Core Knowledge History and Geography

Homeschool bundle includes:
• Student Package (levels 1-2) or Student Book (level 3-6)
• Teacher Package
Thank you for choosing Pearson to help you on your homeschool journey. Making the right decision about homeschooling can set your child on an exciting path to a lifetime of learning and success. Pearson makes it easy for you to inspire a joy of learning with flexible programs to fit your child’s unique learning style. This built-in flexibility lets you set the schedule and the pace that works for you and your child. As you read through this guide and review the included materials, you’ll experience how easy it is to personalize the curriculum to match your child’s learning style and ensure success with our engaging programs.

Plus, you can rest assured that all of the fundamentals for success are included. The homeschool curriculum you have chosen has been thoughtfully developed and tested by seasoned professionals, to make sure your child receives the finest education.

Welcome to Pearson Homeschool!
Preparation

It is always an exciting time when you get to open the box with your new curriculum. All of the books and materials are colorful, the pages are crisp and they are filled with the possibilities of the coming year. The anticipation of using the books and teaching your child is new and fresh. Like the air after a spring shower, it is invigorating. You can’t wait until you can get started.

Open the bundle of materials, flip through the pages of each book, take in how they look and feel. Get familiar with all of the components. Let your child share in the excitement and catch the enthusiasm you have for starting this new adventure. These will be your companions over the course of the next year.

Once you get familiar with the material, you may experience the overwhelming feeling that is common to homeschool parents: “How will I ever cover all of this material?” You may be flooded with insecurities that you don’t know or remember the subject or content. All of these are normal thoughts and experiences for anyone who has homeschooled.

Remember the value of the journey you are on. Focus on the reasons you chose to homeschool in the first place, the daily interaction with your child, and teaching them how to learn. As the tutor, you as the parent don’t have to know all of the material. It’s fine to learn it with your child as you go through the material together. You are the guide for your child as you journey with them through the learning process.
This flexible program, edited by Core Knowledge founder E.D. Hirsch, Jr., follows the Core Knowledge Sequence to teach key history and geography topics. With this program, your child will build a unified, solid base of academic knowledge - the key to overall literacy and future success. Core Knowledge History and Geography presents the concepts of world and American history, and geography, to build important social studies concepts. Beautifully illustrated pages, and a friendly narrative style will keep your child interested and engaged.

The Student Package for Levels 1-2 is divided into 8-11 books that include 4-10 lessons of history and geography. Each grade level bundle is accompanied by teaching guides to help you cover all of the course content.

The Student Book for Levels 3-6 features one comprehensive text that covers 7-13 distinct themes. Each level also features a Teacher’s Guide binder with individual guides for teaching each of the level’s units.

Using the Materials

Pearson curriculum materials are thoughtfully planned to present the subject in a way that is engaging. Each lesson builds upon itself, but provides flexibility so you can make it your own.

Using the Student Package (1-2)

The Student Package (Levels 1-2) is divided into 8-11 books. Each book explores the social studies elements of a specific theme. They each function as a stand-alone book, and can be approached in any order. Designed to work in tandem with the corresponding Teacher’s Guide, each book includes 4-10 history and geography lessons based on that book’s theme. The Teacher’s Guide provides discussion questions and exercises for your child to deepen his or her understanding.
Using the Teacher’s Package

Each Teacher’s Package includes all of the Teacher Guides, combined into a single 3-ring binder. Use these guides as you create your lesson plans. Each guide will begin with a lesson breakdown, and then present the main idea of the section. Next, lessons that outline the objectives are used to introduce the topic and provide a series of Read Alouds, suggested activities, and review questions. The Teacher Guide is intended to be used in tandem with the Student Books. At the end of each guide is a section of student exercises called Learning Master that you will administer to your child to build their understanding of the chapter’s skills and concepts. Additionally, you will also find the unit assessment at the end of the guide. Use this to measure your child’s understanding of the material.

Using the Student Book (3-6)

Combining several themes into a single text, the Student Book (Levels 3-6) covers a variety of material. Similar to the Level 1 and 2 books, chapters or themes within the Student Book can be taught in any order. Each chapter will present the main concepts for that chapter’s theme, while building a solid foundation of social studies knowledge. Vocabulary in the side margins will help your child develop their language skills throughout the course. The Student Book is designed to work in conjunction with the Teacher’s Guide, which you will reference often for discussion questions, activities, and review exercises.

Lesson Plans

Lesson plans are important to a successful homeschool environment. They help keep you on track, progress through the material and provide a steady structure for teaching your child. It is important to plan out your lessons but remember - lesson plans are a guide. You should leave room to adapt to your child and adjust the plan to ensure he or she understands the material. The objective is to have a tool you can use to watch your child progress and master the material you present over the school year.
Before you begin your lesson plan, review the materials to see how they are structured. Use this as a guide to help you evaluate and formulate your lesson plan for the coming year. Additionally, there are a number of items to consider when preparing your plan. How many days per week will you have school? Do you plan to have extended breaks for the holidays or vacations? The number of children you have and their ages will affect how and what you can do as well.

Lesson plans in general should have certain vital components. A suggested list would include some or all of the following:

- the portion of text covered during the lesson
- key concepts
- activities to do
- assignments given
- main ideas of the lesson
- questions to ask
- potential field trip ideas
- materials and resources needed

The Core Knowledge History and Geography Series includes lesson plans for all of the units covered in the course. Detailed instruction and helpful tips are provided throughout the lesson plan to help you teach the material and personalize the instruction for your child. Move back and forth between the two books to effectively present the concepts and activities to your child.

Each lesson plan begins by highlighting the lesson objectives, and includes an introduction to the material. You can choose to follow these, or adapt them to meet your individual needs. Next, you will find information for teaching the material to your child, along with a number of interactive exercises. The lower levels of the Core Knowledge program will include Read Aloud sections. These are stories to read to your child to further engage them in the material. Additionally, all levels include a Discussion section designed to help your child relate the material to their everyday life, and challenge them to think deeper.

At the end of the lesson plan there are activities and exercises to put the material in perspective and help your child apply what they are learning. The lesson plan will identify the Learning Master with a pencil icon, and direct you to the page to find the exercise. The answers are included at the end of the Teacher’s Guide. The review questions are called out in a shaded box at the end of the lesson plan, along with the answers. Read these questions to your child at the conclusion of each lesson to review the material.

Each Teacher’s Guide concludes with a Unit Assessment to assess your child’s comprehension of the material, and the skills learned throughout the unit. Have your child complete the assessment, and then use the answer key at the end of the Teacher’s Guide to measure their understanding. Revisit any incorrect answers to ensure your child understands the unit’s concepts.

As you plan out your lessons, be sure to familiarize yourself with any legal requirements you may have in your local area or state. The Pearson Homeschool website (PearsonHomeschool.com) has links to each state Department of Education so that you may review the laws and how to comply with them.
Adapt the Curriculum to Fit your Situation

One of the great benefits of homeschooling is that you know the instruction is personal. Everything you teach will be personalized to fit your child.

**Pacing**
The Core Knowledge History and Geography program lessons are easy to pace and offer multiple opportunities for engagement and personalization. The lesson plans are designed to deliver the lessons over a 45-60 minute class, but also provide ample cushion to extend or skip exercises or activities as necessary. As you work through the curriculum adjust your pace to fit your child’s learning style.

Each lesson includes multiple discussion elements and activities to engage your child. If these spark a lively conversation, continue the discussion or activity. If your child shows less interest in a particular activity, use the structure to teach the concept, but incorporate a focus that they find more interesting. For example, for a map activity, have your child chart the course for your next vacation. This will allow you to keep your child engaged and interested throughout the lessons.

**Teaching is Everywhere**
Another part of the homeschooling benefit is that teaching can occur all of the time. Tie lessons into life situations and world events. Plan field trips that align with the lessons. Attend reading events or museum exhibits to enhance the learning experience. The design of the program makes it easy to take into the field with your child. And don’t forget to use your own resources to complement the material and tie the lessons into your child’s interests and hobbies.

**Conflicting Materials**
Lastly, any homeschool parent will be faced with the dilemma of what to do when you come across material in the curriculum you don’t like or disagree with. Core Knowledge History and Geography covers a variety of historic events, interests, themes, and subjects. Each lesson is designed to provide an understanding of events and ideas in history. They are not intended to push beliefs or values. The goal is to familiarize your child with these events, and be descriptive with a respectful and balanced tone.

Additionally, some books and chapters will only explore a limited amount of material. This is not intended to omit selective information. Rather, it is designed to keep the material on the learner’s level, with additional information added at higher grade levels. While no curriculum will ever be able to satisfy all of the beliefs, opinions or values held by each family, there are several approaches that you can take in these situations.

One approach is to skip over the material in question. Another suggestion would be to use this as an opportunity for a special teachable moment. Review the material with your child. Discuss your feelings about the material, idea or value presented. Take the opportunity to prepare your child for the diversity of thought/opinion in the world and the need to be discerning of principles and ideas that may challenge yours. There is a definite balance between having the freedom that homeschool brings and the responsibility you assume in educating your child. The good news is that most families find that balance and it works for them.
Thank you

As you progress along the journey, you will have moments of frustration and moments that make it all worthwhile. Remember to keep it in perspective. Homeschool parents live for those moments when their children are most teachable. You will know when those moments happen as you can see the light go on, they really get it. Cherish those times and use them as the fuel to motivate you through the tough times.

Thank you for choosing Pearson as a partner in your homeschool journey. We know the importance that you place in taking the time to teach your child and we appreciate your trust in us to help you and your child achieve the best education possible.

For additional programs to support your child’s social studies curriculum, please visit our website at: www.PearsonHomeschool.com

For product related questions, please contact 1-800-848-9500 or submit the Contact Us form available on our website.