

Exploring World History

Unit 1 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- What is your connection to the world? Maybe one of your parents was born in another country, you know a missionary, or you have traveled internationally. What everyday things do you use that come from other countries? You might think of other connections to the world that you would like to discuss. Write an essay about your connection to the world. See Lesson 3.
- Write an essay about how one of the following events might have been seen differently in another country from the way it was seen in the United States: (1) the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, (2) a U.S. presidential campaign and election, (3) a Super Bowl football game. See Lesson 2.

2) Create a large poster on poster board that illustrates visually the influence of other cultures on America culture and the influence of American culture on other cultures. Include a minimum of twenty-five cultural influences (incoming and outgoing combined).

3) Memorize John 1:1-18 (in addition to the memory work for the unit).

Unit 2 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Each person must choose to believe that human beings were created by God or that they evolved by chance. Discuss the difference this choice makes in how we live our lives. See Lesson 6.
- Explain one of the questions about Genesis discussed in Lesson 9 (or another common question about Genesis) in your own words.

2) Interview someone who is learned in theology (such as a minister, evangelist, or elder) about his belief in the existence of God. Compose at least ten questions ahead of time. You can conduct your interview by phone or in person. Be respectful of your interviewee's time and keep the interview within an hour. If possible, make an audio recording of the interview. See Lesson 10.

3) Write a song or poem of at least sixteen lines about sin and redemption. See Lesson 7.

Unit 3 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics (work on it each day):

- Explain the physics and geometry the Egyptians used in building the pyramids. See Lesson 13.
- Write a speech directed at common people explaining how the people of Babylonia will benefit from having the Code of Hammurabi, as if you were living at the time. See Lesson 14.

- 2) Create a collection of photos showing the influence of ancient mathematicians on our world today. Compose your photos intentionally and artistically. Your finished project should be in the form of a slideshow on an electronic device or prints of the photographs displayed on a poster or in book form, with a minimum of fifteen photos. See Lesson 13.
- 3) Find an authoritative chart with ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. Make a clay tablet from homemade or purchased clay. With a sharp tool, copy a few symbols onto the tablet and let it harden. See Lesson 12.

Unit 4 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - How would your life be different if your family were nomads? What would be better? What would be harder? See Lesson 18.
 - Write about one or more characteristics you admire in either Abraham or Joseph. See Lesson 17 or Lesson 20.
- 2) Design and create a board game for your family to play about the lives of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their families. Use questions and answers from Genesis 11-50 as part of the game. See Lesson 16.
- 3) Write a play based on one or more events and/or one or more people discussed in this unit. Your play should be at least seven pages long, but can be as long as you like. Recruiting family and/or friends to perform your play might be fun but is optional.

Unit 5 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Write journal entries from the Exodus through the wilderness as if you were an Israelite. Record your observations, fears, and faith. See Lesson 22.
 - Write a character study of Moses: his strengths, his weaknesses, his successes, his failures, and how God helped him grow. See Lesson 23.
- 2) Make a video documentary of the early history of Israel as told in this unit. Your documentary should be at least five minutes long.
- 3) Create a painting that celebrates the law that God gave to Moses. See Lesson 25.

Unit 6 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Write a psalm of praise to God. See Lesson 28.
 - Write a sermon in which you try to convict your hearers to change their ways. See Lesson 30.
- 2) Create a model of one of the temple furnishings as described in 1 Kings 7:15-44. See Lesson 29.
- 3) Memorize Psalm 8.

Unit 7 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Write about a woman in history (famous or not) who was influential or who displayed admirable qualities.
 - Write an account, either fictional or from real life, of someone who was in the right place at the right time and what happened to him or her.
- 2) Write and illustrate a children's book about the story of Daniel. Your book should be a minimum of fifteen pages. See Lesson 34.
- 3) Research some traditional foods that are part of the celebration of Purim and locate some recipes. Choose one or two Purim foods to make for your family. See Lesson 35.

Unit 8 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Many ancient proverbs have been passed down through generations, from the inspired book of Proverbs in the Bible to the proverbs of Confucius. Write down a collection of sayings or proverbs. Include examples which you think are especially insightful and ones that are repeated by your own family. Include proverbs or sayings from at least ten different sources. See Lesson 37.
 - Choose one of the developments of the ancient Chinese civilization discussed in Lesson 38. Research the topic in more depth and describe its discovery, development, and use. If applicable, describe how the concept or technology is in use today.
- 2) Write out your family tree. Go as far as you can this week. Consult with older relatives for information. Where possible, include birth dates and death dates to see how lifespans overlapped. See Lesson 37.
- 3) Create a painting of hand stencils of your family members. You can also include friends if you wish. Use the photos on page 208 for inspiration.

Unit 9 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Discuss the dynamic tension of freedom and control. How is it wrong to take either one to an extreme? How does the New Testament say both are important in the church?
 - Write your Christian philosophy of life and the world. See Lesson 42.
- 2) Identify 15-20 words in the English language that come from Greek. See Lesson 41. Take an original photograph illustrating each word. Put your photographs together in a slideshow on your computer or as a book. Caption your photos with the English and Greek words.
- 3) Locate a building in your area that has Greek-inspired architecture. Sketch the building and label the architectural elements inspired by Greek architecture. If you are unable to visit the location, sketch from a photograph.

Unit 10 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Why do you think Rome achieved the success it did as a civilization? What were its key strengths?
 - Write a news article that tells about the assassination of Julius Caesar: what happened, when and where, who was involved, why it happened, and what is expected to happen as a result of it. Write it for a newspaper or a radio news broadcast. See Lesson 46.
- 2) Write a short play that takes place in ancient Rome. Make the actors, dialogue, and action realistic. Let the point you are trying to make be obvious from what happens in the play instead of having someone say it as a line.
- 3) Create a model of a real structure built by Romans. Locate one or more photos of the structure. Make your model as close to scale as you can and from the material of your choosing (wood, cardboard, clay, STYROFOAM™, LEGO® bricks, etc.).

Unit 11 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Study an incident, a teaching, or an idea in Luke and develop a paper that expresses the meaning of it for your life.
 - Write a first-person account of an incident in Luke, as though you were personally involved or observing it.
- 2) Using authoritative sources as a guide, draw a map of Jerusalem in Jesus' day. Label at least ten significant sites from the life of Jesus.
- 3) Follow Jesus' example of service by volunteering to serve someone in need either on your own or with an organization.

Unit 12 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Write about one of the paintings that appears in this unit. What is the painter's style? How did his time period and nationality influence the way he painted? What is the painter trying to say in this work?
 - Write about the life of a famous Christian preacher from history.
- 2) Perform an act of service for your church. Discuss with your parents and church staff what an appropriate job would be. Perhaps you could clean and organize the church library, refresh a flower bed, or paint a Sunday School classroom.
- 3) Write a poem or song of at least sixteen lines that expresses one or more of the truths that Paul communicates in his letters.

Unit 13 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Tell in what ways you think the worldly power of the church was a good thing and how it was a bad thing. What was lost from the nature of the church as recorded in the New Testament?
 - Write about the life of an early Christian leader, such as Justin Martyr, Origen, Tertullian, Jerome, or Augustine.
- 2) Visit services at two churches of denominations other than your own. Discuss with your parents what you noticed about similarities and differences compared to your own church. What did you learn? Was there anything said or done that you found inspiring or troubling? Why?
- 3) Make a sculpture in the medium or media of your choice representing one of the longtime symbols of Christianity—the fish, the anchor, or the cross. See Lesson 63.

Unit 14 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - What are the attributes of a great leader? See Lesson 68.
 - Describe a missionary that you know. See Lesson 70. Where does he work and how does he minister? What character traits stand out about him or her? What have you learned from this missionary?
- 2) Build a model of a Viking ship. See Lesson 69. Look at photographs or drawings of Vikings ships and choose one to copy. Make your model as close to scale as you can and from the material of your choosing (wood, cardboard, clay, STYROFOAM™, LEGO® bricks, etc.).
- 3) Make a short video documentary about evangelism. See Lesson 70. Your video should be at least five minutes long.

Unit 15 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Write a position paper in which you either defend the feudal system or criticize it. See Lesson 72. Acknowledge arguments from the opposite position, but come down firmly one way or the other.
 - Write a letter to the editor of a fictional newspaper in which you express either support for or opposition to the First Crusade. See Lesson 73.
- 2) Research the foods that would have been included in a feast during the Middle Ages. Prepare a medieval feast for your family including several of these foods.
- 3) Create an illustrated timeline of the Middle Ages (476-1300). You can do this as a poster, on several sheets of paper, or on a long strip of paper. Include at least 20 key events and illustrate several of them. Make your timeline not only factual, but beautiful as well, reflecting the artistic value of the illuminated manuscripts created during the Middle Ages.

Unit 16 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Analyze a painting by one of the well-known Renaissance artists, such as the *Mona Lisa* or *The Last Supper*. Tell what you think is effective in the painting and why it is still admired.
- Tell what both science and art contribute to a culture, why we need both, and how they work together and compliment each other. See Lesson 76.

2) Attend a concert with music by one of the composers mentioned in Lesson 79. If this is not possible, listen to recordings of the work of four of them, at least fifteen minutes per composer. Your local library should have a collection of recordings.

3) Conduct further research on Leonardo da Vinci's skill and achievement and create a poster that celebrates his life and includes examples of his achievements, experiments, and ideas. See Lesson 78.

Optional Research Paper: If you plan to write a longer research paper as part of this course, plan with a parent when you will work on it. See pages xii-xv of Part 1.

Unit 17 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Write an editorial for the *Wittenburg Times* newspaper either defending or criticizing Martin Luther. See Lesson 81.
- Write a report about a Christian group or denomination. Tell how it began, its distinctive doctrines, and any well-known members. Tell what you respect about the group.

2) Memorize Ephesians 2:1-10.

3) Write and illustrate a children's book about the life and accomplishments of Martin Luther. See Lesson 81. The book should be at least fifteen pages long.

Unit 18 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Conduct research on one of the explorers mentioned in this unit, other than Christopher Columbus. Study his life as well as his explorations. If applicable, include any controversies regarding his exploration. See Lesson 86.
- Write a book review of *Here I Stand* by Roland Bainton. Summarize the book, tell what you liked, what you didn't like, what you learned, and what you would like to know more about.

2) Make a board game to play with your family about the Age of Exploration. The game should include facts about different explorers and their accomplishments.

3) Research foods that were introduced to Europe from the New World during the Age of Exploration. Prepare a meal that features several of these foods.

Unit 19 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Write about recent developments in one field of science, such as astronomy, medicine, botany, genetics, or another field.
- Write a response to this question: “Are natural laws and belief in a God who answers prayer mutually exclusive?” See Lesson 91.

2) Create for yourself one of the articles of clothing pictured in Lesson 94.

3) Interview a scientist (or university professor of science) who is a Christian about how faith influences his or her work. Compose at least 10 questions ahead of time. You can conduct your interview by phone or in person. Be respectful of your interviewee’s time and keep the interview within an hour. If possible, make an audio recording of the interview.

Unit 20 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- A broadside was a document that stated a case in the strongest terms possible. Write a broadside calling for revolution in one of the countries discussed in this unit. Make a big headline across the top, and make smaller subheadings throughout the document. Cover both sides of the page and end with a call to action.
- Write an essay on this topic: “The French Revolution was a highly imperfect attempt to solve a highly imperfect situation.” See Lessons 96-97.

2) Create a video as if you were broadcasting a television newscast during the American or French Revolution. Choose an event to feature, and then research further details of the event to include in the newscast. You can be the anchor, or you can ask another person to be the anchor with a script written by you. You can also include an interview with an expert as part of your newscast, and/or interview two different experts with differing views. Your newscast should be at least four minutes long.

3) Write a song or poem of at least sixteen lines about freedom.

Unit 21 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Write a speech in which you try to persuade your listeners either to participate in an 1848 revolution or to oppose a revolution that took place in that year. See Lesson 102.
- What are the best ways to enact reform in government?

2) Copy a painting by an artist mentioned in Lesson 104 in the medium of your choice (paint, colored pencil, pencil, ink, pastels, etc.).

- 3) Make a poster showing at least eight flags of modern European nations. Next to each flag, give information about when it was adopted and the meaning of the colors and/or symbols.

Unit 22 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Discuss successes and failures of British imperial policies. See Lessons 106-107.
 - Describe an effort to serve others motivated by faith that you know about personally or have heard about. See Lesson 108. Tell who was involved, how it started, how it progressed, and the outcome.
- 2) Create a model of an historic means of transportation as shown or discussed in Lesson 109.
- 3) Put Christian kindness into action by taking over for a week a significant chore normally performed by another member of your family. See Lesson 110.

Unit 23 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - What is the best way to educate children? See Lesson 114.
 - If you were asked to describe your views on the origin of the world, what would you say? See Lesson 112.
- 2) Create a collection of photos showing examples of God's handiwork in Creation. See Lesson 112. Compose your photos intentionally and artistically. Your finished project should be in the form of a slideshow on an electronic device, prints of the photographs displayed on a poster, or photos in book form. Include a minimum of twenty photos.
- 3) Write and illustrate a children's book on the history of education. See Lesson 114. Include several key groups and individuals who influenced education.

Unit 24 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Write about life on the home front during World War II. See Lesson 117. Life in the United States will be the easiest to research, but try to find out what it was like to live in Britain or France or another country during the war.
 - Looking at wars through the scope of history, why do you think nations go to war?
- 2) Interview a person who remembers World War II about their experiences during the war. Compose at least ten questions ahead of time. You can conduct your interview by phone or in person. Be respectful of your interviewee's time and keep the interview within an hour. If possible, make an audio recording of the interview.
- 3) Memorize Psalm 46.

Unit 25 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Why do you think socialism and communism are attractive to people?
 - Do you think the efforts of the space race have proved as valuable as they seemed in the 1960s? What are your views on current efforts of the United States in space? See Lesson 122.
- 2) Prepare a traditional Russian meal for your family.
- 3) Make a poster with quotes from 20th century leaders that reveal their ideology. Use quotes that have sentiments you agree with and some that you don't. Represent the quotations and the leaders who said them on your poster in an interesting, artistic way. Use at least ten different leaders and quotations.

Unit 26 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Write about the Olympic Games that were hosted in Beijing in 2008.
 - Research five Christian organizations that meet the needs of the poor. Write a basic description for each of how the organization started, where it is based, and what needs it addresses. (See Lesson 130.)
- 2) Create a beautiful Pachisi game for your family from wood, cloth, or specialty paper. Pachisi originated in ancient India. Research the history of the game before you begin your project.
- 3) Write a play based on the life or an incident in the life of a missionary to Asia. It can be one of the missionaries mentioned in Lesson 129, or another missionary. Your play should be at least seven pages long but can be as long as you like. Recruiting family and/or friends to perform your play might be fun, but is optional.

Unit 27 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Write an essay on the relationship between the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere. Discuss how it has been good, how it has been bad, and how it could be better.
 - In Lesson 2, we described a boy named Pedro in the country of Honduras. Write a short story about him. Choose a particular incident or issue as your theme: growing up, coming to faith, making a living in a poor country, or some other topic.
- 2) Make a short video documentary about Latin American life, either in historic or current times. Your topic could be soccer, the preparation of traditional foods, the life of a well-known Latin American, an interview with someone you know from Latin America, or another topic of your own choosing. Your documentary should be at least five minutes long.
- 3) Sew a flag of one of the countries of Latin America. Learn how and when it was adopted and what the colors and/or symbols represent.

Unit 28 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Write about what the Bible teaches about relations between people from different ethnic groups. How can Christians be proactive about following Biblical principles in this area?
 - Choose one African nation and write about how the geography of the country impacts life there, both past and present.
- 2) Create a model of a central government building in an African nation. Locate one or more photos of the structure. Make your model as close to scale as you can and from the material of your choosing (wood, cardboard, clay, STYROFOAM™, LEGO® bricks, etc.).
- 3) Create a travel brochure for one African nation. Include drawings or photographs of attractions, both natural and man-made. Use both sides of a 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper for your brochure.

Unit 29 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - How has homeschooling impacted your life? How do you imagine it could impact your future life?
 - Discuss the wise use of modern technology and how it can be abused.
- 2) Interview someone who works in technology and/or trade. See Lesson 141. Compose at least ten questions ahead of time. You can conduct your interview by phone or in person. Be respectful of your interviewee's time and keep the interview within an hour. If possible, make an audio recording of the interview.
- 3) Write a play about a homeschooling family. Your play should be at least seven pages long, but can be as long as you like. Recruiting family and/or friends to perform your play might be fun, but is optional.

Unit 30 Project Ideas

- 1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:
 - Write about some lessons you have learned from this study of world history and what you would like to study further.
 - Write an essay in response to *The Abolition of Man* about the need to recognize absolutes and how modern education and other institutions are tearing away at the acceptance of those absolutes.
- 2) Take a family field trip to an organization in your community that exists to serve people in the name of Christ. Take a tour of their facility and find out how your family can get involved.
- 3) Create a collection of photos showing evidence of worldview, both Christian and non-Christian, around your community. See Lesson 148. Compose your photos intentionally and artistically. Your finished project should be in the form of a slideshow on an electronic device, prints of the photographs displayed on a poster, or photos in book form. Include a minimum of fifteen photos.