

A History Curriculum



**MODERN
AMERICA
PART 1**



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HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

I'm so excited that you've chosen Rabbit Trails through History to use in your homeschool! This curriculum is a literature based, relaxed curriculum for all elementary and middle grades. What this means is that it's not designed to have lots of busy work. It's designed to provide quality literature to your children, hands on activities, opportunities for copy work, artist studies, and other means to learn fun and enriching history material.

Rabbit Trails through History was created with homeschooling adventures in mind. Not only will you be learning history, but your children will go on a journey through amazing books while gaining historical knowledge about the world around them. This curriculum is meant to be used on your child's level. It's not meant to have boxes checked off each day, but to do what works for your unique family. When it comes to copy work and writing, there are suggestions given, but take what you need and leave the rest. If your child isn't at the level of the suggestions, then create what works for them. Same thing if they're capable of beyond what is recommended. Make this curriculum your own!

A lot of families enjoy studying history chronologically. As you learn about Modern American history, feel free to create a timeline. You can do this in your child's notebook, on multiple pieces of paper displayed in your school room, or even on butcher paper to have lots of room to include illustrations. Add the dates these key figures were born, helped with important events, and more. This is another tool to help your child understand the concept of time and when all of these people were around and when events took place. Keep it fun and stress-free!

I encourage you to enjoy reading as many of the books listed in this curriculum as you can! Quality literature is the framework of this curriculum. However, don't become overwhelmed with purchasing these books if you don't have the means. Many can be found at libraries, on used book websites, etc. The books listed in the Rabbit Trails and Library Lists are just suggestions. Use what books you have on hand or find at your own library on the topic! If you do choose to buy all of the books, you can access many in my shop. You can also access all of the links, YouTube videos, and more in the Resource Page in the back of this curriculum.

NOTEBOOK STYLE CURRICULUM

As you may have noticed, this curriculum does not include any kind of workbook for your children to work in. This was designed to all be done in a notebook. You may choose a standard, wide ruled notebook, or you can choose to use our pre-made Companion Journals. Feel free to use whatever method works best for you and your child.

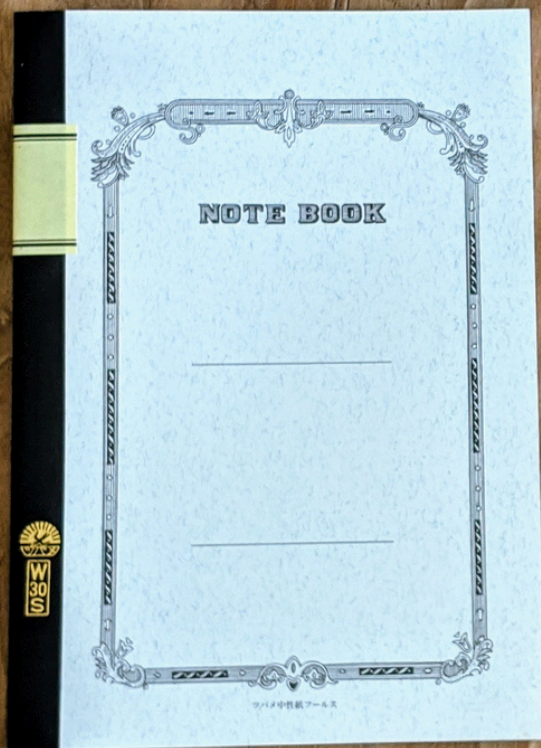
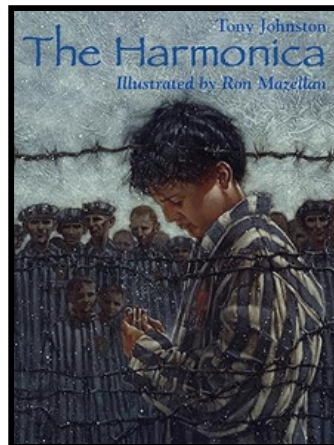
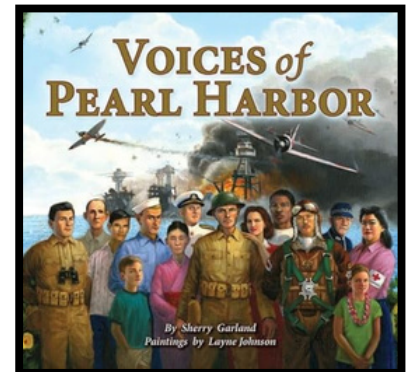
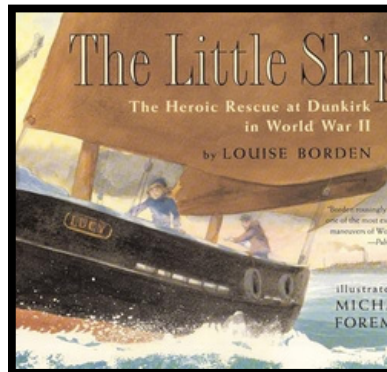
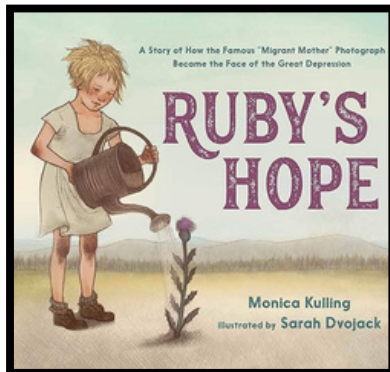
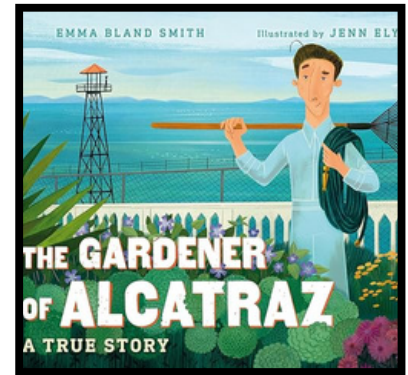
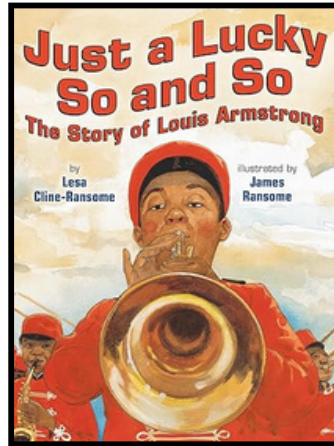
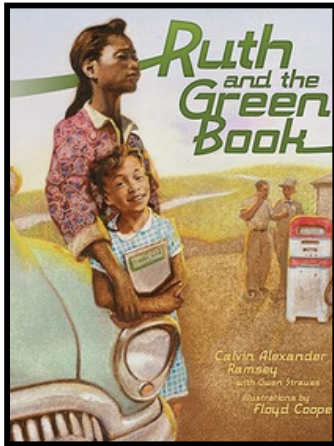


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Begin your journey by reading *Ruth and the Green Book* by Calvin Alexander Ramsey & Gwen Strauss. The Great Migration was a movement of millions of African Americans from the South to the North and

West. This migration started in the 1910s and ended in the 1970s. Most of the African American population lived in the South at this time. They were escaping the South to get away from Jim Crow Laws and to find better jobs. At this time, farming conditions were poor in the South and many African Americans held jobs as sharecroppers. A sharecropper is someone who farms land owned by someone else. Since the farming conditions were bad, and their contracts were unfair, there wasn't much money being made. Reports of a better life and better paying jobs pushed many African American families to move to the bigger cities up North and West. But as they traveled, they met some discrimination. This is why Victor Green started writing the *Green Book*. As the story shared, this book contained ads for places that were safe for African Americans to stop and eat or sleep. This book was first published in 1936. A new copy was published annually until 1967.



"The Great Migration can get forgotten if we don't pay attention or bear witness to it. It's part of my personal history and the history of millions of African Americans who left those oppressive conditions for better lives in the North." -Jacqueline Woodson

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. -2 Corinthians 5:17

Many African American families were looking for a new start. When we put our trust in Jesus, we are given a new start also. All our sins are washed away and we are a new creation. Just like the African Americans were hoping for a better life, we can know that our lives can be changed by believing in Jesus!

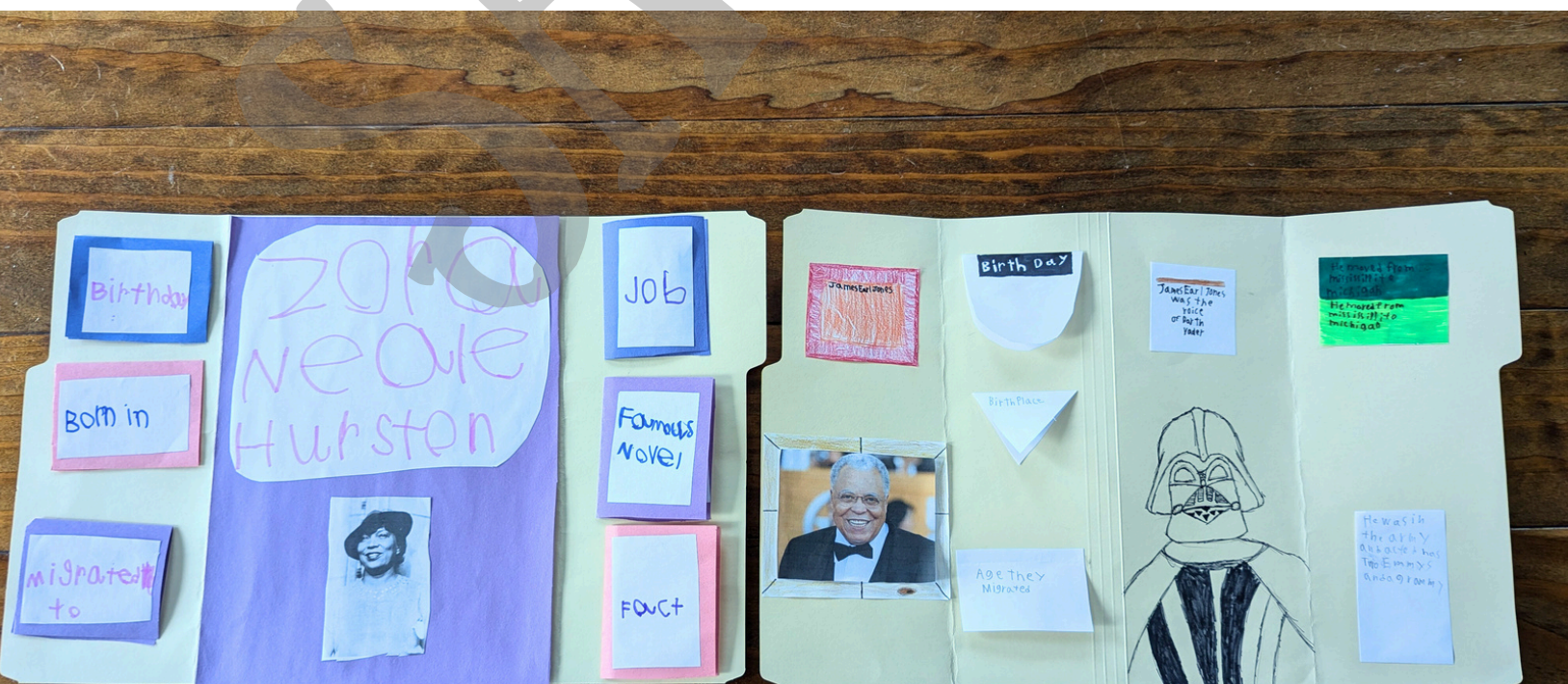


Many famous Americans participated in the Great Migration as children or adults. A few famous migrants were John Coltrane, Zora Neale Hurston, James Earl Jones, Jackie Robinson, and many more famous musicians, writers, actors, and athletes.

Now head to the library or online to read all about their life. Take the information you learned and make a lapbook with a file folder. Start by opening up the file folder and fold the left side to the middle. Do the same with the right side. Now add your information with fun pictures or lift the flap items. Include information such as: date of birth, birthplace, age when they migrated, city they migrated to, achievements, fun facts, pictures from their life, etc.

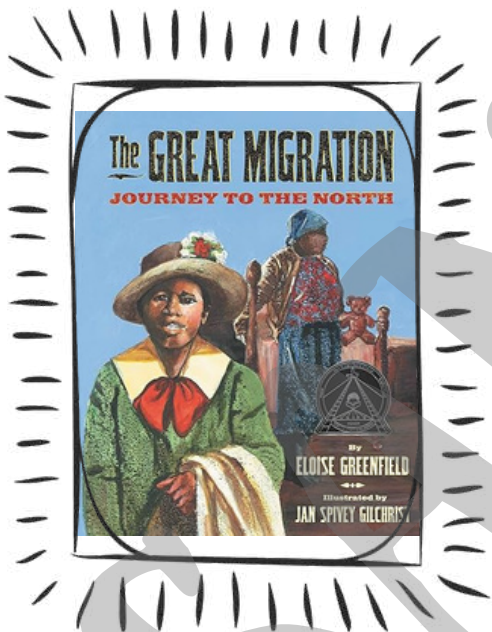
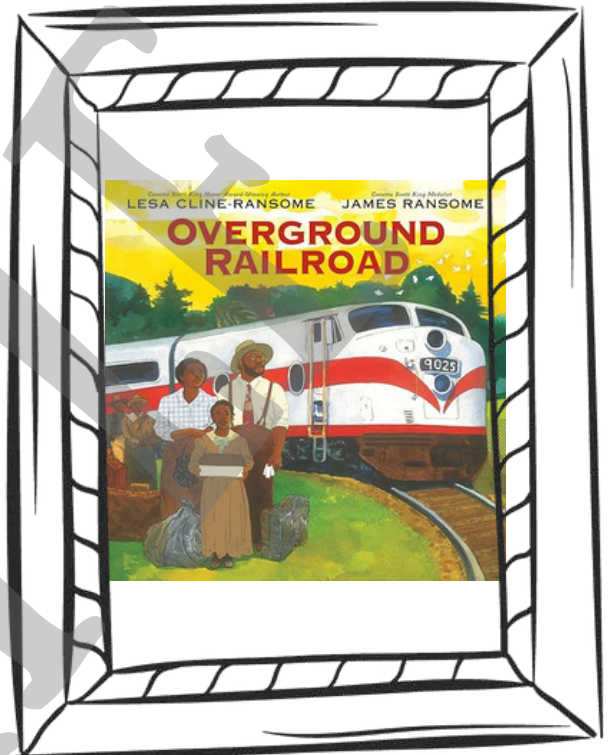
Supplies needed:

- File folder
- Pencils, crayons, and markers
- Research material
- Glue
- Construction paper



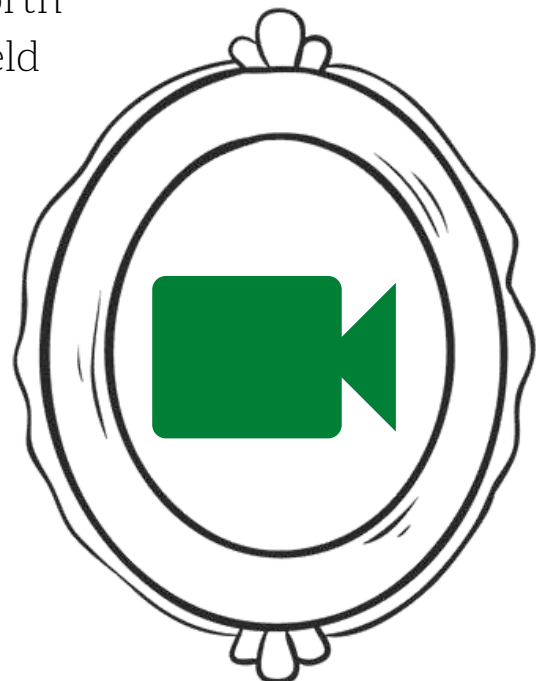


Continue learning more about the Great Migration. Start with *Overground Railroad* by Lesa Cline-Ransome.

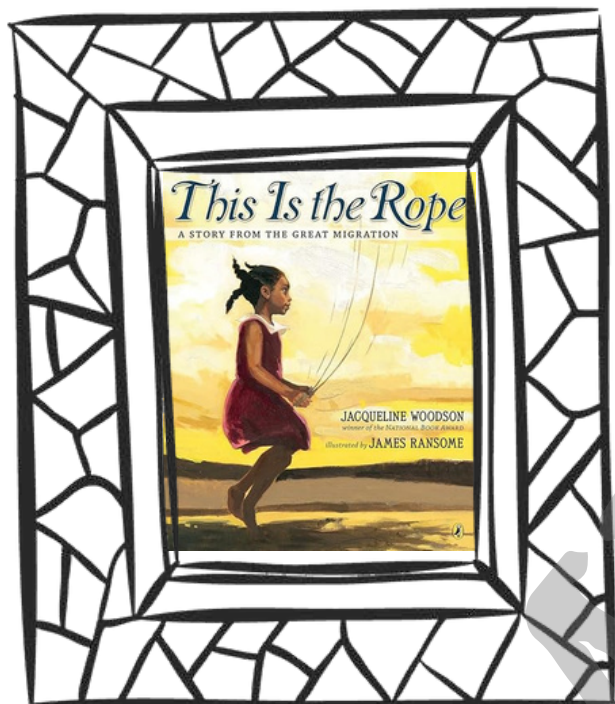


The Great Migration:
Journey to the North
by Eloise Greenfield

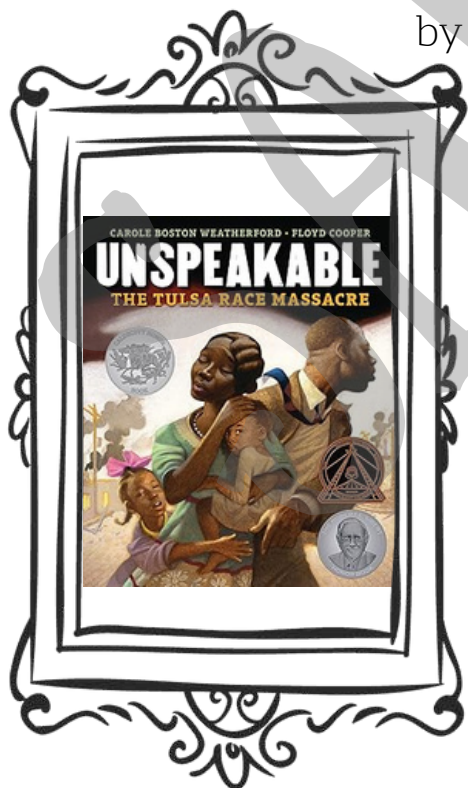
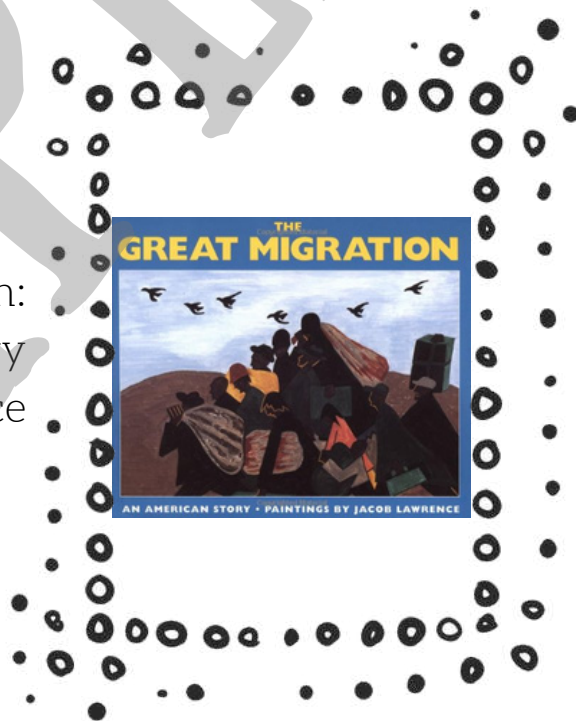
Head over to History's
YouTube channel and watch
Sound Smart: The Great Migration
to learn some key facts.



This is the Robe: A Story of
the Great Migration
by Jacqueline Woodson



The Great Migration:
An American Story
by Jacob Lawrence



Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre
by Carole Boston Weatherford



-Do an art study on Jacob Lawrence. You can see all his artwork for the Great Migration in The Great Migration: An American Story. Start an art collection. You can choose to print copies of the artwork or try recreating them.

-Which cities did African Americans migrate to? Do some research to find the cities and how many people came to each city. Take your information and make a bar graph to see the differences in the amount of migrants.

-You can see digital copies of all the Green Book publications using the link on the resource page. After looking at several different ads, make your own. What's the name of your business? What services do you provide? How can you make your ad attractive so people choose yours over the others in the book?

-Poetry Tea Time! Read One Way Ticket by Langston Hughes.

-Try putting yourself in the shoes of a black person in the South in the 1910s. Would you choose to migrate to a different city? Would you choose to stay in the South? Make a list of pros and cons and see which would be the best choice.

-Field trip idea! Search your area for Great Migration exhibits. The Mississippi Museum of Art has a traveling exhibit sharing stories from 12 different artists. Check out the link on the resource page to see if the exhibit will be near you.