

TruthQuest

HISTORY

"I have two children, ages 11 and 13. We want to study American history. Since both your 'American History for Young Students' series (Grades 1-5) and 'Age of Revolution' series (Grades 5-12) cover American history, which should I use? One of my children is on the grade-level cusp, this is our first time visiting the topic, and I'm not sure what depth I'd like to pursue."

Because both our "American History for Young Students" series and our "Age of Revolution" series (the deeper guides designed for older students covering both American and European history in an approximately 60/40 mix) cover American history, we are often asked this question. Here is a sample answer:

"Your question is a good one, and we pray God guides you clearly. That said (and meant!), we throw out some points for your prayerful consideration.

It can be helpful in such situations to step back a bit, and get a sense of the overall plan, especially for the eldest child who will be graduating in just five short years. He will then be head-to-head with the issues, challenges, and needs of the greater world. What do you think God would have you do to prepare him through history studies?

As far as TruthQuest History is concerned, our final guide in the upper world history series—Age of Revolution III: America/Europe, 1865-2000—purposely pursues that entering-the-world-so-be-ready-to-understand-and-minister goal. It is a great place to end one's history career. Backing up from that point, then, it would be ideal to spend the last five years of your student's history studies preparing for that grand finale, because it is when a student runs the course of history from the early stages to the latter stages that he can most clearly see the continued hand of God, and see the tremendous cause-and-effect nature of a culture's

spiritual beliefs as they play out in that nation's government, art, science, economy, literature, etc. Furthermore, your student will then see how the actions of both God and man have built toward the present day.

The schedule would look something like this:

- Age 13: Beginnings (Creation, etc.); Ancient Greece
- Age 14: Ancient Rome; half Middle Ages
- Age 15: Finish Middle Ages; Renaissance/Reformation
- Age 16: Age of Revolution I (USA/Europe, 1600-1800)
- Age 17: Age of Revolution II (USA/Europe, 1800-1865)
- Age 18: Age of Revolution III (USA/Europe, 1865-2000)

(Or, do "Beginnings" during "Bible time," so you have more "history time" for the other guides.)

Your 11-year-old could run this course with the elder sibling. In fact, many students purposely begin their world history run right at that age. When your elder student graduates, your younger child would have two more years to revisit the earliest epochs of history while at a more mature age.

This, also, is excellent preparation.

However, you said that your plan is to study American history at this time. To offer input on your question—whether to use the "American History for Young Students" (AHYS) or "Age of Revolution" (REV) series—brings us again to the question of long-range plans. If your elder student will not have time to cover American history again before graduation, he/she should probably do the REV guides now. They are critical for adult preparation, as stated earlier. If you intend to begin your run of chronological world history next year, ending with the REV guides at the end, then you would first have one year of lighter history time which could be enjoyably spent in the AHYS guides. While the commentary in these guides is written for elementary students (Grades 1-5), the commentary does gradually get meatier as the AHYS series progresses, and we include in our booklists anything that can be read by a fifth grader. There are, therefore, oodles of books appropriate for Grades 5-12!

If you decide to use the AHYS guides, you may want to use just the first two, and do them pretty quickly, so you still have time for other eras. You needn't do the third guide in the AHYS series if you'll soon be doing the REV guides anyway, as the first two are the most essential in understanding America's foundations.

You're welcome to purchase both guides, and return which ever you'd rather not use (Return Policy). That way, you can pore over both while making your decision. We hope that helps!"