

Fourth Grade



HISTORY

The focus in fourth grade history is the ancient world of Greece and Rome. Students continue to use *The Book of the Ancient World*, and also study *Famous Men of Greece*, *Famous Men of Rome*, *Usborne Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece* and *Usborne Romans*. In addition, as they work through these resources, they build a timeline to reinforce the chronological order of historical events.



LITERATURE

The classical purpose for teaching literature is to cultivate wisdom and virtue within a student so he or she is better able to know and enjoy God and the world He has made. To that end, HCA seeks to choose genuine classics that lift students from the realm of mere pragmatism to the realm of ideals (virtue, truth, beauty) so that they develop the capacity to “think God’s thoughts after Him” as they encounter them in the Scriptures.

In fourth grade those titles include:

- ✓ D’Aulaires Book of Greek Myths by Ingrid & Edgar D’Aulaires
- ✓ The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
- ✓ The Trojan War by Olivia E. Coolidge
- ✓ From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg
- ✓ Detectives in Togas by Henry Winterfeld

At the end of fourth grade, students are able to read, discuss, and evaluate passages similar to the following:

Detectives in Togas pg.47

Flattered at being the center of attention, Claudia quickly patted her curls into place. “Our slaves discovered the writing when they came back from market this morning,” she began. “They told the secretary, who ran to my father right away. My father was at breakfast. He put down his glass of wine, left his bread and cheese and rushed into the main hall to look out of the window. When he saw the writing, he was furious. ‘This is an outrageous desecration of the temple!’ he shouted. ‘Who did it?’ The secretary couldn’t say, so my father got angrier still and threatened: ‘I will have you put in chains!’”



ENGLISH COMPOSITION

To boost their understanding of grammar, students use the text *God’s Gift of Language A*. Additionally, students continue working through the Institute for Excellence in Writing program with *Ancient History Based Writing Lessons* to develop their writing skills and techniques.



MEMORY WORK

Our students build a wide base of factual knowledge through recitations, chants, and jingles! Some specific passages include:

- ✓ Genesis 1:24-26
- ✓ Psalm 90
- ✓ Ephesians 6:10-20
- ✓ Psalm 139
- ✓ Psalm 51
- ✓ Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 49-60
- ✓ Seventh and Eighth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution
- ✓ Roman Emperors
- ✓ Greek gods & philosophers
- ✓ Archimedes song



GEOGRAPHY

In fourth grade, students learn about the geography corresponding to the places they study in the history texts.

- ✓ Greek Seas/Islands/Mountains
- ✓ Greek Cities/Empires
- ✓ Italy Seas/Islands/Mountains/Rivers
- ✓ Italy Cities/Empires
- ✓ U.S. States and Capitals



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LATIN

Latin class becomes more challenging as fourth grade students take on the *First Form Latin* text book, the first in a 4 year series. The focus of the First Form series is Latin grammar and a small, usable vocabulary.

Topics covered in fourth grade include:

- ✓ First and second conjugation verbs, present and perfect systems
- ✓ First, second, third, fourth, fifth declension nouns and adjectives
- ✓ Grammar Sentence Patterns #1-4
- ✓ Various Latin sayings, prayers and songs

SCIENCE

Students go through *Exploring Creation: Land Animals of the 6th Day* by Apologia, including activities and projects to make lessons come to life.

Topics include:

- ✓ Carnivorous mammals, marsupials, primates, rodents, animals with hooves
- ✓ Dinosaurs, reptiles, and amphibians found on land
- ✓ Gastropods and worms found on land

MATH

Saxon 6/5 - Saxon teaches students using a spiral-format that consistently reviews older concepts, adding more and more information to concepts they have previously encountered." - Saxon Teacher's Edition.

Topics include:

- ✓ Mastery of all math facts
- ✓ Order of operations;
- ✓ Geometry, perimeter, volume and measurement
- ✓ Integers; divisibility concepts; ratios
- ✓ Adding/subtracting fractions with a common denominator
- ✓ Decimal parts of a meter, reciprocals, square roots,
- ✓ Graphing points on a coordinate plane
- ✓ Statistics and simple probability
- ✓ Prime and composite numbers; patterns and sequences

OTHER

- ✓ Weekly Art, Music, PE, and Chorale classes
- ✓ Fourth grade goes through a devotional book that corresponds to the Westminster Shorter Catechism questions that they memorize over the course of the year.