

Second Grade History



Course Overview

Second graders continue their investigation (spanning grades 1–4) into history from the Stone Age to the Space Age.

Through lively stories and activities, second graders will:

- Explore ancient Rome and meet Julius Caesar
- Learn about the beginnings of Christianity during the Roman Empire
- Hear stories of the raiding and trading Vikings
- Appreciate the achievements of early Islamic civilization
- During the early Middle Ages in Europe, meet knights in

armor, and hear stories of St. George, Robin Hood, and Joan of Arc

- Visit the medieval African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai
- Travel the Silk Road across China, and meet the powerful emperor, Kublai Khan
- Learn about the fighting samurai and the growth of Buddhism and Shintoism in feudal Japan

Course Outline

Getting Around This Great Big World

- Practice with simple maps and globes to reinforce geographic awareness
- Begin to understand the work of historians and archaeologists

Ancient Rome

- Locate Rome on a map
- Learn about Rome's mythical and historic origins
- Explore life in Rome and Roman gods, goddesses, and myths

From Caesar to Augustus

- Understand the significance of the Roman republic
- Become familiar with the rise, rule, fall, and legacy of Julius Caesar

Roman Empire and Roman Peace

- Learn about Rome under the rule of Augustus Caesar and subsequent emperors
- Understand the historical beginnings of Christianity
- Learn about the relocation of the Empire's capital to Byzantium

Byzantium Rises

- Recognize the contributions of Rome to modern civilization
- Identify the eastern part of the Roman Empire as the Byzantine Empire
- Explain the contributions of Justinian and Theodora

Rome Divides and Falls

- Recognize the significance of Attila the Hun
- Understand how Rome fell to invading warrior tribes
- Discover Rome's lasting contributions to society
- Explore Constantinople

The Early Middle Ages in Western Europe

- Explore the early settling of England and France
- Discover the legendary saga of King Arthur and his court at Camelot
- Learn about the role of monasteries in preserving knowledge

The Rise of Islam

- Become familiar with the origins of Islam
- Learn about major figures, events, and cultural achievements of the Islamic Empire

A World in Turmoil

- Learn about Charlemagne's struggle to unify European tribes
- Explore the Vikings' lives, beliefs, and heroes
- Learn that Vikings raided, conquered, and settled lands on both sides of the Atlantic

The Feudal World

- Become familiar with the concept of feudalism
- Learn about the knight's code of chivalry and about real and legendary acts of honor, courage, and courtliness

Crusades Abroad and Changes in Europe

- Become familiar with real and legendary heroes from the Crusades and the Hundred Years War
- Understand the significance of the terrible plague that swept Europe

Medieval African Empires

- Explore the rich, varied lands and people of medieval Africa
- Follow the travels of Ibn Battuta through Asia, Africa, and the Mediterranean

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Medieval China

- Learn about life during the Sui, Tang, Sung, and Yuan dynasties
- Become familiar with the major figures and architectural feats in Chinese history
- Learn about the discoveries of the compass and porcelain, and the development of Chinese trade with Europe

Feudal Japan

- Learn about the history and governance of feudal Japan and about the samurai's code
- Become familiar with the Shinto religion, haiku, and a popular Japanese folktale

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, from 25 to 35 minutes. K¹²'s 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

Additional Curriculum Items

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

Knights in Shining Armor by Gail Gibbons
(Little, Brown, 1998)

Pompeii: Buried Alive by Edith Kunhardt
(Random House, 1987)

Saint Valentine by Robert Sabuda (Simon & Schuster Children's Books, 1998)

The Hundredth Name by Shulamith Levey Oppenheim
(Boyd's Mills Press, 1997)

St. George and the Dragon by Margaret Hodges
(Little, Brown, 1990)

Sundiata: Lion King of Mali by David Wisniewski
(Clarion Books, 1999)

NOTE: List subject to change.