

Fourth Grade History



Course Overview

Concluding their investigation (spanning grades 1–4) into history from the Stone Age to the Space Age, fourth grade students turn to the study of the modern world. They will:

- Learn about the Age of Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution, and meet Isaac Newton and Benjamin Franklin
- Become familiar with James Madison and American constitutional government, as well as Napoleon in France

- Learn about various revolutions in Latin America
- See how great changes—nationalism, industrialism, and imperialism—shaped, and sometimes shattered, the modern world, leading to the two world wars
- Study many inventors and innovators who achieved great advances in communication, transportation, medicine, and government

Course Outline

Finding Your Way Around the World

- Maps, Scales, and Finding Our Place
- The Shape of the Land
- Grids Show the Way

Introducing the Modern World:

The Scientific Revolution

- What's So Modern About the Modern World?
- William Harvey Gets to the Heart of Things
- What's Under That Microscope?
- A Fly on the Ceiling: The Story of Cartesian Coordinates
- Young Isaac Newton
- A New Kind of Knight
- Curious Ben Franklin
- Diderot's Revolutionary Encyclopedia

Two Democratic Revolutions

- John Locke Spells Out the Laws of Good Government
- Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence
- James Madison and the US Constitution
- George Washington and the American Presidency
- The US Constitution: Three Branches of Government
- The US Constitution: Checks and Balances
- Rumblings of Revolution in France
- Storming the Bastille!
- Farewell, Louis XVI: From Monarchy to Republic
- The Terror
- The Rise of Napoleon
- Washington's Farewell: Stay Out of Europe's Wars
- Napoleon: Lawgiver and Emperor
- Waterloo!

Latin American Revolutions

- Haiti Went First: Toussaint L'Ouverture
- Spanish America and Seeds of Independence
- Miguel Hidalgo: Father of Mexican Independence
- Simón Bolívar: The Liberator
- Liberating the South: San Martín and O'Higgins

The Industrial Revolution

- James Hargreaves and the Spinning Jenny
- James Watt and the Steam Engine
- Fulton and McAdam: A Revolution in Transportation
- Americans Climb Aboard
- The First Factories
- Capitalism and New Wealth
- Charles Dickens: From Boy to Author
- Karl Marx in London
- The Great Exhibition

The Growth of Nations

- A New Kind of Czar: Peter the Great
- Catherine the Great
- Nicholas Nixes Change
- Greece Against the Ottoman Empire
- The New American Nationalism
- One Nation or Two?
- The Civil War Makes One Nation
- Lincoln's Leadership
- The Brothers Grimm in Germany
- Bismark Unites Germany
- Garibaldi Fights for a United Italy
- The Olympics Revived

The Age of Imperialism

- Livingstone and Stanley in Africa
- The French and the Suez Canal
- Rudyard Kipling: Author and Advocate for Empire
- Germany's "Place in the Sun"
- "A Splendid Little War": The Spanish-American War

Can Do! An Age of Breakthroughs and Enterprise

- Louis Pasteur
- Speeding It Up: Telegraphs, Sewing Machines, and Typewriters
- The Wizard of Menlo Park: Thomas Edison
- Alexander Graham Bell and the Telephone



- Carnegie and Steel
- Mr. Eiffel Builds a Tower
- Henry Ford Makes Cars Affordable
- Marconi and the Radio
- First in Flight: Orville and Wilbur Wright
- The Panama Canal

Mostly Hard Times: War, the Roaring 20s, and Depression

- The Great War Begins
- In Flanders Fields
- Lafayette, We Are Here!
- Dashed Hopes
- Russia's Dethroned and Lenin Rising
- From Lenin to Stalin
- American Women Get the Vote
- The Roaring 20s
- Charles Lindbergh and Advances in Flight
- Fleming and Penicillin: Advances in Medicine
- The Great Depression

World War II

- The Rise of Dictators
- Hitler's Gamble
- Nazi Blitzkrieg and Axis Expansion
- Churchill Leads Embattled Britain
- The Holocaust
- Pearl Harbor and United States Entry into the War
- D-Day, and Victory in Europe
- The Atomic Bomb and V-J Day

Rebuilding a Better World

- Lending a Hand with the Marshall Plan
- Formation of the United Nations
- End of Empires: Gandhi in India
- The Cold War and the Berlin Wall
- Mao Zedong in China
- Defeating Polio
- A Computer Revolution
- We Will Go to the Moon
- A Polish Pope and Eastern Europe
- The End of the Cold War

Lesson Time and Scheduling

Total lessons: 108. If you teach History three times 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, 25 to 35 minutes.

The online lesson tracking system will allow you to pick up wherever you left off in any given lesson.

Standard Curriculum Items

Understanding Geography: Map Skills and Our World (Level 4)

Inflatable globe

US/world map

Charles Dickens: The Man Who Had Great Expectations, by Diane Stanley and Peter Vennema (William Morrow and Co., 1993)

Inventors: A Library of Congress Book, by Martin Sandler (HarperCollins, 1996)

The U.S. Constitution and You, by Syl Sobel (Barron's, 2001)

NOTE: List subject to change.