

WHAT TO EXPECT IN Fourth Grade

HISTORY

The focus in fourth grade history are the ancient cultures of Greece and Rome. Students use *Remember the Days: Ancients* and *Biblioplan: Ancient Days*. They study *Famous Men of Greece* and *Famous Men of Rome* and 32 *New Testament, Greece, and Rome Flashcards*. In addition, as they work through these resources, they build a timeline to reinforce the chronological order of historical events.

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 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
- *Dangerous Journey* by John Bunyan

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

The Trojan War, pg.194

"In the dark shadow cast by Apollo's temple, Sinon was fumbling with the secret bolts of the wooden horse. Presently the door dropped with a slight creak. A rope followed it. There was a muffled ringing of bronze all the fully-armed heroes slid quickly to the ground."

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

To boost their understanding of grammar, students use the text *Well-Ordered Language Level 2A/2B*, a textbook leading students through verbally analyzing sentences, diagramming sentences, and jingles to aid memory. 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

Students read the ESV Bible for Bible memory and to learn about about the Gospels and the life of Jesus and His teachings. They also work on memory. Some specific passages are:

- Psalm 90
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- Psalm 139
- Psalm 51
- *Westminster Shorter Catechism* questions
- Roman Emperors
- Greek gods & philosophers
- Archimedes Song
- Ancient Middle East Empires
- Newton's Laws of Motions



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/ivers
 - Italy cities/empires
 - U.S. states/capitals
 - U.S. land forms/ivers/lakes
-

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 Latin Series is to enable the student to grasp the whole in its logical parts, at a pace that promotes mastery rather than frustration.

Topics 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
-

ENRICHMENT / SPECIALS

- Daily convocation
- Weekly art, music, physical education, and chorale classes
- As the fourth graders learn about Ancient Greece, they will put on their very own Olympics ceremony. Students will also perform the Dangerous Journey.

