



TIMBERDOODLE



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 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>

SCHEDULE CUSTOMIZER

Your 2020-2021 Seventh-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 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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SECTION 1 BATSUIT BASICS

To fight crime on the mean streets of Gotham City, you need body armor. For Batman, the layers and pieces of his Batsuit are the key to staying safe. His skintight suit may look thin, but it offers more protection than meets the eye.

DRESSING IN LAYERS

Staying warm and dry is as important in our world as it is in Batman's. Have you ever been told to wear lots of layers to stay warm? That's because multiple layers trap warm air in between them.

When it comes to bodysuits like Batman's, layers are important as well. For instance, divers wear snug, flexible wetsuits to keep warm in cold water. Wetsuits are also made of multiple layers. Some even have a thin metal lining to help reflect body heat. But most important, wetsuits have a layer of synthetic rubber called neoprene.

Neoprene is loaded with tiny nitrogen gas bubbles. The bubbles help stop heat from leaving your body, making neoprene a good insulator. Neoprene is also physically tough. It resists tearing from flexing and twisting. Neoprene is a great material to have if you move like a super hero.



A diver wears a neoprene wetsuit to stay warm in the water.

SUITED FOR SPACE

Layered bodysuits offer protection all over our world—and even beyond! Astronauts gear up in amazing suits to survive in outer space. On spacewalks in sunlight, their suits shield them from temperatures hotter than boiling water. In the darkness their suits withstand temperatures that can drop to minus 250 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 157 degrees Celsius). Brrrr!



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 seventh-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. Specific Details

Here you'll find your week-by-week schedule for *Mosdos*

Press Literature and 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 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

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, 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, so unless you're traveling to Disneyland® for little Jotham'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 (see next page), though, you may find it worth your time to enter days off as well.

Choose 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 algebra, 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	Easy Grammar Plus	326 worksheets	9 worksheets
	Mosdos Jade	69 subsections	2 subsections
	Wordsmith	36 weeks	1 week's worth
	Word Roots Level 1	47 lessons/reviews	1-2 portions
Math	Math-U-See	30 lessons	a 7-worksheet lesson
	Extreme Dot-to-Dot: Around the World	32 puzzles	1 puzzle
Thinking Skills	<p>SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART</p>		
History & Social Studies			
Science			
STEM			
Art			
Etc.			

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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 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		



MATH-U-SEE

If you are looking for a curriculum that ensures you will be able to fully understand each mathematical concept before moving on to another one, you have found it. For more than 20 years, Math-U-See's renowned mastery-based, student-paced program has been the answer for countless families. If your child regularly feels overwhelmed when mathematical topics are introduced, you need Math-U-See's systematic, precept-upon-precept 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 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

BASIC ~ COMPLETE ~ ELITE

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.

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.

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, including having him complete every other problem, or 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 worksheets D, E, and F.)

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

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 World'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 World contains 32 puzzles of buildings, landscapes, and memorable sights around the world, from St. Basil's Cathedral to a herd of elephants below Mt. Kilimanjaro. A handy key in the back identifies each scene and provides interesting details and facts.

Scheduling

No scheduling is required on this one, but if you feel more comfortable knowing that nothing will get missed, then plan to allow one a week, and you'll finish in 32 weeks.

Please note: This book is designed from a secular point of view, so there is, for example, a Sikh temple as well as other similar scenes. If you or your student are uncomfortable using these pages, feel free to use the key in the back to identify and skip any dot-to-dot that you are not comfortable with.

MOSDOS JADE 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 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

SHORT STORIES

Week 1

Rikki-Tikki-Tavi - page 4

Activity pages and assignments

Week 2

A Day's Wait - page 18

Activity pages and assignments

Week 3

Kid at the Stick - page 24

Activity pages and assignments

Week 4

Look Back at the Sea - page 36

Activity pages and assignments





510

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

510 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.

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

The Gospel Story Bible by Marty Machowski
The Action Bible illustrated by Sergio Cariello
Long Story Short by Marty Machowski
Old Story New by Marty Machowski
Know What You Believe by Paul Little

2. A BOOK ABOUT THE WORLD

Eyewitness: Wonders of the World (DK)
Eyewitness: Earth (DK)
Where on Earth? Atlas (DK)
The Usborne Encyclopedia of Planet Earth
Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne



3. A BIOGRAPHY

Pathfinders by Tonya Bolden
Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes by Juan Felipe Herrera
Heroes of History series by Janet and Geoff Benge
Trailblazers series
Who Was? series
Princess of the Reformation: Jeanne D'Albret by Rebekah Dan
Christian Biographies for Young Readers series by Simonetta Carr

Courageous Christians by Joyce Vollmer Brown
A Heart Strangely Warmed by Louise A. Vernon
Liberty's Voice: The Story of Emma Lazarus by Erica Silverman
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
Anne of Green Gables and others by L.M. Montgomery
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

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 FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

This could be a literal book of the Old Testament, or it could be a book based on a section of the Old Testament.

7. A BOOK FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

This could be a literal book of the New Testament, or it could be a book based on a section of the New Testament.

8. A BOOK BASED ON A TRUE STORY

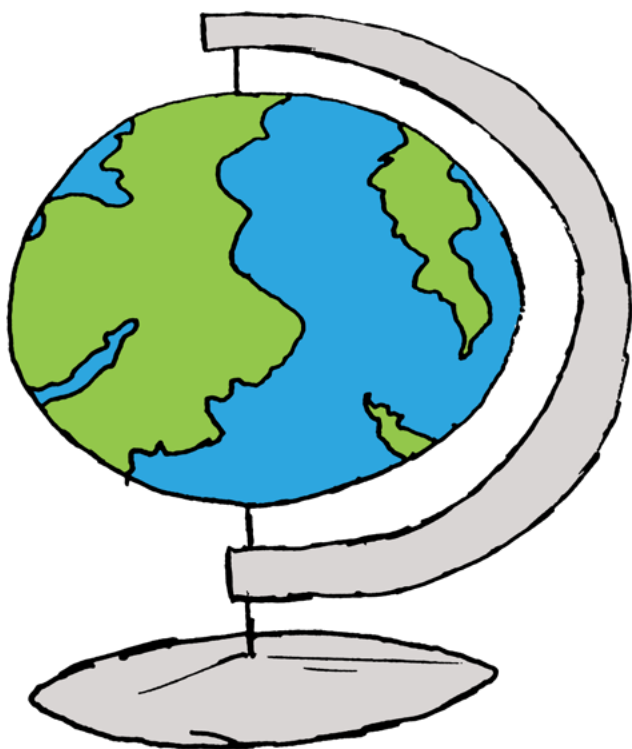
Red Scarf Girl by Ji-li Jiang
January's Sparrow by Patricia Polacco
Call of the Klondike by David Meissner and Kim Richardson
I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
Royal Diaries series from Scholastic
The Story of the Trapp Family Singers by Maria Augusta Trapp
Gentle Annie by Mary Francis Shura

9. A BOOK YOUR PASTOR OR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER RECOMMENDS

Ask your pastor or Sunday School teacher. They will likely be thrilled to share a book they love.

87. A BOOK SET IN ASIA

The House of Sixty Fathers by Meindert DeJong
The Land I Lost by Quang Nhuong Huynh
Hudson Taylor: Deep in the Heart of China by Janet and Geoff Benge
Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze by Elizabeth Foreman Lewis
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
Eyewitness: China (DK)



88. A BOOK SET IN EUROPE

White Stallion of Lipizza by Marguerite Henry
Ivan and the Moscow Circus series by Myrna Grant
Bloomability by Sharon Creech

North to Freedom by Anne Holm
George Müller: The Guardian of Bristol's Orphans by Janet and Geoff Benge
The Trumpeter of Krakow by Eric P. Kelly

89. A BOOK WITH A COLOR IN ITS TITLE

The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages
The Red Fairy Book and others by Andrew Lang
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
Touch Blue by Cynthia Lord
Blue Birds by Caroline Starr Rose
The Green Ember series by S.D. Smith
Midnight Blue by Pauline Fisk

90. A BOOK ABOUT MANNERS

Emily Post's The Guide to Good Manners for Kids
A Kid's Guide to Manners by Katherine Flannery
Dude, That's Rude! by Pamela Espeland and Elizabeth Verdick

91. A BOOK ABOUT SUMMER

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
The Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon
Summer According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney
Thimble Summer by Elizabeth Enright
A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck
Harris and Me by Gary Paulsen
Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls
The Secret of the Mansion by Julie Campbell
A Ring of Endless Light by Madeleine L'Engle

92. A BOOK ABOUT WINTER

Greenglass House by Kate Milford
Winter According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney
The Long Winter by Laura Ingalls Wilder
The Black Jacket Mystery by Kathryn Kenny