

A History Curriculum



**MODERN
AMERICA
PART 2**



Copyright © 2025 by Rabbit Trails Homeschool

All rights reserved. This book may be reproduced for family members living in one household. It may not be reproduced or transmitted in any other form or by any other means without written permission from the author.

Find Rabbit Trails on the web here:

Website: rabbittrailshomeschool.com

Facebook: [Rabbit Trails Homeschool](https://www.facebook.com/RabbitTrailsHomeschool)

Instagram: [@rabbittrailshomeschool](https://www.instagram.com/rabbittrailshomeschool)

Pinterest: [Rabbit Trails Homeschool](https://www.pinterest.com/RabbitTrailsHomeschool)

YouTube: [Rabbit Trails Homeschool](https://www.youtube.com/RabbitTrailsHomeschool)

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 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 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.

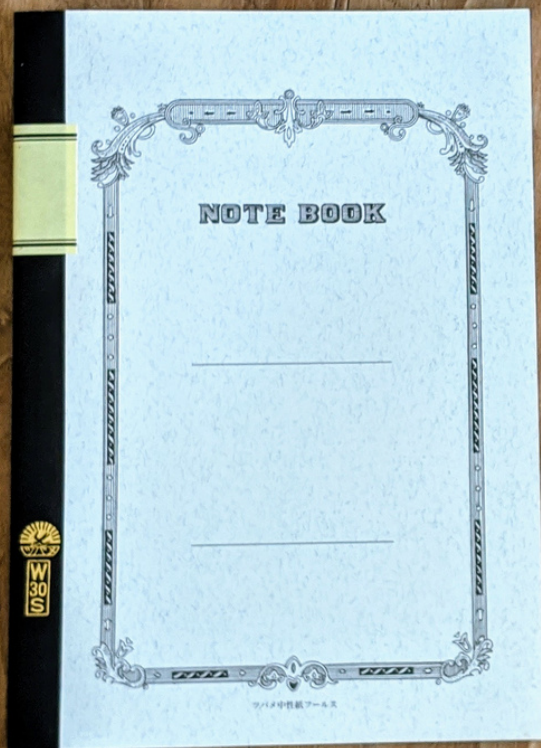
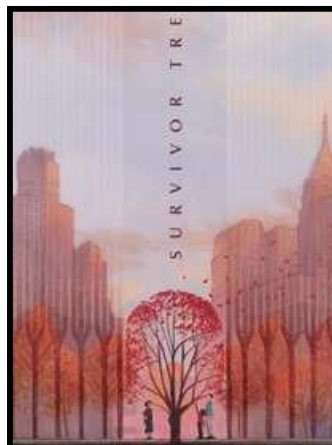
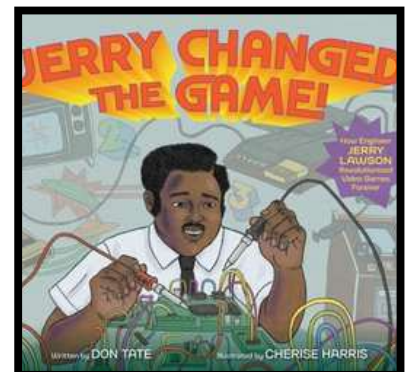
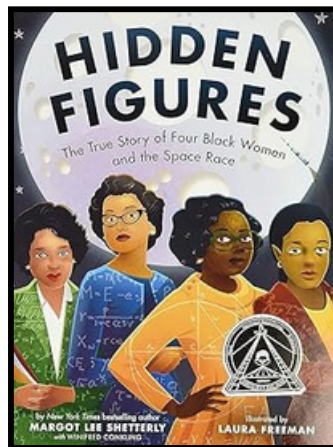
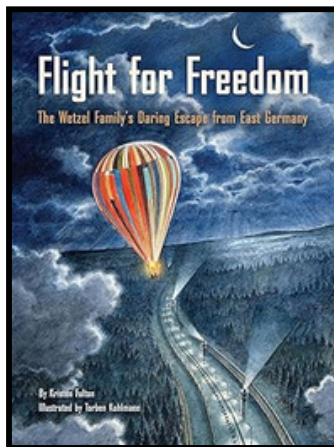
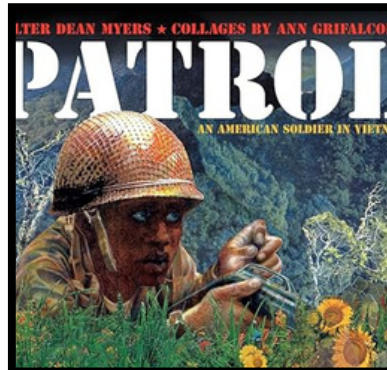
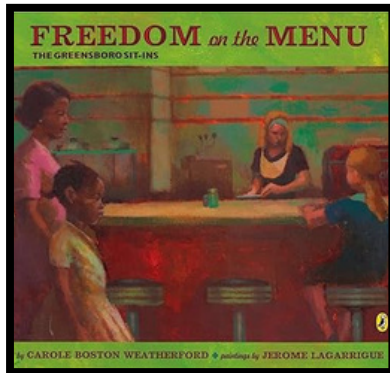


TABLE OF CONTENTS







Begin by reading *Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam* by Walter Dean Myers. The Vietnam War was a long and costly war between the communist government of North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

The Vietnam War was from November 1, 1955-April 30, 1975.

Vietnam was a French colony until communist Ho Chi Minh led his rebels, Viet Minh, to fight against the French. In 1954, the French lost a major battle and decided to pull out of Vietnam. Vietnam also divided into North and South. North Vietnam wanted to reunite the country under Ho Chi Minh's leadership, but the South and their leader, Ngo Dinh Diem, were against communism.

The United States supported South Vietnam by training the South army. In August 1964, North Vietnam attacked a U.S. warship. This led to President Johnson sending more troops and expanding our role in the war to soldiers on the ground and dropping bombs on North Vietnam and the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The Ho Chi Minh Trail went through Laos and Cambodia. It was a supply road that allowed the North to get supplies to their troops in the south.

Finally in 1974, the U.S. cut back its aid to the south. This led to the South falling apart and the North winning the war on April 30, 1975. In 1976, Vietnam was back to one country again.



"This war has already stretched the generation gap so wide that it threatens to pull the country apart."

-Senator Frank Church

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. -Isaiah 40:31

Above is part of one of Sam Johnson's favorite verses. He was a fighter pilot whose plane was shot down in 1966. He was held as a POW until 1973. While in captivity, his faith grew. He found little things to be thankful for even though he suffered a lot. His story is a good reminder to us to be thankful, even during hard times.



Did you know that for thousands of years the Vietnamese have worn non la hats (also called conical hats)? There is a legend behind why they wear these hats. You can research this on the internet if you'd like. Let's make our own conical hat. You will need a large piece of cardstock or poster board the is twice the size of the hat you'd like to make. For example, if you want a 12 inch hat, you need to start with a 24 inch cardstock/poster board. Start with drawing a large circle on your paper. Feel free to use an object in your home to trace around. You can also do some math in to figure out the size you need for your head. Next, find the center of your circle. Draw a radius line to the outside. Cut out your circle and cut on the radius line. If you are going to put designs on your hat, do this now. You can add the designs on the outside or inside. Then, turn your circle into a cone and glue the flaps down to hold in place. Finish it off by adding a chin strap with ribbon.

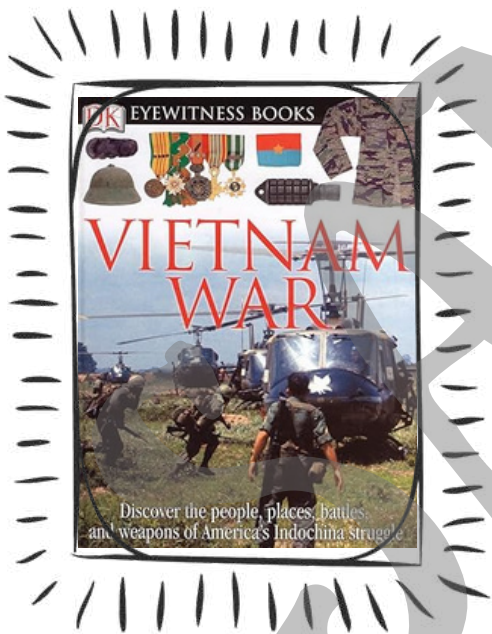
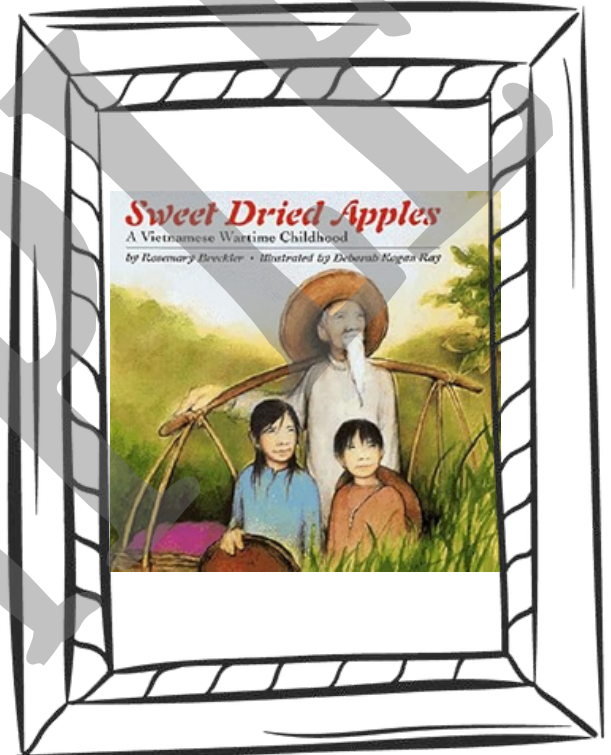
Supplies Needed:

- Cardstock or poster board
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Paint, marker, or crayons
- Glue stick
- Hole puncher
- Ribbon





Let's learn more about what life was like during the Vietnam War. Start with *Sweet Dried Apples* by Rosemary Breckler.



Eyewitness: Vietnam War
by DK

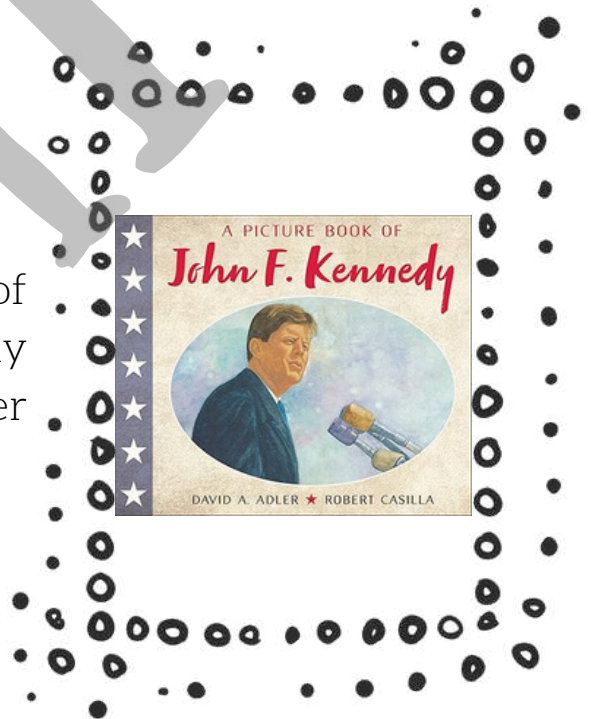
Head over to Simple History's YouTube channel and watch The Vietnam War Draft to learn what the draft was all about.



Last Flight
by Kristen Mai Giang



A Picture Book of
John F. Kennedy
by David A. Adler



The Wall
by Eve Bunting



-Field trip time! Head over to Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. If you don't live nearby, check out the National Park Service website to learn more. Also read *The Wall* by Eve Bunting to hear a story of a boy and his dad looking for his grandfather's name.

-Since the Vietnam War lasted so long, the United States had several different Presidents. Do a President study of Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard Nixon. (If you're really interested, start with George Washington and finish with our current President.) Make a journal page for each President. List information such as: Presidential term, political party, important events, and a famous quote.

-Do an art study on the Vietnam Combat Artist Team. This was a program that sent nine teams of five artists each into the battle at different times. They were to sketch, draw, and paint scenes from the war. Learn about one or more of the different artists.

-Read *I Have a Rendezvous with Death* by Alan Seeger. It is a poem about war, and also happened to be John F. Kennedy's favorite poem.

-As you read more about the Vietnam War, do you feel like the United States joining was a good idea? Have a discussion as a family.