

# History At Our House

The Ultimate History Resource for Homeschoolers



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### *European History*

Elementary Grades Syllabus

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## Introduction

This syllabus presents the general objectives for an academic year of European 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 (such as this one) when I am teaching live European 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 European history classes, 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

### The Dark Ages and the Rise of Feudal Christendom (Weeks 1-7, September to late October)

- Why History?
- The Importance of European history
- Review of the history of Rome
  - Summary of the Roman Republican period (c.509 – 27 BC)
  - Summary of the history of the Roman Empire (27 BC – 476 AD)
  - The Rise of Christianity in the Roman world
- Frankish Europe
  - Italy after Rome
  - Rise of the Papacy
  - Rise of the Franks; union of Frankish and Papal power
- Early Feudalism
  - The concept of Feudalism
  - Origins of Feudalism
  - Formation of France and Germany/Holy Roman Empire
  - Feudal monarchies of early Europe
- England to
  - The Norman Conquest (1066)
  - Henry II of England
  - Magna Carta and the first Parliaments
- TEST FOR WEEKS 1-7

### The Middle Ages (Weeks 7-13, late October to mid-December)

- The Crusades
  - The Byzantine Empire
  - The Rise of Islam
  - The Crusades (1096 – 1291)
- The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)
  - The end of the Capetian Dynasty of France
  - The Plantagenet Dynasty of England and its presence in France
  - Battle of Crécy (1346)
  - Joan of Arc
  - The unification of France
  - The War of the Roses and the rise of the Tudor dynasty in England
- Spain, Portugal, and the Age of Discovery
  - The Reconquista
  - Prince Henry “the Navigator”
  - The circumnavigation of Africa: Dias and Da Gama
  - Columbus and the discovery of America
  - The Portuguese and Spanish Empires
- The Renaissance
  - Italian Renaissance in Art
  - Classicism and Humanism
- TEST FOR WEEKS 7-13

**Reformation and Religious Wars (Weeks 14-18, mid-December – end of January)**

- The Rise of the Hapsburgs
- The Italian Wars between France and the Hapsburgs (1494-1559)
- German Reformation
  - indulgences
  - Martin Luther
- Calvinism
  - in Switzerland
  - in France
- The English Reformation
  - Henry VIII
  - “Blood Mary”
  - Queen Elisabeth I
- Rise of the Dutch Republic
- England and Netherlands vs. Spain
- The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)
- Puritanism and the Early Stuart Kings of England
- The English Civil War
- TEST FOR WEEKS 14-18

**Emergence of Modern Europe (Weeks 19-26, February - March)**

- The Anglo-Dutch Rivalry
- The Glorious Revolution
- Louis XIV of France and the “balance of power”
- The Holy Roman Empire after 1648
- Rise of Prussia
- Russia
  - Brief history of Russia
  - Peter the Great
- Europe and America until 1763
- The French Revolution
  - Background to the Revolution
    - American Revolution
    - the French monarchy since Louis XIV
    - The Estates General
  - The Revolution (1789-1799)
    - The National Assembly
    - Storming of the Bastille
    - Wars of the French Revolution
    - Robespierre and “the Terror”
    - The Directory
    - The rise of Napoleon
- TEST FOR WEEKS 19-26

**Napoleon and the Nineteenth Century (Weeks 27-31, March- early May)**

- Napoleon
  - First campaign in Italy
  - Expedition to Egypt
  - Crossing the Alps
  - Conquest of Europe
  - Dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire
  - The Napoleonic Code
  - The Continental System

**Napoleon and the Nineteenth Century (continued)**

- Napoleon (continued)
  - Invasion of Russia
  - Fall of Napoleon
- The Congress of Vienna
- The Age of Metternich (1815-1830)
- The Early Industrial Revolution (1764-1830)
- France after Napoleon
- The Revolutions of 1848
- Rise of Modern Germany (1815-1871)
- Rise of Modern Italy
- Franco-Prussian War
- World War I (1914-1919)
- TEST FOR Weeks 27-31

**The Twentieth Century (Weeks 32-37, May - June)**

- The Russian Revolution
  - Russia (1815-1905)
  - Rise of Communism in Russia
- Ideas for Peace: The Peace of Paris of 1919
- Formation of the Soviet Union
- Rise of Nazi Germany
- World War II
- The Cold War
- Decolonization
- Idea of a European Union
- Fall of Communism and the unification of Europe
- TEST FOR Weeks 32-36
  
- REVIEW OF THE YEAR (Week 37)