

History At Our House

The Ultimate History Resource for Homeschoolers



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Ancient History

Elementary Grades Syllabus

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Introduction

This syllabus presents the general objectives for an academic year of Ancient History with HistoryAtOurHouse for both the Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary classes. Its purpose is to give parents an overview of what will be covered during the year, and thus to facilitate the purchase or borrowing of books and other resources (both non-fiction and historical fiction) to match with your children's studies in the program.

Various aspects of the HistoryAtOurHouse program remain, and will likely always remain, a work in progress. Since I continually teach a range of clientèle spanning age six to sixty, I am always learning new things about history, and new ways to teach it. To meet my clients' and my own needs, I find it essential as a historian to broaden and intensify my understanding of history on a continual basis. I am regularly reassessing the nature and precision of the information I present, as well as the role and significance of historical knowledge in a broader education. Consequently, I am always making pedagogical adjustments to the various programs I offer, and occasionally they are major ones.

In calendar years when I am teaching live Ancient history classes, the general outline below should serve as a reliable guide for the year to come, though I may choose to depart from it in minor ways as the year progresses. In years when I am not teaching live Ancient history classes (such as in 2009-10), this guide will be a fully accurate reflection of the material that is present for the already completed product.

One issue that will interest parents of Lower Elementary students is the choice to match the sequencing of the presentation in the Lower Elementary curriculum with that of the Upper Elementary. All elementary grade students will receive instruction in the same basic content, and at the same pace, which is why this syllabus is relevant to both levels. I have decided to maintain a close match between the two programs as there is no evident pedagogical reason not to, and it has an important practical benefit. It is possible for a student to transition from one program to the other (either by increasing the level of difficulty, and by decreasing it) at any time during the year as well as between years. This can be extremely valuable to a parent whose child is not responding well to a particular level, and who could be well served by a change to a higher or lower level.

I am very excited about the year to come, and I look forward to working with you to make this academic year a terrific success.

Best regards,



Mr. Powell

Course Outline

Ancient Egypt, c.3000-664BC (Weeks 1-6, September to Mid-October)

- Why History?
- The nature and challenges of Ancient history
- Egypt Emerged Into history
 - Napoleon's expedition to Egypt
 - Champollion and the Rosetta Stone
 - The Narmer Palette
- The First Thousand Years
 - Unification
 - Pyramids and Egyptian Religion
 - Kingdom Periods and Intermediate Periods in Egyptian history
- The Middle and New Kingdoms
 - Engineering accomplishments other than pyramids
 - Akhenaten and the failed Egyptian Reformation
 - King Tut
 - Egypt and its Neighbors
- TEST FOR WEEKS 1-6

Ancient Mesopotamia (Weeks 7-11, Mid-October to Thanksgiving)

- The Behistun Inscription and Assyriology
- Sumer and Akkad
- Gutian Period and Dark Age
- Old Babylonian Empire
- The Kassites
- Assyrian Empire
- Neo-Babylonian/Chaldean Empire
- Persian Empire
 - Persian Kingship and Imperial institutions
 - Zoroastrianism
- TEST FOR WEEKS 7-11

Ancient Greece (Weeks 12-20, December-February)

- Minoan and Mycenaean Greece
- The Greek Dark Ages
- Rise of Greece (750 BC – 500 BC)
 - Sparta
 - military life
 - Spartan government
 - Athens
 - Draco's Laws
 - Solon
 - Birth of Democracy
 - Greek Colonies
- TEST FOR WEEKS 12-16

Ancient Greece (continued)

- The Greco-Persian Wars
- Athenian Empire
- Peloponessian Wars (431-404BC)
- The Spartan and Theban Supremacies
- Alexander the Great
- The Hellenistic World
- TEST FOR WEEKS 17-20

Ancient Rome (Weeks 21-37, March-June)

- The Etruscans
- Legendary Origins of Rome
- The Tarquin Kings
- The Roman Republic (c.509 BC – c.146 BC)
 - Roman Society and Government
 - Patricians and Plebeians
 - The Twelve Tables
 - Licinian Laws
 - Conquest of Italy
 - Roman Municipal System
 - Punic Wars
 - Background: the Phoenecians
 - Hannibal and Scipio Africanus
 - Rome's triumph and its significance
- TEST FOR THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (Weeks 21-27)
- Decline of the Republic
 - Social Wars
 - Reforms of the Gracchi
 - Julius Caesar, Marc Antony, Cleopatra
- Early Empire
 - The Age of Augustus
 - Nero
 - Early Rise of Christianity
 - The Five Good Emperors and the extension of empire
- Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire
 - The Barrack Emperors
 - Diocletian
 - Constantine
 - Theodosius
- Barbarian Invasions (c. AD 376 – 476)
- TEST FOR THE ROMAN EMPIRE (Weeks 28-36)
- REVIEW OF THE YEAR (Week 37)