



Bright
ideas
press

www.BrightIdeasPress.com

877.492.8081



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 30. 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 married to Christy, a marvelous, funny, Tolkien fanatic—whom we've known since she was a teeny little five-year-old!

Tyler, 25, is a graduate of Belhaven University with a degree in theatre ministry. Tyler has taken over the administration of Bright Ideas Press. We are so pleased to have Tyler, his lovely, artistic wife Helen, and their three children, Kaylee, Avalon, and Sierra living near us!

Bob retired in 2010 from 35 years at the IRS and now does accounting for our business in addition to serving at church. He supports my whims and idiosyncrasies while trying to keep me grounded (truly no easy task). When he has free time, he enjoys reading creation science books, traveling, and scuba diving. I work on the publishing end of our business, write for various homeschool publications, speak, and eat chocolate. In my "spare" time, I love to read, travel, and play with my granddaughters.

Blessings,

Maggie & the Tribe!

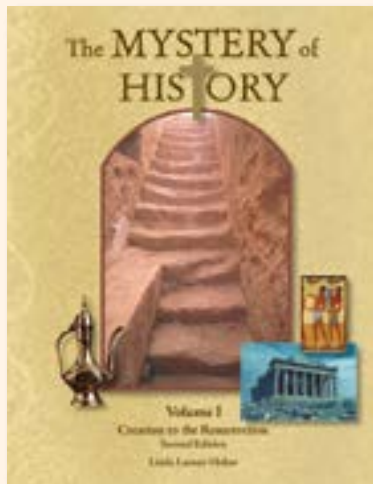


CLASSICAL — CHRONOLOGICAL — CHRISTIAN

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

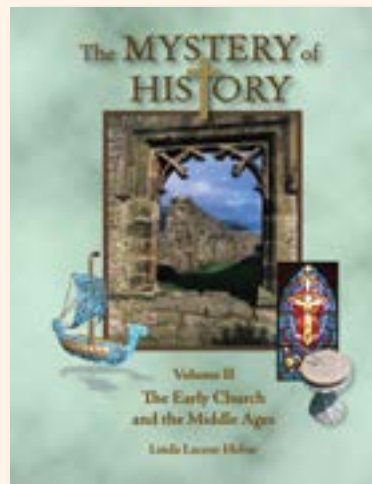
Classical – In the context of world history, *The Mystery of History* series explores the backdrops behind and the significance surrounding time-honored contributions in art, music, literature, science, and philosophy. Those who use the MOH series will find it is structured to follow a classical approach 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. (It is recommended but not necessary to complete the volumes in the order they are written.) Presently available:



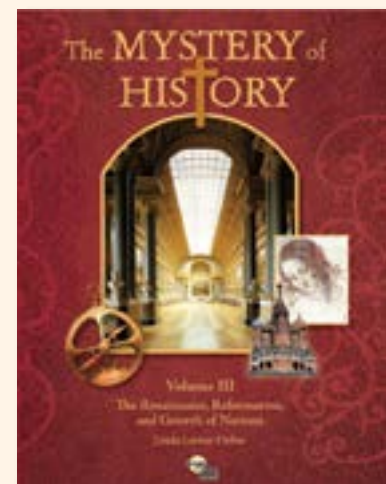
Volume I
Creation to the Resurrection
(c. 4004 BC – c. AD 33)
Second Edition

\$49.95



Volume II
The Early Church and the Middle Ages
(AD 33–1456)

\$49.95



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

Student Reader* | \$59.95

Companion Guide* | CD | \$29.95
Companion Guide* | Book | \$39.95

*Student Reader includes the lesson Text only. The Companion Guide includes activities, tests, maps, answer keys, book lists, and much more.

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.

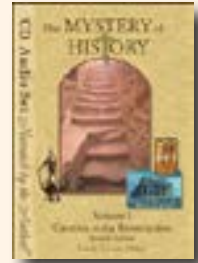
Linda Lacour Hobar, a native-born Texan, holds a bachelor’s degree from Baylor University, where she first fell in love with world history. With seventeen years of homeschool experience, seventeen years in ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ, and several years of teaching small groups and church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

**Want to incorporate literature?
Look at *Illuminations* on page 17!**

The Mystery of History Supplements

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, or before bedtime, you can journey through the ancient world at your own pace.



MOH I CD Set | All Ages | 10 CDs | 11 Hours, 15 Min. | \$42.95

MOH II CD Set | All Ages | 12 CDs | 13 Hours, 58 Min. | \$48.95

CRAFT PAK CD

Enrichment4You and *The Mystery of History* teamed up to bring you two CD 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 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 Volume I | 4th grade & up | \$19.95

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

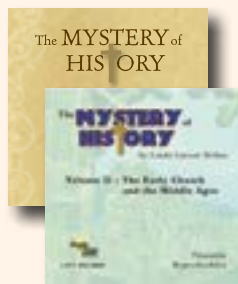


THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY REPRODUCIBLE CDs

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

MOH I CD | All Ages | \$19.95

MOH II CD | All Ages | \$19.95



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

*Victoria Dawson,
winner of our MOH
Scrapbook Contest*

Recommended Resources!

MOH Vol. I:

WonderMaps (p. 13)

Historical Atlas of the World & Student Bible Atlas (p. 8)

History Through the Ages Timeline Figures—Creation to Christ (p. 9)

MOH Vol. II:

WonderMaps (p. 13)

Historical Atlas of the World & Student Bible Atlas (p. 8)

History Through the Ages Timeline Figures—Resurrection to Revolution (p. 9)

MOH Vol. III:

WonderMaps (p. 13)

Historical Atlas of the World & Children's Illustrated Atlas of the World (p. 8)

Atlas of World Geography (p. 8)

History Through the Ages Timeline Figures

to accompany *The Mystery of History III* (p. 9)



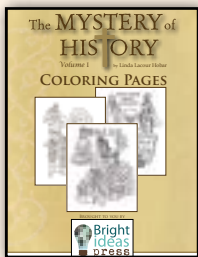
"I am in 8th grade and I love your history book. In the past I would dread doing history, but you make history exciting! Now history is my favorite subject."

- Sarah
(8th grade, Austin, TX)

Vicki Boshka, runner-up in the MOH Scrapbook Contest



New Downloadable Items for *The Mystery of History*!



THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY COLORING PAGES

These unique coloring pages were drawn exclusively for *The Mystery of History*. Each expertly crafted page captures one week of lessons in a beautiful collage of outline figures. (Volume I includes an answer key to help students "find" the three integrated stories of the week.) Reproducible for your family.

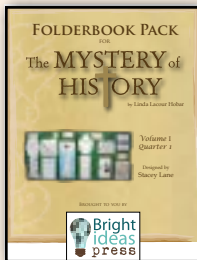
All Ages | Download | Vol. I | 36 pages | \$14.95
Vol. II | 28 pages | \$14.95
Vol. III | 28 pages | \$14.95



THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY NOTEBOOKING PAGES

One page for each lesson of *The Mystery of History*. Almost every lesson has ruled pages for taking notes, some of the pages have maps to help students visualize the lesson, and still others have space for students to illustrate or diagram the lesson. Includes informational pages, wide-ruled and college-ruled pages, and typeable pages for each lesson.

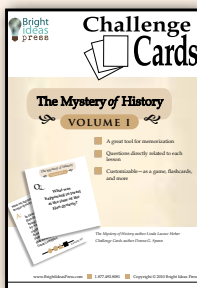
All Ages | Download | Available for Vols. I, II, and III | \$19.95 each



THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY FOLDERBOOKS

Folderbooks provide a meaningful and enjoyable way to help visual and kinesthetic learners grasp concepts. Graphic organizers present material in a different way than words alone. They help the brain sort through and organize facts and concepts and tend to be easier to remember than straight prose. Our folderbooks are easy to assemble and provide plenty of space for writing!

All Ages | Available for Vols. I & II | Download: \$32.00 | CD: \$40.00



THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY CHALLENGE CARDS

Challenge cards are a tool that takes advantage of children's amazing ability to memorize large quantities of information! Each lesson has three questions that give the highlights of "who, what, where, when, and how." When memorized over the course of a year, these questions give a framework and chronology of history that will eventually work into their long-term memory. It is highly recommended that you review them regularly as you move through the study of history.

All Ages | Download | Available for Vols. I, II, and III | \$14.95

Now get all 4 in *The Mystery of History: Super Supplemental Collection!*
For Volumes I and II

CD: \$64.95 (34% off!) | Download: \$59.95 (39% off!)

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 (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., 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 families with elementary-age students, there are adaptations for younger students as well. Order the *Student Reader*, *Student Activity Book*, and *Teacher's Guide* as a packaged set and receive a 15% discount!

Volume I: 1020–1800s

- Exploration
- Colonization
- Revolution
- Establishment & Expansion

Volume II: 1800s–2004

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

Each year is composed of three books
(Prices are the same for both years):

Hardback *Student Reader* | 400+ pages | \$44.95

Student Activity Book | 224+ pages | \$16.95

Teacher's Guide | 325+ pages | \$18.95

Package of all three books | \$68.00

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 kindergarten through 12th grades and also taught for many years in a homeschooling co-op. This course is the product of her love of teaching.

All American History Jr.

Volumes I & II

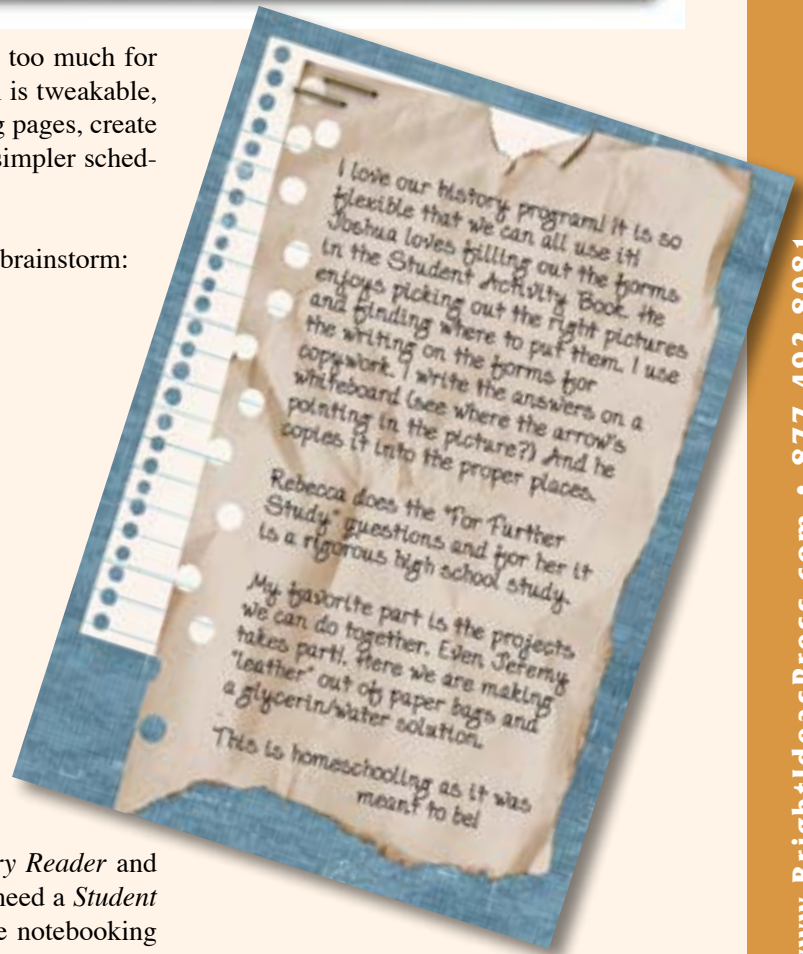
Concerned that using *All American History* might be too much for your elementary aged student? Although the program is tweakable, tweaking takes time. It also takes time to find coloring pages, create your own notebooking pages or folderbooks, plan a simpler schedule, etc. What if we did all that for you?

Bright Ideas Press is pleased to announce yet another brainstorm: *All American History Jr.*

All American History Jr. includes:

- lesson plans with:
 - smaller amounts of lesson material for your student to read
 - additional elementary-friendly hands-on activities
- 5 literature study guides
- challenge cards – ready for you to print out
- simplified folderbooks – 5 total for the year
- notebooking pages
- coloring pages
- puzzles
- pictures
- maps

AAH Jr. requires the use of the *All American History Reader* and the *Teacher's Guide*! By using AAH Jr. you will not need a *Student Activity Book* (SAB) for your younger students. (The notebooking pages and maps act as a substitute for the SAB.)



All American History Jr. | Download | K-5th | \$44.95



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

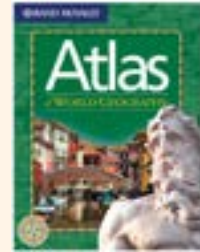
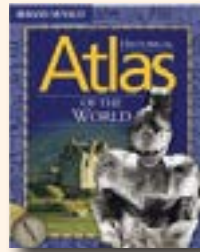
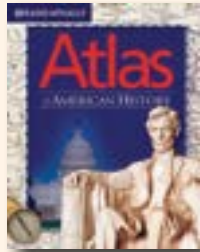
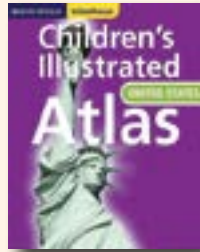
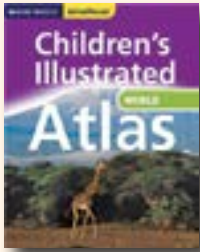
"JB gives a heartfelt, down-to-earth account of his military service in Iraq that is both gripping and entertaining. It is a story of the typical fears, sacrifices, and adventures of a young soldier serving far from home—it will make you proud to be an American."

Chris Klicka—author; speaker; senior counsel, Home School Legal Defense Association

History Supplements

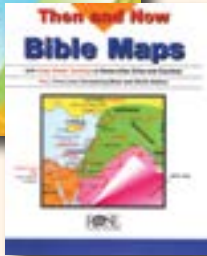
Everyone needs atlases when studying history, Bible, and everything else! Finding locations you're learning about in an atlas is a vital skill. Are your atlases up to date and age appropriate? Here are some of our favorite atlases.

For the best historical maps you'll ever use, look at *WonderMaps* on page 13!



ATLASES BY RAND MCNALLY

- 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
- Atlas of World Geography* | Middle school & up | \$17.50



BIBLE ATLASES

- The Student Bible Atlas* by Tim Dowley | All Ages | \$8.99
 - Then and Now Bible Maps* | \$19.95
- Compare Bible times with a modern-day atlas—a wonderful family resource!



Salt-dough map of Africa



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



HISTORY THROUGH THE AGES: TIMELINE FIGURES

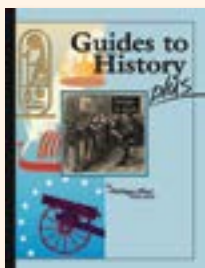
- Creation to Christ | 250+ figures | \$22.95
- Resurrection to Revolution (Birth of Christ–AD 1799) | 280+ figures | \$22.95
- Napoleon to Now (AD 1750 to Present—World History) | 280+ figures | \$22.95
- America's History (Explorers to 21st Century) | 420+ figures | \$32.95
- History Through the Ages Timeline Figures to Accompany *The Mystery of History vol. III* | \$12.95
- Collection of Historical Timeline Figures on 2-CD Mega-Set (Creation to Present) Includes all figures from the 5 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

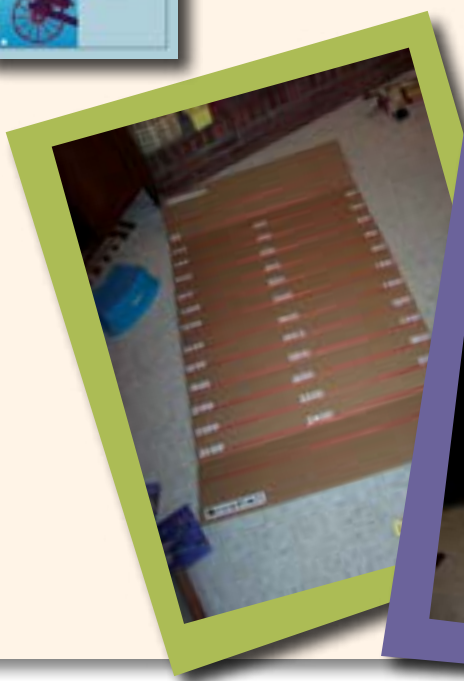
Students record historical events on this poster-style timeline. Watch their memory of chronological events improve! Side one is dated from 4000 BC to AD 2050. Side two is lined but undated for in-depth studies of any time period. Attach pictures, symbols, or the historical timeline figures to the laminated 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 and 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 | \$20.00

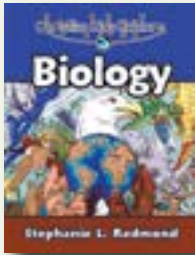
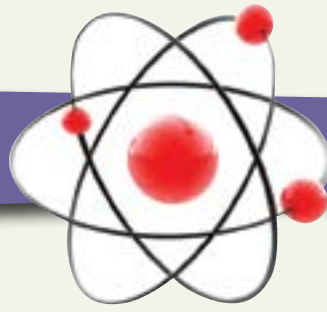


*Matthew, 13, and Kelsey, 7, display their completed timeline from *The Mystery of History*. Their mom says, "We had an incredible time putting this timeline together and look forward to doing MOH II this fall!"*

Left:

*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.*

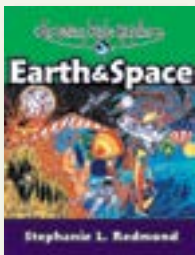
SCIENCE



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 activities, memorization lists, review sheets, creative writing assignments, and an awesome supplemental book list! Written for 1st through 6th graders, this is an excellent choice for teaching all your elementary-aged students together because the assignments can easily be customized to suit younger or older students. 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. It is especially useful for those following a classical approach!

Paperback 313 pages | Grades 1–6 | \$34.95

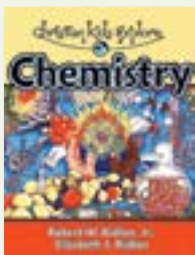


CHRISTIAN KIDS EXPLORE EARTH AND SPACE by *Stephanie Redmond*

This book 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 1–6 | \$34.95

FOR GRADES 4–8, THIS GREAT SERIES CONTINUES WITH:

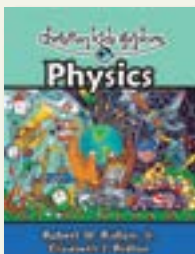


CHRISTIAN KIDS EXPLORE CHEMISTRY by *Professors Bob and Liz Ridlon*

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! NOW INCLUDES BONUS CD*!

- 30 lessons in five units;
- hands-on activities: include making model atoms, breaking covalent bonds, and making gas expand;
- chemistry terms, notations, and rules;
- unit reviews;
- supplemental book list

Paperback + CD 384 pages | Grades 4–8 | \$39.95



CHRISTIAN KIDS EXPLORE PHYSICS by *Professors 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 4–8. Each lesson helps develop an understanding of matter and energy and the rules they follow. Exploring physics is an exciting adventure! NOW INCLUDES BONUS CD*!

Paperback + CD 400+ pages | Grades 4–8 | \$39.95

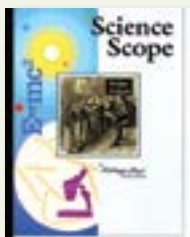
We invite you to join an online discussion group for users of (and those interested in) the Christian Kids Explore series.

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

*Each CD includes daily lesson plans, reproducibles, materials lists, and a bonus literature study guide — great value!

Science
Supple-
ments

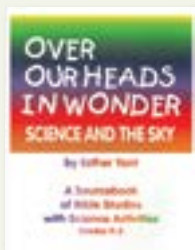
Have a blast with science!



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, an overview of topics, and a reference for age-level expectations for pre-K through 12th grade.

Paperback 120 pages | \$23.00



OVER OUR HEADS IN WONDER: SCIENCE AND THE SKY by Esther Yant

A gem of a book! Discover God's "Wonders in the Sky" and His love and power on earth! With 25+ readings/discussions and 50+ projects/experiments encompassing science, the Bible, writing, math, and language arts, there is no shortage of ideas here! Suitable for multilevel teaching, these "any day, anywhere" assignments utilize common household materials and are organized around the different facets of weather and the sky: clouds, rainbows, sun, stars, snow, wind, storms, and air. | Paperback 96 pages | Grades K-5 | \$9.95

FANDEX FAMILY FIELD GUIDES

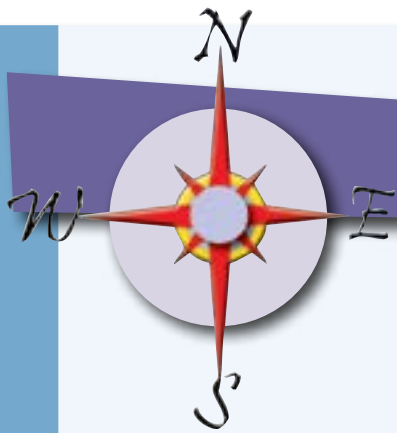


BIRDS - Birding is a great hobby for the entire family! Spend time outdoors, enjoy nature, and increase science and geography awareness as you study these marvelous creatures and their habits and habitats. 50 birds, die-cut in individual shapes along with loads of interesting details. | 50 die-cut cards | \$9.95

TREES - Do you know the names of the trees growing around you? This once-common ability is on the wane as kids spend much more time memorizing video/computer information and less time learning about their world around them. Bringing the world of trees to your fingertips, here's a foolproof field guide. Four visual keys—die-cut leaf, bark pattern, flower, nut or seed, and photo of the full tree—plus descriptions of habitat and more combine to give a complete picture of North America's forest and backyard trees. 50 die-cut cards | \$10.95



Students make molecules with styrofoam balls.



GEOGRAPHY



THE ULTIMATE GEOGRAPHY AND TIMELINE GUIDE

by Maggie S. Hogan and Cindy Wiggers

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. 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 nonconsumable 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.

Recently revised! *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide* now comes with a CD 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

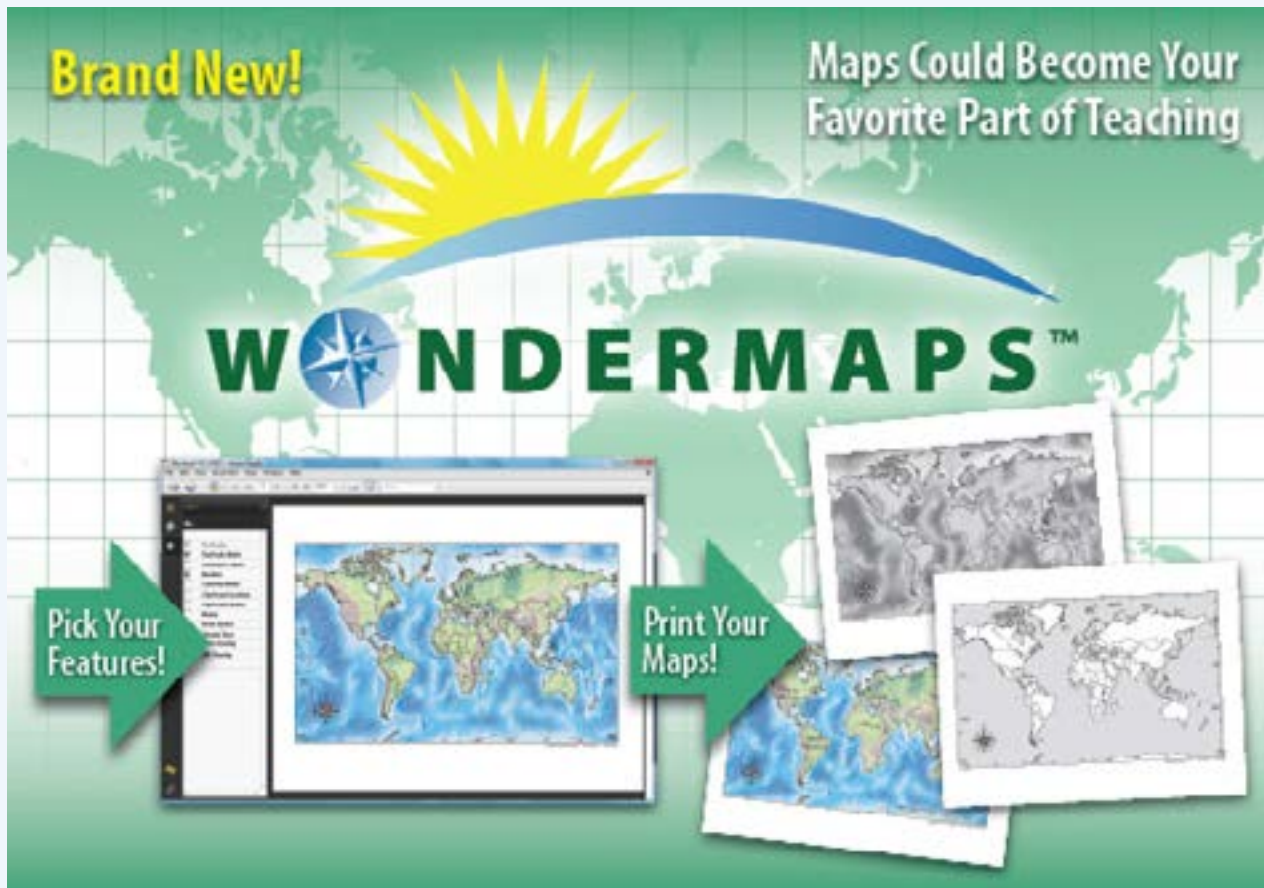
by Maggie S. Hogan

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.

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**For reference and historical atlases,
check out page 8—and don’t forget to
look at *WonderMaps* on page 13!**

Join us at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/whole_hog/ to share ideas and resources for teaching geography!



WONDERMAPS

by Tyler Hogan

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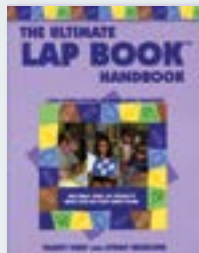
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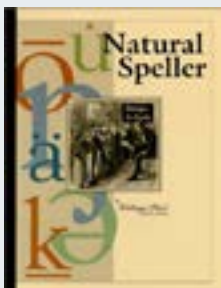


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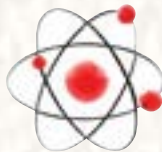
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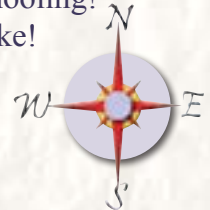
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