SIXTH GRADE

2021-2022 NONRELIGIOUS EDITION

TIMBERDOODLE'S CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

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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.

We Are Here to 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!

Schedule Customizer

Your 2021-2022 6th-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

For more information on accessing that, see the access code affixed to the back of this handbook.

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 online groups.

Timberdoodlers of all ages:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/Timberdoodle/

Timberdoodlers of all ages:
https://mewe.com/join/timberdoodleshomeschoolcommunity

Timberdoodlers with 5th- to 8th-grade students:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/UpperElementaryTimberdoodle

Timberdoodlers using nonreligious kits:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/SecularTimberdoodle

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Meet Your
Handbook
WELCOME

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 for planning your year. These include your annual planner and sample weekly checklists, which are the absolute backbones of Timberdoodle's curriculum kits. More on those in a moment.

2. 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 student will be learning this year. This is where we've tucked in teaching tips or tricks to make this year easy and amazing for both of you.

3. Teacher Resources

In this section you'll find our favorite articles and tidbits gathered over 35 years of homeschool experience.

4. Item-Based Resources

This is where we've tucked in any tips or tricks on specific courses like Wordsmith Apprentice and Storytellers' Card Game. Here also you will find a week-by-week schedule to make using Mosdos easy this year as well as 11 different activity ideas for A History of US. .

5. Reading Challenge

Last but not least is the reading challenge—a reading log designed to help your child read a huge variety of books this year. We include thousands of book ideas to give you a head start.

All the Details Included

This Timberdoodle curriculum kit is available in 3 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 for each of the items included in the Elite Curriculum Kit, along with any teaching tips. If you purchased a Basic or Complete kit, or if you customized your kit, you did not receive every item. Therefore, you'll only need to familiarize yourself with the items 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 wondering how you'll 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, and not all of them should be done every day or even every week. Your checklist (aka the weekly to-do list) is going to make this incredibly manageable. Really!

Meet Your
Online
Scheduler

MEET YOUR ONLINE SCHEDULER

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PLANNER

Use the Customizer

On the following 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 easily adjust the weeks and tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want. Plus, you'll be able to print your weekly checklists directly from the schedule builder!
www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com

Activate Your Account

You'll need to activate your account for the online schedule builder to get started. Head over to www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com and create a login, and then click the "Redeem" button at the top of the page to input your activation code and start scheduling!

Your activation code is affixed to the back of this handbook for your convenience.

What's Your Dream Schedule?

Now that you're ready, you'll want to know 2 things:

1. How Many Weeks Will You 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 to get 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 for travel, visiting grandparents, or...

Typically you'll be adding full-week breaks, 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 can easily shuffle the work to earlier or later in the same week and stay on schedule.

PHOTO: THE ELIE FAMILY OF CALIFORNIA

Choose Your Items

Now just pop that data into the online scheduler 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 advanced level of math, for instance.

Add Custom Courses

Your course list is limited only by your imagination. Perhaps your friend created a custom curriculum you want to include, your family band practices weekly, or you need to include 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

On the next screen, you'll have some fun options to make your schedule and checklist work for you.

YOUR ANNUAL PLANNER (PAGE 1)

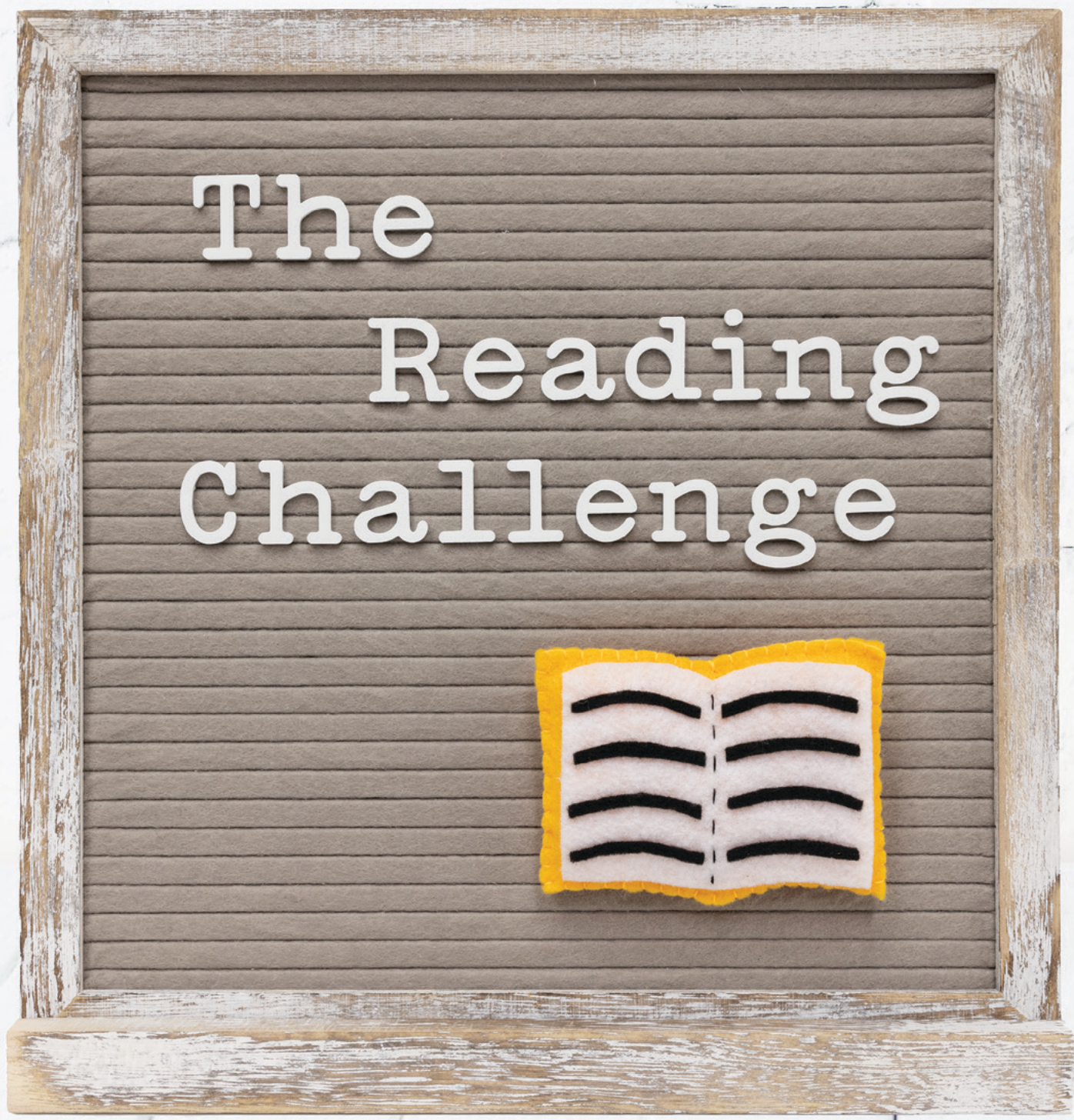
	CURRICULUM	LESSONS OR PAGES	= PER WEEK
Language Arts	Mosdos Literature Pearl	36 weeks of work	1 week's work
	Spelling You See, Level G	36 weeks	10 minutes a day
	Wordsmith Apprentice	36 weeks	1 week's work
	Typing Instructor	unlimited	3 lessons
	Storyteller's Card Game	unlimited	once a week
Math	Math-U-See	30 lessons	1 lesson
	Extreme Dot-to-Dot: Around the USA	35 puzzles	1 puzzle
Thinking Skills	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
History & Social Studies	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Geography	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

See your handbook for the complete chart.

WEEKLY CHECKLIST
ELITE (PAGE 1)

Language Arts	Mosdos Literature Pearl	1 week's work						
	Spelling You See Level G	10 minutes a day						
	Wordsmith Apprentice	1 week's work						
	Typing Instructor	3 lessons						
	Storyteller's Card Game	once a week						
Math	Math-U-See	1 lesson						
	Extreme Dot-to-Dot: Around the USA	1 puzzle						
Thinking Skills	[illegible]	[illegible]						
	[illegible]	[illegible]						
	[illegible]	[illegible]						
History & Social Studies	[illegible]	[illegible]						
	[illegible]	[illegible]						
	[illegible]	[illegible]						
Geography	[illegible]	[illegible]						

See your handbook for the complete chart.


The
Reading
Challenge

THE READING CHALLENGE

EXPLORING THE USA (4TH- THROUGH 6TH-GRADE)

The Reading Challenge for kids will get you and your child reading a broader variety of books this year while learning so much about the USA.

Your reading challenge will loop through 18 topics up to 8 times this year. Each loop will add breadth to your child's reading and most include a new subcategory to explore if no ideas present themselves.

Reading Solo and Together

At this grade level, he will read many of these books independently and you can read together as much as is reasonable for your family. Don't be too eager to lose the one-on-one reading time, as many sources recommend that parents continue reading to their children well past the time their children become accomplished readers. We agree!

How It Works

At the back of this handbook you'll find 4 versions of this year's reading list, ranging from 1 book every 2 weeks to 3 books a week. Choose a reading goal early in the year and set your pace accordingly, keeping in mind what is realistic for your family.

The Light Reader plan has 36 books, which sets a pace of 1 book every week. This includes 2 loops through each major category. The majority of families can and should do at least this much.

The Avid Reader plan doubles the amount to 72 books, which increases the pace to 2 book every week. If you choose this option you'll be completing 4 loops through the main topics this year. This is doable for most families, especially if you're liberal with picture books!

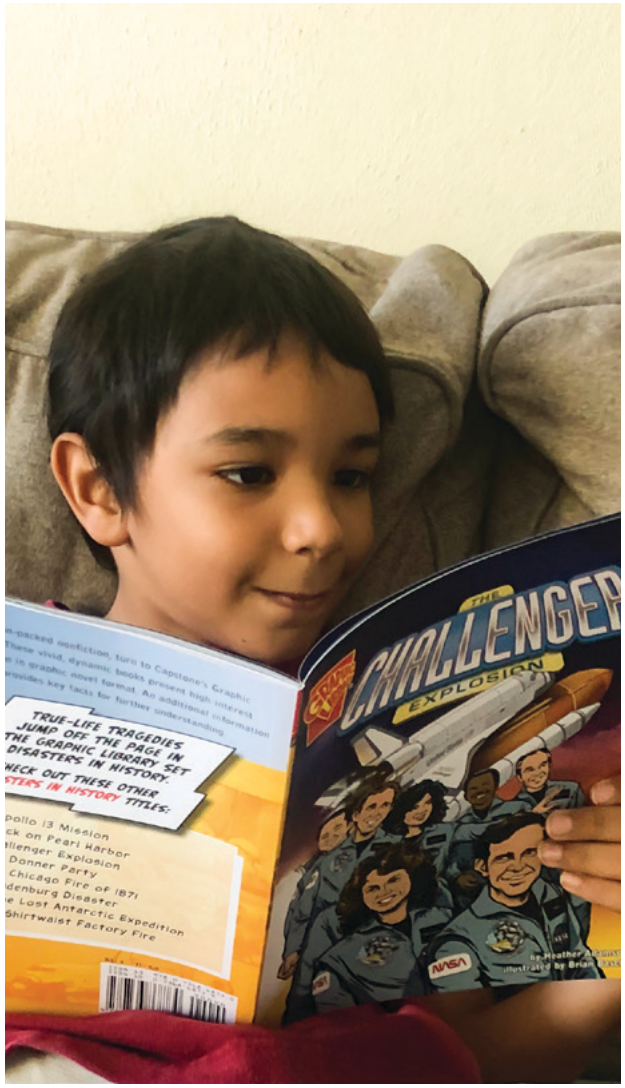


PHOTO: THE PERS FAMILY OF THE DUTCH CARIBBEAN

The Committed Reader plan adds 36 more books, bringing the total to 108, or 3 books every school week. We think that this faster pace is not too rigorous for most students and is suitable for enthusiastic readers with time in their schedules. This schedule takes you through the main loop 6 times, offering your student a chance to try several subcategories in each.

The Obsessed Reader plan adds a final 36 books, bringing the total to 144, or 4 books every school week. We highly recommend this challenge, which completes the loop 8 times, but it may be too intense for families with limited library access!

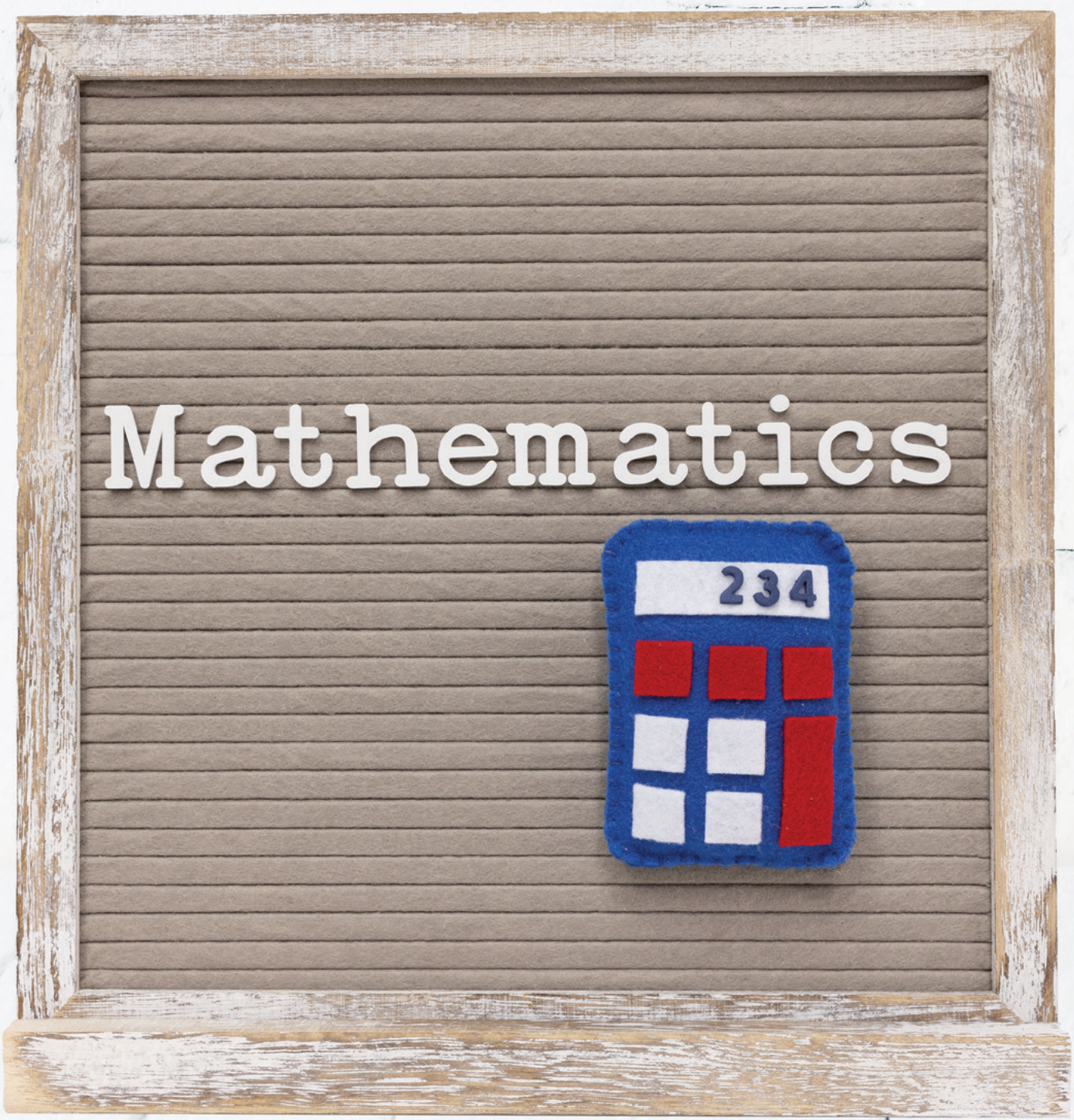
Getting Started

Begin with the Light plan, which includes suggestions for 36 books. Read them in any order, logging each 1 as you complete it. Next, advance to the Avid plan, choosing another 36 books to read in any order. Then it's time to move to the Committed plan with 36 more books, again reading them in any order.

When possible, choose a different subcategory than you did the first time. (E.g., if you're currently choosing a Life Skills or Experiences book, and last time you chose 1 on survival, try 1 on cooking, etiquette, money, or sports.) We've offered suggestions for the first 6 loops in case your child is drawing a blank, but feel free to choose any book under that main subheading.

If you have completed the Committed plan (that's 108 books so far!), you are ready to brave the Obsessed plan.

PHOTO: GAVIN C. OF LAS VEGAS


Mathematics
234

MATHEMATICS

A FUNDAMENTAL SKILL

Basic math is a critical skill for your child to master, whether he grows up to be a carpenter, doctor, accountant, or farmer. 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, concise, 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 explain 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.

PHOTO: LIWANAG FAMILY OF CHESTER, NEW YORK

MATH-U-SEE

BASIC // COMPLETE // ELITE

One Math-U-See lesson is designed to consist of several parts:

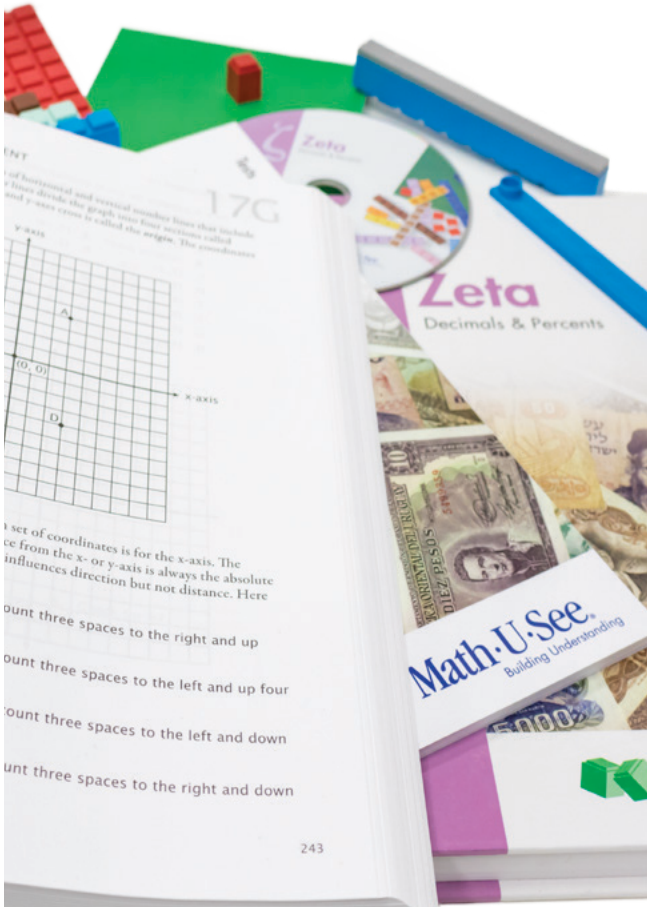
- A video lesson
- Worksheet A, teaching this lesson's concept
- Worksheet B, teaching this lesson's concept, in case your student needs a bit more practice
- Worksheet C, still teaching this lesson's concept, in case your student needs even further practice
- Worksheet D, review work
- Worksheet E, more review work
- Worksheet F, still more review work, for the student who thrives on repetition or struggles with math and requires the extra practice
- Worksheet G is often a test or an optional application and enrichment section. While it is considered "honors" material, we suggest you do this if you can tackle it without stressing your child!

Some parents prefer to watch the lessons themselves and then teach their students personally, while others prefer to watch alongside their students, pausing the video to rewind and clarify as needed.

After watching the video lesson or your recreated lesson, your student will complete as many worksheets as you deem appropriate. You will want to decide as you start the year whether your student will be completing the optional "Application and Enrichment" section from each lesson (sometimes considered the honors portion).

MATH-U-SEE, CONT.

BASIC // COMPLETE // ELITE



If these challenges overwhelm your student, you should skip them or offer generous assistance. Otherwise, embrace them for the opportunity to help him learn more skills and train his brain to think logically.

It's hard to overemphasize the importance of thoughtfully assigning math pages. Most students should complete worksheet A, D, and G, and that may be enough!

In our crew, we have some students who struggle with math, and for them it is best to complete most of the worksheets to slow down the pace of the program. This is perfectly acceptable but shouldn't be the norm for every child. The only thing worse than being overwhelmed by rapid-fire challenging concepts is being bored with too much repetition!

Scheduling

You have 30 lessons to complete, so we suggest planning on 1 lesson per week. This includes 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 an extra week. Just don't do that more than 6 times this year!

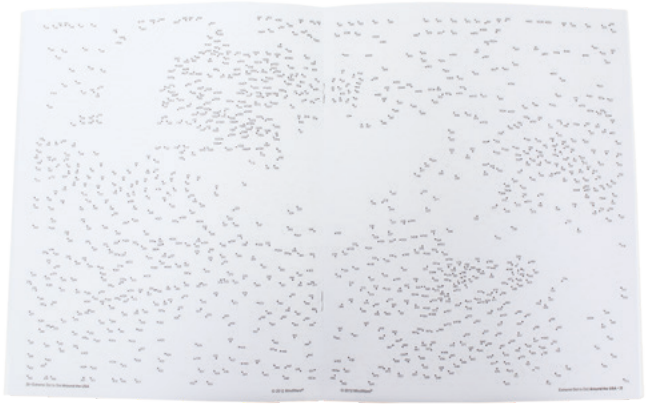
EXTREME DOT-TO-DOT: AROUND THE USA

~~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 2 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 2-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.

Book Suggestions

THE LIGHT READER

THE CHALLENGE	THE BOOK YOU CHOSE	DATE COMPLETED
1.1 USA Region 1: Northeast *Connecticut or Delaware*		
2.1 Famous Americans *American Founders and Patriots*		
3.1 Fiction *Classics*		
4.1 Language Arts *Poetry*		
5.1 Bible *Book of the Bible*		
6.1 USA Region 2: South *Texas or Puerto Rico*		
7.1 Culture *Family*		
8.1 Life Skills and Experiences *Survival*		
9.1 Social Studies *Archaeology or Paleontology*		
10.1 American History *Ancient America*		
11.1 USA Region 3: Midwest *Illinois or Nebraska*		
12.1 Sciences *General Science or Biography of a Scientist*		
13.1 STEM *Forensic Science*		
14.1 Health *Human Anatomy or Development*		
15.1 Nature *Natural History*		
16.1 USA Region 4: West *Colorado or Washington State*		
17.1 The Arts *Visual Art*		
18.1 You Choose! *Puzzle Story, or a Book with a Great Cover*		

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 many more options that may be even better for your family. Use these pages as starter ideas, not as your final list.

Will I See the Same Books Over and Over?

No, not on this list! However, this particular reading challenge is geared for grades 4-6 so you will see this exact list in all those grades.

Many books could easily fit into more than one category. However, we put a particular book only in one place on your list for your convenience. (Books that are part of a series are the one exception, as you may find an individual title in one spot and the whole series referenced elsewhere.) So if you're finding that you want to read more than one book from a particular challenge, the odds are good that skimming the list will give you another challenge to list it under.

For instance, *The Skydiving Beavers: A True Tale* by Susan Wood, listed under challenge 16 (a book from USA Region 4: West), would also fit really well under challenge 15 (a book about nature), challenge 10 (a book about American history), and perhaps even challenge 12 (a book about science). Shuffle things as you like!

4,501 BOOK SUGGESTIONS
For Grades 4-6

A Variety of Reading Levels

As you probably guessed, these are a mix of books for you to read to your child, and books that he will read himself. Read-alouds meet your child's tremendous need for literacy, language, and stories, giving him a stronger desire to read. Easy books build confidence and enthusiasm.

Notes about Our Book Ideas

If you've been reading to your child long (or if you've simply perused your local public library), you've probably noticed that families have very different standards for their reading materials. The books you'll find listed here are ones that members of our team have read, have added to their "I want to read this" list, or have had recommended to them.

Even among our team there is a wide range in what titles our families would find acceptable. Some of us find fantasy objectionable but will gladly read a scarier adventure story than other families would be comfortable with. Others of us consider those fantasy titles to be an interesting addition and worthy of much discussion.

In these younger grades, some of us skip evolutionary titles; others include them liberally and discuss them. It is the same with isolated language issues, characters that don't have the best attitudes, clothing choices, and more.

We've opted to include titles with abandon, knowing that you will be able to flip through them at the library (or in these COVID days, once your stack of holds has arrived) to determine if they are a good fit for your family.

This is not a "Timberdoodle would sell these books if we could" list. We can't vouch for each of the titles, and we certainly can't know which ones are a good fit for your particular family. We even include titles with things we don't like, knowing that what is a "burn the book" moment for one family is a discussion starter for others. If ever there was a time for deep discussion around many topics, this is that time!

PHOTO: THE CONZONE FAMILY

USA REGION 1: NORTHEAST

CHALLENGE 1 ON EACH LOOP

Northeast: Connecticut

26 Fairmount Avenue by Tomie DePaola
Connecticut by Amy Gelman (Hello, U.S.A.)
Connecticut by Michael Burgan (True Book: My United States)
The Connecticut Colony by Kevin Cunningham (True Books)
Connecticut: The Constitution State by Derek Miller (It's My State)
The Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgliesh
Exploring the Connecticut Colony by Steven Otfinoski (Smithsonian)
Flood Friday by Lois Lenski (American Regional)
The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students by Suzanne Jurmain
The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes
The Legend of Hobbomock: The Sleeping Giant by Jason J. Marchi
A Little Maid of Old Connecticut by Alice Curtis
The Middle Moffat by Eleanor Estes
The Moffat Museum by Eleanor Estes
The Moffats by Eleanor Estes
N Is for Nutmeg: A Connecticut Alphabet by Elissa D. Grodin
Rufus M. by Eleanor Estes
The Secret Lost at Sea by Carolyn Keene (Nancy Drew)
The Secret of the Forgotten Cave by Carolyn Keene (Nancy Drew)
Strawberry Hill by Mary Ann Hoberman
The Taxing Case of the Cows: A True Story about Suffrage by Pegi Deitz Shea
What's Great about Connecticut? by Rebecca Rissman (Our Great States)
The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth Speare
Yankee Doodle Numbers: A Connecticut Numbers Book by Elissa D. Grodin

Northeast: Delaware

Delaware by Craig A. Doherty (Thirteen Colonies)
Delaware by Dottie Brown (Hello, U.S.A.)
Delaware by Melissa McDaniel (True Book: My United States)
The Delaware Colony by Kevin Cunningham (True Book)
The Delaware Colony by Muriel L. Dubois (Fact Finders)
Delaware: The First State by David C. King (It's My State)
Exploring the Delaware Colony by Lori McManus (Smithsonian)
F Is for First State: A Delaware Alphabet by Carol Crane
Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebirds: The Story of a Food Web by Victoria Crenson
The Rescue Begins in Delaware by Cheri Pray Earl and Carol Lynch Williams (Just in Time)
Water Rat by Marnie Laird
What's Great about Delaware? by Sheri Dillard (Our Great States)

Northeast: Maine

Angus and Sadie by Cynthia Voigt
Because of the Rabbit by Cynthia Lord
Cave-In by Joseph Monninger (Stay Alive)
The Deadly Dungeon by Ron Roy (A to Z Mysteries)
The Fish House Door by Robert Baldwin
Fishing for Numbers: A Maine Number Book by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds
A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord
Journey around Maine from A to Z by Martha Day Zschock
Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie by Connie Roop (On My Own)
The Lighthouse Mystery by Carolyn Keene (Nancy Drew Notebooks)
L Is for Lobster: A Maine Alphabet by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds
A Little Maid of Old Maine by Alice Turner Curtis
Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt

THE SCIENCES

CHALLENGE 12 ON EACH LOOP

General Science

100 Things to Know about Science (Usborne)
Bill Nye's Great Big World of Science
The Day of the Iguana by Henry Winkler (Hank Zipzer)
The Fascinating Science Book for Kids: 500 Amazing Facts! by Kevin Kurtz
How to Be Good at Science, Technology, and Engineering (DK)
I Can Be a Science Detective by Anna Claybourne
The Mad Scientists' Club by Bertrand R. Brinley
Parker Bell and the Science of Friendship by Cynthia Platt
Science! (DK Smithsonian)
Science Encyclopedia: Atom Smashing, Food Chemistry, Animals, Space, and More! (National Geographic Kids)
Science Fair Sabotage by Gertrude Chandler Warner (The Boxcar Children)

American Scientists—Benjamin Banneker

Benjamin Banneker: American Scientific Pioneer by Myra Weatherly (Signature Lives)
Benjamin Banneker: Pioneering Scientist by Ginger Wadsworth (On My Own)
Benjamin Banneker: Self-Made Man by Jody Jensen Shaffer (Social Studies Readers)
Dear Benjamin Banneker by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Ticktock Banneker's Clock by Shana Keller
What Are You Figuring Now? A Story about Benjamin Banneker by Jeri Ferris (Creative Minds Biography)

American Scientists—George Washington Carver

The Forty-Acre Swindle: George Washington Carver by Dave and Neta Jackson (Trailblazer)*
George Washington Carver by Jane Gould (Jr. Graphic American Inventors)
George Washington Carver: America's Scientist by Renee Taft Meloche*
George Washington Carver: From Slave to Scientist by Janet and Geoff Benge (Heroes of History)*
George Washington Carver: Ingenious Inventor by Nathan Olson (Graphic Library)
George Washington Carver: Man's Slave Becomes God's Scientist by David Collins (Sower)*
George Washington Carver: Planting Ideas by Jennifer Kroll (Primary Source Readers)
George Washington Carver: Scientist, Inventor, and Teacher by Michael Burgan (Signature Lives)
The Groundbreaking, Chance-Taking Life of George Washington Carver and Science and Invention in America by Cheryl Harness
A Picture Book of George Washington Carver by David A. Adler

American Scientists—Stephen Hawking

The Extraordinary Life of Stephen Hawking by Kate Scott
Stephen Hawking: A Life Beyond Limits by Alex Woolf (Trailblazers)
Stephen Hawking: Cosmologist Who Gets a Big Bang out of the Universe by Mike Venezia (Getting to Know the World's Greatest Inventors and Scientists)
Who Was Stephen Hawking? by Jim Gigliotti (Who HQ)

American Scientists—Katherine Johnson

The Extraordinary Life of Katherine Johnson by Devika Jina
Katherine Johnson by Ebony Joy Wilkins (DK Life Stories)
NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson by Heather E. Schwartz (STEM Trailblazer Bios)
Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson
You Should Meet Katherine Johnson by Thea Feldman (Ready-to-Read)