



GRADE 8

JW EDITION

WEST BROOKE CURRICULUM
SAMPLE

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Author

SAMPLE

8th Grade

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.

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.

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

This schedule is more flexible but still reminds students to prepare for the nightly meeting using our new OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY–MEETING WORKBOOK. Allow 2 school days for this meeting prep: the day before your meeting and the day of your nightly meeting. Decide on a weekly schedule that will work for your family including one weekly day for the field ministry. Make up the schedule and post it where everyone can see it and get used to it. Use the manual as a place to check off what you have accomplished for the week.

Our Schedule works like this:

Monday morning: prepare the Congregation Bible Study lesson (in the Living as Christians section of the workbook)

Monday Night: listen to the Bible Reading for the week together as a family

Tuesday Morning: prepare the rest of the meeting sections

Tuesday Night: Meeting

Wednesday: Field Ministry

Thursday & Friday Morning: *Proclaimers*, magazine articles or current online content

Weekend: service, prepare WT lesson, 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.

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.

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) 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.

Booklist for 8th Grade

Textbooks

Math: Teaching Textbooks Pre-Algebra Schedule

Language Arts

Easy Grammar Ultimate 8 (teacher edition w/worksheets and key, or student workbook or both)

Typing Instructor Deluxe program or other

Wordly Wise Book 8 (or book 9 for 9th grade)

Optional: *Hound of Baskervilles Student & Teacher study guides* by Memoria Press

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.

Optional: Spelling Workout Level H

For one credit in English I: we did *Easy Grammar*, 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 Revised Edition ©2019, printed June 2020

Story of the World Volume 4: The Modern Age by Susan Wise Bauer Revised Edition ©2021

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

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

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* if they have not already done so) 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.

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

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

Escape From Dudley County by Robert Cunerd

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

And many more.....

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West Brooke Curriculum

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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"/> 4-6 pages <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? <input type="checkbox"/> Field Ministry; hours: _____				
Math	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Appendix A
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 Ultimate 8	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Typing Instructor	One lesson	One lesson	One lesson	One lesson	
Writing	Literature guide	→	→	→	
Early Modern Times	Chapter 21	EWB- Early Settlers pp. 320-321, 323 Chapter 21 test	Chapter 22 Take notes	EWB- American Revolution pp. 330-331 Chapter 22 test	
Maps (pg #s match history book)	North America during time of the Three Wars p. 228		England, France, and American colonies p. 240		
YPA Volume 1				Chapter 3 How can I earn more freedom?	
Reading Selection	Choose a book from the list with a literature guide*				

Notes for Week 1

Easy Grammar Ultimate 8- 5 days per week, either do the extra on your service day or double up one day a week.

Vocabulary- port- carry (Latin)

Export

Transportation

Deportation

Supportive

Portable

Reported

Port- gate (Latin)

Portal

Maps- If you did not purchase the accompanying Story of the World Activity Books then you can assign map work using blank maps, fill in locations corresponding to your history book.

Find blank maps at <https://www.seterra.com/>

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.

History- read also **EWB- *Usborne Encyclopedia of World History* (or any other Encyclopedia of World History)**

American Revolution

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

YPA- stands for: *Questions Young People Ask answers that work* by the WTBTS. We will be using selected chapters from both books this year. {you can also look up the topics on jw.org and read the related articles online}

Week 2	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"/> 4-6 pages <i>Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Reading from current magazines &/or current content on jw.org <input type="checkbox"/> Field Ministry; hours: _____				
Math	Lesson 5	Test	Lesson 6	Lesson 7	Lesson 8
Spelling Workout	Lesson 2: Pre-test Words in Action Spelling Practice pt. 1	Spelling Practice pt. 2	Spelling & Writing	Test	
Vocabulary		Latin uni- one			
Wordly Wise	1e	2a	2b	2c	
Easy Grammar	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Typing Instructor	One Lesson	One Lesson	One Lesson	One Lesson	
Writing	Literature Guide	→	→	→	
Early Modern Times	Chapter 23	Chapter 23 test	Chapter 24 & Test	Australia's Infamous Era of Convicts 4/22/2002 Awake! pp.12-14	EWH- Exploring the South Seas pp. 326-327
maps	USA 1788 p. 252		Great Southern Continent p. 264		
YPA volume 1				Ch. 7 Am I Ready to Leave Home?	
Reading Selection					

Week 2 Notes:

Reading Selection: students should choose Library books from the list provided at the beginning of these lesson plans.

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.