



TIMBERDOODLE



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TIMBERDOODLE'S
CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

2020-2021 Edition



WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Congratulations on choosing to homeschool this year! Whether this is your first year as a teacher or your tenth, we're confident you'll find that there is very little that compares to watching your child's learning take off. In fact, teaching can be quite addictive, so be forewarned!

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!

Preparing for your first "school day" is very easy. Peruse this guide, look over the typical schedule, browse the introductions in your books, and you will be ready to go.



GET SUPPORT

Are you looking for a place to hang out online with like-minded homeschoolers? Do you wonder how someone else handled a particular science experiment? Or do you wish you could encourage someone who is just getting started this year? Join one or more of our Facebook groups.

Timberdoodlers of all ages:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Timberdoodle/>

Timberdoodlers with 1st- through 4th-grade students:

www.facebook.com/groups/ElementaryTimberdoodle



SCHEDULE CUSTOMIZER

Your 2020–2021 Third-Grade Curriculum Kit includes access to our Schedule Customizer where you can not only adjust the school weeks but also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want on your schedule. To get started, just click the link in your access email and visit the scheduling website!

www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com

If you ordered through a charter school or don't have that link for some other reason, just email schedules@Timberdoodle.com and we'll get that sorted out ASAP. (Including your order number will really speed that process up for you.)



WE WILL HELP

We would love to assist you if questions come up, so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns. Whether you contact us by phone, email, or live online chat, you will get a real person who is eager to serve you and your family.



YOU WILL LOVE THIS!

This year you and your student will learn more than you hoped while having a blast. Ready? Have an absolutely amazing year!



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MEET YOUR HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO YOUR TEACHING TOOLBOX!

Simple Is Better

We really believe that, so your guide is as simple as we could make it.

1. The Planning

First up are all the details on planning your year, including your annual planner and sample weekly checklists, the absolute backbones of Timberdoodle's curriculum kits. More on those in a moment.

2. Reading Challenge

Next up is the reading challenge, complete with book ideas to give you a head start.

3. Item-by-Item Details

We include short bios of each item in your kit, ideal for refreshing your memory on why each is included or to show off exactly what your third-grader will be covering this year. This is where we've tucked in our tips or tricks to make this year more awesome for all of you.

4. Teacher Resources

In this section, you'll find our favorite articles and tidbits amassed in our more-than-30 years of homeschool experience.

5. Items with Special Instructions

Here you'll find a week-by-week schedule for Mosdos.

6. Book Suggestions

Finally, we'll conclude with specific book ideas for your reading challenge this year.

All the Details Included

This Timberdoodle curriculum kit is available in three different standard levels: Basic, Complete, or Elite. This allows you to choose the assortment best suited to your child's interest level, your family's schedule, and your budget. In this guide, you'll find an overview and any tips for each of the items included in the Elite Curriculum Kit. If you purchased a Basic or Complete kit, or if you customized your kit, you chose not to receive every item, so you'll only need to familiarize yourself with the ones which were included in your kit.

Don't Panic, You Didn't Order Too Much Stuff!

We know you. OK, maybe not you personally, but we have yet to meet a homeschooler who doesn't have other irons in the fire. From homesteading or running a business to swimming lessons or doctor appointments, your weeks are not dull. As you unpack your box, you may be asking yourself how you'll ever fit it all in.

We'll go in-depth on schedules momentarily, but for now know that most of the items in your kit feature short lessons, not all of them should be done every day, and your checklist is going to make this incredibly manageable. Really!

MEET YOUR ONLINE SCHEDULER

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PLANNERS

Use the Customizer

On the next pages you'll find sample weekly checklists for Basic, Complete, and Elite kits. Before you photocopy 36 of them, though, take a moment to check out the custom online schedule builder that came free with your kit. You'll not only easily adjust the weeks, but you'll also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want listed. Plus, you'll be able to print your weekly checklists directly from the schedule builder so you don't have to do that by photocopying! www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com

Activating Your Account

Before you can get started, you'll need your account activated for the online schedule builder. If you didn't get

an activation email (perhaps you ordered through a charter school so we don't have your email address), shoot us a quick email at schedules@Timberdoodle.com and we'll get that straightened out ASAP. Including your order number really speeds that process up, but our team is skilled at finding your activation info with whatever order data you have.

What's Your Dream Schedule?

Now that you're ready you'll want to know two things:

1. How Many Weeks Do You Want to Do School?

A standard school year is 36 weeks + breaks. Some families prefer to expedite and complete the entire year in fewer weeks—a great option for those of you who'd like to get all

this year's school done before baby arrives, for instance. Or perhaps your family, like ours, prefers to school year-round and keep that brain sharp.

2. What Breaks Do You Want?

Thanksgiving, Christmas, winter break, spring break... you could also add in weeks off that you're traveling, have guests, baby is coming, or...

Typically you'll be adding full-week



breaks only, so unless you're traveling to Disneyland® for little Eloise's birthday, you don't need to add that to the calendar. For single-day breaks you'll likely prefer to just shuffle the work to earlier/later in the same week and keep on task otherwise. If you're using a daily schedule (next page), though, you may find it worth your time to enter days off, as well.

Choosing Your Items

Now just pop that data into the online schedule and scroll down to see the items you might have in your kit. Unchecking the boxes for any items you don't have removes them from your list. You'll also see "Alternative Items" listed under each subject. This usually includes all of our most popular customizations for this grade so that you can simply check a box and switch the scheduler to an upper or lower level math, for instance.

Add Custom Courses

Your course list is limited only by your imagination. Perhaps your friend wrote you a custom curriculum you'd like to include, your family makes up a band and you'd like to have practice on this list, or you need to list ballet since that's P.E. this year. At the very bottom of the page you'll find a place to



add in as many courses as you'd like. Just walk through the prompts on-screen to get it all set up.

Tweak It to Perfection

Do you have everything set? On the next screen you'll have some fun options.

Continued on the next page.

	CURRICULUM	LESSONS OR PAGES	= PER WEEK
Language Arts	Daily 6-Trait Writing	25 weeks	1 week's work
	Mosdos Literature Opal	36 sub-sections	1 sub-section
	Spelling You See D	36 weeks	1 week's work
	CursiveLogic	10 weeks + 14 practice pages	1 week's work or practice page
	First Language Lessons 3	110 lessons	3 lessons
	Beginning Word Roots	27 lessons/reviews	one lesson or review
	The Adventures of Robin Hood	1 book	as desired
Math	Math-U-See	30 lessons	1 lesson/7 worksheets
	Wrap-ups Multiplication	10 boards	once a week
	Möbi Max	unlimited	once a week
	Extreme Dot-to-Dot: Baby Animals	32 puzzles	1 puzzle
Thinking Skills	<p>SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART</p>		
History & Social Studies			
Science			
STEM			
Art			
Etc.			

Language Arts	Math	Thinking Skills	History & Social Studies	Science	STEM	Art
Daily 6-Trait Writing	1 week's work					
Mosdos Literature Opal	1 sub-section					
Spelling You See D	1 week's work					
CursiveLogic	1 week's work					
First Language Lessons 3	3 lessons					
Beginning Word Roots	1 lesson					
The Adventures of Robin Hood	as desired					
Math-U-See	1 lesson/7 worksheets					
Wrap-ups Multiplication	once a week					
Möbi Max	once a week					
Extreme Dot-to-Dot: Baby Animals	1 puzzle					

SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART



THE READING CHALLENGE

BASED ON THE READING CHALLENGE FOR KIDS FROM REDEEMEDREADER.COM

The Reading Challenge for Kids will get you and your child reading a broader variety of books this year and perhaps discovering new favorites. This reading challenge is heavily adapted by us and used with permission from the fine folks at RedeemedReader.com. Check out their website for more information about this reading challenge and for great book reviews and book suggestions for your kids.

Reading Solo and Together

At this grade level, it is likely that most of these books be titles he will read independently. However, we highly recommend keeping a read-aloud time, too, as long as it's possible. Many sources recommend that parents continue reading to their children well past the time their children become accomplished readers, and we agree!

THE LIGHT READER

The Challenge	The Book You Chose	Date Completed
1. A book about being a Christian or about what the Bible teaches		
2. A book about the world		
3. A biography		
4. A classic novel/story		
5. A book your grandparent (or other relative) says was his/her favorite at your age		
6. A book from the Old Testament (or a retelling of an Old Testament story)		
7. A book from the New Testament (or a retelling of a New Testament story)		
8. A book based on a true story		
9. A book your pastor or Sunday School teacher recommends		
10. A book more than 100 years old		
11. A book about families		
12. A book about relationships or friendship		
13. A book featuring someone of a different ethnicity than you		



HANDS-ON MATH

Basic math is a critical skill for your child to master, whether he grows up to be a carpenter, doctor, accountant, or farmer. But all too often math programs rely on memorization instead of comprehension, leaving the student at a disadvantage.

That's not going to happen to your child! The real-world math problems posed in Math-U-See (combined with the hands-on manipulatives) create an unbeatable math program.

With simple, uncluttered pages, Math-U-See is mastery-oriented, clear, to the point, and effective. In Math-U-See, new ideas are introduced step by step in a logical order, while concepts that have been mastered are reviewed periodically.

Math-U-See's teacher guide and supplemental DVD will teach more than just how to solve a math problem. They will also show why the problem is solved in this manner and when to apply the concept. On the DVDs, each lesson is demonstrated with kind-hearted enthusiasm. DVDs can be played on a DVD player or computer; however, Windows 10 users will need to download a separate video player.

MATH-U-SEE

BASIC ~ COMPLETE ~ ELITE

While Math-U-See still requires a fair amount of parental involvement, by this grade your child will be able to work more independently. The instruction manual can be read by your child and, of course, he will want to watch the DVD presentation before beginning each lesson. The instruction manuals also include complete answers with step-by-step solutions for all the exercises and tests, and there is extra instruction for the enrichment problems.

Math-U-See is laid out with step-by-step procedures for introducing, practicing, mastering, and reviewing concepts. How do you know when your child has "mastered" a math concept? Not just when he gets the answers right, but when he can teach the concept back, especially if he is able to do so with a word problem. Math-U-See will show you how.

You will want to decide as you start the year whether your student will be completing the optional "Application and Enrichment" section of each lesson—sometimes considered the honors portion. If these challenges overwhelm your student, you should skip them or offer generous assistance. Otherwise, embrace them for the opportunity they are to help him learn more skills and train his brain to think logically.

It's worth mentioning that there are other reasons your child may not need to complete every one of these pages. At the risk of oversimplifying, the practice worksheets (A, B, C) are to be used with the manipulatives until your child reaches an "aha!" moment and grasps the lesson. He may then move to the review pages (D, E, F) and should at least complete worksheet D in its entirety. If he's

breezing through the pages, you have several great options. He could complete every other problem, or he could skip E or F or both. (You do want to be sure he's not rusty on any of those problems before skipping, though—many students will do best completing all or most of the D, E, F worksheets.) Worksheet G is the application/enrichment/extra-credit page. It's okay to skip but valuable to complete.

Scheduling

You have 30 lessons to complete, so we suggest planning on 1 lesson a week, including the DVD as well as the textbook/workbook portions and any relevant tests. However, as Mr. Demme points out, some lessons will take you longer than others to achieve mastery. If you find yourself "stuck" on a lesson, feel free to allow it to take you an extra week. Just don't do that more than six times this year!



MÖBI MAX

~~BASIC~~ COMPLETE ~ ELITE

Multiply your child's math calculation speed while adding fun to his day with Möbi Max. This fast-paced number tile game transforms necessary math drill from tedious to exciting. Möbi's crossword-style game is made up of sturdy aqua blue number tiles and white double-sided operations tiles. Use them to make simple math equations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. But make them fast, because the first player to use all of his blue tiles and yell "Möbi" wins.

Begin by separating the colors into two piles with the number tiles face down. Draw seven number tiles. Operations tiles are taken as needed, and you can use either side of the tile. Then, as fast as possible, create a "pod" of math equations to use up your number tiles. As you play, you will be adding more number tiles to your pile until all tiles from the pool are gone. To integrate newly drawn tiles you will often need to rearrange existing tiles, so your pod is always shifting. The first player who completes his pod wins.



There are many ways to play Möbi, but here are a few of our favorite variations:

Add & Subtract

Use only the addition and subtraction tiles for the entire game.

Chill Möbi

Divide all the number tiles evenly among the players at the start of the game.

Number of the Day

Pick a number, then every player must include that number somewhere in each of his equations.

My Number Is _

Every player has his own "number of the day" and must use it in every equation.

On My Pod

Every player is given a sum for one of his problems (make every player's the same or use bigger numbers for those who need more of a challenge). Each player must keep that sum in his pod at all times.

Mandatory Multiplication

If your student is ready for more of a challenge, or if you really want to work on multiplication skills, require him to use at least one multiplication (or division) tile in every equation.

Scheduling

This game is truly unlimited. We suggest breaking it out once a week and playing a game or two to keep your child's skills sharp.

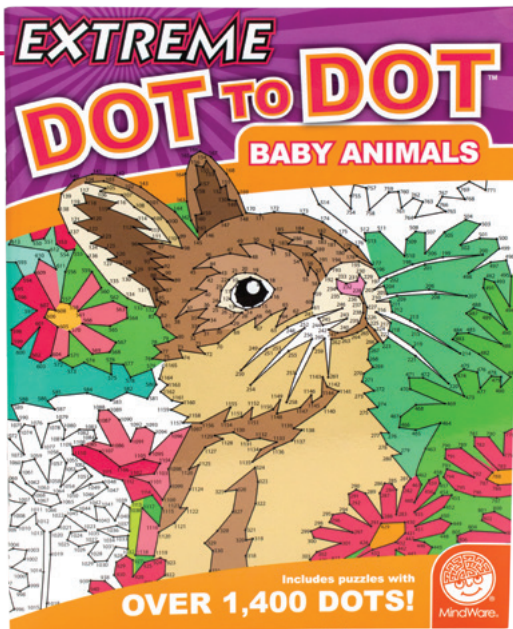
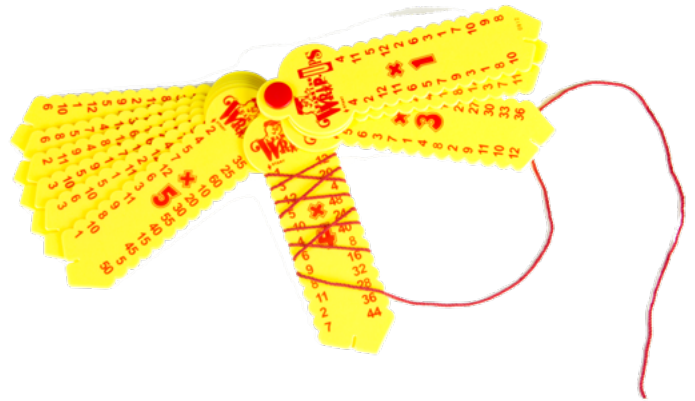
WRAP-UPS MULTIPLICATION

~~BASIC~~ — COMPLETE ~ ELITE

Even though math should never be just a drill, it is a rare child who would not benefit from some drill work. Wrap-ups are convenient, portable, self-contained, and, best of all, self-correcting!

Scheduling

Start using these Wrap-ups after your child has learned the concept of multiplication. We suggest getting this set out at least once a week until he has mastered it.



EXTREME DOT-TO-DOT

~~BASIC~~ — COMPLETE — ELITE

Kick-start your student's mental focus with the amazing Extreme Dot-to-Dot: Baby Animals. Unlike conventional dot-to-dot puzzles that reveal too much of the picture and ruin the mystery, Extreme Dot-to-Dot: Baby Animals' puzzles are intricate and so challenging that when your student looks at a page, he will have no idea what the end result will be.

Mapping and concentration are just two of the educational benefits to solving these dot-to-dot puzzles. Both your student's left brain and right brain will be exercised as he works to complete puzzles containing 510 to over 1,600 dots. Some puzzles even cover a two-page spread — definitely not for the faint-hearted.

Scheduling

With 32 puzzles in all, completing 1 a week will set a perfect pace.

MOSDOS OPAL WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

A SAMPLE DETAILED SCHEDULE

Here's one way to break down your assignments to flow easily through a 36-week schedule.

The page numbers refer to the current student reader as of this printing.

You'll notice that some weeks have more titles assigned than others. We've taken into account the number of corresponding workbook pages and the length of the readings to come up with these weekly assignments, but you should always feel free to rearrange in whatever fashion works for you. The surrounding content (e.g. introductory

matter or sidebars) varies too, and your mathematically inclined student will quickly notice that no two weeks have identical page counts. Remind him that this is a good time to learn how to be flexible and persistent. After all, he may even find that the longer stories end up being his favorites!

Please note that you only need to complete as many of the corresponding activity pages and assignments as you determine to be appropriate for your reader. Our family would have chosen to answer the Studying the Selection questions in the readers orally rather than in writing. We would also likely skip the writing assignments since you'll be covering writing systematically with Daily 6-Trait Writing.



SUGGESTED WEEK-BY-WEEK PLAN

BOOK 1 SUNFLOWER

UNIT 1

All About the Story!

WEEK 1

Lesson in Literature... What Is a Story? - page 2

The Jar of Tassai - page 4

The Secret - page 16

Activity pages and assignments.

WEEK 2

Lesson in Literature... What Is Plot? - page 18

The Story of the White Sombrero - page 20

Activity pages and assignments.



584 BOOK SUGGESTIONS

So you love the idea of the reading challenge, but you'd like a boost to get you started? You've come to the right place!

Customize This!

You'll find a few ideas here for each challenge, but don't forget that you're not bound to our list. There are literally hundreds more options that may be even better for your family. Use these pages as starter ideas and not as your final list.

Will I See the Same Books Over and Over?

No, not on this list! However, you can expect to see some of these books appear on the lists for more than one grade (so if you have a third-grader and a fourth-grader, some parts of the list will match), since books are often appropriate for more than one grade level.

Many books could easily fit into more than one category, but we only put each in one place on your list for your

584 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.

1. A BOOK ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN OR ABOUT WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

The Ology: Ancient Truths Ever New by Marty Machowski
The Biggest Story by Kevin DeYoung
The Gospel Story Bible by Marty Machowski
Wise Up by Marty Machowski
Big Beliefs! by David R. Helm
Long Story Short by Marty Machowski
Old Story New by Marty Machowski
The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross by Carl Laferton
The Tiny Truths Illustrated Bible by Joanna Rivard and Tim Penner
Kings and Queens of the Bible by Mary Hoffman and Christina Balit



2. A BOOK ABOUT THE WORLD

A Ticket Around the World by Natalia Diaz
This Is the World by Miroslav Šašek
Stories from Around the World by Heather Amery
This Is How We Do It by Matt Lamothe
DK Pocket Genius: Earth
DK Eyewitness: Wonders of the World
If the World Were a Village by David J. Smith

3. A BIOGRAPHY

Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad by Ann Petry
Courageous World Changers: 50 True Stories of Daring Women of God by Shirley Raye Redmond
Meet Christopher Columbus by James T. de Kay
Who Was? series
Mary on Horseback by Rosemary Wells
Leif the Lucky by Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire
Easy Reader Biographies from Scholastic
Christian Biographies for Young Readers series by Simonetta Carr
Heroes of History series by Janet and Geoff Benge
Abraham Lincoln by Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire

4. A CLASSIC NOVEL/STORY

Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Betsy-Tacy series by Maud Hart Lovelace
The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss
The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle by Hugh Lofting
The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

584 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.

36. A BOOK BY OR ABOUT A FAMOUS AMERICAN

Childhood of Famous Americans series

Rutherford B., Who Was He?: Poems About Our Presidents by Marilyn Singer

The President's Stuck in the Bathtub by Susan Katz

Meet George Washington by Joan Heilbroner

Meet Thomas Jefferson by Marvin Barrett

Meet Abraham Lincoln by Barbara Cary

Ben and Me by Robert Lawson

DK Eyewitness: First Ladies

DK Eyewitness: Presidents

A Place to Land by Barry Wittenstein

37. A BOOK ABOUT THE RENAISSANCE

Good Queen Bess by Diane Stanley

Leonardo da Vinci by Diane Stanley

Marguerite Makes a Book by Bruce Robertson

Leonardo da Vinci for Kids by Janis Herbert

Galileo for Kids by Richard Panchyk

Michelangelo for Kids by Simonetta Carr

38. A BOOK ABOUT EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

A Spy Called James by Anne Rockwell

A Kid's Guide to Native American History by Yvonne Wakim
Dennis and Arlene Hirschfelder

The Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgliesh

Mr. Revere and I by Robert Lawson

The Secret Valley by Clyde Robert Bulla

Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes

The Arrow over the Door by Joseph Bruchac

Finding Providence by Avi

George vs. George by Rosalyn Schanzer

DK Eyewitness: American Revolution

39. A BOOK ABOUT MONEY

The Toothpaste Millionaire by Jean Merrill

Sled Dog School by Terry Lynn Johnson

Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen

Show Me the Money by Alvin Hall

Sugar Creek Gang: Thousand Dollar Fish by Paul Hutchens

The Tuttle Twins and the Food Truck Fiasco by Connor Boyack

Fox on the Job by James Marshall

Shoeshine Girl by Clyde Robert Bulla

DK Eyewitness: Money



40. A BOOK ABOUT ART OR ARTISTS

A Dance Like Starlight by Kristy Dempsey

Katie series by James Mayhew

Famous Children series by Tony Hart

Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists series by Mike Venezia

Artists Books for Children series by Laurence Anholt

How Artists See series by Colleen Carroll

The Chalk Box Kid by Clyde Robert Bulla

The Paint Brush Kid by Clyde Robert Bulla

The Boy Who Drew Birds by Jacqueline Davies