

The Curious Historian

Scope & Sequence



With so many subjects to learn, and so little time to study them all, do we really want to spend time mired in the past, traveling along the dusty roads of former mighty empires such as Babylon, Greece, and Rome, when our students' minds could be speeding along the superhighways of modern technology? We think the answer is an emphatic "Yes!" We agree with the words of well-known modern author Michael Crichton, who said, "If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."

We believe that history is about more than memorizing dates, reciting lists of kings and emperors, and remembering who won which battle in wars that changed the world forever. History is also the study of the people who lived during those events. From the beginning of recorded time, people have invented new ways to do things, created beauty in dreary places, and erected buildings and monuments that continue to inspire us. Some of these people became well-known figures and others were ordinary men and women like you and me. But all of us are part of the greater tree of humankind, and we each need to know what our part is as a leaf upon that tree. Without an understanding of the past, we will be less equipped to live in the present and plan for the future.

In each book in The Curious Historian series, you will find a rich, engaging presentation of information about important people and civilizations throughout history that still have much to teach us, even in our modern age. Students will learn about the language, religion, arts, architecture, monuments, and writing of each of these civilizations, kingdoms, and empires. The full-color art and artifacts pictured throughout each book will help them understand what these peoples created and will give them an appreciation of the wonder and beauty of history.

The Curious Historian series will be divided into 4 levels, each of which consists of 2 semester-long texts. The series will cover the following eras.*

The Curious Historian Level 1A: The Early & Middle Bronze Ages

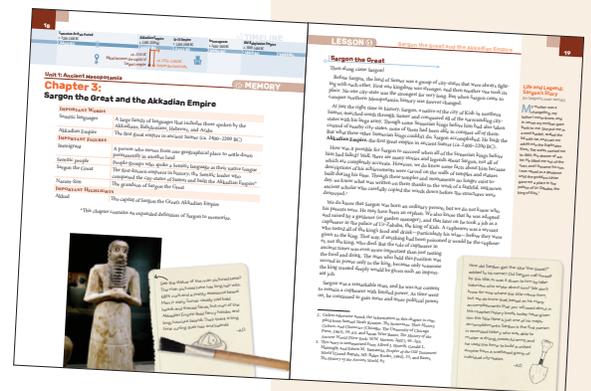
This one-semester book introduces students to:

Unit I: Ancient Mesopotamia

- The ancient Sumerian city-states
- The Akkadian, Ur III, and Old Babylonian Empires
- Sargon the Great and Hammurabi
- Culture highlights: ziggurats, cuneiform writing, and religion

Unit II: Ancient Egypt

- The Egyptian Archaic Period
- The gifts of the Nile River
- The Egyptian Old and Middle Kingdoms
- Culture highlights: pyramids, hieroglyphics, and religion



*Since The Curious Historian texts are still in development, the scope and sequence for Level 2B and up is a working draft and subject to change.

The Curious Historian Level 1B: The Late Bronze & Iron Ages

This one-semester book introduces students to:

Unit I: The Late Bronze Age

- The Egyptian Middle and New Kingdom periods
- The Hurrians, Hittites, and Kassites
- The Assyrians and Elamites
- The Minoans and Mycenaeans



▲ Carved figures found in an Egyptian tomb

Unit II: The Iron Age

- The Sea Peoples, Philistines, and Israelites
- Egypt under the Nubians and Libyans (Third Intermediate Period) and the Saite Dynasty (Late Period)
- The Phoenicians and Arameans
- The great Iron Age empires: Assyria, Babylonia, and Persia

Unit III: The Far East

- India during the Harappan and Vedic Civilizations
- China during the Xia, Shang, and Zhou dynasties
- Culture highlights: architecture, writing, religion, and more

The Curious Historian Level 2A: Greece and the Classical World

This one-semester book introduces students to:

Unit I: Ancient and Classical Greece

- The Greek Archaic Period
- Greek political organization and the city-states of Athens and Sparta
- Colonization and ancient Greek warfare
- The Persian Wars and Peloponnesian War
- Culture highlights: the Olympics, religion, writing and literature, architecture and monuments, art and sculpture, myths and legends
- Profiles of famous Greek figures (Odysseus, Socrates, Leonidas, Pericles, etc.)

Unit II: Hellenistic Greece

- Philip of Macedon and Alexander the Great
- The Hellenistic World: The Successors and the Hellenistic Kingdoms
- Remarkable Greek scientists, philosophers, and historians
- Culture highlights: women and slaves in the Greek world, architecture and monuments, myths and legends
- Profiles of famous Greek figures (Alexander the Great, Hermes, Athena, etc.)

Unit III: The Far Eastern World

- India during the Nanda, Magadha, and Mauryan Empires
- Indian religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism
- China during the Spring and Autumn Period; rise of Confucianism and Daoism

- Culture highlights: the Vedas, *Bhagavad Gita*, and *Ramayana*; the Five Classics of Chinese literature

The Curious Historian Level 2B: Rome and the Classical World

This one-semester book introduces students to:

Unit I: The Roman Republic

- The Roman Republic
- Roman legions and Roman expansion
- Rome vs. Carthage and the Hellenistic Kingdoms
- The Late Republic and Julius Caesar
- Culture highlights: the Latin language, religion, literature (Virgil and *The Aeneid*), monuments
- Profiles of famous Roman figures (Cleopatra, Hannibal, Spartacus, etc.)

Unit II: The Roman Empire

- The Successors of Augustus: Julio-Claudian and Flavian Dynasties
- The 5 “Good Emperors” (the Antonines)
- The Severans and the “Terrible Third Century”
- Diocletian and the Dominate
- Constantine and Christianity
- Culture highlights: architecture and monuments, the rise of Christianity, women in the Roman world, the philosophies of Epicureanism and Stoicism, etc.
- Profiles of famous Roman figures (the poet Horace, Pliny the Elder, Julius Caesar, Jesus Christ, etc.)

Unit III: The Far Eastern World

- China during the Han dynasty and Three Kingdoms Era
- India during the Gupta golden age and Middle Kingdoms period
- Culture highlights: monuments, technologies and inventions, religion, literature, etc.

The Curious Historian Level 3A: The Early Middle Ages

This one-semester book introduces students to:

Unit I: The Divided World

- The barbarian invasions and “fall” of Rome
- The Gothic, Vandal, Frankish, and Saxon Kingdoms
- The Empire of Justinian
- The Byzantine, Sassanid, and Arab Empires
- Culture highlights

Do you ever wonder what our world would be like today if events in the past had happened differently? What if Alexander the Great never “conquered the world” or the British won the American War of Independence? How would your life be different if the telephone had never been invented, or if we were still riding around on horses instead of in cars? What would life be like if we didn’t know what a computer was or never flew high above the clouds in an airplane? The twists and turns of history affect everyone alive today. The events of history have helped make you who you are! So, it’s good to be curious and ask questions about the generations that came before you. And it’s good to know as much about the past as possible



so that you can understand this wonderful, complicated world we live in.



▲ Funeral urn from the Western Jin dynasty

Unit II: The Viking Age

- The Empire of Charlemagne
- The Bulgar and Byzantine Empires: the northward expansion of Eastern Christendom
- The Magyars and Monarchs: the eastward expansion of Western Christendom
- The Vikings, Saxons, and Normans
- Culture highlights

Unit III: The Eastern World

- China during the Jin dynasty and the Sixteen Kingdoms
- India during the Middle Kingdoms period
- Culture highlights, including the rise of Buddhism and the Confucian reaction and the entrance of Islam into India

The Curious Historian Level 3B: The Late Middle Ages

This one-semester book introduces students to:

Unit I: Knights, Kings, and Crusaders

- The feudal world and kingdoms
- The Byzantine world
- The rise of the Persian and Turkish dynasties
- The Crusades
- Merchant city-states and Christian kingdoms
- Culture highlights

Unit II: Mongols, Mamelukes, and Moguls

- China during the Sui, Tang, Song, and Jin dynasties
- The Mongol Empire, Great Khans, and Mamelukes
- The Gunpowder Empires: Ottomans, Tsars, Ming, Moguls, etc.
- Culture highlights

Unit III: Merchants and Monarchs

- The Hundred Years' War and beginnings of nationalism
- The Holy Roman Empire and Roman Church
- Culture highlights

The Curious Historian Level 4A: The Early Modern Era

This one-semester book introduces students to:

Unit I: Upheaval in Christendom

- The Great Schism and Council of Pisa
- Constance and Conciliarism
- Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation
- Charles V and the Peace of Augsburg
- Culture highlights

Unit II: The Age of Discovery and the Wars of Religion

- Prince Henry the Navigator and the Portuguese Empire
- Christopher Columbus and the Spanish Empire
- Philip II and the Catholic Crusade
- Francis, Henry IV, and France
- The Thirty Years' War and English Civil War
- Culture highlights

The Age of Enlightenment and Imperialism

- Louis XIV and France's bid for hegemony
- Remarkable men, from Copernicus to Newton
- The struggle for Europe and world empire
- The Enlightenment and the American Revolution
- Culture highlights

The Curious Historian Level 4B: The Modern Era

This one-semester book introduces students to:

The Age of Revolution and Reaction

- The Deluge and the Terror in France
- The Thermidorean Reaction and the Napoleonic Era
- The Industrial Revolution
- Reaction, reform, and reunification
- Culture highlights

Unit II: Powers, Empires, and World Wars

- New nation-states and a burst of imperialism
- Westernization vs. modernization: the problems of reform in Turkey, Russia, China, and Japan
- World War I
- The Russian Revolution and the interwar era
- World War II
- Culture highlights

Unit III: The Superpowers and the Third World (1945–present)

- The Korean and Cold Wars
- The tumultuous 1960s and 1970s
- Reagan, Thatcher, and the end of the Cold War
- The “end” of history and the War on Terror
- Culture highlights

