
West Brooke Curriculum

Grade 8



A manual written for the children of Jehovah's Witnesses

By Jennifer Westbrook

8th Grade (with notes on using for 9th grade)

SAMPLE

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 12 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 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.

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

I will include a schedule for Teaching Textbooks Pre-Algebra or Algebra I TT Placement Test: <http://www.teachingtextbooks.com/v/vspfiles/tt/Placement.htm> I recommend before starting/ ordering math for you student, that they take a placement test so that you can get them in the right level for them. Another option for math is a subscription to Aleks math online. www.aleks.com

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. Some parents feel that TT may be a little behind other programs, however this maybe just right for some students, you decide. If you feel it is behind and your student does not need a lot of review of the basics; you could start with quiz 1 and see how they do, you could then take quiz 2 if they still do really well you could start the book at that point, moving through the books faster. 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 teaches multiplication 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.

AGS Math is another math option: Life Skills math or Consumer Math.

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. If not you may wish to continue with the next level of Sequential 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 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 8th Grade list has 250 words. You will need to choose 8 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

2016 Edition: Flexible preparation with the OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY–MEETING WORKBOOK. Make up a schedule that works for your family in line with the day that you have your nightly meeting. Allow 2 days to prepare the OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY–MEETING WORKBOOK, the day before your meeting and the day of. Pick a day of the week for the ministry and then the Yearbook, Proclaimers, and magazine reading can be done on the other days. Check them off as you accomplish them each week.

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 nightly meeting: OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY–MEETING WORKBOOK, the Yearbook, and the magazines (Watchtower and Awake). Preparing for the 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 yearbook or *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. Our meeting is on Tuesday night so we prepare the Bible Study lesson on Monday morning, listen to the Bible Reading assignment for the week on Monday night as a family; then on Tuesday morning we finish up preparing the rest of the parts for the meeting.

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.

Science & Health- Wilderness Survival/First Aid

Textbook List

Tom Brown's Field Guide to Wilderness Survival by Tom Brown, Jr.

The Complete Wilderness Training Manual by Hugh McManners

You will need a First Aid book or Reference (choose one):

We had *Community First Aid and Safety* by the American Red Cross

Wilderness and Remote First Aid American Red Cross also produced this book (if you can find it)

Wilderness First Aid Field Guide by AAOS, Alton L. Thygeson

You could also use the internet, or Encyclopedias, or Awakes to look up first aid topics.

You are probably thinking, this is not a standard science class! That is true but, did you know that adults go to Wilderness Survival training schools and pay big bucks to do so? Think of all of the things you will be learning: First Aid, plants, animals, environments, survival skills, how to make survival kits, what to do in emergencies, how to control emotions, building a fire, shelter, and more. This has been by far my son's favorite class, he still continues to use what he has learned 3 years later, now my youngest is begging me to start this class! Enjoy!

For one credit in Wilderness Survival Science: Do all of the assignments including as many labs as you can, additional reading of survival literature (a list to choose from is included), Mid-class survival story. Some umbrella schools may allow you to call this Life Science- 1 credit.

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*. This one book will be used in 7-8th grade. You will need one per student. I personally did not purchase the teacher's manual as I did not feel that I needed it, however if you do, you will need one of those. For those starting my curriculum in 8th grade, I will mention this in the notes, you can start it in 8th and finish in 9th, or if you choose you can do the whole book. This workbook is 326 pages and we do not feel this much needs to be covered in one year unless you are in 9th grade and have not been covering Grammar much. If this is the case, use the whole book. Another option is the Easy Grammar Ultimate Series Grade 9 <http://www.easygrammar.com/dt19.html>

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, and for 9th grade consider using at least 2 of the literature guides; 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.

History

We will begin our study with the second ½ of *Early Modern Times*(volume 3) and continue through *The Modern Age* (volume 4). (Note: if starting with my program in 8th grade or 9th grade you can read the first half of *Early Modern Times* the summer before- it is not difficult to read, you will enjoy it; read up to chapter 20). 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 3: Early Modern Times*, and *Volume 4: The Modern Age*

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

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 <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>

Now too you can assign geography pages from *The Usborne Geography Encyclopedia with complete World Atlas* the book you will be using for your science.

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.

Booklist for 8th Grade (or 9th)

Textbooks

Math

High School level Math classes are: PreAlgebra, Algebra I or II, Geometry, Calculus, Trigonometry, Consumer Math, General Math for high school, Life Skills Math

For one credit in math for high school: complete a whole high school level text grading lessons to get an average for your GPA OR All Tests Method this is where you may or may not do all of the textbook but you take all of the tests, grade them, take an average for your GPA

Language Arts

Easy Grammar: Plus Student Workbook

Easy Grammar: Plus Teacher's Edition (optional)

Or *Easy Grammar Ultimate Series Grade 9* (Grade 9 can use this or *Easy Grammar Plus*)

<http://www.easygrammar.com/dt19.html>

Typing Instructor Deluxe program or other

consider adding Wordly Wise 3000 vocabulary Book 8 for 8th grade or Book 9 for 9th grade

Test Prep book for grade 8 or 9 get one that includes several subjects, Spectrum & other companies make these, or you may want one specific to your state standards

Literature guide links (next to book titles)

For 9th grade depending on how much grammar you have done prior, consider doing the entire *Easy Grammar Plus* or *Easy Grammar Ultimate series Grade 9* workbook.

For 9th grade I had my son take notes on the Public Talk on Sundays as part of his English credit. Keep talk slips/printouts for your portfolio.

For one credit in English I: we did *Easy Grammar Plus*, Literature guides from internet (select assignments chosen, not necessarily the whole thing), Vocabulary Latin roots, read poetry, took notes on Sunday's public talk, talks for Theocratic Ministry school, studied for all of the meetings, Family Worship, and at least 6 novels (my son actually read 33 novels, but we did not do writing assignments for 33 books!), writing was a variety of book reports, notetaking skills, research reports, essays, etc. Many of the reports were typed. Very similar to what you will see that I have assigned for this school year.

History /Geography

Story of the World Volume 3: Early Modern Times by Susan Wise Bauer

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 optional for those who want tests. A good option for a 9th grader, you need grades for high school for their transcripts.

Story of the World Volume 4: The Modern Age Test and answer Key optional for those who want tests. A good option for a 9th grader, you need grades for high school for their transcripts. If you only want to order one of these, this would be the one(this book covers the world wars)

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

Consider using History Scribe or History Scholar (High School) for notetaking and additional essay topics

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

For One credit in World History: 9th Graders should include several Historical Fiction books to round out their credit in World History, you could also assign a book report for these. (it would be good also read the first 20 chapters of Volume 3 *Early Modern Times*) In order to grade this subject either do the tests or grade student notes and or a timeline. You could also assign a report for history to grade, you can grade book reports on historical fiction, or a project.

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

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

Science & Health- Earth Science and health topics

The Usborne Geography Encyclopedia with complete World Atlas (Internet Linked)

Watchtower, Bible and Tract Society publications

The Origin of Life Five Questions worth asking by the WTBTTS

Supplemental textbooks for further in depth study: (you can pick these up used at Amazon)

Prentice Hall Science Explorer (for 8th Grade):

Inside Earth

Astronomy

Supplemental textbook for 9th grade: *Top Shelf Earth Science* by Walch. (I have another version of this manual that schedules this book for you)

Wonders of the Solar System series BBC Home Entertainment videos

Monster Black Holes National Geographic Video

101 Effective Earth Science Demonstrations:

http://www.colorado.edu/GeolSci/courses/DEMOS/seicontribution/101_lowtech_earth_science%20demos.pdf

For one credit in Earth Science: make sure student takes sufficient notes, grade these, you could also have them do a project for Earth Science to grade, a topography map, map out your yard, or town, or state, Research project on an Earth Science subject and then grade that. Consider using the supplemental textbooks mentioned above for 9th graders. Supplemental book for experiments: *Make it work! Earth*

SAMPLE

Reading- Choose 6-8 novels for the year however more would be better. These titles are appropriate for 8th or 9th Graders.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (warning in chapter 18 there is a description of someone who died)

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

River by Gary Paulsen (sequel to *Hatchet*)

Swiss Family Robinson by Wyss (I read this aloud- an awesome family adventure, it took a long time to read it but it was worth it.)

Robinson Crusoe by Defoe

Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls <http://www.dcmp.org/guides/10031.pdf> for movie but has good questions and writing ideas

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

http://www.scholastic.com/kids/homework/pdfs/My_Side_of_the_Mountain.pdf

On the Far Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George (sequel to *My Side of the Mountain*)

Banner in the Sky by J R Ullman HF4

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan HF4

The Endless Steppe by Esther Hautzig HF4

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry (haven't read this yet) HF4

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

Facing the Lion by Simone Arnold Liebster HF4 <http://www.facingthelion.com/> (she is a witness, she has an excellent free study guide- this would be great for 9th Grade!)

Diary of Anne Frank (book or movie)

Movie: *The King and I* with Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr HF4

Movie: *Sound of Music* HF4

Movie: *I Am David* HF4

Dragon Wings by Laurence Yep HF4 <http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/dragonwings.html>

Snow Treasure McSwigan HF4 <http://simpleliterature.com/id4.html> (scroll down the page)

Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain <http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/tomsawyer.html>

And more.....

List of Poetry 8th Grade or 9th grade (these are the same as the list with American History Manual, so if you do don't get to them this year you can next) See Appendix at the end of this manual for the poems

The Glove and the Lions

Casey at the Bat

The Highwayman

Spanish Waters

And more.....

Extra/Optional suggestions for Poetry for 9th graders

Classic Poetry by Michael Rosen

A Treasury of Poetry for Young People by Brod Bagert

Song of Solomon Bible

Psalm 23 Bible

List of Abbreviations used in this manual:

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

YPA- *Questions Young People Ask- Answers that Work*

WT- *Watchtower magazine*

TT PreA- Teaching Textbooks Pre-Algebra

g- *Awake!* magazine

pg- page

pgs- pages

*see note page

mtg= meeting

HF3- Historical Fictions to go along with *Story of the World* Volume 3

HF4- Historical Fictions to go along with *Story of the World* Volume 4

Purchase of this manual gives the purchaser the right to save, print and use for their immediate family only. It does NOT give them the right to share, or distribute this manual either electronically or in print to anyone outside of their immediate family.

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Internet links provided in this manual are NOT affiliated with West Brooke Curriculum. West Brooke Curriculum is NOT responsible for changes to websites or broken links. It is recommended that parents check the link. If a link is broken use a search engine to find something similar or skip or modify the assignment.

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<http://westbrookecurriculum.com/>

Not affiliated with The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

Week 1	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"/> 3-6 pages from current Yearbook <input type="checkbox"/> 4-8 pages from <i>Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom</i> <input type="checkbox"/> reading or listening to current magazines or online content from jw.org			
Math Consumer	Chapter 1 Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
Spelling				
Vocabulary		Port- carry		
Wordly Wise	1a	1b	1c	1d
Easy Grammar Student book	Periods: review pgs 264-265; do pg 266*	Apostrophe: review pg 268 do page 269	Comma: review pgs 271-273; do pg 274 & pg 276	Review pgs 277-282; do pg 283
Typing Instructor	One lesson	One lesson	One lesson	One lesson
Writing	Literature guide	→	→	→
Early Modern Times	Chapter 21	Chapter 22 Take notes	EWH- American Revolution	
Maps (pg #s match history book)	North America during... pg 198	England, France, and American colonies pg 208		
YPA Volume 1				Chapter 3
Wilderness Survival	Lesson 1	→	Lesson 2	Lesson 3
Reading Selection	Choose a book from the list with a literature guide*			

Notes for Week 1

Wilderness Survival- Before you start: Go to the library and check out some books, look for books on local flora and fauna, woodsman's guides, candle making, survival books, first aid books, etc. Start gathering supplies for survival kits, candles, etc. You will get more of an idea as you look through your books (next lesson)

(see Wilderness Survival Guide sample for lessons)

Notebooking Resources:

Free Notebooking pages: <http://homeschoolhelperonline.com/notebooking.shtml>

History Scribe program: www.historyscribe.com

<http://notebookingpages.com/>

Day 1

Vocabulary- port- carry (Latin)

Export

Transportation

Deportation

Supportive

Portable

Reported

Port- gate (Latin)

Portal

Grammar- This is the Schedule for using the 2nd half of *Easy Grammar Plus*. If you are beginning the book this year; follow the review of punctuation and then when we get to the grammar part, just begin at the beginning of the book.

Maps- Using blank maps, fill in locations corresponding to your history book. Find blank maps at <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>

Reading- 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.

For Wilderness Survival you may also pick one of the suggested stories in that guide.

Day 3

□ 2 magazine articles from WT or Awake! Read or audio. (same for Day 4)

History- EWH- *Encyclopedia of World History* by Usborne these pages will be assigned in red today or tomorrow read : American Revolution

Day 4

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

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 the Field Ministry.

We schedule this day on Wednesdays but it can be any day of the week you have scheduled for service. Do not worry, you are still learning, plus you are gaining skills using your Bible, Public Speaking, and Social Skills.

Afternoon Ideas:

Math tests, Music lessons, art, homework, multiplication practice, catch-up day, chores, reading, sports, PE- Have a Break Day!

SAMPLE

Week 2	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"/> 3-6 pages from current Yearbook <input type="checkbox"/> 4-8 pages from <i>Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom</i> <input type="checkbox"/> reading or listening to current magazines or online content from jw.org			
Math Consumer	Chapter 1 Lesson 5	Lesson 6	Lesson 7	Lesson 8
Spelling				
Vocabulary		Latin uni- one		
Wordly Wise	1e	2a	2b	2c
Easy Grammar Student book	Do pg 285 & 288	Do pg 289 & 290	Review capitalization rules pgs 291-305	Do pgs 306 & 307
Typing Instructor	One Lesson	One Lesson	One Lesson	One Lesson
Writing	Literature Guide	→	→	→
Early Modern Times	Chapter 23	Chapter 24	Australia's Infamous Era of Convicts 4/22/2002 Awake! Pgs 12-14	EWH- Exploring the South Seas
maps	US 1788 Pg 218	Great Southern Continent Pg 228		
YPA volume 1				Ch. 7
Wilderness Survival	Lesson 4 & 5	→	Lesson 6	Lesson 7
Reading Selection				

Week 2 Notes:

Day 2

Vocabulary- uni- one

unary numeral system

union

universe

unilateral

unite

university

Day 4

History- read also *EWB- Usborne Encyclopedia of World History* (or any other Encyclopedia of World History) *Exploring the South Seas*

Each time you see EWB in red then look that up in your World History Encyclopedia and read it also.