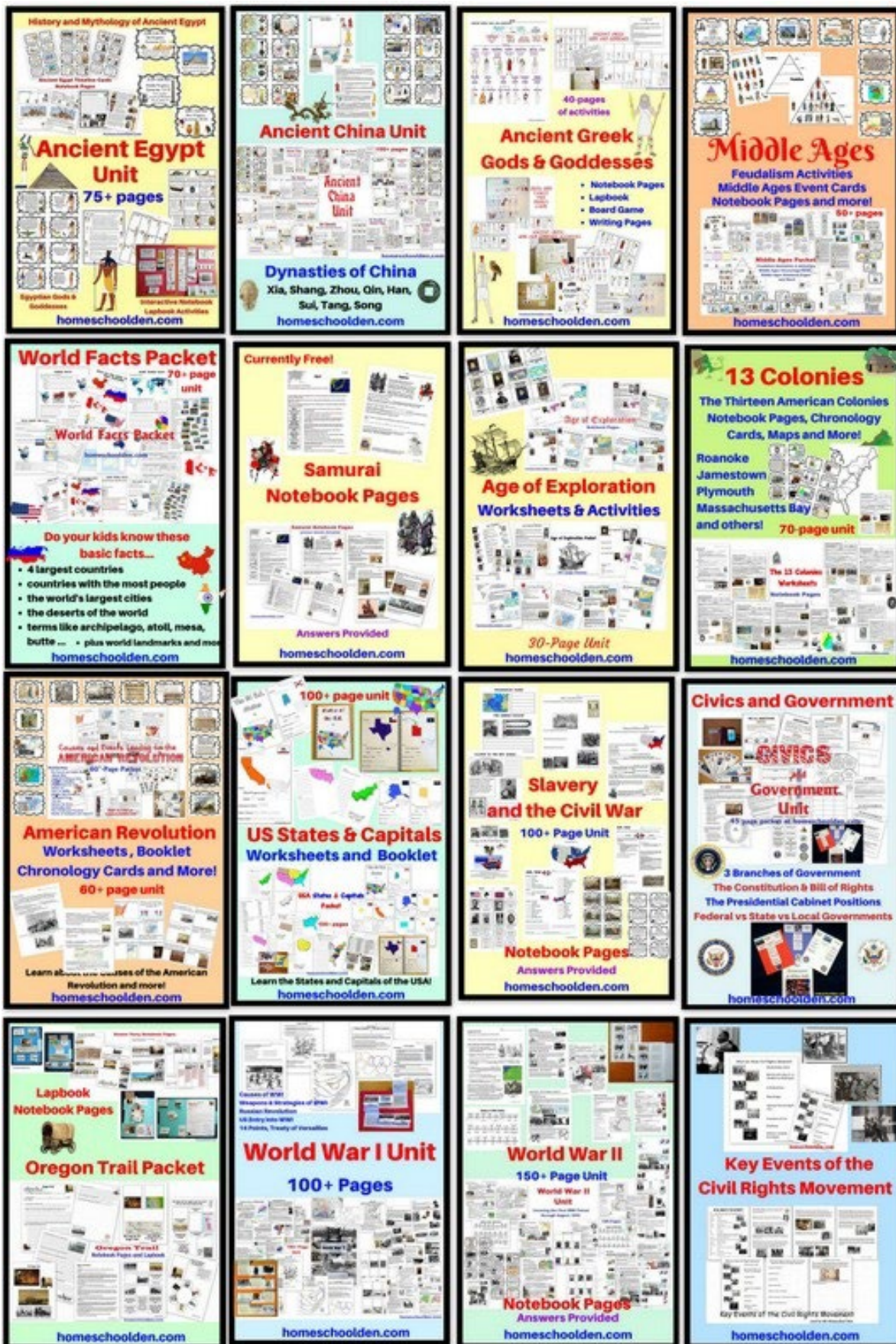
Similarly, the kids learned all of the U.S. Presidents by singing the U.S. Presidents Song (Grab the free printout here at this [Presidents Day Post](#))

The kids really loved [South America: Rock the Capitals](#). It's a fun and a great/quick way to learn the capitals (and locations) of Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil. We spent time learning this song six years ago when we studied South America. We made South America [cookie maps way back then and other activities \(songs, etc.\)](#). 😊



Here are some of the units we have covered so far. You will find more about our history units here:

<http://homeschoolden.com/history-units/>





# Unit Studies and Lapbooks

We did unit studies when the kids were in preschool and elementary. We studied ancient history in more depth when they were in middle school and high school.

What is a unit study? By this I mean a study of the culture, geography, plus books with a focus on that region (these can be historical fiction or just be set in that country).

**China Unit Study** For example, when we did a China unit study, we made a lapbook about China (including the basic geography of China – the kids used glue and sand to show where the Great Wall was located). They did a lapbook piece that had them identify the capital of China. They colored in the flag of China. They learned what currency is used in China. They drew some basic Chinese characters. They learned about the terracotta army. They learned about foot-binding. They did a dragon/hand craft, they learned to draw a panda. They learned about the art of paper cutting. They learned about the Chinese zodiac. They learned about the Chinese New Year. We made mooncakes. We read books such as the ones below.

You can grab the [free Dragon-Themed Activity Packet here](#).

There is a free [China Fact Sheet here](#)



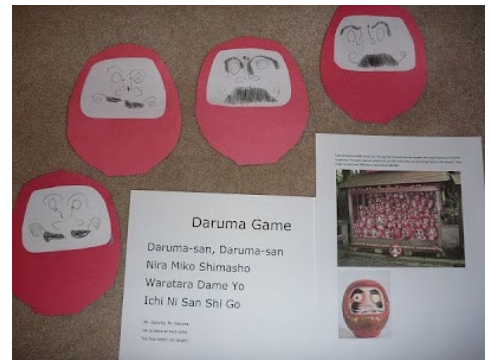
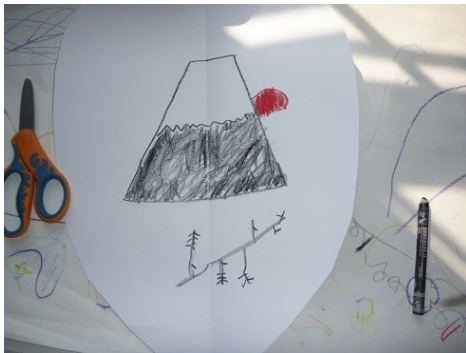
**China Unit: Books for Kids**  
The Story of Ping,  
The Empty Pot,  
The Boy Who Painted Dragons,  
Tikki Tikki Tembo,  
The Magic Paintbrush, Liang and  
the Magic Paintbrush,  
The Five Chinese Brothers



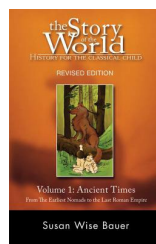
## Japan Unit Study and Crafts

Another time we did a unit about Japan. We did a scavenger hunt to find Japanese flags.

- We learned the geography of Japan and colored in maps. We learned the numbers from 1 to 10.
- We made fans with a Japan Theme: Mount Fuji is the most famous and revered mountain in Japan.
- We made koi kites. Families with boys hang koi kites out on 'boys day' one for each boy. The largest kite is hung on top representing the oldest boy. The koi (or carp) represents courage or perseverance. The koi has to struggle and makes its way upstream and each family hangs the kite in hopes that their sons will grow up brave and strong.
- We also did some easy origami.
- We talked about the story of the Daruma Dolls and made our own versions!



When we first talked about Ancient India, we used *Story of the World* and a *Children's History of the World*. I also made the kids notebook pages. This [India learning packet is free](#) over on the website.

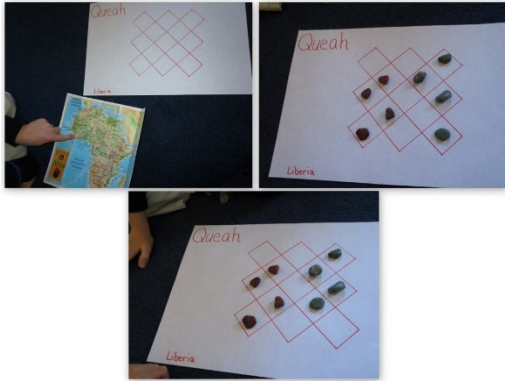


This is a packet I made for my elementary age kids for our study of India (19 pages).  
~Liesl over at the Homeschool Den



## Unit Study on Africa (mostly West Africa)

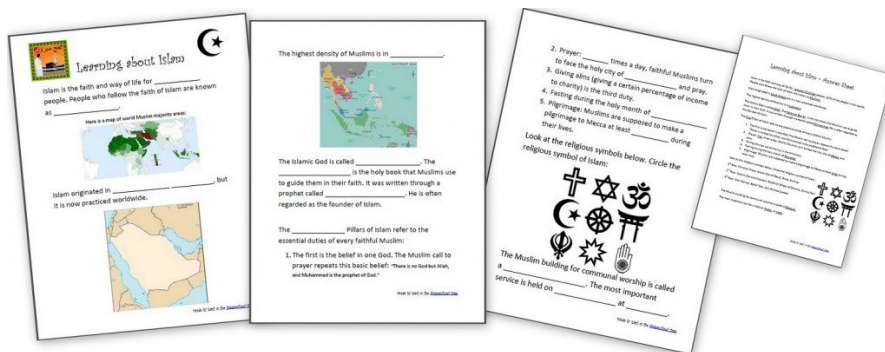
We also did a unit study on Africa one year. We learned some of the history, did crafts, played games and listened to music from West Africa.



The game, **Queah**, originated in Liberia. Four pieces are set on the board for each player. Players take turns moving around the board and trying to capture the other player's piece by jumping diagonally over their opponent's piece.

We started with basic facts about the countries of North Africa. We learned some of the countries and capitals, the size (compared to the U.S.) and more. We spent time learning about West Africa. We studied Islam and the spread of Islam across North and West Africa. We learned about the empires of Ghana and Mali and spent time learning about Mansa Musa, emperor of Mali from 1312-1337.

- [West African History — Free Notebook Pages, African Picture Books](#) – which includes these free pages
- [Learning about Islam — Free Worksheets and Resources for Kids](#) (We learned the religion of Islam and then learned about the spread of Islam across North Africa and down into West Africa.)



## Unit Study on Africa (continued)

- [West African Art Projects: Moroccan Tiles, African Masks, African Music](#)
- [Learning about West Africa: Children's Games and more](#)
- [Cooking with Kids: A Taste of Africa and the Middle East](#) We used the *Kids Multicultural Cookbook* and *Cooking up World History* for ideas.

We looked at examples of Moroccan tiles and then made our own tile sets.



We went to a museum and also borrowed books from the library to see some West African masks. Then we tried to make our own.



Another day, we looked at pictures of African homes. The kids made thatched huts to add to their painting and then carefully added the silhouettes of various African animals and of the acacia tree.

Our next art project sprang from our study of West African cloth. We looked at lots and lots of examples of Kente cloth and then made our own drawings loosely based on what we had studied. The kids had learned that people often carry things on their head and we used a project I saw on the Internet (though I'm sorry to say, I can't



remember where that was.)



## World and U.S. Geography and Landmarks

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

We also studied geographic features, landforms, world landmarks, deserts of the world and more in this unit. We often started a new semester reviewing some of this material (since terms like bay, gulf, sound, atoll, channel, strait, cape, mesa, butte are important to know, but aren't necessarily covered in history)

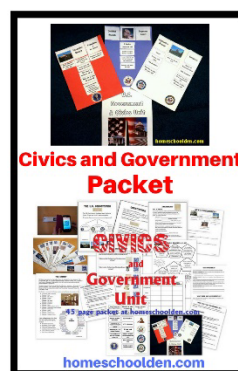


### • Geography of the World

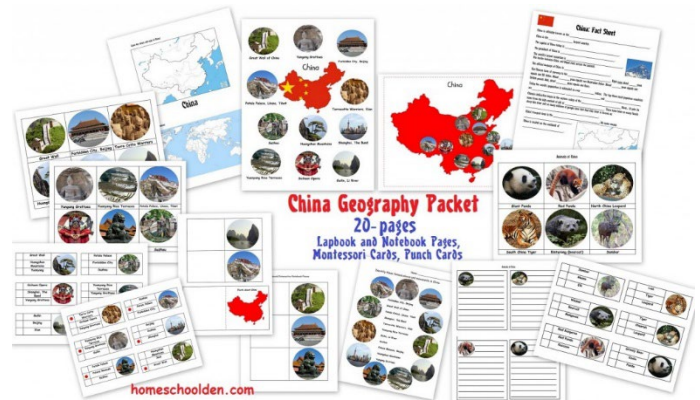
When my kids were younger we went over the seven continents. As they got older, we started learning the country locations; states and capitals, etc. We did the countries of Asia when we studied China and the Korean and Vietnam Wars.



- [U.S. Landmarks and Symbols: Free Montessori 3-Part Cards](#) We covered US symbols and landmarks when the kids were young. We reviews this material when we covered U.S. Civics and Government.



- [Wonderful Geography Games for Kids \(ages 8-12\)](#)
- [Free China Geography and Landmarks Packet](#)



## More Geography Activity Ideas for ages 3-8:

- [Montessori Geography Activities](#)



- [Hands-On Geography Activities for 4-10 yr olds \(or so\)](#) Pin maps, cookie maps, flag activities and more



- [Preschool Geography](#): Activities for learning about where we live in the world, Montessori world map work and more
- [Preschool Geography: Maps and More](#)





# History Units - Homeschool Den

## World History – Ancient

History and Mythology of Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt Timeline Cards  
Notebook Pages

**Ancient Egypt Unit**  
75+ pages

Egyptian Gods & Goddesses  
Interactive Notebook  
Lapbook Activities

homeschoolden.com

Make your own Nile River Valley!

**Ancient Egypt Unit**  
75+ pages

Ancient Egypt Booklet

homeschoolden.com

**Ancient China Unit**  
100+ pages

**Ancient China Unit**  
100+ pages

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

homeschoolden.com

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100+ pages

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

homeschoolden.com

40+ pages of activities

**Ancient Greek Gods & Goddesses**

- Notebook Pages
- Lapbook
- Board Game
- Writing Pages

homeschoolden.com

**Ancient History Writing Set**  
Ancient Greece & Rome

**Ancient History Writing Paper**  
This set is about 25 pages  
Ancient Israel, Egypt, Greece and Rome, as well as the Aztecs, Incas, and Vikings

homeschoolden.com

## World History 800-1300s - Middle Ages

**Middle Ages**  
Feudalism Activities  
Middle Ages Event Cards  
Notebook Pages and more!

50+ pages

homeschoolden.com

Middle Ages Hands-On Building Projects

**Middle Ages Projects and Books for Kids**

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50+ page Middle Ages Unit

**Feudalism and the Middle Ages**

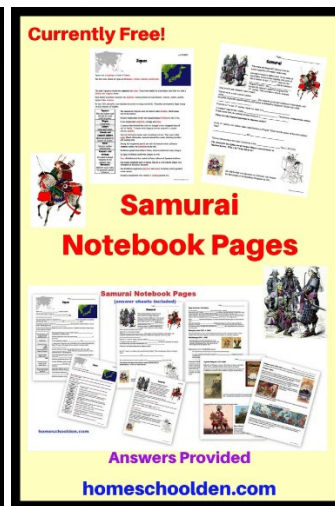
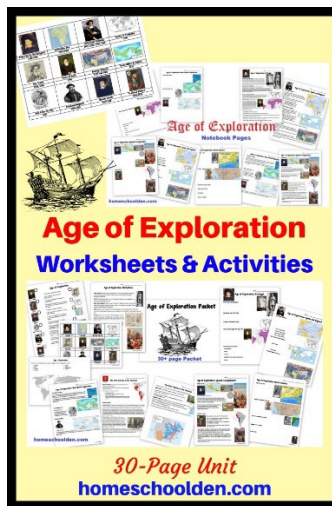
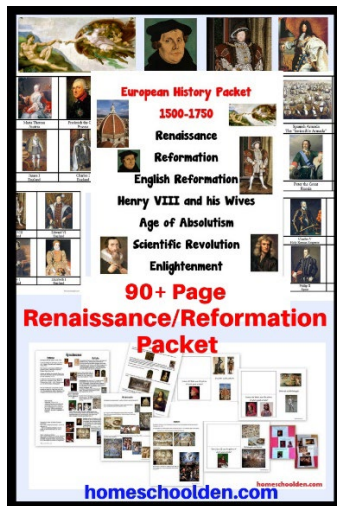
Includes Middle Ages Event Cards, Worksheets, Activities

**Feudalism Simulation**  
Will you survive life as a medieval peasant?

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



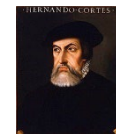
## U.S. History and Government

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

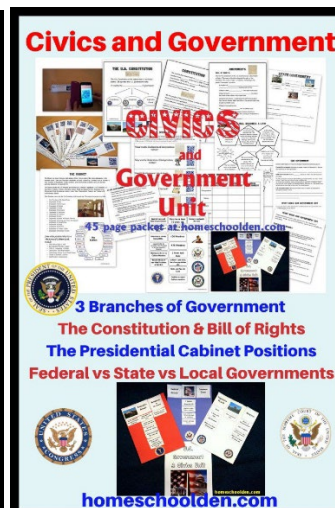
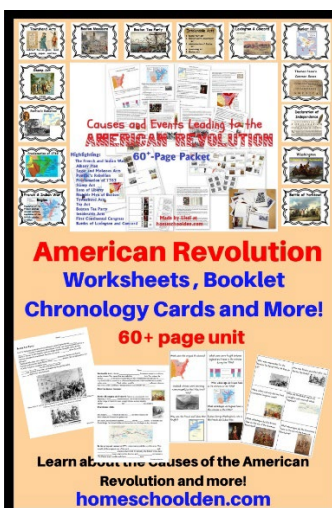
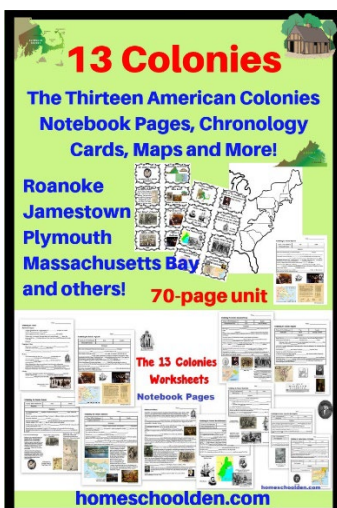
- [Ancient Mayan Civilization Unit](#)
- [History of Chocolate from the Mayans to Today](#)
- [Ancient Mayan Indian Unit: Rugs](#)
- [Ancient Mayan Indian Unit: Wood Animalitos – Oaxacan \(Mexican\) Folk Art](#)
- [Ancient Mayan Indian Unit: God's Eye Yarn Craft](#)
- [Aztecs and Incas](#)



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

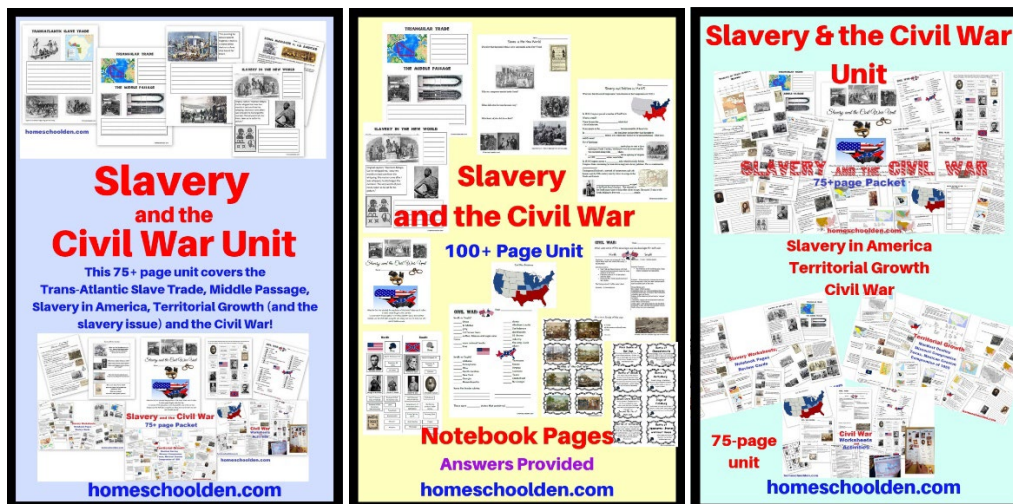


## American Colonies, American Revolution, U.S. Constitution (3 Branches of Government)





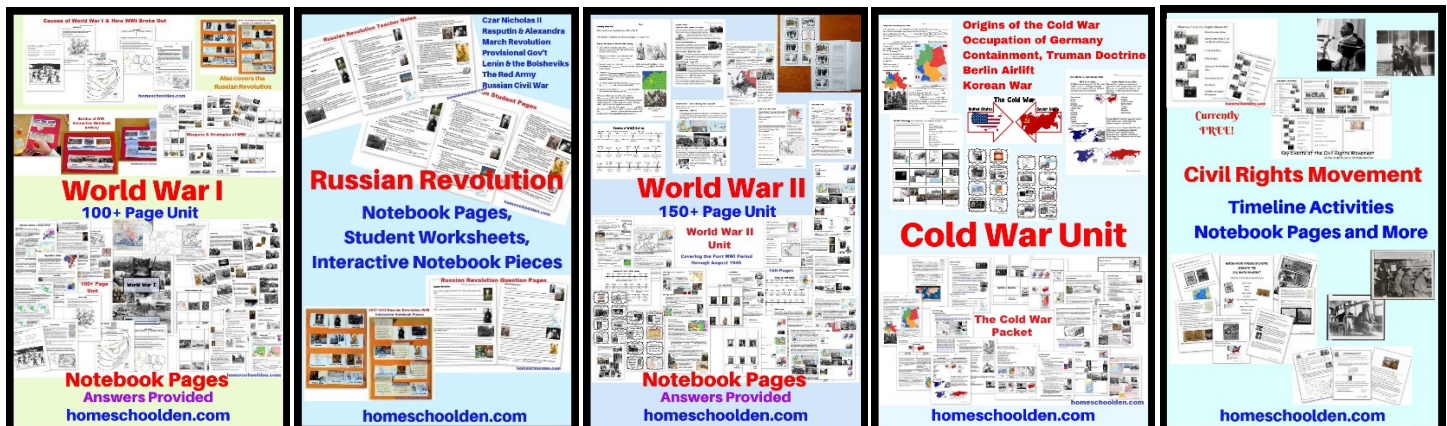
## Slavery, Territorial Growth (manifest destiny), the Civil War



## The West



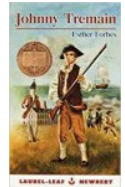
## Twentieth Century History



# History through Literature

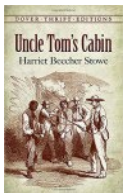
When we are doing history units, I've always tried to bring in a rich selection of literature. Historical fiction is a powerful way to make readers feel more connected to that period.

A book like [Johnny Tremain](#) ([affiliate link](#)) has a rich cast of memorable characters that helps the period, in this case the American Revolutionary period, come to life.



We have brought in a wide selection of books for most every history unit we've covered from Ancient Greece to the Civil Rights Movement.

Historical fiction has been used by authors to try to sway public opinion and make them aware of issues... even contemporary issues.



For example, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, touched readers of the mid-1800s and made them aware of the evils of slavery. Today, many high school and college students read and discuss this book both in the context of when it was written and as a work of literature. (I mention this because we read the first portion of the book aloud together earlier this year when we did our [Slavery and the Civil War Unit](#).)

Similarly, *The Jungle*, exposed the horrors of the meat packing industry from the turn of the century (1900s). (We read this when my three kids were in middle school and high school.) It showed some of the dangers workers faced (losing limbs, standing for hours in pickling juices, being forced to work long hours) and the disgusting conditions in which meat was produced (rotten meat being made into sausage, rats and vermin being added in, rat poison finding its way into food). This book led to the formation of the Pure Food and Drug Act (1906). And again, this historical fiction is still read and discussed by many.

There are a lot of children's books that help kids relate to the historical periods they are studying. Today I thought I would share some of the units and book lists we have used.

**How do you find suitable historical fiction?** I find those books/selections by looking through the Sonlight catalog, and using book suggestions from Story of the World, History Odyssey, or Beautiful Feet. I'll also do searches of our library catalog, Amazon, and google itself. Plus, I often ask my homeschool friends! 😊

Here are some of the history units we've studied and the books we have used in the elementary years:

- 

**Ancient Greece Unit**  
Books we recommend for ages 3-6

homeschoolen.com
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**CHINA UNIT: BOOK LIST**

Other Books in our Unit

  - 1. The Great Wall of China: A Story of the Great Wall of China
  - 2. The Great Wall of China: A Story of the Great Wall of China
  - 3. The Great Wall of China: A Story of the Great Wall of China
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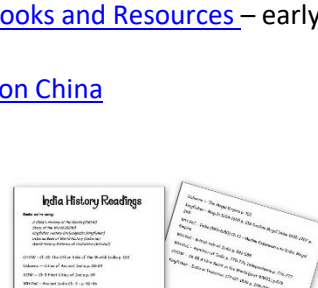
See, You, Me, Our Olympics

  - 1. The Great Wall of China: A Story of the Great Wall of China
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Activity Books

  - 1. The Great Wall of China: A Story of the Great Wall of China
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Lookbook Resources:

  - 1. The Great Wall of China: A Story of the Great Wall of China
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**India History Roadmap**

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**Middle Ages Hands-On Building Projects**

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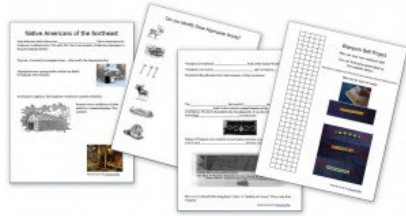






# History Freebies

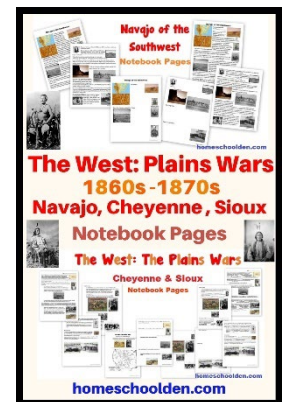
- [Native Americans of the Northeast Unit \(Part I, Algonquian Indians\)](#) - free notebook pages



- [A Visit with Pocahontas' Great \(x12\) Granddaughter](#)
- [Native Americans of the Northeast Unit \(Part II, Iroquois Indians\)](#)



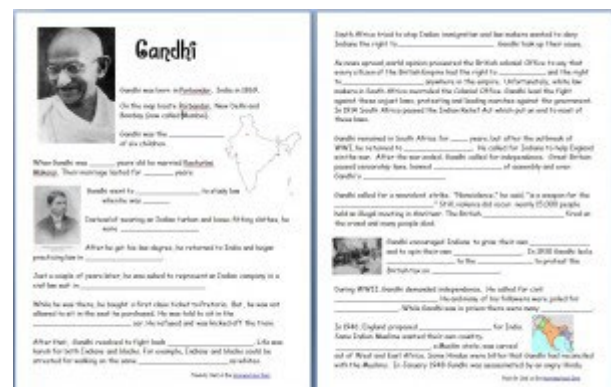
- [Native Americans of the Southeast: Cherokee, Seminole Indians, Trail of Tears](#)
- [A Visit with Pocahontas' Great \(x12\) Granddaughter](#)
- [Free Notebook Pages on the Navajo and on the Native Americans of the Plains \(Cheyenne, Sioux\)](#)
- *We used Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee Adapted for Young Readers* by Amy Ehrlich for our study of Native Americans such as the Navajo, Cheyenne, Sioux in the 1860s and 1870s <https://amzn.to/3LVqb9b>



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



- [Buddhism Learning Pack](#)



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

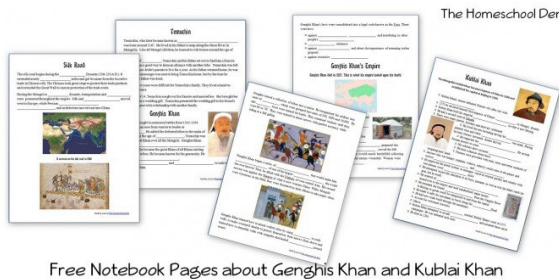
- [Chinese Brush Painting Lesson](#)
- [Free Confucianism Notebook Pages](#)



- [Buddhism Learning Pack](#)

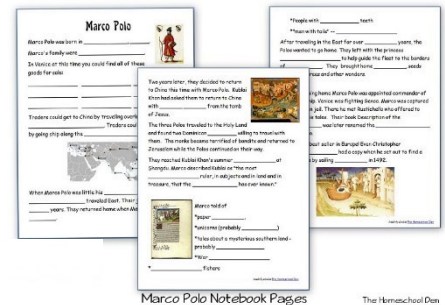


- [Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan — Free Notebook Pages, Books, and Resources](#)



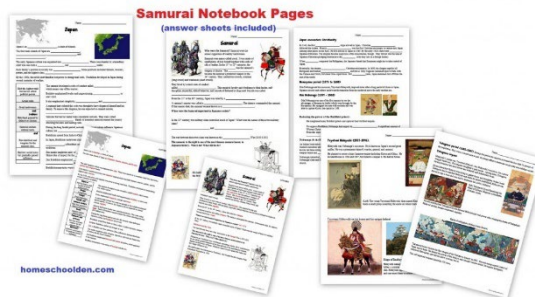
Free Notebook Pages about Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan

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



Marco Polo Notebook Pages

The Homeschool Den

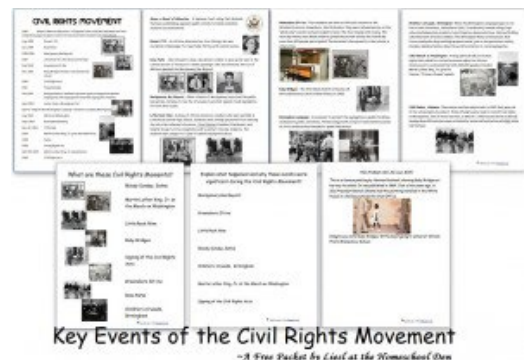


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- [Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott](#)
- [Civil Rights Movement: School Integration, Sit-Ins and Selma](#) – books and movies my kids loved
- [Free Civil Rights Packet: Timeline of Events Leading to the Civil Rights Movement](#) — This packet 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 \(free packet\)](#)



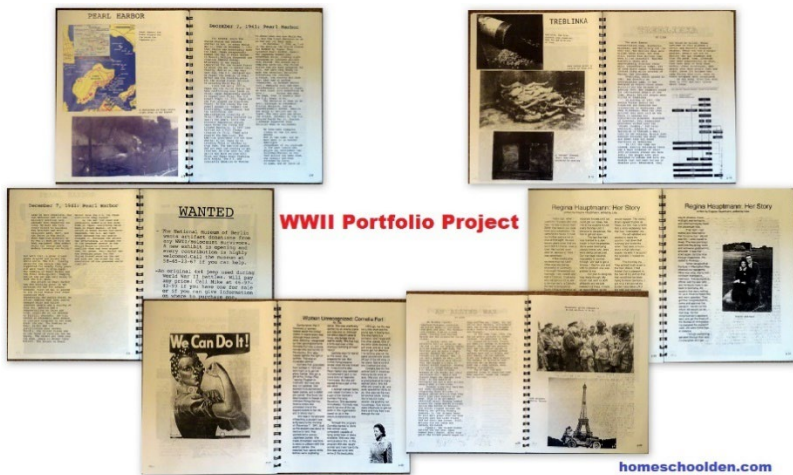
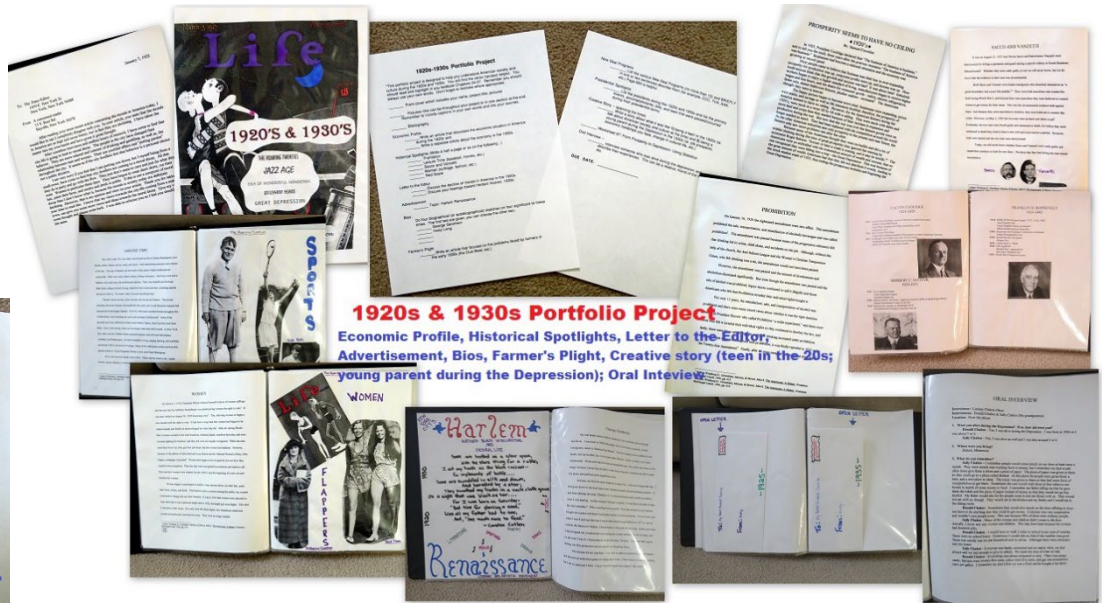
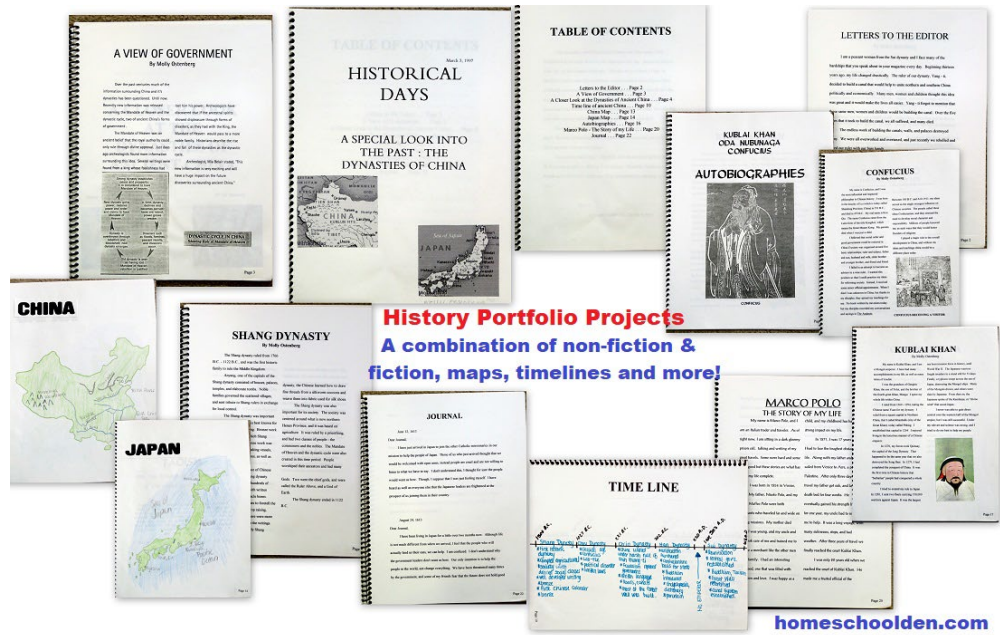
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Key Events of the Civil Rights Movement  
— A Free Packet by Lisa at the Homeschool Den



# History Portfolio Projects



**This packet was made by Liesl**

**homeschoolden.com**

Just a word about me... I taught high school and college (university) level history for many years before I had kids and while the kids were young. When I was teaching high school history, I often taught the A.P. (Advanced Placement) classes.

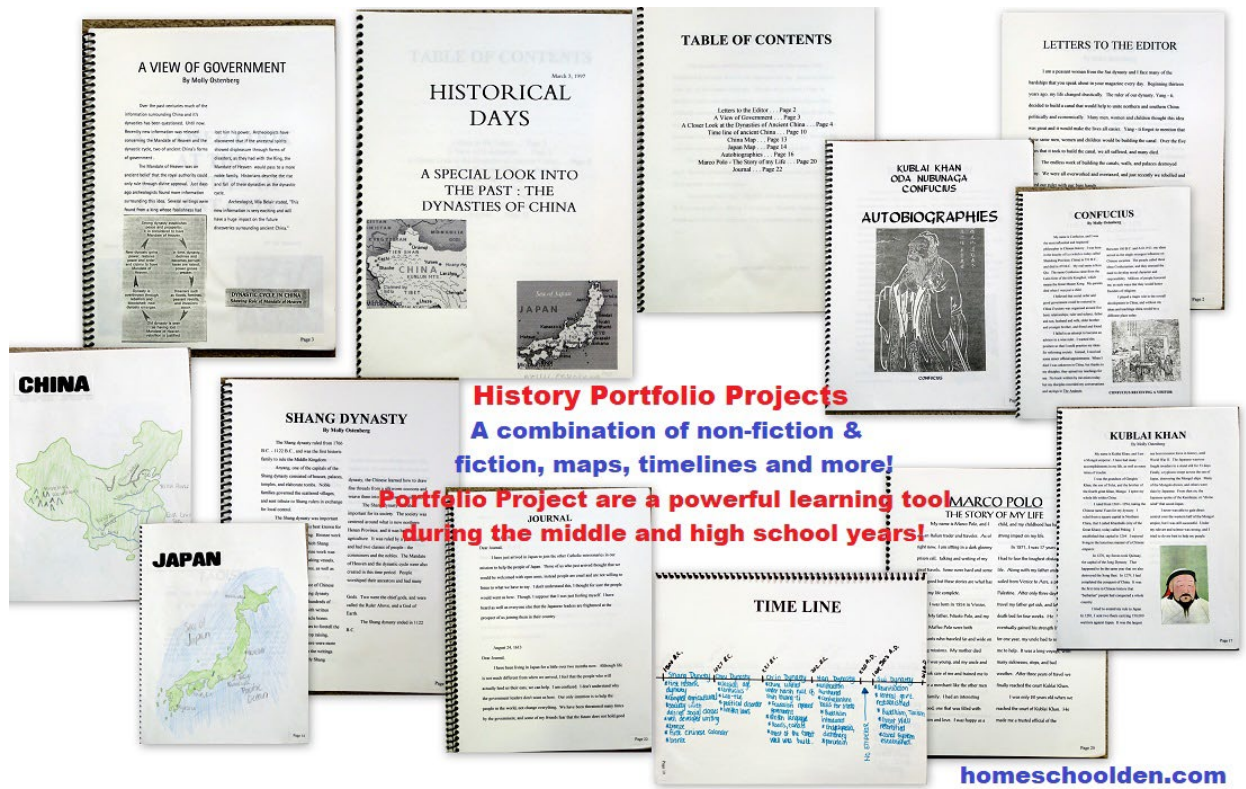
While I was teaching high school history, I attended a number of workshops and read a number of books specifically about creative teaching (in history), project-based learning, writing across the curriculum and other topics.

I loved reading and learning about the teaching methodology (in history), especially when it came to creative/hands-on teaching methods. I started using history portfolio projects early on after attending a conference in Colorado. My students really enjoyed these!

So let me dive right in.... What is a History Portfolio Project?



# What is a History Portfolio Project?



## History Portfolio Projects

A combination of non-fiction & fiction, maps, timelines and more!

Portfolio Projects are a powerful learning tool during the middle and high school years!

History Portfolio Projects have students focus on one theme, topic or time period and can include an array of writing, art, and geography assignments that are compiled together in a final product. While we did a couple of portfolio projects when the kids were in elementary, Portfolio Project really **become a powerful tool during the middle and high school years.**

History portfolio projects require students to analyze history from different angles and to write from different viewpoints.

Not only that, but portfolio projects expose kids to all kinds of different writing genres and ensures that kids get practice writing in many different styles.

Because of this, history portfolio projects are a powerful writing tool. Some students may love creative writing, while others love the idea of marketing/advertising or non-fiction writing. By requiring a number of different types of assignments, students practice and improve a number of different writing styles and skills.

The last benefit is that the students create a final product that they can really be proud of! I know my students were really excited to share their final products with each other when I was teaching in the classroom. I have some of their projects that I can share with you (yes, I had the students' permission to keep them. I had to submit these with my Teaching Portfolio and the students were gracious enough to let me keep them. They've been sitting in a box... but this fall I brought them out to share with my own kids as they complete their first homeschool Portfolio Project (more about that below).

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# **What kinds of assignments can you include in a History Portfolio Project?**

- **Letters to the Editor**
- **Time Lines**
- **Maps**
- **"Autobiographies"**
- **News Flashes**
- **Creative stories**
- **Political Cartoons**
- **Contemporary Interviews (of someone who lived through that period)**
- **Photos from the period**
- **Wanted Posters**
- **Brochures**
- **Journal entries (fictional, but "written by" someone from that period)**
- **Letters (written "by" someone from that period to a family member or friend)**
- **Advertisements**
- **Bios**
- **(Someone's) plight -- the account of someone who lived in that period**
- **Spotlights - Highlight several people from that period and include a brief list of the primary events, accomplishments, bills or laws that they helped pass (this could be for presidents, rulers, famous people of the period, etc.) The purpose is to synthesize information.**
- **Art projects**