

# Bright Ideas PRESS

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Practical, Fun  
and Affordable  
Geography,  
History & Science  
Resources



Welcome



Bob and I began homeschooling our two sons in 1991. With few supplies available for homeschoolers, we wrote our own curriculum and cobbled together other materials. As we found or developed resources that worked well for us, we began to publish them— thus, the beginning of Bright Ideas Press. Time went on and both boys successfully graduated from high school and went on to college. God has blessed us in this wonderful adventure called the homeschooling life.

Our oldest son, JB, is now 26. He enlisted in the Army in 2001 and served five years with the 3rd Infantry Division. Out of his experiences in Iraq came his first book, *From Basic to Baghdad: A Soldier Writes Home*. Brilliant, witty, and slightly eccentric, he also put his writing gifts to work for our e-book, *Writer's Workshop: Step-by-Step*. He is engaged to Christy, a marvelous, funny, Tolkein fanatic—whom we've known since she was a teeny little five-year-old!

Tyler, 21, is a graduate of Belhaven College with a degree in Theatre Ministry. Tyler is taking over the administration of Bright Ideas Press this year. He then plans to pursue graduate work. We are so pleased to have Tyler and his lovely, artistic wife Helen living near us!

Bob works full-time, serves at church, and does bookkeeping for our businesses. He supports my whims and idiosyncrasies while trying to keep me grounded (truly no easy task). If he had free time, he would enjoy scuba diving, reading creation science books, and traveling. I work on the publishing end of our business, write for many homeschool publications, speak around the country, and eat chocolate. In my "spare" time I love to read and travel.

Blessings,

Maggie & the Tribe!

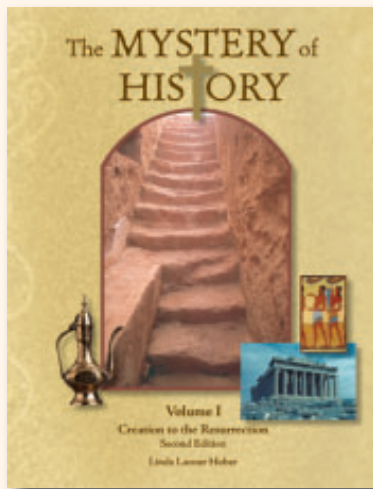


# CLASSICAL, CHRONOLOGICAL, CHRISTIAN, and COMPLETE

*The Mystery of History* series provides a historically accurate, Christ-centered approach to World History for all ages.

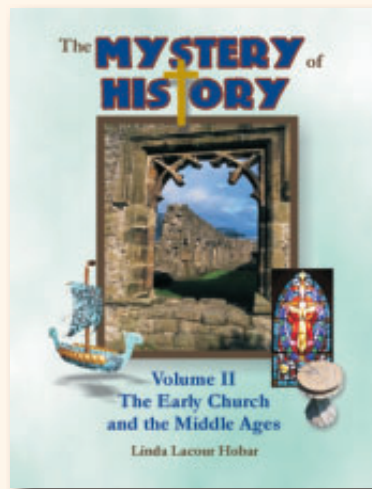
**Classical** – In the context of world history, *The Mystery of History* series explores the backdrops behind and the significance surrounding the time-honored contributions found in art, music, literature, science, and philosophy. Those who use the MOH series will find it structured to follow a Classical approach to teaching through the trivium with an emphasis on reading, writing, research, and hands-on activities.

**Chronological** – *The Mystery of History* is a four-volume world history series in the making, which will take you around the globe through the study of chronological events. (Though recommended, it is not necessary to complete the volumes in the order they are written.) Presently available:



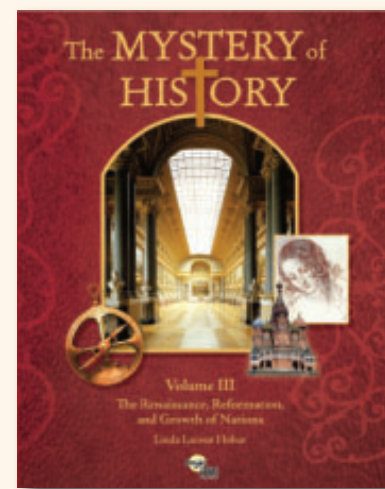
Volume I  
*Creation to the Resurrection*  
(c. 4004 BC – c. AD 33)  
Second Edition

\$49.95



Volume II  
*The Early Church and the Middle Ages*  
(AD 29 – 1456)

\$49.95



Volume III  
*The Renaissance, Reformation, and Growth of Nations*  
(1455 – 1707)

Student Reader \$59.95  
Companion Guide CD-ROM \$29.95  
Companion Guide Book \$39.95

**Christian** – *The Mystery of History* is written from a Christian worldview and uniquely weaves world cultures and stories of the past into the history of Christianity. But more than that, lessons in *The Mystery of History* are like fragments of a mosaic that, when put together, reveal a much bigger picture and tell a much larger story – one that points toward God’s plan for mankind.

*Linda Lacour Hobar, a native-born Texan, holds a bachelor’s degree from Baylor University where she first fell in love with world history. With sixteen years of homeschool experience, seventeen years in ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ, and several years of teaching small groups and church classes, Linda brings a wealth of perspective to world history. As a parent, a missionary, and a teacher, her personable writing style appeals to all ages.*

# The Mystery of History Supplements



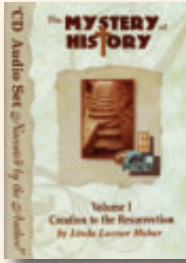
## CHECK OUT OUR MYSTERY OF HISTORY FOLDERBOOKS!

They contain both the mini-books and the directions needed to fold and use them. Each of the Mystery of History's four quarters is available separately or you may buy all four as a group.

MOH Individual Folderbooks | \$15.00

MOH Folderbooks Package of 4 (Download) | \$40.00

MOH Folderbooks Package of 4 (CD) | \$50.00



### AUDIO

*The Mystery of History Volumes I & II* are now available on a CD audio set. Listen to all of the stories through the voice of the author, Linda Hobar. With text in hand, you can read along with her as she personally narrates the stories. Or without the text, you can relax and listen as Linda speaks directly to you and your family. Beautifully and professionally mixed background music adds life, drama, and more meaning to these timeless historical lessons. In the car, over lunch, before bedtime, you can journey through the ancient world at your own pace. Total listening time: 8 hrs. 52 min.

MOH I CD-ROM Set | All Ages | \$44.95

MOH II CD-ROM Set | All Ages | \$48.95



### CRAFT PAK CD-ROM

Enrichment4You and *The Mystery of History* teamed up to bring you two CD-ROM craft packs, each containing 8 exquisite historical art projects and coloring pages for all ages, to complement either *Volume I* or *Volume II*. Beautifully illustrated mini-lessons, directions, and material lists are provided for each project. Students will fossilize a fern in plaster; sculpt a Sumerian relief; create a working ancient oil lamp; construct a 3-D Greek facade; arrange a Roman mosaic; and complete other projects specific to the time periods. Bonus! Thirty-five printable coloring pages are included. This set is a must for the artistically inclined or hands-on student.

CD-ROM Volume I | 4th grade & up | \$19.95

CD-ROM Volume II | 4th grade & up | \$19.95



Victoria Dawson,  
winner of our  
MOH Scrapbook  
Contest.

*The Mystery of History has been so much more than just a history curriculum to my family. Delving into the lessons in The Mystery of History has stirred my soul to new spiritual growth and has been THE big catalyst in our family's spiritual growth. The Lord is using The Mystery of History to turn hearts to Him and to further His Kingdom.*

- Susan



Vicki Boshka, runner-up in the MOH Scrapbook Contest.



"I am in 8th grade and I love your history book. In the past I would dread doing history, but you make history exciting! Now history is my favorite subject."  
- Sarah  
(8th grade Austin, TX)

### THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY REPRODUCIBLE CDs

Available for Volumes I & II

No more racing to the copy shop or slicing the binding off your book! Our CD-ROM saves time, money, and headaches. Now you can print out all the reproducibles included in Volumes I & II. These disks include all pre-tests, post-tests, quarterly worksheets, semester tests, individual maps, and appendices. Give yourself a break and order this resource.

MOH I CD-ROM | All Ages | \$19.95

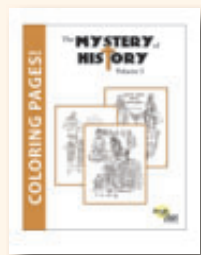
MOH II CD-ROM | All Ages | \$19.95



### THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY VOLUME I COLORING PAGES

These unique coloring pages were drawn exclusively for *The Mystery of History Volume I*. Each expertly crafted page captures one week of lessons in a beautiful collage of outline figures. An answer key is available on our website to help students "find" the three integrated stories of the week. 36 coloring pages included. Reproducible for your family.

All Ages | Download | \$14.95



### Recommended Resources!

Keep reading for more information on these items!

#### MOH Vol. I:

- Historical Atlas of the World
- Student Bible Atlas
- History Through the Ages Timeline Figures - Creation to Christ

#### MOH Vol. II:

- Historical Atlas of the World
- Student Bible Atlas
- History Through the Ages Timeline Figures - Resurrection to Revolution

#### MOH Vol. III:

- History Through the Ages Timeline Figures to Accompany *The Mystery of History III*
- Answer Atlas
- Historical Atlas of the World
- Children's Illustrated Atlas of the World

# ALL AMERICAN HISTORY



## ALL AMERICAN HISTORY VOLUMES I AND II

Uniting America's Story, Piece by Piece

By Celeste Rakes

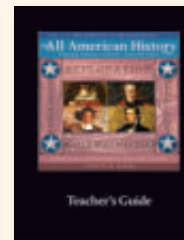
- Distinctly Christian
- Co-op & Family Friendly
- Written for 6th – 12th grades
- Adaptable for the entire family

Containing tons of pictures, beautiful illustrations, dozens of maps, and key points to remember each week, *All American History Volumes I and II* comprise a complete, two-year curriculum for grades 6 – 12 (and adaptable for younger students as well). Special emphasis is given to the social and cultural aspects of American history. History is memorable for students when they learn how people in past periods lived: clothing, housing, foods, games, social structures, etc. Much more than a text and workbook, *All American History* invites you to engage in history studies using all the learning styles.

The *Student Reader* was written to make both the *Student Activity Book* and suggestions in the *Teacher's Guide* possible without a teacher having to do her own research. The *Student Reader* presents the facts (as is best possible to discern them) but does not editorialize on the facts. When there is information supporting Christian motivation, references to God/Christ/the church, etc., those are included, but information is not stretched in order to promote a particular Christian point of view.

The *Student Activity Book* will help students:

- gain note-taking skills
- focus on what is important
- become engaged with the information
- improve geographic awareness
- review the information learned
- choose research topics



The *Teacher's Guide* is the heart of this course. It includes schedules, timeline information and pictures, forms, book lists, answer keys, games, hands-on projects, and more. For those with elementary-age students, there are Adaptations for Younger Students as well. Read this book and keep it handy week in and week out!

Volume I 1020 – 1800s

- Exploration
- Colonization
- Revolution
- Establishment & Expansion

Volume II 1800s – 2004

- Civil War
- Gilded Age
- World Wars
- Cold War

Each year is composed of three books:

Hardback Student Reader | 400+ pages | \$44.95

Student Activity Book | 224+ pages | \$16.95

Teacher's Guide | \$18.95

*Celeste Rakes has a B.A. from Furman University, is certified in history secondary education, and has a master's degree in Biblical Studies from Covenant Seminary. She has homeschooled her own three children from K-12th grades and also taught for many years in a homeschooling co-op. This course is the product of her love of teaching.*

Join other families using this course here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AllAmericanHistory>

# All American History



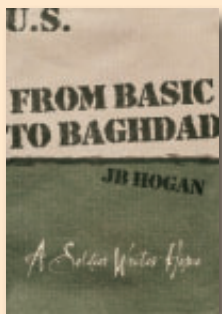
I love our history program! It is so flexible that we can all use it! Joshua loves filling out the forms in the Student Activity Book. He enjoys picking out the right pictures and finding where to put them. I use the writing on the forms for copywork. I write the answers on a whiteboard (see where the arrow's pointing in the picture?) And he copies it into the proper places.

Rebecca does the "For Further Study" questions and for her it is a rigorous high school study.

My favorite part is the projects we can do together. Even Jeremy takes part! Here we are making "leather" out of paper bags and a glycerin/water solution.

This is homeschooling as it was meant to be!

Craig family '07-'08



## FROM BASIC TO BAGHDAD – A SOLDIER WRITES HOME by J.B. Hogan

When homeschool graduate JB Hogan joined the Army in the summer of 2001, his mother urged him to write home. The avalanche of letters that followed reassured her that JB was surviving the Army, even if the Army didn't quite know what to make of JB! Both scathingly funny and deeply poignant, this coming-of-age story is a book for America and her families.

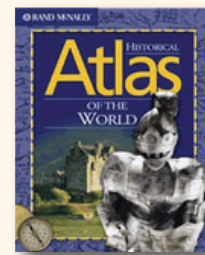
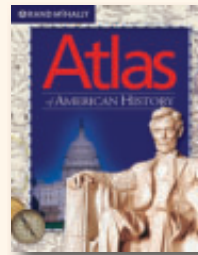
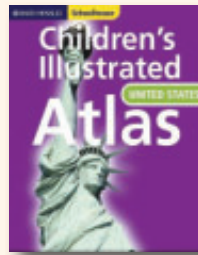
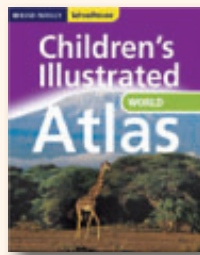
Hardback 250 pages | Teens & up | \$14.95

"JB gives a heartfelt, down-to-earth account of his military service in Iraq that is both gripping and entertaining. It is a story of the typical fears, sacrifices, and adventures of a young soldier serving far from home—it will make you proud to be an American."

- Chris Klicka, Author, Speaker  
Senior Counsel, Home School Legal  
Defense Association

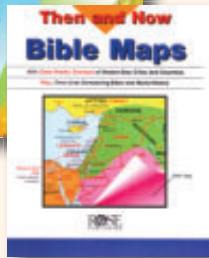
# History Supplements

Everyone needs atlases when studying history, Bible, and everything else! Finding locations you're learning about in an atlas is a vital skill. Are your atlases up-to-date and age appropriate? Here are some of our favorite atlases.



## ATLASES BY RAND MCNALLY

- Answer Atlas – especially important for high schoolers! | \$12.95
- Children's Illustrated Atlas of the World | Grades 3 & up | \$9.95
- Children's Illustrated Atlas of the U.S. | Grades 3 & up | \$9.95
- Atlas of American History | Family resource | \$9.95
- Historical Atlas of the World | A must have! | \$14.95



## BIBLE ATLASES

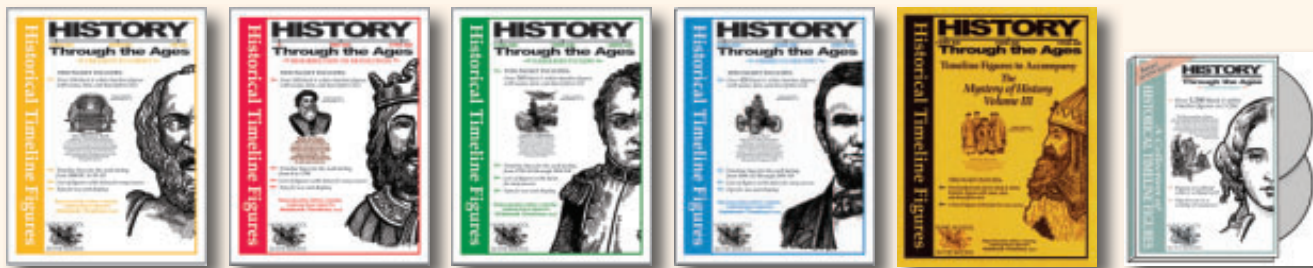
- The Student Bible Atlas by Tim Dowley | All Ages | \$7.95
- Then and Now Bible Maps: Compare Bible Times with Modern-Day Atlas – a must-have family resource! | \$19.95



Salt dough map of Africa



Tyler, 9, and Kelsey, 6, display their cake of Egypt.



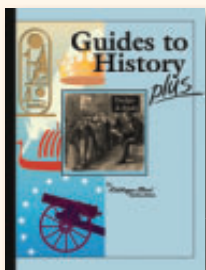
## HISTORY THROUGH THE AGES: TIMELINE FIGURES

- Creation to Christ | 250+ figures | \$19.95
- Resurrection to Revolution (Birth of Christ – 1799 AD) | 280+ figures | \$19.95
- Napoleon to Now 1750 AD to Present - World History) | 280+ figures | \$19.95
- America's History (Explorers to 21st Century AD) | 420+ figures | \$29.95
- History Through the Ages Timeline Figures to Accompany *The Mystery of History III* | \$9.95
- Collection of Historical Timeline Figures on 2-CD Mega-Set (Creation to Present) Includes all figures from the 4 volumes above PLUS 80 bonus figures. Figures available with either text descriptions or name and date only; available as .pdf pages and individual .gif images; can be resized for a variety of projects; several search options available to find the figures you need on the CDs. This package is an excellent value! | \$74.95



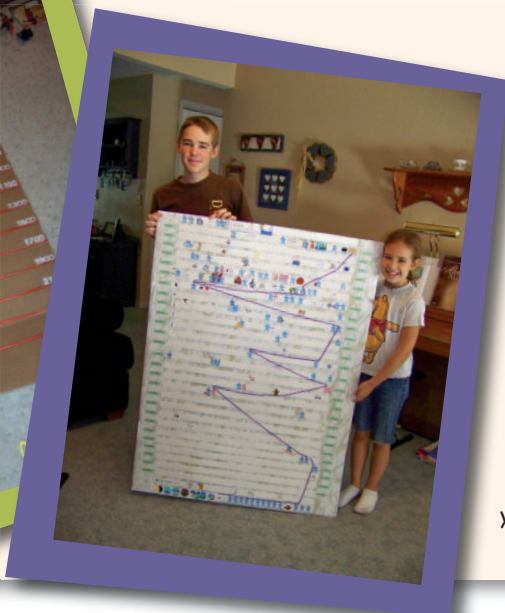
## MARK-IT TIMELINE OF HISTORY, LAMINATED

Students record historical events on this poster-style timeline. Watch their memory of chronological events improve! Side one is dated from 4000 BC to AD 2050. Side two is lined, but undated, for in-depth studies of any time period. Attach pictures, symbols, or the Historical Timeline Figures to the laminated surface for detail and color. For double the impact, use in conjunction with outline maps: use the same icon on both a map and this timeline to show the where and the when of events. Prefer a linear timeline? Cut this one in strips along the dotted lines and tape together to form 21 feet of history. Double-sided, Laminated | 23"x 34" | All Ages | \$10.50



## GUIDES TO HISTORY PLUS by Kathryn Stout B.S.Ed., M.Ed.

Homeschool mom, teacher, speaker, and author Kathryn Stout brings her years of experience in curriculum development to the study of history. This parent resource provides a complete scope & sequence along with everything you need to develop your curriculum. Not writing your own? You'll still appreciate her objectives, resources, activities, and teaching strategies. | Paperback 116 pages | \$14.00



Matthew, 13, and Kelsey, 7, display their completed timeline from *The Mystery of History*. Their mom says, "We had an incredible time putting this timeline together and look forward to doing MOH II this fall!"

Left-hand pic: Students create sewing board timelines to use with *The Mystery of History*. Use the beautiful timeline figures in *History Through the Ages* or make your own.

# Geography and History Supplements

**Maps make you snooze? Timelines confuse? From Hannibal's march to current events, utilizing timelines and maps makes history, geography, literature, science, and fine arts come alive!**



## WORLDWISE GEOGRAPHY CARD GAMES

Put the world in your hands with this exciting family card game. No matter what your age or geo-literacy level, you can enjoy this game. Developed by a college Professor of Geography. Plays a lot like Uno™. Kids and teens alike love it! Exciting and educational. Teaches country name, capital, and location. For 2-8 players, ages 9 years to senior citizens. Included with each game is a 17.25" x 17.25" full-color map.

Americas | \$12.00, Europe | \$12.00, Asia | \$12.00



## WORLD LAMINATED OUTLINE MAP

This very popular map has the USA on one side and the world on the other. The projection places Asia so that it is not split in two. Mark empires, battles, habitats, and travels. Label states, favorite ball teams and missionary locations. Unlimited uses. Use wet erase markers, not dry erase!

Double-Sided | Laminated | 23" x 34" | \$10.95



## LAMINATED CONTINENT OUTLINE MAP SET

These large Mark-it maps are absolutely wonderful for any world geography study. Students color and add shaded relief, cities, countries, places of interest, historical events, and more. They'd never be able to fit so much on one 8-1/2 x 11 sheet of paper without confusion and clutter. There are great geography lesson plans for these large maps in *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide*.

Map sizes: North America 17" x 22", South America 17" x 22", Africa 17" x 22", Europe 17" x 22", Asia (with Australia and Antarctica) 23" x 34", BONUS United States outline map 16" x 22"

All Ages | \$24.95 for boxed set



## LAMINATED MAPS: THE WHOLE KIT N' KABOODLE

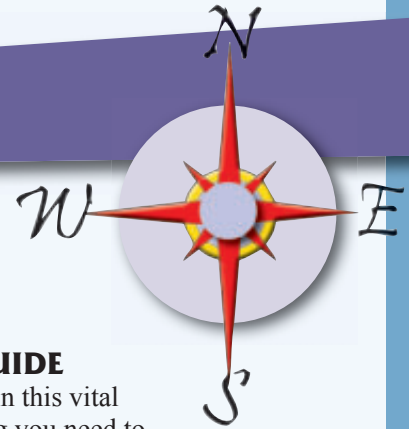
All 13 Mark-it maps are included in this package of laminated maps. Includes: North America 17" x 22", South America 17" x 22", Europe 17" x 22", Asia 23" x 34", Australia w/ Antarctica 23" x 34", USA/World 16" x 22", Europe and the Middle East 17" x 22", Ancient Civilizations 17" x 22", Israel (E. Mediterranean on back) 17" x 22", World w/ USA on reverse 23" x 34" | All Ages | \$49.95 for boxed set



Check out how students have used their Laminated Maps!

Don't forget about all the wonderful atlases found in the "History Supplements"!

# GEOGRAPHY



## THE ULTIMATE GEOGRAPHY AND TIMELINE GUIDE

Become geographically literate. Even if you lack knowledge in this vital subject, this one source book will provide you with everything you need to competently teach geography from kindergarten through graduation. Part lesson plans, part idea book, part unit study, and part inspiration! Discover the secrets of keeping timelines and the “how-to” of integrating the student notebook approach. Try the literature unit featuring *Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates* or make lava fudge in the science section. Lots of activities, charts, reproducibles, games, flash cards, and the scope and sequence make for a satisfying and enjoyable study of geography for the whole family. A great investment! Whether you are a unit-study or textbook fan, a hands-on mom or a classical approach teacher, you’ll find much to love about this award-winning curriculum and guide. This non-consumable will stay by your side all the way through the high school years. We highly recommend using both the middle and senior high school geography courses included in this book before your students graduate.

New for 2010! *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide* now comes with a CD-ROM containing ALL the reproducible pages in the book! Make your life easier and get even more use out of this valuable feature.

Paperback 352 pages | Grades K–12 | \$39.95



## HANDS-ON GEOGRAPHY

This long-time favorite introduction to geography has loads of ideas and activities, making this a book to get excited about! Enough material to last families for several years. How can you miss with Around the World Night, Hero Geography, Make Your Own Field Guides, as well as reproducible maps and games? Joseph’s Journey, a geographic look at a beloved Bible passage, walks parent and student through these familiar verses, illuminating them in a fresh new way. An easy, yet thorough, introduction to a very important subject. Written from a Christian perspective, *Hands-On Geography* will motivate you to teach an oft-neglected subject. Includes specific instructions for activities, games, and projects. Appealing to kids and easy for parents.

Paperback 144 pages | Grades K–5 | \$14.95

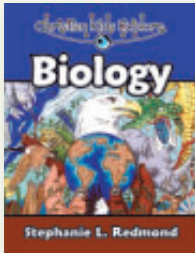
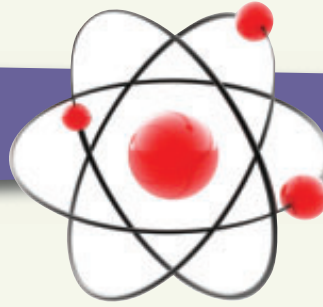


## UNCLE JOSH'S OUTLINE MAP COLLECTION CD-ROM

Revised in 2008. Outline maps are a foundational part of teaching geography and history. Here are 260+ maps to use year after year, regardless of topic or time studied. Print from the convenience of your home computer with this CD-ROM. Includes continents, ancient historical regions, important war arenas, each of the fifty states, and more! Rivers are lightly shaded and surrounding borders are visible for reference points to aid students in their labeling. | \$26.95

Join us at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/whole\\_hog/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/whole_hog/) to share ideas and resources for teaching geography!

# SCIENCE



## **CHRISTIAN KIDS EXPLORE BIOLOGY** by Stephanie Redmond

This user-friendly, unabashedly Christian, one-year science curriculum for elementary students includes teaching lessons, gorgeous coloring pages, hands-on time, memorization lists, review sheets, creative writing assignments, and an awesome supplemental book list! Written for 3rd through 6th graders—easily scaled down for younger students—an excellent choice for teaching all your elementary-age students together. The schedule of 35 weekly lessons calls for teaching twice weekly, allowing a family time for projects, exploration of resource books, field trips, etc. The conversational style gives students the basic information they need, making this an ideal first course in life science; especially useful for those following a classical approach!

Paperback 313 pages | Grades 3 – 6 | \$34.95

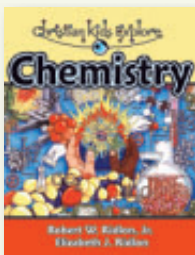


## **CHRISTIAN KIDS EXPLORE EARTH AND SPACE** by Stephanie Redmond

CKEES breaks our universe into manageable bites, offering units about Earth and its structure, the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and weather, as well as a unit investigating the universe and its components. The 24 weekly lessons and six unit reviews present the material in an easy-to-teach manner. Students are encouraged to keep a science notebook as they learn. Hands-on activities include building a model of Earth and its layers, using eggs to understand plate tectonics, and simulating a volcanic eruption. *Christian Kids Explore Earth and Space* guides your journey as you dive into the wonder of our universe.

Paperback 313 pages | Grades 3 – 6 | \$29.95

FOR GRADES 5 – 8, THIS GREAT SERIES CONTINUES WITH:

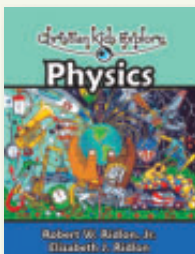


## **CHRISTIAN KIDS EXPLORE CHEMISTRY** by college professors Bob and Liz Ridlon

Unlock the mysteries of chemistry! Each lesson helps develop a progressive understanding of chemistry that will both build confidence and prepare your student for high school sciences. Organized and easy-to-use!

- 30 Lessons in five units
- Hands-On Activities: including making model atoms, breaking covalent bonds, and making gas expand
- Chemistry Terms, Notations, and Rules
- Unit Reviews
- Supplemental Book List

Paperback 384 pages | Grades 5 – 8 | \$34.95



## **CHRISTIAN KIDS EXPLORE PHYSICS** by Bob and Liz Ridlon

The universe that we live in is the result of God's thoughtful design and careful building. Physics gives us a glimpse into the materials, laws, and structures of that universe. Behold the wonders of creation with this series of 30 easy-to-understand lessons for grades 5-8. Each lesson helps develop an understanding of matter and energy and the rules they follow. Exploring physics is an exciting adventure!

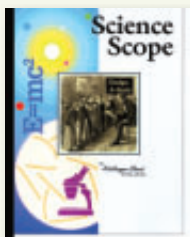
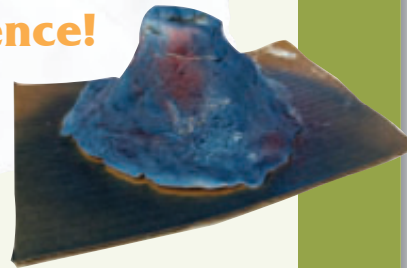
Paperback 400+ pages | Grades 5 – 8 | \$34.95

We invite you to join an online discussion group for users of (and those interested in) the Christian Kids Explore series.

To join, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChristianKidsExploreBiology/>

## Science Supplements

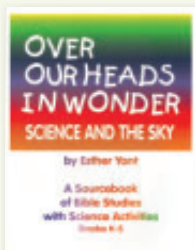
Have a blast with science!



### **SCIENCE SCOPE** by Kathryn Stout B.S.Ed., M.Ed.

Another great book by Kathryn Stout. Provides lists of skills, topics, and concepts that are a part of most science curricula. May be used as a checklist, as an overview of topics, and as a reference for age-level expectations for pre-K through 12th grade.

Paperback 120 pages | \$15.00



### **OVER OUR HEADS IN WONDER: SCIENCE AND THE SKY BY ESTHER YANT**

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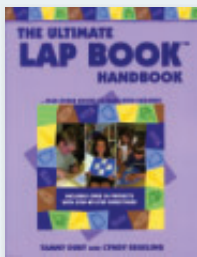
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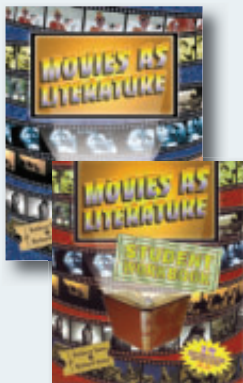
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