



GRADE 7/8

JW Edition

WEST BROOKE CURRICULUM
SAMPLE

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Author

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Welcome to West Brooke Curriculum

I felt like there was a need for a curriculum written for children of Jehovah's Witnesses using some of our excellent materials that Jehovah has provided. I have homeschooled my children for 16 years and have used a variety of curriculums. I always tell myself that we should use what we already have available to a greater degree, but let's face it, that takes a lot of planning. So in trying to attempt this I thought it would work best if daily/weekly instructions were written out ahead of time; because in my experience when I have a manual/guide I feel better, and feel less stress, the year is laid out I can get the books I need and not have to scrounge up a lesson. I hope this will be a help to other parents out there who are having a tough time putting it all together.

This 7/8th grade manual is written to the student, in an effort to get them on more of independent schedule. When it is time for a spelling list or oral geography then they can call for your assistance.

Spelling

I know of a few kids who are just natural spellers and can spell anything by 8th grade, if this is the case with your student- Great!, One less subject to do. Spelling workout is scheduled for those students still needing spelling.

One spelling method is to work on the words the student misses in their writing. Each week you make a list of words that were misspelled from the previous week's writing assignments.

If you just want a free 7th or 8th Grade spelling list to work on for the year (borrowing your student does not have difficulties with spelling) then here is a place to get a list by grade level <http://www.spelling-words-well.com/>. As you scroll down you will see the grade levels on the left. The 7th Grade list has 300 words. The 8th Grade list has 250 words. You will need to choose 8-14 words a week. You can use the schedule to check off doing spelling or write the words to work on for the week. With this list you can do an oral test of 10 words and have the student only work on the words he/she missed.

Bible

I have included a Bible program that has worked for us for a long time, if you already have something that works for you- stick to it! What I have scheduled is just to help out those who would like help. This is to cover studying for the weekly night meeting, and the magazines (Watchtower and Awake). Finishing your Watchtower lesson will have to be done on the weekends.

This is the way we do it: in the morning at breakfast we read and discuss the text. Then we read aloud from the *Proclaimers* book. As far as studying for the meetings my kids do that on their own. On days when the magazines are scheduled, sometimes they read/listen to articles on their own separately, and sometimes they pick out two articles that they both haven't done yet (or me) and we listen to them together.

I have scheduled reading the history book *Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* (listed on the schedule as *Proclaimers*). I have scheduled this 2 days a week 2 to 2.5 pages per day; at this rate it would take about 4 years to read it (6th-9th). Of course you may read more pages, more days, through the summer etc. to finish it faster. You can also start this book at any time during the 6-high school level and continue until finished.

Note: After Bible discussions we do PE for 30 minutes.

Language Arts

A list is provided to pick from, choose at least 6-8 books for the year, although it would be better if the student read more; you are in school for approximately 9 months and one a month would put you at 9 books; counting the summer would be 12 books. All books suggested have been read either by all of us, or at least the kids, I will recommend books that my kids really enjoyed, and I hope that yours will too. Narration is a Charlotte Mason method of reading comprehension. Basically just get your kids to tell you what is going on in the story, their version of it. This goes for ones they are reading on their own as well as ones you are reading out loud.

Reading aloud to your kids is a great way to bond with them. I suggest that you choose a book to read aloud to them. We have a great time when we do this, it develops reading comprehension better than any workbook ever dreamed of, it increases reading ability, vocabulary, and future writing abilities. This is especially important if you have students with any learning disabilities or are reluctant readers.

Also, for grammar we will be using *Easy Grammar: Plus Student Workbook*.

Writing will be a variety. Dictation is where a passage from literature or an article is dictated to the student to write. He/she then compares what they have written to the original and makes any needed corrections. I will leave it up to the discretion of the Home Teacher how much the student is to copy or have dictated as each student's abilities vary. We will also write in varying subjects. There will be reports, stories, letters, etc. Also you will see some links next to the book list of some free study guides for 8th grade it may be a good idea to cover at least one of these, even if you do not do the whole study guide, you can pick and choose the pages and assignments you want your student to do. Feel free to substitute some writing assignments with ones from these guides to go along with the book the student is currently reading. As the Teacher, it is up to your discretion if you would rather do just a couple writing assignments for the week and spend more time on those, having more polished writings.

Vocabulary is included as Latin word parts. These can also be used as advanced spelling words.

Book Reports: <https://kids.usa.gov/reading-and-writing/book-report/index.shtml>

History

Note: for the merged grade 7 and 8 you will use volumes 2-4 of *Story of the World*.

The Usborne Internet-Linked Encyclopedia of World History (optional reference book for grades 6-High school) for this school year use section: "The Last 500 years"

We also supplemented this year with *A Child's History of Art: Architecture* by Hillyer

Geography

Included is map work in association with your history. You will need blank world maps or even of continents for more detail. You can also find printable blank maps online for free; try this site

<https://www.seterra.com/>

Typing

This manual encourages one lesson per day of typing. We use *Typing Instructor Deluxe* program however you can use any one that you prefer. One lesson on ours only takes about 5 minutes. Typing is encouraged because we live in a time where typing is a must with computers being used in many fields, for school, on-line classes, work, talks, etc.

Schedule

Here are some suggestions for scheduling:

The grid schedule works from the top down, if using this for more than one child make a copy of just the grid schedule for your portfolio; put the date of the day at the top and work in order down the page, only on some occasions you will see the need to do the Science lesson before the writing lesson because they are connected.

The schedule for West Brooke Curriculum is basically 4 days per week with one school day set aside for the ministry. This schedule has worked well for us for a long time and keeps the student as well as the teacher from burning out. Our service day is set on a Wednesday, which gives a nice mid-week break, however it can be any day of the week that works for you. The students will still be learning on these days, they will be more socially rounded, they will be learning public speaking, and will be better accomplished at using their Bibles. It is especially good if they work with a variety of friends to round out their education. In the afternoons after service they can work on art, music, reading, working ahead or catching up in math or another subject they need to work on. They could also take an elective class on this day. Or you could just use it as a make-up day, if you got behind. But generally, I do not schedule any school on this day, they still practice their music on this day, do reading, and other hands-on projects they are personally working on.

Yearly schedule: unless you are in a state with strict attendance rules you should be able to be more flexible with your schedule. Here in Florida we have to turn in an evaluation once per year. This gives us an entire 12 months to complete assignments or even to move ahead into the next grade. We school year around, this may not be doable for some families, but it works for us. This gives us more opportunities to take breaks in the spring and fall, have a lighter schedule when we auxiliary pioneer, take the week off for the Circuit Overseer's visit, and the District convention, etc. Field trips, camping trips, RBC, or vacations can then come at anytime without fear of falling behind. The public school schedule tends to put one under extra stress to accomplish a certain amount within a certain time frame. If you are in it for the long haul, being more flexible will help you to stick to it.

Another option for those who can't quite get through a day's work in a day: Follow the schedule in order checking off each assignment as you complete it. On the following day start where you left off and continue on into the next day as far as you can get. Continue in this method until you get through the school year, remember you have 12 months to get through it all.

Using the Manual

This is a download- so you can go green if you want and use it just on your computer the first page of the week is a grid schedule and the next page(s) are notes for that week. There are links within the manual so you will need to keep a copy on the computer for this even if you print it. You should make a back up for the manual as well. One year we went through 3 computers- you don't want to lose it.

If you want to print this manual, you can print one week at a time to give to your child, or you can print it up for the year. If you do this, this is the plan for it: print the grid schedule and hole punch for a 3 ring binder so that it will be on the left when you open your notebook, and then print the note page(s) to go on the right of the grid. In other words when you open your notebook you want to see for the week the grid on the left and the notes on the right. You can print on front and back but you will have to keep an eye on it as you print so that it lays out right in your notebook. Keep in mind that some weeks have more than one page of notes.

Merged Grade 7 and 8

Booklist for 7/8th Grade

Textbooks

Math: Saxon math at level you need

Language Arts

Easy Grammar: Plus Student Workbook

Easy Grammar: Plus Teacher's Edition

Typing Instructor Deluxe program or other

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 8

Spelling Workout Grade 7 or 8 if still needed (level G or H)

Test Prep book for grade 8 get one that includes several subjects, Spectrum & other companies make these, or you may want one specific to your state standards (optional)

Literature guide links (next to book titles)

Optional: Core Skills Test Preparation Grade 8

Optional Literature Studies:

The Adventures of Robin Hood by Roger Lancelyn Green- first semester

The Adventures of Robin Hood Student Study Guide by Memoria Press

The Adventures of Robin Hood Teacher Guide by Memoria Press

The Hound of Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle- second semester

The Hound of Baskervilles Student Study Guide by Memoria Press

The Hound of Baskervilles Teacher Guide by Memoria Press

History /Geography

Story of the World Volume 2: The Middle Ages by Susan Wise Bauer

Story of the World Volume 2: The Middle Ages Tests and Answer key

Story of the World Volume 3: Early Modern Times by Susan Wise Bauer (revised 2019; printed 2020)

Story of the World Volume 4: The Modern Age by Susan Wise Bauer

Story of the World Volume 3: Early Modern Times Test and answer Key

Story of the World Volume 4: The Modern Age Test and answer Key

Story of the World Activity Books can also be used for maps & other projects.

The Usborne Internet-Linked Encyclopedia of World History (optional reference book for grades 6-High School)

You can also add the history book *Abraham Lincoln's World* by Foster

Blank maps (try this site) <https://www.seterra.com/>

2 download unit studies from unitstudy.com

Passport Geography: France and United Kingdom (passport explorer grades 7-12 edition)

Science

Use with *WBC Level 7 Science plans*, *WBC Wilderness Survival Plans*, or other science program of your choice.

Grade 7 Reading- Choose at least 6 novels for the year however 9+ would be better

Black Horses for the King by Anne McCaffrey
The Great and Terrible Quest by Margaret Levett
Adam of the Road by Gray
Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls
Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman

And many more.....

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West Brooke Curriculum
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Week 1a	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:
Bible	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasures from God's Word <input type="checkbox"/> Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Living as Christians <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> 4-6 pages from <i>Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Reading, audio, or video from current magazines or jw.org				
Math:	Math starts next week				
Easy Grammar Student book	pp. 264-266	pg. 267	pp. 268-270	pp. 271-274	
Typing Instructor	One lesson	One lesson	One lesson	One lesson	
Writing	Unit Study France- any writing assignments from unit	→	→	→	France Report due
Maps (pg #s match history book)	Italy, Rome, Spain, Asia Minor, Greece, Nile River, Mediterranean Sea*				
YPA Volume 1			Chapter 1	Chapter 2	
Passport Geography Unit	Download and work on France Unit	→	→	→	→
Reading Selection	Choose any book from the list & record them here.				

Week 1a Notes:

Passport Geography: France

you will need the grade level 7-12 download from [Unit Study.com](http://UnitStudy.com)

Download- this is a 5 day program, there is a lot covered and there is a report at the end. (We will do 2 of these this year) Start working on day one's assignments of the France Unit. You will be working off of your computer directly with the France Unit because there are a lot of internet links. There is no need to print all of this, maybe just the cover, maps, etc for your portfolio. Option: If you do not purchase this Unit study you can go to the library and make up your own.

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Week 1	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:
Bible	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasures from God's Word <input type="checkbox"/> Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Living as Christians <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> 4-6 pages from <i>Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom</i> <input type="checkbox"/> jw.org >Teenagers >Young People Ask >Spiritual Growth> How Can I train my Conscience?				
Math:	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Spelling Workout	Lesson 1: Pre-test Words in Action Spelling Practice pt. 1	Spelling Practice pt. 2	Spelling & Writing	→	Test
Vocabulary		Port- carry			
Wordly Wise	1a	1b	1c	1d	
Easy Grammar Student book	Review pp. 271-273; do pg. 275-276	pp. 277-278	pp. 279-281	pp. 282-283	
Typing Instructor	One lesson	One lesson	One lesson	One lesson	
Writing	Literature guide	→	→	→	
Story of the World Vol 2 Middle Ages	*see notes SOW Chapter 1 EWH- pp 198-201	SOW Chapter 2*	EWH- pp. 214-215 pp. 244-245	SOW Chapter 3 EWH- pp. 204-205	SOW Chapter 4 EWH- pp. 202-203
Maps (pg #s match history book)	Italy, Rome, Spain, Asia Minor, Greece, Nile River, Mediterranean Sea*	Oral Geography			
YPA Volume 1			Chapter 3	Chapter 4	
Reading Selection	<i>Robin Hood Study Guide</i> : Read Introduction <i>Robin Hood</i> : Prologue, "The Birth of Robert Fitzooth"	<i>Robin Hood Study Guide</i> Prologue		<i>Robin Hood</i> : Chapter 1, "The Good Spirit of Sherwood"	

Notes for Week 1

Saxon math note: The first 4 weeks you will be doing math 5 days a week so that you complete the book by the end of the year; the first part of every math program is usually review anyway.

Vocabulary- port- carry (Latin)

Export

Transportation

Deportation

Supportive

Portable

Reported

Port- gate (Latin)

Portal

***History:** This year you will be studying The Middle Ages about 286 CE to the Early Modern Times up to 1735 CE. Before we begin let's look at the time frame we are in, The Succession of Seven World Powers; you can see an updated version of this list on *pages 13-13 of 6/15/2012 Watchtower*. Please write this list in your notebook.

Egypt

Assyria

Babylon

Medo-Persia

Greece

Rome

Anglo-America

The Middle Ages also known as the Dark Ages falls between the fall of Rome (410 CE) and the world power Anglo-America. It was referred to the Dark Ages because barbarous tribes were overrunning Europe. Also it was a Dark period for Christians, true Christians that is. Apostasy crept into the Christian Congregation. The Bible was kept from the common people, and a lot of common people were kept in their "place" by not allowing them to get an education.

Jesus forewarned that there would be an apostasy that would creep up after the death of the apostles. This led to God's people being held captive by Babylon the Great. Read *Questions from the Readers: When were God's People held captive by Babylon the Great? W16 March pp. 29-32*.

Now start your history book *Story of the World Vol. 2* Read chapter 1.

Timelines can be fun to do, if this interests you turn to page 389-394 of *Story of the World Vol. 2*. You may want to choose important dates from you studies to keep as a list in your notebook.

Story of the World Vol. 2 chapter 4

This would be a good time to discuss the background of St. Nicholas and the Christmas celebration with your Teacher.

Supplemental for History: *Castle* by David Macaulay this is a video or book. Warning: I think there was a part about the Druids in the film so watch it with your kids, you may want to skip a bit of it.

Middle Ages Kids Discover magazine

Knights & Castles Kids Discover magazine

Marco Polo Kids Discover magazine

Shakespeare Kids Discover magazine

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Geography:

Using a print out of a blank world map, or a Pad of blank world maps mark the following in black ink very neatly, use page 2 of *Story of the World* History book to locate these places: **Italy, Rome, Spain, Asia Minor, Greece, Nile River, Mediterranean Sea**. We will continue to add to the same map, when it gets full, then you can start a new one. You might want some maps of closer in on some countries/areas as well: <https://www.seterra.com/>

Maps- Using blank maps this year, fill in locations corresponding to your history book. Find blank maps at <https://www.seterra.com/>

Or you can use *Story of the World* Activity Books for map activities

Geography Oral lesson: Use a globe or Atlas to answer these questions orally have your Teacher call them out to you: a) What are the names of the Earth's Oceans?;

b) What is the name of the imaginary line that divides the Earth in half?

c) What is the most northern point in the world called?;

d) What part of a map contains information on what the map's symbols mean?;

e) Find an example of an area of land that is completely surrounded by water. What term is used to describe this type of land?;

f) All lines of longitude are measured east and west of what imaginary line?;

g) What does a star on a map usually mean?;

h) Which of the following is not a state: Michigan, Houston, New Mexico, Colorado?

Reading- work with *The Adventures of Robin Hood* novel and literature guides (optional) OR Choose a book from the list with a literature guide, use the literature guide, you do not have to do everything on it, pick and choose what you would like to work with, or what your teacher assigns. Record the titles you are currently reading in the space provided.

Reading suggestion: *Black Horses for the King* by Anne McCaffrey
The Beduins' Gazelle by Frances Temple

*History Reference (if you are using it): *The Usborne Internet-Linked Encyclopedia of World*
I will put the pages to read from this book in **red and abbreviated EWH**

YPA- stands for: *Questions Young People Ask answers that work* by the WTBTs. We will be using selected chapters from both books this year.

Answers to Oral Geography: a) Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic; b) Equator; c) North Pole; d) Key or Legend; e) An Island; f) Prime Meridian; g) State Capital; h) Houston.