

Year 7/8 - Medieval, Renaissance/Reformation

Part One includes the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, the middle ages in Europe, the rise of Islam and the Crusades, the age of exploration, and the establishment of trade with the Far East. The study concludes with the discoveries of Columbus and the Spanish settlements in the New World.

Part Two includes the reformation in Germany, the Netherlands, France, and England, the settlement of colonies in America, the rise of England and the Netherlands as sea powers, and the corresponding fall of Spain.

Suggested Books

The following books represent the time period studied. Those marked with an () are Ambleside Online/House of Education recommended titles. Other books marked with (+) are suggested as possible substitutions or additions based on time, student reading skill, and/or interest.*

World History

***The Birth of Britain** by Sir Winston Churchill (Year 7)

***The New World** by Sir Winston Churchill (Year 8)

OR Choose to read from these Alternate History books

+**The Discovery of New Worlds** by M. B. Synge (ch. 12-53)

+**The Awakening of Europe** by M. B. Synge (ch. 1-25)

Supplemental History

***Ecclesiastical History of English People and The Life of Alfred** by Asser

***The Magna Carta and William of Malmsbury's account of the Battle of Hastings**

***History of Deeds done Beyond the Sea**

***Martin Luther's defense before the Diet of Worms**

***Queen Elizabeth's speech to the Spanish Armada, July 29, 1588**

***John Donne's funeral address**

Biography

***Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc** by Mark Twain (Year 7)

***A Man for All Seasons** by Robert Bolt or view DVD (Year 8)

***Johannes Kepler: Giant of Faith and Science** by John Hudson Tiner (Year 8)

OR Choose to read a Collective Biography

+**The Early Church, from Ignatius to Augustine** by George Hodges

+**Famous Men of the Middle Ages** by John H. Haaren

+**Famous Men of Modern Times** by John H. Haaren

OR Choose to read an Individual Biography

- +Charles I of England by Jacob Abbott
- +Charles II of England by Jacob Abbott
- +Margaret of Anjou by Jacob Abbott
- +Richard I, II or III by Jacob Abbott
- +William the Conqueror by Jacob Abbott

Historical Fiction

- *The Once and Future King by T.H. White (Year 7)
- *In Freedom's Cause by G.A. Henty (Year 7)
- *Westward Ho! by Charles Kingsley (Year 7)

OR Choose to read from an Anthology

- +Stories from English History I and II by Alfred J. Church

Geography

- *The Brendan Voyage by Tim Severin (Year 7)
- *How the Heather Looks by Joan Bodger (Year 7)
- *Life of Christopher Columbus by Edward Everett Hale (Year 8)

Literature

- *The History of English Literature for Girls and Boys by H.E. Marshall (ch. 1-59)
- *The Age of Chivalry by Thomas Bulfinch Year 7)
- *Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott (Year 7)
- *A Taste of Chaucer by Anne Malcomson (Year 7)
- *Everyman, A Morality Play (Year 8)
- *Pilgrims Progress or The Holy War by John Bunyan (Year 8)
- *Utopia by Sir Thomas More (Year 8)

Poetry

Idylls of the King, Lord Tennyson (Year 7)
 Fierce Wars and Faithful Loves or Spenser's Fairie Queene Book I (Year 8)
 Shakespeare's Sonnets and/or Milton's Paradise Lost (Year 8)

Shakespeare

MacBeth
 Henry V
 Richard III

Free Reading

Beowulf (Year 7)
 Sir Gawaine and the Green Knight (Year 7)
 Tales of 1001 Arabian Nights
 The House of Arden by E. Nesbit

Harding's Luck by E. Nesbit
Lorna Doone by R. D. Blackmore
The Black Arrow by Robert Louis Stevenson
Hereward, the Last of the English by Charles Kingsley
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain (Year 7)
Legends of Charlemagne by Thomas Bullfinch (Year 7)
The Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey (Year 7)

Suggested Reading Guide

Middle Ages (AD 800 to 1485)

Lessons	Dates	Key People or Events
Weeks 1-6	800 to 871	King Arthur, Rise of Islam, Beowulf, Charles (Battle of Tours), Charlemagne, 1001 Arabian Nights, Alfred the Great, Eric the Red
Weeks 7-12	874 to 1192	Otto, Holy Roman Empire, MacBeth, El Cid, Leif Erickson, William the Conqueror, Battle of Hastings, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard the Lionheart (II), Early Crusades, Robin Hood
Weeks 13-18	1210 to 1456	St. Francis, King John and the Magna Carta, Frederick II, Thomas Aquinas, Marco Polo, William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, Dante, 100 Years War, John Wycliffe, Chaucer, Joan of Arc, Johannes Gutenberg, Henry V, Wars of the Roses, The Two Princes

Renaissance/Reformation (AD 1485-1688)

Lessons	Dates	Key People or Events
Weeks 19-28	1485 to 1603	Thomas More, William Tyndale, Sir Walter Raleigh, Edmund Spenser
Weeks 29-36	1603 to 1688	Francis Bacon, John Donne, John Milton, Samuel Pepys, John Bunyan

Weekly Pacing

Spread these readings out through out the week or read them on individual days.