



History Benchmark Achievements

Elementary History

Ages 8-12

Objectives at this age:

Discover the stories behind each country in the world.

Learn the continents, oceans, major rivers and lakes, and mountain ranges around the globe.

Learn the states and capitols of the United States.

Discover the stories of American History during the 1700's and 1800's.

Create an *I Love America* journal to include information about the 1700's and 1800's, American geography and information about each state in the country.

Create a *Countries of the World* journal to share the story of the country. Students may focus on historical persons, heroic figures, stories that teach morals, geography of the region, and cycles of history within the country. They may also include art, poetry, and music that originated in the country.

Stories and activities can be designed to teach the following events and individuals during the ages of 8 through 12.

Geography:

- Maps: Review the 7 continents and major oceans.
- Maps: Learn major directions (north, south, east, west).
- Maps: Locate places relevant to historical topics.
- Maps: Terms – equator, peninsula, island
- Maps: Mesopotamia “cradle of civilization” between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers
- Maps: Use of an atlas, bar scale to measure distance
- Maps: Terms – Tropic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn, Time zones
- Rivers of the World: Terms – source, tributary, delta, strait

- Geography of America: Appalachian and Rocky Mountains
- Geography of America: The Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Countries of South America
- Geography of America: Terms – horizon, desert, oasis, prairie
- Geography of America: US States and capitols

- European Geography: Mountain Ranges, Rivers
- European Geography: Political geography of Europe

Religion

- Major world religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Islam: Five Pillars of Islam
- Islam: Spread of Islam into Spain
- Saladin
- Richard the Lionhearted
- The Crusades
- Reformation: Martin Luther, John Calvin, William Tyndale, Printing of the Bible
- Buddhism
- Shintoism

Ancient Civilizations

- Ancient Egypt (Nile River, pharaohs, Hieroglyphics, pyramids, mummies)
- Asia and India (Hindu, Buddhism)
- China (Confucius)
- Ancient Greece (Greek myths, Olympic games, Parthenon, Alexander the Great, Athens, Mediterranean Sea)
- Ancient Rome (Legend of Romulus and Remus)
- Rome: How Romans adapted Greek religion and God
- Rome: Julius Caesar
- Rome: Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius and destruction of Pompeii
- Byzantine Empire: Constantine
- Byzantine Empire: Constantinople, Emperor Justinian and wife Theodora
- Geography of the Mediterranean

Early Europe and Russia

- Vikings: Norse Mythology; Exploration of North America before Columbus
- Russia: Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Catherine the Great
- Russia: Geography of Russia

Middle Ages and Renaissance

- Invasion of Germanic tribes after the Fall of Rome

- History of the Christian church
- Origins of the Catholic church
- Monasteries as centers of learning
- Feudal times (castles, knights in armor, chivalry, legends of King Arthur)
- Norman conquest
- King John and the Magna Carta
- Joan of Arc
- Plague across Europe
- Renaissance (rebirth of learning, Islamic scholars, Copernicus, Galileo, conflicts between science and church)
- Rise of Italian city states
- Turning points of English history
 - Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth
 - Defeat of the Spanish Armada
 - English revolution – beheading of Charles I, Reign of Cromwell, Restoration of Charles II
 - Glorious Revolution
 - Parliament
 - English Bill of Rights

Exploration and Discovery of America

- Central and South America: Aztec, Mayan, and Inca Cultures
- Cause and consequence of European trade (clash of cultures)
- Exploration of Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, English
- Explorers and Settlers (Columbus, Spanish conquistadors, English settlers at Jamestown and Plymouth)
- Ponce de Leon, Hernando de Soto, Jacques Cartier, Hudson
- Settlement of St. Augustine
- Search for the "Northwest Passage" – John Cabot

America – 1700's

- Religious and economic motivations for settling America
- Dutch – New Netherland
- William Penn – Quakers
- Jamestown and Powhatan Indians
- Tobacco as a cash crop
- Pilgrims and Mayflower Compact

- Thirteen colonies
- French and Indian War
- American Revolution
- Constitutional government
- Founding Fathers (Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Hamilton)

America – 1800's

- War of 1812
- James Madison
- Manifest Destiny
- Westward expansion – Oregon Trail
- Cause and consequence of American Indian resistance to westward expansion (buffalo, Trail of Tears)
- Government policies toward American Indians (Plains Indians, Pacific Northwest Indians)
- Andrew Jackson
- Battle of Little Big Horn and Wounded Knee
- Abolitionists (William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth)
- Horace Mann and Education
- Dorothea Dix
- War with Mexico
- Cause and events leading to the Civil War
- Missouri compromise
- Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- Dred Scott decision
- John Brown
- Lincoln-Douglas Debates
- Civil War (Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson)
- Civil War – Battles and Events
 - Bull Run, Antietam Creek, Vicksburg, Gettysburg
 - Gettysburg Address
 - African American troops
 - Fall of Richmond
 - Surrender at Appomattox
 - Assassination of Lincoln
- National Symbols: Liberty Bell, The Eagle, American Flag, Statue of Liberty, Lincoln Memorial

- Reconstruction Era (carpetbaggers, scalawags)
- Impeachment of Andrew Johnson
- 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments
- Rise of the Ku Klux Klan
- Wild West (Railroads and Cowboys)