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American History

Grade: 8-10 | Ages: 13-15

American History

Uncover the rich treasures of American history

Level 120 History & Bible (full year)

History and Bible

History 120 Parent Guide

Holzmann. Full schedule, assignments, notes, questions and answers, map points, and timeline dates for American History. Use this Parent Guide in conjunction with the Student Guide. The Parent Guide is identical to the Student Guide, but also includes answers to the study questions. Ready for your binder.

History 120 Student Guide

Identical to the Parent Guide, but without answers, to allow the student to work independently.

The Bible Jesus Read

Yancey. Most Christians think far more about the New Testament than the Old. Yet Christ studied the Hebrew Scriptures. Yancey examines key sections of the Hebrew Bible (Job, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and the Prophets) in search of a deeper understanding of Jesus and the central human issues Jesus saw answered in those ancient scrolls. Powerful and insightful. Pb. RA: 7-A; R: 9-A

Why Pray

DeVries. Provoke your prayer life to impact the world. This devotional offers a 40-day journey "from words to relationship" with God. Discussion and meditation, laced with personal stories, make the six-week "prayer lab" engaging for new Christians and longtime believers alike. Essential. Pb. RA: 5-A; R: 7-A

Before Columbus

Mann. A beautifully illustrated, scholarly look into the civilizations before Columbus. Focuses on three main questions: Was the "New World" really new? Why were small groups of poorly equipped Europeans able to defeat large Native American societies? What impact did the thriving native civilizations leave on the land? Presents new research in a compelling case that Native Americans created societies that were older, bigger and more highly developed than historians have traditionally thought. Fascinating! Hb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

Cameron Townsend

Benge. The biography of a visionary missionary, the founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators, who wonders if he could put the Word of God in the heart language of a people. The story of incredible perseverance and global transformation. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

The Cross & the Switchblade

Wilkerson. Gripping. Modern classic about a pastor who gives up a comfortable life in the countryside to minister to gangs in New York City. Pb. RA: 5-A; R: 7-A

Dragon's Gate

Yep. Newbery Honor. Based on the experiences of the Chinese who built the transcontinental railroad at the time of the War Between the States, this is the story of one

boy's fight for survival amid brutal working conditions and bitter cold. Stunning. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

What's So Amazing About Grace NEW!

The world can't duplicate grace, and yet it craves the hope and transformation that grace brings. Explore the church's great distinctive in action. Shocking, scandalous, amazing.

Finding Truth NEW!

Learn the five powerful principles that penetrate to the core of any worldview from a former agnostic. See how the Christian worldview is not only true but attractive. Clearly written, well organized, and easy to understand.

America: The Last Best Hope NEW!

American greats like Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Reagan leap off the pages of this gripping account. From the Revolution to the Civil War; progressive to civil rights reforms; the fall of the Berlin Wall and global Communism to the attacks of 9/11, our nation's history is meticulously cataloged. This single-volume version includes a fresh introduction and epilogue.

Constance: A Story of Early Plymouth NEW!

Runner-up for the National Book Award for Children's Literature in 1969, Constance is a classic of historical young adult fiction, recounting the daily life, hardships, romances, and marriage of a young girl during the early years of the Pilgrim settlement at Plymouth.

The Many Reflections of Miss

Jane Deming NEW!

High-spirited young Jane is excited to be part of Mr. Mercer's plan to bring Civil War widows and orphans to Washington Territory—but life out west isn't at all what she expects.

The Lions of Little Rock NEW!

Two girls separated by race form an unbreakable bond during the tumultuous integration of Little Rock schools in 1958.

Out of Left Field NEW!

A story about the fight for equal rights in America's favorite arena: the baseball field!

Colonial America NEW!

Dive into this exciting period of history, and learn more about how the United States became what it is today.

Farewell to Manzanar

Houston. Seen through the eyes of a child, the story of a Japanese-American family's four years at Manzanar internment camp during WWII. Eye-opening. Did such things happen in the U.S.? Pb. RA: 2-A; R: 5-A

Moonshiner's Son

Reeder. The clash of two cultures—the culture of whiskey makers in Prohibition-era backwoods Virginia, and the culture of an anti-whiskey Christian preacher. Thought-provoking. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

The Panama Canal

Pascal. A fascinating, colorful look at the Panama Canal, the idea behind it, how it was built, the men who built it, how it operates. Photos. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

Sacajawea

Bruchac. Creative account of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Alternative chapters told in the voices of Clark (with selections from his diaries) and Sacajawea (with authentic Native American stories). This historical tale recreates the adventure, intercultural nuance, and triumphant hope of this legendary expedition. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

Shh! We're Writing the Constitution

Fritz. A brief, fun overview of the sweltering summer of 1787, when fifty-five delegates gathered to establish a stronger central government. Gives students a foundation for understanding the people, events, debates and decisions that produced the Constitution of the United States. Although this seems, perhaps, too childish a book for high school, students read it in two days, then read the Constitution itself. Three days spent on the founding document of our nation: seems like a good plan! Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

The Slopes of War

Perez. A young soldier from West Virginia faces the Battle of Gettysburg, knowing his two cousins may be fighting him. Thought-provoking. Pb. RA: 5-A; R: 7-A

Traitor: The Case of Benedict Arnold

Fritz. A stunning character study; an entertaining biography. Written by a multiple award-winning author. Pb, illus. RA: 2-A; R: 5-9

The Yanks Are Coming

Marrin. A gripping account of how the United States joined WWI and helped turn the tide of the entire war. This fascinating narrative brings the war to life and reveals how the US mobilized industry, trained "doughboy" soldiers, and promoted the war at home. Life in the trenches, the food, the heroes and villains, battles at sea and sky. Fascinating and wide-ranging. And although WWI is often passed over for the more horrific WWII, WWI was incredibly important and, sadly, laid the foundation for WWII. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

American Historical Literature

Explore American history, geography & literary genres

Level 130 Literature (full year)

Literature

Literature 130 Parent Guide

Holzmann & Lykosh. Full schedule, assignments, notes, questions and answers, writing assignments, vocabulary, and cultural literacy for American Literature. Use this Parent Guide in conjunction with the Student Guide. The Parent Guide is identical to the Student Guide, but also includes answers to the study questions. Ready for your binder.

Literature 130 Student Guide

Identical to the Parent Guide, but without answers, to allow the student to work independently.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Twain. Famous tale of a boy's life in a small town on the banks of the Mississippi River. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 7-A

Amos Fortune, Free Man

Yates. Newbery Medal. Born the son of an African king, Amos Fortune was captured by slave traders in 1725, brought to America, and sold at auction. For 45 years he worked as a slave and dreamed of freedom. At 60, he began to see his dreams come true. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 5-A

Bonanza Girl

Beatty. When a widowed schoolteacher and her children move to an Idaho gold-mining town in the 1880s, she finds she can't teach (there are no children!) but she can run a lucrative restaurant. Delightful characters, interesting situations. Super fun. Pb. RA: 2-A; R: 5-A

Bound for Oregon

Leeuwen. With only a guide book to show them the way, the Todd family sets out from their Arkansas home on a two thousand mile trek to claim uncharted Oregon Territory. Engaging and inspiring! Pb. RA: 3-6; R: 4-6

Bud, Not Buddy

Curtis. Newbery Medal. During the Great Depression, orphaned Bud looks for a home in Michigan. Full of laugh-out-loud humor and wonderful characters. Includes a bit of jazz, "one of America's original art forms," an important part of our cultural heritage. Pb. RA: 3-A; R: 5-A

Call of the Wild

London. The tale of a heroic dog who, thrust into the Alaska Gold rush, faces a choice between living in a man's world or returning to nature. A thrilling, memorable story. Pb. RA: 5-A; R: 6-A

Children of the Longhouse

Bruchac. A boy and his sister, members of the League of Peace in the Iroquois Nation, learn of a plot to disturb the peace by foolish young men. They report this, and make some enemies. Can peaceful ways work against a bully's wrath? A great tale about doing the right thing, even in the face of opposition. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

Dating with Integrity

Holzmann. Offers a practical Biblical model of male-female relationships based on our status as sons and daughters of God. "We must treat each other as brothers and sisters right up to the point of our becoming engaged." Raises basic questions too often overlooked. Challenging! Highly recommended for parents of children beginning to show interest in members of the opposite sex and for mature sixth graders and older. Pb. RA: 8-A; R: 9-A

Dear Mr. Henshaw

Cleary. Newbery Award. An astonishing story about growing up, about love and disappointment. Poignant! Pb. RA: 5-A; R: 7-A

Elijah of Buxton

Curtis. Newbery Honor. An inspiring coming-of-age story set in a settlement of runaway slaves who have escaped to Canada. Experience the moving moment when escaped slaves realize they've reached freedom. So powerful, so beautiful. The narrator is funny (hysterically funny at

times), but the story is, at times, gut-wrenchingly sad. The lesson on why not to use racial epithets is strong; the wickedness is dark; the allusion to what happens to female slaves is ... upsetting. This is one of my favorite books in this program. Intense. Based on an actual community of free slaves in Canada. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

Indian Captive: The Story of Mary Jemison

Lenski. Delightful Newbery Honor story of what happened to a 12-year-old white girl who was captured by Seneca Indians in 1758. Pb. illus. RA: 3-A; R: 5-A

Keeping Score

Park. What do you know about the Korean War? In a couple of pages, the author summarizes the entire war in a few diagrams. And she throws in some instruction about keeping score, a method of tracking baseball games (America's National Pastime), especially important in New York in the 1950s. Even for those without much passion for baseball, the ending is surprisingly moving. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

A Long Way from Chicago

Peck. Newbery Honor. Joey and Mary Alice Dowdel go to stay with their grandma in rural Illinois. Each chapter is a short story, set in consecutive years, so we see Grandma Dowdel in a range of circumstances in the early 1930s. She is a force to be reckoned with, one of the most funny, feisty, quick-witted characters in literature. Absolutely delightful. Pb. RA: 3-A; R: 5-A

Maniac Magee

Spinelli. Newbery Award. One of my daughters' favorite books in high school. She read it over and over as her comfort book. She loved Maniac's physical feats; loved to watch him deal with adversity in his fictional Pennsylvania town. A sweet book, with a protagonist just a bit too amazing to be real. Pb. RA: 3-A; R: 5-A

My Heart Lies South

De Treviño. A delightful true story of an American woman journalist who marries a Mexican man and moves south of the border in the 1930s. As the new Señora comes to love her new family and life, she must learn to navigate a new language and customs, in a culture that feels stuck in time 100 years earlier. Told with engaging clarity and insightfulness, De Treviño shows us a culture so close to the United States, but so rarely appreciated or understood. Informative, delightful, funny, interesting, charming. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

Out of the Dust

Hesse. Newbery Medal. Billie Jo, a 14-year-old girl caught in the Oklahoma dust storms of the 1930s, reveals the grim realities of a life in that time and place. Set in the form of a free-verse journal, this is a gripping story of maturation and redemption. Pb. RA: 6-A; R: 5-A

Peace Child

Richardson. This is an intense missionary biography. It's amazing, but it's shockingly dark in places. How would you reach a culture that thinks that Judas is the hero of the Gospel story? And yet... there is utter transformation! This is a standout book, an absolute favorite of many of our customers, because the contrast between darkness and light is so incredibly dramatic. Pb. B & W photos. RA: 4-A; R: 7-A

Rip Van Winkle

Irving. The full text of Irving's classic, accompanied by black-and-white renderings of illustrations by Arthur Rackham. Pb. RA: 3-A; R: 6-A

Rules of the Road

Bauer. Jenna's passion is selling shoes. After an awkward encounter with her alcoholic father at work, she ends up on a Chicago to Texas road trip with the owner of the chain of shoe stores. Delightful. Pb. RA: 3-A; R: 4-A

Stink Alley

Gilson. Adventurous and feisty 12-year old Lizzy Tinker has to learn how to fit in with her community, 17th Century Puritans in Holland. William Brewster, head of the separatist movement, takes in the orphan as his own and encourages her to work hard and resist temptation. Lizzy struggles to do what is right. Pb. R: 4-6

They Loved to Laugh

Worth. My favorite book as a girl. I checked it out of the library so many times I was embarrassed about what the librarians might think. Besides the inherent charm of the story, this offers a detailed look at what life was like in the 1830s: cutting ice for the cold house, having an entire person dedicated to weaving just to keep the family clothed. Based on the author's family history in North Carolina. Pb. RA: 4-A; R: 6-A

To Kill a Mockingbird

Lee. The unforgettable story of a young girl whose father stands up for principle in the face of deadly prejudice. An all-time favorite. Pb. RA: 7-A; R: 7-A

Treasury of Poetry for Young People

Beautifully illustrated collection of American poems by Sandburg, Frost, Dickinson, Poe, Whitman, and Longfellow. Hb. RA: 3-A; R: 5-A

The View from Saturday

Konigsburg. Newbery Medal. Four friends attempt to win an Academic Bowl with the help of their encouraging teacher. Intricate plot, lovely characters, a bit of mystery. Marvelous. Pb. RA: 3-A; R: 5-A

When You Reach Me

Stead. Newbery Medal. A young girl starts to receive mysterious notes, scrawled on tiny slips of paper: *I am coming to save your friend's life, and my own. I ask two favors. First, you must write me a letter ...* Miranda realizes that whoever is leaving the notes knows things no one should know. Can she prevent a tragic death or is she already too late? Splendid, engrossing. Pb. RA: 6-A; R: 6-A

A Wrinkle in Time

130-18

L'Engle. Newbery Medal. This book, with quantum physics (space travel), was rejected by at least 26 publishers in 1960, because it was, in L'Engle's words, "too different. It deals overtly with the problem of evil, and it was really difficult for children, and was it a children's or an adults' book, anyhow?" No matter. This is a timeless book, beautifully written, unique. Pb. RA: 3-A; R: 4-A

A Year Down Yonder

130-94

Peck. Mary Alice, a middle-class high school girl from Chicago, leaves the big city to spend 1937 in rural Illinois with her rough-around-the-edges and unconventional grandmother. The zany, adventure filled experience is not only eye-opening for Mary Alice, but heart-warming and hilarious for readers as well. Pb. RA: 3-A; R: 4-A