
West Brooke Curriculum

Grade 6



A manual written for children everywhere

By Jennifer Westbrook

Welcome to West Brooke Curriculum (Public Edition)

I have homeschooled my children for 15 years and have used a variety of curriculums. 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.

The last 3 weeks are scheduled for Test Preparation, You can use these 3 weeks for this or for catching up on subjects you have fallen behind in, or you can just do a unit study of your choice. These are open weeks for the discretion of the teacher.

Math

Teaching Textbooks is an excellent program that self teaches using CDs and self grades which is great for the Home Teacher! It uses the same constant review method of teaching. They have a placement test on their website and they also have sample lessons on line so that you can try it out.

Aleks math uses artificial intelligence to assess where the student is at, and what they need to work on. Another advantage to this program is that it is self grading and teaching. It also has Quicktables which is part of their program that drills multiplication & division which is great for those students who have not yet mastered them. This is an online subscription program that can be purchased by the month, 6 months, or by the year, there is also a family discount that can be taken advantage of if all students are signed up at the same time. www.aleks.com They also offer a free trial for home school families. They do not have a placement test but an assessment after you choose and start a class. If the student does poorly; you as the parent can go to the master account and change which class they are in.

MCP mathematics uses a traditional drill method of teaching one topic per chapter with a chapter review & cumulative reviews. This is a good basic math program.

Other math: if you have another program that already works well for you, just choose No Math Schedule and there will be a place for you to fill in assignments.

Spelling

If you have a student with any spelling problems or dyslexia you should probably use *Sequential Spelling* program. You can buy one book at a time as you need it and it is recommended to start from the beginning. The books are **not** based on grade level. You can find a sample here: <http://avko.org/sequentialspellingsample.html> The words sequentially build on the previous word and on root words with added prefixes and suffixes for the week. The method of this program is for the Teacher to call out the words and the student writes the word, then the Teacher calls out the correct spelling and the student checks his, if he is wrong he is to immediately fix it. The whole week builds on the root words from the first day; this is the only program I have found that has been able to help fix problems with spelling. It is easy to implement.

Your student probably won't need to start at level one, an average student might be at level 4 or 5; here is a link for a placement test <http://www.avko.org/free/Rough%20Placement%20Test%20for%20SS.pdf> We found it only necessary to use just the book with the lists, your student can write the responses in a notebook, on the dry erase board, or orally. We did not feel the need for a student response book, DVD, etc.

I did not schedule specific day assignments for spelling because you may need to slow down your pace, repeat a list, or speed up doing 2 a day one in the morning, and one in the afternoon. Just fill in what day assignments your child is at.

Another 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 6th 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 6th Grade list has 300 words. You will need to choose 10 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 10-15 words and have the student only work on the words he/she missed.

Bible

NOTE: In the public edition most Bible assignments and references have been removed.

Science

Science will use a portion of the *The Usborne Science Encyclopedia* and online references. Please see the note on the Textbook list.

Science Kits are always a great hands-on way to learn and they can be ordered from:

<http://www.hometrainingtools.com/>

For this grade we also grew a garden which is great hand-on learning. This year we planted and harvested: Silver Queen Corn, Tomatoes, Okra, Green Beans, Black Eye Peas, Eggplant, Yellow Squash, my son had his own personal crop of Sugar Pumpkins, he also had a person flower pot with various flowers in it. In previous years we also have grown: Zucchini, herbs, Jalapenos, Bell Peppers, and a mild yellow pepper. Consider doing this if you can, even if it is just flowers, herbs, strawberries, or tomatoes in a pot.

Nature study is observation of life around you. This can be in your own backyard, in the field out back, at the park, or when you are on a trip. Anytime you know the proper name of a plant, insect, animal, mushroom, moss, etc. use it, eventually your kids will know them too. They can also draw and label natural things in a Nature notebook like John James Audubon did.

For health, research family illnesses or hereditary diseases, use a medical dictionary and a natural remedy book too to look up how to help yourself naturally.

Language Arts

A list is provided to pick from, choose at least 6 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. The manual will also include suggestions for additional reading. It would be nice to schedule them all but I know that some do not like to read, and I hope we fix that, others have learning disabilities and so not everyone can handle reading a lot of books. My kids read so many books that I have a hard time keeping them supplied with good books to read. 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 couple of books to read aloud to them for the year. 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. Even Dads will enjoy this when you read out loud this is great for trips, and who knows maybe Dad will enjoy helping with this part of homeschooling. It can be a family event!

Easy Grammar

Writing will be a variety, the students will learn and use outlines as I feel this is a highly useful tool, whether taking notes, summarizing information, or working up speeches. We will do some copy work or dictation depending on the student's abilities. Copy work is where the student copies good quality literature so that eventually he learns to write correctly. 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. Feel free to substitute some writing assignments with ones from these guides to go along with the book the student is currently reading. I have scheduled writing on most days, these are not expected to be long drawn out assignments. As the Teacher, it is up to your discretion if you would rather do just a couple for the week and spend more time on those, having more polished writings. You can certainly change writing assignments as you see fit.

History

We will study of the *Ancient History*. We will be using the Series *The Story of the World* by Susan Wise Bauer in grades 6-8. There are 4 volumes. For this school year you will need *Volume 1: Ancient Times*.

I recommend getting the book *The Usborne Internet-Linked Encyclopedia of World History* for a reference book you can use it for grades 6-High School. It is great for visuals to go along with history and then the internet links are a good reference too. For this year you will use the section "Ancient World" pages 104-194.

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 find printable blank maps online for free; try this site <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>

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 personal pursuits. This schedule has worked well for us for a long time and keeps the student as well as the teacher from burning out. Students 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 (some years it works, and other years it does not). This gives us more opportunities to take breaks in the spring and fall, have a lighter schedule when needed. Field trips, camping trips, 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 manual is a guide only- you are in control, hopefully it gives you lots of ideas and resources, feel free to adjust this for your family.

Booklist for 6th Grade

Textbooks

Math:

·Teaching Textbooks 6 <http://www.teachingtextbooks.com/v/vspfiles/tt/Math6.htm>

Language Arts

Easy Grammar Student workbook 6. (or you may finish the 5th grade one if you haven't yet.) It takes 9 to 10 pages per week to cover the entire book. Teacher's Edition is reproducible containing the worksheets and answers; if you are not using the student book you will find the corresponding page numbers at the top of the page in your teacher book. In the Teacher's Edition the answers are directly across from the worksheet.

Wordly Wise 3000 book 6 (optional) The lists are free & games on their website but for actual working with the words you might want the workbook. <http://www.wordlywise3000.com/>

Story Starters: Help Children Write Like Never Before by Karen Andreola (optional reference for grades 4-12) This is an old fashioned kind of book with old fashioned pictures and story starters, she gives a good introduction to a story and then a few questions for you to think about and the student writes the rest of the story. This is a great investment for multiple kids and grade levels, the stories are in an old fashioned style.

Paragraph Writing Made Easy by Scholastic can purchase download here at Teacher Express/Scholastic, (I was unable to find anything comparable, this book teaches the skills for finding main topic and writing outlines and converting outlines back into paragraphs) <http://teacherexpress.scholastic.com/paragraph-writing-made-easy>

The Twenty-One Balloons by William Pene du Bois and you will need this study guide: <http://www.kathimitchell.com/Twenty1.htm>

What Your Sixth Grader Needs to Know by ED Hirsch, Jr. optional supplemental textbook

Test Prep book for grade 6 for those of you who need to do this, get one that includes several subjects, Spectrum & other companies make these, or you may want one specific to your state standards (optional)

History /Geography

Story of the World Volume 1: Ancient Times by Susan Wise Bauer
Test book for volume 1 (optional)

Brochure *The Bible What is its Message? WTBS* *Optional, (parents could also choose to cover similar material from their own Bibles) Brochure found online at www.jw.org

Blank maps (try this site) <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>

The Usborne Internet-Linked Encyclopedia of World History (optional reference book for grades 6-High school) (skip the entire pre-historic section)

Augustus Caesar's World by Genevieve Foster optional history book

Maps, Globes, and Graphs Level F student workbook by Steck-Vaughn optional workbook for maps

What Your Sixth Grader Needs to Know by ED Hirsch, Jr. optional supplemental textbook

Science – *The Usborne Science Encyclopedia Internet-Linked*

*This book does have 5 (2 pages spreads) (out of 448) with evolution on them. I wanted to find a spine science book that can be used for several grades for a jumping off point and to save parents money so they do not have to purchase a different book each year. Please use a post it note to mark “skip” on these pages: The Universe pg 154-155/ The Early Earth pg 178-179/ Life on Earth pg 186-187/ Fighting for Survival pg 286-287/ Evolution pg 338-339. Another option is to glue the pages mentioned together. These pages will not be scheduled of course but you should mark them because the kids are going to want to look through the book.

What Your Sixth Grader Needs to Know by ED Hirsch, Jr. optional supplemental textbook

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

Parents: This is still a good year to choose a few good books to read aloud to your student(s)

**Note to parents on historical fiction: I hesitate to name historical fictions books for this reason; in Ancient Times any historical fiction will have referrals to gods that people worshiped, their beliefs, customs, etc.*

Also, there maybe some violence because of wars or usurpation of thrones, cruelty from masters, etc.

Please keep this is mind, read several reviews of a book before you decide on it (Amazon has reviews on all of their books). We also read a lot of historical fiction out loud and this gave us the opportunity to discuss different beliefs of other cultures. With that said, we have enjoyed reading a lot of historical fiction because it places you there and you really begin to enjoy history. You remember it much better too. It is not my intention to offend anyone. Read at Parental Discretion. Jw

A few titles we have not read have been added to this list.

*Theras and His Town by Caroline Dale Snedeker HF1 **

<http://simplycharlottesmason.com/scmforum/topic/queen-study-guides>

*The Golden Goblet by Eloise Jarvis McGraw HF1 **

*Julius Caesar / Samuel Willard Crompton HF1**

*Mystery of the Roman Ransom by Henry Winterfeld HF1 **

*The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth George Speare HF1 **

And more.....

From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler by EL Konigsburg

The View from Saturday by EL Konigsburg

The Secret Garden by F H Burnett

The Borrowers Norton

The Cricket in Times Square Selden

Running out of Time Haddix

The Black Stallion by Walter Farley (has a whole series)

Shiloh by Phyllis R Naylor

Sing Down the Moon by Scott O'Dell

The Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

<http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/islandbluedolph.html>

<http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/>

And more.....

Added titles we have not read:

Far North / Will Hobbs

The Big Wander / Will Hobbs

Fair Weather / Richard Peck

And more.....

Science books from Library we read

Make it work series by World book: Sound, Weather, Rivers

How in the World by Reader's Digest

1,001 Questions and Answers by Barnes and Noble

Kids National Geographic Magazine (we carried a subscription for about 2 years)

And more.....

List of Abbreviations used in this manual:

RA- Read Aloud suggestion- by the Home Teacher to the student

TT6- Teaching Textbooks 6

pg- page

pgs- pages

*see note page

HF1- Historical Fictions to go along with *Story of the World* Volume 1

EWB- The *Usborne Encyclopedia of World History* (supplement)

The original purchaser of this manual is permitted to use, save and print for their immediate family. You may NOT share this manual with anyone outside of your immediate family either in print or electronically.

Disclaimer: This manual is sold with the understanding that the author is not engaged in rendering educational services. This is sold as a guide only with the understanding that it is the parent's responsibility to educate their own children. The author disclaims any liability incurred as a consequence directly or indirectly of the use and application of any of the suggestions or contents of this manual. It is the parent's responsibility to comply with all homeschooling laws in their state.

Internet sites: this manual refers to some internet sites. These sites are NOT affiliated with West Brooke Curriculum. West Brooke Curriculum is not responsible for these links or any changes to them. Parents should check links before allowing children to do so. If a link is broken, use a search engine to find something similar.

Public Edition: Most of the Bible assignments are removed. *The Bible What is its Message?* Brochure is still scheduled as an option, it can be found online. Parents could also just use their Bibles for these assignments using the chapter titles as a reference for topic of discussion. A few of the referenced articles to *Awake!* are also left as an option & found online; other resources are provided when they could be found.

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<http://westbrookecurriculum.com/>

Not affiliated with The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

Week 1	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:
Bible	Brochure: <i>The Bible What is its Message?</i> Intro: Why Examine the Bible?; Story 1 the Creator & Story 2 Paradise Lost* (this introductory portion can be optional)			
Math TT 6	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
Spelling	(write your words for the week here or the lesson (day) #) Day:	Day:	Day:	Day:
Vocabulary	archeology	shaduf		
Wordly Wise 3000 Book 6 (optional)	Lesson 1	→	→	→
Easy Grammar Student book	Capitalization pg 265-267	Pg 268-270	Pg 271-273	Pg 274-276
Writing	Paragraph Writing Made Easy!	Notebooking page on fertile crescent and shaduf*	Story Starter*	Poem
<i>Story of Word 1: Ancient Times</i>	*Read story 3 Man Survives the Flood from brochure <i>The Bible What is its Message?</i>	Introduction Chapter 1* of <i>Ancient Times</i>	Within the fertile crescent the Tower of Babel built; Egyptian Descendants*	<i>Usborne Encyclopedia of World History(EWH)</i> pages 108-111
Mark your map (pg #s from <i>Ancient Times</i> book)		Draw (or print) & label: Fertile Crescent see page 10* of <i>Story of the World Ancient Times</i>		
Science Encyclopedia	Library books on space		Space – Galaxies pg 156-157	Stars Pg 158-159
Reading Selection	(write your current selection here for your portfolio records)	(You can record RA here as well as what student is reading)		
Poetry for the year	Poetry by Robert Frost	Poetry by Carl Sandburg		

Notes for Week 1

Bible/Brochure for history: *brochure *The Bible What is its Message?* –this is optional for the Public Edition. You may also just choose to cover the topic out of your own Bible; see introductory notes about finding this publication for free online. For this week if you are not using the brochure you can cover: Genesis 1-3

Day 1

Vocabulary- I will put here a few vocabulary words, add words from your weekly lessons in history, science, and novels. Optional is *Wordly Wise 3000 book 6*, with this workbook you will work with vocabulary words, if you don't want to use a workbook, work with the word lists from the online wordly wise site. There are 20 lessons and so you can work with them about a week and a half.

Grammar-

Using *Easy Grammar student workbook Grade 6* go to the section in the back and review capitalization this week you will need to cover about 10 pages a week to complete the whole book in a school year. (If you only want to do ½ of the workbook; cover only 5-6 pages a week)

Writing- *Paragraph Writing Made Easy!* Download: Review Section 1; Lesson 1 this week; do the practice paragraphs on pages 10-12

History- This year you will be studying Ancient Times from the Flood until Rome.

(more in full manual)

Reading- When there is not a specific book scheduled you may read of your choice from the book list or other book of your choice. Endeavor to read at least 30 minutes per day. In this section of the schedule write down the title and author of the book you are reading for your portfolio records. (same directions for each week) *Teachers- 6th grade is still a good year for RA (read –alouds) choose a couple for the year that you can read to all of your students.

<http://www.amblesideonline.org/RobertFrost1.shtml>

Day 2

History/Map: Fertile Crescent see these links for videos and three maps on the fertile crescent. Using these and page 10 of your history book draw and label the Fertile Crescent area: You Tube video Video of a working shaduf combine this assignment with your writing assignment.

<http://mrguerriero.blogspot.com/2011/12/ancient-map-fertile-crescent.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h34KulvXzxw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wksHEDgBRnM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZ9gJAWvHxo&feature=related>

NOTE: for the rest of the school year where you see a page number in the grid next to maps, students are to draw and label a map of the area, or print a blank map from <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/> to label what they are learning in history.

Writing- Notebooking page- (do your history assignment first and this can include your map work)

A notebooking page is making a neat page to go in your notebook kind of like the way John James Audubon used to make his nature notebooks. You can do this directly in your notebook on notebook paper or on plain paper or you can find all kinds of free notebooking pages online to print out and use. You are going to draw and write about the fertile crescent and a shaduf (explaining how this simple machine works), you can combine this assignment with the map assignment. You can Google images of notebooking pages for examples.

Reading: <http://www.amblesideonline.org/CarlSandburg.shtml>

Day 3

Writing- Story Starter, as suggested in the introduction of this manual, *Story Starters* by Karen Andreola. This is an optional reference, I will give other ideas if you don't have this.

Optional story starter ideas:

- 1) Write a story about a character who works hard and saves money for something important.
- 2) Write a story about a character who is extremely selfish.
- 3) Write a story that begins with this sentence: "The clock struck twelve...."

SAMPLE

History- Tower of Babel

Read Genesis 10- 11: 9

You will notice after the flood there were only Noah..... (more in full manual)

Science- Space Galaxies pg 156-157 Read these two pages from *The Usborne Science Encyclopedia*. This book is internet-linked so feel free to use this feature to learn more.

Answer these questions:

How wide is the Milky way?

Where did the Milky way get its name?

List the 4 types of Galaxies:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

What is the difference between an Open cluster and a Globular cluster?

Day 4

History Supplement - *The Usborne Encyclopedia of World History* pages 108-111

Writing- Poem, today write a poem, any type you like, something funny, here is a link for different kinds:
<http://www.kathimitchell.com/poemtypes.html>
My son wrote one called:

Rubber Leaven Cookies

One day I was baking cookies,
My Grandma's Rubber Leaven Cookies to be right,
So I stirred in rice flour,
And some baking powder,
I grabbed some sugar and threw it in,
I put in a dash of cinnamon,
I poured in some milk,
And a wee bit of oil,
I put in a rather large egg,
And a dash of vanilla, but...
O-dear, I will say
For my Rubber Leaven jar....
Is quite....
Empty!

PS: Note to store owners, Do you carry rubber leaven?

As you can see his poem does not rhyme but it was funny!

Science – read about Stars pg 158-159 from *Science Encyclopedia*

Answer these questions:

Why does starlight seem to twinkle?

What makes up a star?

What makes the different colors in a Nebulae?

List the steps of the birth of a star:

Why no 5th day?

You will notice that only 4 days a week are scheduled, this is so that you can have a day for Field Trips, extra math, music, art, reading, errands, sports, PE, etc.

Week 2	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:
Bible				
Math TT 6	Lesson 5	Lesson 6	Lesson 7	Quiz 1
Spelling	Day:	Day:	Day:	Day:
Vocabulary				
Wordly Wise 3000 book 6	Finish lesson 1	→	Lesson 2	→
Easy Grammar Student book	Capitalization Pg 277-279	Pg 280-283	Pg 284	Pg 285-286
Writing	Paragraph Writing Made Easy!	Cave dwelling	→	Copywork from <i>Golden Goblet</i> or other novel
Ancient Times	Early People*	Ebla—An Ancient City Emerges From Oblivion		
Mark your map				
Science	Library books on space		Stars pg 160-161 & internet links	Shooting Stars
Reading Selection	<i>Golden Goblet</i>			

Week 2 Notes:

Day 1

Writing- Paragraph Writing Made Easy! Section 1; Lesson 2 Read through the examples and do one of the exercises on pages 18-19.

History- Early People

Many history and science books start off with a section on cave men this is due to the thought of evolution. Of course, (more in full manual)

Day 2

History: optional article:

Ebla—An Ancient City Emerges From Oblivion 12/15/06 *Watchtower* pg 12-14

Ebla: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/177615/Ebla>

Day 3

Writing- Write from a first person point of view of “your” life as a cave dweller, where is your cave? What do you do, do you have a family or are you alone? What kind of art did you decorate your cave walls with, and what did you use for paint?

Science- Stars pg 160-161 from Science Encyclopedia

Describe how stars are classified-

What causes the death of a star?

What does a supernova leave behind?

What causes everything to be sucked into a black hole?

Day 4

Science- Shooting stars

<http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/questions/question12.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meteor_shower

Writing- copywork, copy a paragraph or two from *Golden Goblet* or other novel you are reading. Copywork forces you to copy good writing, thus your skills will improve. Check your work when you are done.