



TIMBERDOODLE



TIMBERDOODLE'S  
CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

2020-2021 Nonreligious 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 kit? 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 5th- to 8th-grade students:**

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

### **Timberdoodlers using nonreligious kits:**

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

## SCHEDULE CUSTOMIZER

Your 2020–2021 Sixth-Grade Nonreligious 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](http://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](mailto:schedules@Timberdoodle.com) and we'll get that sorted out ASAP. (Including your order number will really speed up that process 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, with four different difficulty levels to choose from.

### 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 sixth-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 *Wordsmith Apprentice* and *Mosdos Press Literature* to make deciding where to stop each week incredibly easy.

### 6. Book Suggestions

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

### All the Details Included

This Timberdoodle curriculum kit is available in two different standard levels: 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 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's 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 PLANNER

### 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 can not only easily adjust the weeks, but you can 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](http://www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com)

### Activate Your Account

Before you can get started, you'll need to activate your

account 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](mailto:schedules@Timberdoodle.com), and we'll get that straightened out ASAP. Including your order number really speeds up that process, 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 plus 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 a 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 weeks off that you're traveling, have guests, baby is coming, or...

Typically you'll be adding full-week



breaks only, such as if you were traveling to Disneyland® for little Nehemiah's birthday. You don't need to add single-day breaks to the calendar, since 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.

### 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 fifth-grade 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 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	Mosdos Pearl	106 subsections	3 subsections
	Spelling You See G	36 weeks	1 week's work
	Wordsmith Apprentice	36 weeks	1 week's work
	Typing Instructor	unlimited	3 lessons
	Storyteller's Card Game	unlimited	once a week
Math	Math-U-See	30 lessons	a 7-worksheet lesson
	Extreme Dot-to-Dot: Around the USA	35 puzzles	1 puzzle
Thinking Skills	<h1>SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART</h1>		
History & Social Studies			
Science			
STEM			
Art			
Etc.			

Language Arts	Mosdos Pearl	3 subsections							
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Science									
STEM									
Art									



# THE READING CHALLENGE

**BASED ON THE READING CHALLENGE FOR KIDS FROM REDEEMEDREADER.COM**

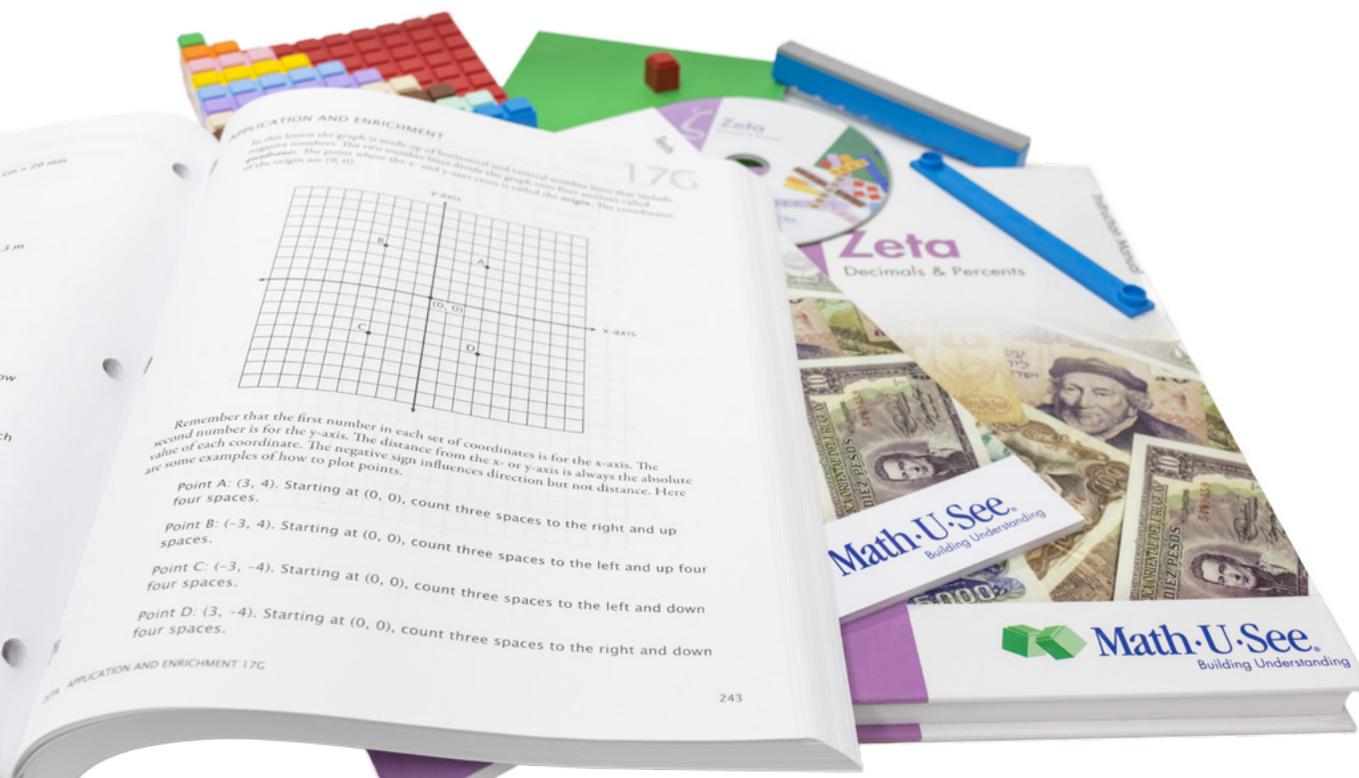
The Reading Challenge for Kids will get you and your child reading a broader variety of books this year and perhaps discovering new favorites. This reading challenge is heavily adapted by us and used with permission from the fine folks at RedeemedReader.com. Check out their website for more information 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 entirely appropriate that most of these books are 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. An inspirational book		
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 about ancient history		
7. A book about something that makes you happy		
8. A book based on a true story		
9. A book someone twice your age 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		



## MATH-U-SEE

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.

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.

# MATH-U-SEE ZETA

## BASIC ~ COMPLETE ~ ELITE

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.

While Math-U-See requires some 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 manual also includes complete answers with step-by-step solutions for all the exercises and tests, and there is extra instruction for the enrichment problems.

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 provide 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.

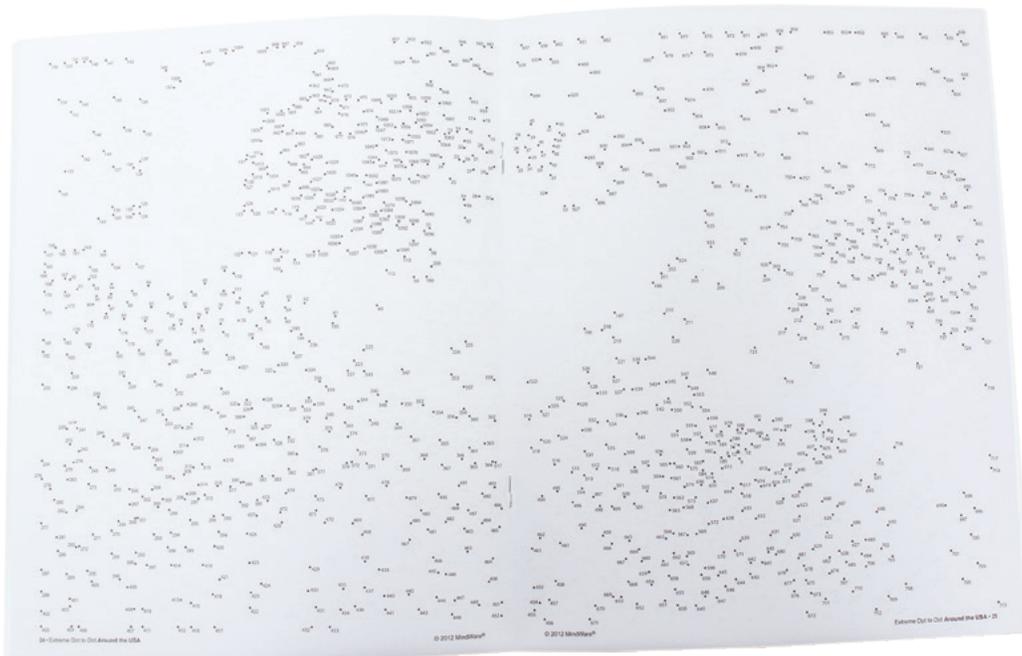
At the risk of oversimplifying, the practice worksheets (A, B, C) are to be used with the manipulatives until your child reaches an "aha!" moment and grasps the lesson. He may then move to the review pages (D, E, F) and should at least complete worksheet D in its entirety. If he's breezing through the 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, and F worksheets.) Worksheet G is the application/enrichment/extra-credit page. It's ok 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!





# EXTREME DOT-TO-DOT: AROUND THE USA

BASIC — COMPLETE — ELITE

Kick-start your student's mental focus with an amazing *Extreme Dot-to-Dot* book. Unlike conventional dot-to-dot puzzles that reveal too much of the picture and ruin the mystery, *Extreme Dot-to-Dot: Around the USA's* 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.

*Extreme Dot-to-Dot: Around the USA* contains 32 puzzles of landmarks, events, and memorable sights from around the USA. These scenes include Mount Rushmore, the Kentucky Derby, Route 66, and more. A handy key in the back identifies each scene and provides interesting details and facts.

## Scheduling

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

# MOSDOS PEARL 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 (eg. 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 favorite!

Please note that you need to complete only 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 *Wordsmith*.



## SUGGESTED WEEK-BY-WEEK PLAN

### UNIT 1

#### COLLECTION ONE: Courage

##### Week 1

Phoebe and the General – page 19

The Wounded Wolf – page 33

A Wolf – page 37

Activity pages and assignments

##### Week 2

from *Across Five Aprils* – page 59

The Quarrel – page 59

Apology – page 60

Activity pages and assignments



# 493 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 sixth-grader and a seventh-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

## 493 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.

### 1. AN INSPIRATIONAL BOOK

*The Book of Virtues for Young People* by William J. Bennett

*Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul* by Jack Canfield

*Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change* by Garth Sundem

*The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs* by Betty G. Birney

### 2. A BOOK ABOUT THE WORLD

*Pocket Genius: Earth* (DK)

*Eyewitness: Wonders of the World* (DK)

*Where on Earth? Atlas* (DK)

*The Usborne Encyclopedia of Planet Earth*

### 3. A BIOGRAPHY

*Pathfinders* by Tonya Bolden

*Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes* by Juan Felipe Herrera

*Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* by Ann Petry

*Freedom Train* by Dorothy Sterling

*The Story of Emma Lazarus* by Erica Silverman

*The 39 Apartments of Ludwig van Beethoven* by Jonah Winter

*Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook Creator* by Adam Woog

*Who Was?* series

*Magellan's World* by Stuart

Waldman

### 4. A CLASSIC NOVEL/STORY

*Little House* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder

*The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling

*Betsy-Tacy* series by Maud Hart Lovelace

*The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss



*The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis

*Hans Brinker, or The Silver Skates* by Mary Mapes Dodge

### 5. A BOOK YOUR GRANDPARENT (OR OTHER RELATIVE) SAYS WAS HIS/HER FAVORITE AT YOUR AGE

Ask your grandparents or other relatives. Or, if that's not possible, ask an older friend for a recommendation.

### 6. A BOOK ABOUT ANCIENT HISTORY

*Mara, Daughter of the Nile* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

*The Trojan War* by Olivia Coolidge

*Who Was King Tut?* by Roberta Edwards

*Where Is Stonehenge?* by True Kelley

*Where Are the Great Pyramids?* by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler

### 7. A BOOK ABOUT SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY

What do you love to learn about? Are you interested in coin collecting? This is the perfect time to read a book on that. Would you rather be outside? How about a book on adventures? Hiking, gaming, religion, friends, crafts...nothing is off the table for this book!

### 8. A BOOK BASED ON A TRUE STORY

*Pocahontas and the Strangers* by Clyde Robert Bulla

*The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgliesh

*January's Sparrow* by Patricia Polacco

*Call of the Klondike* by David Meissner and Kim Richardson

*Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-li Jiang

*I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

*Royal Diaries* series from Scholastic