

First Grade History



Course Overview

The first grade History program begins an overview of world history (spanning grades 1–4) from the Stone Age to the Space Age. Through lively stories and activities, students will:

- Understand how geography influences the rise of civilizations, and develop spatial sense through regular work with maps and globes
- Explore the recurrent themes of civilization: settling down and surviving, innovating and inventing, building cities and empires, establishing laws and government,

and preserving knowledge and works of the imagination

- Become familiar with mythologies, traditions, and belief systems of various cultures
- Identify important figures, events, and concepts related to the historical origins of major world religions
- Recognize lasting contributions in ideas (for example, democracy, republican government, and civil service) from various civilizations

Course Outline

Getting Around This Great Big World

- Reinforce basic geographic awareness using simple maps and globes
- Learn about the work of historians and archaeologists

Early Civilizations

- Understand how nomadic people settled down and started villages and cities
- Recognize achievements of early kingdoms in Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt

The Rise of Ancient Empires

- Become familiar with the historical origins of Judaism
- Learn more about civilization in Mesopotamia

Ancient Kingdoms Rise and Fall

- Become familiar with the rise and fall of Mesopotamian, Israeli, and Egyptian empires

Ancient Greece Part I:

The Land and the Myths

- Become familiar with the geography, people, and myths of ancient Greece

Ancient Greece, Part II:

From Athens to Alexander

- Recognize the significance of democracy
- Recognize the contrast between Greek and Spartan cultures
- Follow the life and campaigns of Alexander the Great

Ancient India

- Learn about the geography and history of ancient India
- Become familiar with the historical origins of Hinduism and Buddhism

Ancient China

- Learn about the geography of China
- Study early leaders in Chinese history
- Learn about the discoveries of silk and paper, the building of the Great Wall, and the development of Chinese writing

Lesson Time and Scheduling

Total lessons: 72. If you teach History twice a week, you can comfortably complete the program within a typical school year.

Lesson Time: 60 minutes. You might choose to split the lessons into smaller segments, for example, from 25 to 35 minutes. The online lesson tracking system allows you to pick up wherever you left off in any given lesson.

Standard Curriculum Items

US/world desk map

Inflatable Globe

CD: *Tales from the Old Testament* by Jim Weiss (Great Hall Productions)

CD: *Greek Myths* by Jim Weiss (Great Hall Productions)

Additional Curriculum Items

Some lessons require additional resources, including common household items, and books that are readily available online or in your local library:

Mummies by Joyce Milton (Grosset & Dunlap, 1996)

The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo (HarperCollins Juvenile, 1992)

The Trojan Horse by Emily Little (Random House, 1988)

Tut's Mummy: Lost...and Found by Judy Donnelly (Random House, 1988)

NOTE: List subject to change.