

From Colonisation to Civil War

Age Range: 8-14

Duration: 25 weeks

Introduction

This unit study covers the colonisation of America, the Revolution, the pioneer movement west across the continent and the Civil War. It is designed to be used by a small group, meeting once a week with independent work to be completed between meetings. However, most of the work could be done as a family or individual child, apart from the simulations, which need a group of 4-6 or more to work effectively.

This is an outline of which resources to use, rather than a resource itself. The Scholastic resources can often be found in their Dollar Download Sales. The Evan Moor History Pockets are an alternative to these and are aimed at the younger end of the age range. I have included links to free study guides on the literature where they are available.

We like to kick start our unit studies with a film and 'National Treasure' was our starting point for this one. It's a fun, family film which mentions many of the key figures of the American Revolution.

After the initial film week, the remaining 24 weeks are divided into 4 blocks of 6 weeks and a work plan can be found on the PDF download. The literature suggestions are just that – you may find books you would prefer to read instead. Some books are more suitable for younger children, e.g. Children on the Oregon Trail, whereas others are for the older end of the range, e.g. The Red Badge of Courage.

On the history side, Hands-On History products involve cutting and sticking, so if your child isn't into that, this may involve more work for you! History Pockets involve less cutting and sticking but more colouring and some drawing. However, they both result in a lovely end product that can be kept as a souvenir of this study. As both products are designed for schools, you only need to buy one e-book for the whole group.

The simulations are fun to do and each session takes about an hour, depending on the size of the group. They are also a great opportunity for collaboration, discussion, persuasion and group work.

Resources

| Literature | History |
|---|--|
| <p>Colonization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Witch of Blackbird Pond * <p>Revolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Johnny Tremain * <p>Pioneers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children on the Oregon Trail• The Stout Hearted Seven + guide• The Captain's Dog + study guide <p>Slavery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amos Fortune, Freeman + guide <p>Civil War:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bull Run + Study guide• Across Five Aprils *• The Red Badge of Courage *• Rifles for Watie + study guide <p>* Free study guides are available at Glencoe Literature Library</p> | <p>Scholastic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hands on History – Colonization• Hands on History – Revolution• Hands on History – Pioneers• Hands on History – Civil War <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easy Simulation – Revolution• Easy Simulation – Pioneers• Easy Simulation – Civil War <p>Evan Moor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• History Pockets – Colonial America• History Pockets – Revolution• History Pockets – Moving West• History Pockets – Civil War |

Work Plan

| Wk | Literature/Film | | | | History | |
|----|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| | | | | | Hands-On/HP | Simulation |
| 1 | Film: National Treasure | | | | | |
| 2 | The Witch of Blackbird Pond chap 1-8 | | | | Hands-On History Colonies <i>or</i> History Pocket Colonial America | |
| 3 | The Witch of Blackbird Pond chap 1-8 | | | | | |
| 4 | The Witch of Blackbird Pond chap 9-16 | | | | | |
| 5 | The Witch of Blackbird Pond chap 9-16 | | | | | |
| 6 | The Witch of Blackbird Pond chap 17-21 | | | | | |
| 7 | The Witch of Blackbird Pond chap 17-21 | | | | | |
| 8 | Johnny Tremain chap 1-5 | | | | Hands-On History Revolution <i>or</i> History Pocket The American Revolution | Revolution Ep 1 |
| 9 | Johnny Tremain chap 1-5 | | | | | Revolution Ep 2 |
| 10 | Johnny Tremain chap 6-8 | | | | | Revolution Ep 3 |
| 11 | Johnny Tremain chap 6-8 | | | | | Revolution Ep 4 |
| 12 | Johnny Tremain chap 9-12 | | | | | Revolution Ep 5 |
| 13 | Johnny Tremain chap 9-12 | | | | | |
| 14 | One of the following: | | | | Hands-On History Pioneers <i>or</i> History Pocket Moving West | Pioneers Ep 1 |
| 15 | Children on the Oregon Trail | The Stout Hearted Seven | The Captain's Dog | Pioneers Ep 2 | | |
| 16 | | | | Pioneers Ep 3 | | |
| 17 | | | | Pioneers Ep 4 | | |
| 18 | | | | Pioneers Ep 5 | | |
| 19 | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | One of the following: | | |
| 21 | Bull Run | Across Five Aprils | The Red Badge of Courage | Rifles for Watie | Civil War Ep 2 | |
| 22 | | | | | Civil War Ep 3 | |
| 23 | | | | | Civil War Ep 4 | |
| 24 | | | | | Civil War Ep 5 | |
| 25 | | | | | | |