

# WHAT TO EXPECT IN Fifth Grade

## HISTORY

The focus in fifth grade history is the Middle Ages. They pick up after the fall of Rome and study through the Protestant Reformation. Students continue to use the Veritas Press history flashcards for the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation. Other texts include *Famous Men of the Middle Ages* and *Remember the Days: History for Junior Readers, Book 2 (Medieval Days)*. In addition, as they work through these resources, they build a timeline to reinforce the chronological order of historical events.

## MATH

### Saxon 7/6

“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:

- Compound interest
- Functions and coordinate graphing
- Integers
- Exponential expressions
- Divisibility concepts
- Prime factorization
- Ratios

### Goals include:

- Fluently and accurately multiply and divide fractions and explain the inverse relationship between multiplication and division with fractions.
- Fluently and accurately multiply and divide decimals.
- Evaluate mathematical expressions when the value for each variable is given.
- Determine the perimeter and area of a composite figure that can be divided into triangles, rectangles, and parts of circles.

## ENGLISH COMPOSITION

To boost their understanding of grammar, students use the text *Well-Ordered Language 3A/3B*, a textbook that leads students through verbally analyzing and diagramming sentences and jingles to aid memory. Additionally, students continue working through medieval curriculum with the Institute for Excellence in Writing program *Fables, Myths, and Fairy Tales: Writing Lessons in Structure and Style* to develop their writing skills and techniques.

## LITERATURE

In classical education, the 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 chooses 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 fifth grade those titles include:

- *Carry On Mr. Bowditch* by Jean Lee Latham
- *The Door in the Wall* by De Angeli
- *The Adventures of Robin Hood* by Roger Lancelyn Green
- *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* by Roger Lancelyn Green
- *The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare

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

### *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch*, pg.196

Though tonight promised to be a good one for taking a lunar, Nat worked stubbornly at his checking of Moore's tables. Once he thought he heard his door open. He started, wheeled, and broke out in a cold sweat. This had to stop! He slammed Moore's book shut, picked up his sextant and slate, and went topside. Deliberately, he went forward, beyond the waist of the ship, and stood at the larboard rail, facing the water. I'll stand here, he told himself, till I get over being a fool!



# MEMORY WORK

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

- Matthew 5
- Matthew 6
- Matthew 7
- Psalm 46
- *Westminster Shorter Catechism* questions
- The Gettysburg Address
- Church fathers
- Church reformers
- European rulers
- Renaissance artists and works of art

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# LATIN

Having finished *First Form Latin*, fifth grade students advance to *Second Form Latin*, which is the second text in a four year series. The focus of the Latin Series is to enable the student to grasp the whole in its logical parts, at a pace that promotes mastery rather than frustration.

- Review all of the material from First Form Latin
- Personal and possessive pronouns
- Prepositions
- Present and perfect system indicative verbs
- Passive voice verbs
- Various Latin sayings, prayers, and songs

# GEOGRAPHY

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

- European seas/islands/mountains
- European buildings/cathedrals
- European countries/cities
- Asia countries/cities
- Asia seas/islands/mountains

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# SCIENCE

Students continue their scientific study of God's world in fifth grade by exploring Botany. This class involves learning about the process of classifying plants, the development and reproduction of plants, and the nutrition cycle of plants. It is a hands-on experience with many projects and activities including building a "light hut" to grow plants from seeds.

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# ENRICHMENT / SPECIALS

- Daily convocation
- Weekly art, music, physical education, and chorale classes
- Students have many opportunities to bring their studies to life by enjoying a Medieval Feast, create a Living Wax Museum, perform a King Arthur and Robin Hood play and enjoy the Armor Court and Renaissance art at the Cleveland Art Museum.

