

Grade 6

American

History, Part 2



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Introduction to Build Your Library Curriculum

Thank you for choosing to use Build Your Library curriculum. I have created this curriculum based on the idea that children learn best through great literature. So sit down with your children, snuggle up and enjoy the stories and memories!

I am a homeschooling mom like you, and I tried a LOT of different curricula. I knew I wanted to read great stories with my children. I loved the philosophy behind the Charlotte Mason method, but I had a hard time finding a prepackaged curriculum that fit my needs. So, after tinkering and tweaking several different programs, I decided to just create my own. What you are now reading is based on my years of experience. I hope it will save you many hours of research and reading so you can just relax and teach your children.

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Booklist

These are the books that are scheduled as part of the curriculum. I highly recommend purchasing the books that are used more than a few weeks. It will save you much aggravation to not have to deal with library fees and such.

All of these books are listed at the Build Your Library website with links to purchase.

History:

[War, Terrible War: 1855-1865 A History of US Book 6](#) (week 1)

[A Reconstructing America: 1865-1890 A History of US Book 7](#) (week 7)

[An Age of Extremes: 1880-1917 A History of US Book 8](#) (week 14)

[War, Peace, and All That Jazz: 1918-1945 A History of US Book 9](#) (week 20)

[All the People: Since 1945 \(A History of Us\)](#) (week 28)

Note: I recommend that you get the newest version of the last book – it is currently updated through President Obama’s first election. This is the book I have scheduled for you.

Literature:

[The Slave Dancer](#) (week 1)

[The Mostly True Adventures Of Homer P. Figg](#) (week 3)

[The Mysterious Benedict Society](#) (week 6)

[Sing Down the Moon](#) (week 11)

[The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate](#) (week 13)

[The Phantom Tollbooth](#) (week 18)

[Darby](#) (week 22)

[Farewell to Manzanar](#) (week 25)

[The Devil's Arithmetic \(Puffin Modern Classics\)](#) (week 28)

[One Crazy Summer](#) (week 30)

[The Gammage Cup: A Novel of the Minnipins](#) (week 33)

Poetry:

[Poetry for Young People: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#) (weeks 1 – 12)

[Poetry for Young People: Edgar Allan Poe](#) (weeks 13 – 24)

[Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes](#) (weeks 25 – 36)

Readers:

[Amos Fortune, Free Man \(Newbery Library, Puffin\)](#) (week 1)

[Lincoln: A Photobiography \(Houghton Mifflin social studies\)](#) (week 3)

[The Great Turkey Walk](#) (week 5)

[Shades of Gray](#) (week 7)

[Gregor The Overlander \(Underland Chronicles, Book 1\)](#) (week 9)

[Immigrant Kids](#) (week 12)

[The Prairie Thief](#) (week 13)
[Letters from Rifka](#) (week 15)
[Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt! \(Unforgettable Americans\)](#) (week 17)
[Rascal \(Puffin Modern Classics\)](#) (week 18)
[After the Dancing Days](#) (week 21)
[The Giver](#) (week 24)
[The Cay](#) (week 27)
[In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson](#) (week 29)
[Gentle Ben \(Puffin Modern Classics\)](#) (week 31)
[Rules](#) (week 34)

Science:

Real Science Odyssey Astronomy 2 - <http://www.pandiapress.com/publications/real-science-odyssey/earth-space-level-one/#astronomy> (Weeks 1 – 15)
[George and the Big Bang](#) (Week 1)
[A Black Hole is Not a Hole](#) (Week 5)
[The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity](#) (Week 9)
[Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 On the Moon](#) (Week 14)
[Weather!](#) (Week 16)
[The Science of Climate Change](#) (Week 21)
[World Without Fish](#) (Week 22)
[Tracking Trash](#) (Week 27)

Optional Books:

[Beyond the Solar System: Exploring Galaxies, Black Holes, Alien Planets and More](#)
[Solar System: A Visual Exploration of the Planets, Moons, and Other Heavenly Bodies that Orbit Our Sun](#)
[Surtsey: The Newest Place on Earth](#)
[Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines](#)

Literary Earth Science Project:

[The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind](#)
[Out of the Dust](#)
[The Thing About Jellyfish](#)
[George's Secret Key to the Universe](#)

Art:

[Great American Artists for Kids: Hands-On Art Experiences in the Styles of Great American Masters \(Bright Ideas for Learning\)](#)

Optional reference for the state pages:

[Don't Know Much About the 50 States](#)
OR
[The United States of America: A State-by-State Guide](#)

Documentaries:

[The Civil War: A Film by Ken Burns](#) (Week 1 – but used for 6 weeks)
[NOVA Documentary – The Big Bang Machine](#) (Week 3)
[How the Universe Works Episode 7: The Dark Matter Enigma](#) (Week 4)
[American Experience - Transcontinental Railroad](#) (Week 9)
[We Shall Remain: America Through Native Eyes](#) (Week 10)
[The Voyage of Curiosity](#) (Week 10)
[Ellis Island](#) (Week 11)
[Biography - Thomas A. Edison: Father of Invention](#) (Week 12)
[Empires of Industry - Andrew Carnegie and the Age of Steel \(History Channel\)](#) (Week 14)
[Ken Burns' America: The Statue of Liberty](#) (Week 15)
[Theodore Roosevelt: A Cowboy's Ride to the White House](#) (Week 18)
[Conquest of Hawaii](#) (Week 19)
[American Experience: Henry Ford](#) (Week 19)
[World War 1 - American Legacy DVD](#) (Week 20)
[The Panic Is On: The Great American Depression as Seen by the Common Man](#) (Week 23)
[Eleanor and Franklin Double Feature \(The Early Years / The White House Years\)](#) (Weeks 23 – 24)
[The War - A Film By Ken Burns and Lynn Novick](#) (Week 25 – 27)
[Unforgettable: The Korean War](#) (Week 29)
[The Devil's Arithmetic](#) (Week 29)
[The Secret Life of Bees](#) (Week 30)
[American Experience: The Kennedys](#) (Week 31)
[King \(History Channel\)](#) (Week 32)
[Inside the Vietnam War](#) (Week 32)
[September 11th: Memorial Edition](#) (Week 35)
[National Geographic - 21 Days to Baghdad](#) (Week 36)
[Inside Islam \(History Channel\)](#) (Week 36)

A note about the documentaries linked through Amazon.com:

Please do not think you need to purchase all of the DVDs I linked in the lesson plans. They can easily be found in your local library, through Netflix, or another movie rental chain. I linked them through Amazon.com so you can see exactly what documentary I'm referring too, as many have similar or even the same name. Also, if your child does not enjoy historical documentaries, do not feel you must make them watch every single one. That would defeat the purpose. Maybe choose one that you think they might be interested in (it helps if they are interested in the subject matter).

American History, Part 2

Week 1

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
History: <i>War, Terrible War</i>	Preface 1 – 2	Chapter 1 – 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
Poetry <i>Poetry for Young People: Longfellow</i>		Intro – 1 st six paragraphs; pg. 9		pg. 10 - 11	
Literature <i>The Slave Dancer</i>	The Errand	The Moonlight pg. 11 – 20	The Moonlight pg. 20 – 31	The Shrouds	The Bight of Benin
Reader <i>Amos Fortune, Free Man</i>	Africa 1725	The Middle Passage	Boston 1725 – 1740	Woburn 1740 – 1779	Journey to Keene 1779
Science <i>RSO Astronomy 2</i> <i>George and the Big Bang</i>	Unit I Chapter 1 Lesson Begin Lab Chapter 1		Activity Chapter 2		Famous Science Series and Show What You Know Chapter 3
Language Arts	Narration Card	Dictation	Narration Card	Dictation	Narration Card
Art					

American History, Part 2

Week 1 - Day 1

History Reading:

Read – War, Terrible War – Preface I – II

Key Idea/Topic – Setting the stage for the Civil War, in the first preface you see how politicians are dealing with the brewing storm; the second preface is an overview of the issues of slavery.

Literature:

The Slave Dancer – read The Errand

Notes and Vocabulary:

brocade – a cloth with a raised design woven into it

bayou – a marshy or slowly flowing body of water

caparisoned – to dress with or as if with fancy clothes

levee – a landing place along a river

debris – the remains of something broken down or destroyed; garbage

profusion – a plentiful supply

fetid – having a strong unpleasant smell

martial – of or relating to an army or army life; relating to war

- The book takes place mostly at sea, but it begins in Louisiana. Find Louisiana on a map. Now locate New Orleans, where Jessie lives with his mother and sister.
- This book is largely about sailing – there are many terms used that you may have never heard before. You may want to start a “sailing” glossary and keep track of the different words you learn. Words from this chapter include – snagboat and steamboat.

Dictation Passage:

There was one pretty object in the room, a basket of colored spools of thread which sat on the sill of the window facing Pirate’s Alley. By candlelight, the warmth of the colors made me think the thread would throw off a perfume like a garden of flowers.

Reader:

Amos Fortune, Free Man – read Africa 1725 and have your child choose a narration card to complete.

Week 1 - Day 1 continued

Science:

Unit I Chapter 1 – read the lesson

Begin the lab activity

George and the Big Bang – read chapter 1

To Discuss: How was the solar system formed?

Look up information about the discoveries of other solar systems and earth-like planets

SAMPLE

American History, Part 2

Week 1 - Day 2

History Reading:

War, Terrible War – Chapters 1 – 2

Key Idea/Topic – Chapter 1 gives a brief overview of the causes of the Civil War – mainly slavery and states rights. Chapter 2 goes into the very beginnings of the war, including the first battle at Bull Run.

History Activity:

- Using Map 1 (pg. 249), begin a Civil War battle map. As you read through the history lessons, mark battles and who won them on the map. Today, you should mark the Battle of Bull Run.
- Timeline Work – Civil War was fought between 1861 – 1865
- You may wish to watch the documentary [The Civil War: A Film by Ken Burns](#) while studying the Civil War. There are 9 episodes, so you'll want to spread them out over the 6 weeks that you will be covering the Civil War. Today, watch episode 1: *The Cause 1861*.

Literature:

The Slave Dancer – read The Moonlight pages 11 – 20 (stop at...“I was on a slaver.”)

Notes and Vocabulary:

Creole – a white person descended from early French or Spanish settlers to the United States;

a person of mixed French or Spanish and black descent speaking a dialect of French or Spanish

pygmy – a person or thing that is very small for its kind

lucrative – profitable

barracoon – an enclosure or barracks formerly used for temporary confinement of slaves or convicts.

- Sailing terms used in this chapter – bowsprit, topmast and bulwark
- Find the Bight of Benin, Sao Tome and Cuba on a map.

Dictation:

Complete dictation passage. (See note about dictation on page 8 of this guide)

Week 1 - Day 2 continued

Poetry:

Poetry for Young People: Longfellow – read the first 6 paragraphs on pg. 4-5; read the poem The Arrow and the Song on page 9.

Reader:

Amos Fortune, Free Man – read The Middle Passage.

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American History, Part 2

Week 1 - Day 3

History Reading:

War, Terrible War – Chapter 3

Key Idea/Topic – Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote the novel Uncle Tom’s Cabin as a way to show how awful slavery was. It became instantly successful and was the most influential book of the 19th century.

History Activity:

Timeline Work: Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes Uncle Tom’s Cabin in 1852

Literature:

The Slave Dancer – read The Moonlight pages 20 – 31
(start at: “Sometime later, Benjamin Stout..”)

Notes and Vocabulary:

prevailing – to win against opposition

sarcasm – a remark made usually to hurt someone's feelings or show scorn

suet – the hard fat around the kidneys in beef and mutton from which tallow is made

blockade – the cutting off of an area by means of troops or warships to stop the coming in or going out of people or supplies

purled – to invert the stitches in knitting; swirling motion; to make a murmuring sound

spry – light and easy motion

benign – of a mild type or character

- Sailing term used in this chapter – aft
- Read the story of Jonah and the Whale
http://www.dltk-bible.com/cv/jonah_and_the_whale.htm

Dictation Passage:

At first the wind had been a tight fist, shoving us on, but now it was an open hand pushing us before it at such a rousing clip I felt my own arms had become wings as we flew across the water.

Reader:

Amos Fortune, Free Man – read Boston 1725 - 1740 and have your child choose a narration card to complete.

Week 1 - Day 3 continued

Science:

Complete the activity.

George and the Big Bang – read chapter 2

To Discuss: What did George and Annie overhear while looking through the window Cosmos showed them?

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American History, Part 2

Week 1 - Day 4

History Reading:

War, Terrible War – Chapter 4

Key Idea/Topic – Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and helped to free many slaves using the Underground Railroad.

History Activity:

- Fill out a biography page about Harriet Tubman (pg. 247).
- Timeline Work: Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery in 1849

Literature:

The Slave Dancer – read The Shrouds

Notes and Vocabulary:

shrouds – something that covers or shelters; one of the ropes that go from the masthead of a ship to the sides to provide support to the mast

pretense – a claim usually not supported by facts; a false show

aloofness – removed or distant in interest or feeling

briny – of, relating to, or resembling salt water

strop – a leather band for sharpening a razor

- Sailing terms in this chapter – knots, halyard and holystone
- What are the United States Revenue Cutters? (There is a lot of information about this subject here: <http://www.naval-history.net/OWShips-USCGShipsList.htm>)
- What happened to Purvis? Do you think it was fair? Did his reaction surprise you?
- Did your feelings about Ben Stout change? Why?

Dictation:

Complete dictation passage.

Poetry:

Poetry for Young People: Longfellow – read the poems on pages 10 – 11

Reader:

Amos Fortune, Free Man – read Woburn 1740 - 1779

American History, Part 2

Week 1 - Day 5

History Reading:

War, Terrible War – Chapter 5

Key Idea/Topic – Abraham Lincoln’s childhood in Kentucky and Indiana.

History Activity:

Watch [The Civil War: A Film by Ken Burns](#) – episode 2: *A Very Bloody Affair 1862*

Literature:

The Slave Dancer – read The Bight of Benin

Notes and Vocabulary:

carronade – a short-barreled gun of the late 18th and 19th centuries that fired large shot at short range and was used especially on warships

armament – the process of preparing for war; supplying of war materials

pressganged – a detachment of men under command of an officer empowered to force men into military or naval service

jettison – to throw goods overboard from a ship or aircraft especially to lighten it in distress

tarpsaulin – a piece of material used for protecting exposed objects

pyre – a heap of wood for burning a dead body or a pile of material to be burned

latrines – toilets

propulsion – the act or process of propelling

recumbent – in a state of rest

- Sailing terms used in this chapter – doldrums
- How has Jessie’s idea’s of sailing changed through the course of this trip?

Reader:

Amos Fortune, Free Man – read Journey to Keene 1779 and have your child choose a narration card to complete.

Science:

Unit I Chapter 1 Lesson Review

Complete the Famous Science Series and Show What You Know activities.

George and the Big Bang – read chapter 3

To Discuss – What is the “Theory of Everything?”

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