

Grade 4

Core Knowledge History & Geography

Organization Guide

FREE RESOURCES

How-to Videos: Watch the videos to learn to use the CKHG curriculum to homeschool:
<https://bit.ly/31QiLA2>

Unit-Specific Prep Checklist: Includes notes for each unit of the curriculum including which activity pages to print, library books that may be needed, required advanced preparation broken out by lesson, as well as a list of additional unit-specific supplies. Click here to download the CKHG Fourth Grade Unit-Specific Prep Document:
<https://bit.ly/3qKP11b>

Daily Schedule: A free daily schedule for homeschooling fourth grade using the Core Knowledge and MEP Math curriculums is available here: <https://bit.ly/3zPmWJ2>

PRIMARY MATERIALS

Units: There are 8 units in the Grade 4 CKHG curriculum. All students start with Unit 1 and progress through the units in order. You will download each unit separately from the CK website. Each unit will be downloaded as a file folder containing multiple files including the Teacher's Guide and Student Reader.

Teacher's Guide: This is the primary resource for history and geography lessons. When you are ready to start a lesson with your student, you will simply open the PDF file for the Teacher's Guide on your tablet or laptop, navigate to the lesson indicated on the daily schedule, and work through the instructions in the Teacher's Guide for that lesson.

Student Reader: This reader contains both images and text and is used on most school days. This reader can be accessed as a PDF file on your student's device.

Timeline Cards: This file is included for most units. The Teacher's Guide will specify when to use the Timeline Cards in a lesson. Information on how Timeline Cards are used can be found on pg. 9-10 of the Unit 3 (Medieval Europe) Teacher's Guide. While printing and displaying the Timeline Cards is ideal, the file can also be accessed and reviewed periodically instead. The Teacher's Guide will prompt you to use Timeline Cards during lessons.

Online Resources Website: Many lessons call for accessing this website which contains additional lesson resources:

<https://www.coreknowledge.org/curriculum/history-geography/ckhg-online-resources/>

To find a specific resource, click on the name of the unit and click on the chapter number. Save this website so you can access it easily during lessons.

GETTING ORGANIZED

Activity Pages: Activity pages (and the answer key) for each unit are found in the back of the Teacher’s Guide for each unit. More information will be available in the unit-specific prep checklists: <https://bit.ly/3gKP11b>. Activity pages are often used over multiple school days. Save all activity pages until you have completed the unit.

Unit Assessments: Each unit ends with a day for student assessment. The assessment document and answer key are found in the back of the Teacher’s Guide in the Teacher Resources section. You will need to print the assessment pages.

Organization & Time-Saving Tip: Print all the assessment and activity pages for all 8 CKHG units at the beginning of the school year (these pages are always located in the back of the Teacher’s Guide). Place all the pages in a binder together or have the pages spiral-bound at your local office supply store. This not only saves you from having to print pages at the beginning of every unit, it also ensures you always have previous activity pages handy as many pages (particularly maps) are used over a number of lessons.

Performance Task Activity: Each unit’s Teacher’s Guide contains a Performance Task Activity at the end of the unit to reinforce what was learned in the unit. These activities are scheduled on the daily schedule for the end of each unit. The materials for this activity are located in the Teacher’s Resources section in the back of the Teacher’s Guide.

Combined Unit Documents: The Teacher’s Guide, Student Reader, and Timeline Card files for Unit 1 (Using Maps) and Unit 2 (World Mountains) are combined. The first part of each file covers Unit 1. For example, the Teacher’s Guide pg. 1-78 are for Unit 1 and pg. 79-136 are for Unit 2. Similarly, the Student Reader pg. 1-55 are for Unit 1 and pg. 57-92 are for Unit 2. If you downloaded both the Unit 1 and Unit 2 materials from the CK website, these files are duplicates.

The Teacher’s Guide, Student Reader, and Timeline Card files for Unit 4 (Medieval Islamic Empires) and Unit 5 (Early and Medieval African Kingdoms) are combined. The first part of each file covers Unit 4. For example, the Teacher’s Guide pg. 1-70 are for Unit 4 and pg. 71-177 are for Unit 5. Similarly, the Student Reader pg. 1-44 are for Unit 4 and pg. 45-111 are for Unit 5. If you downloaded both the Unit 4 and Unit 5 materials from the CK website, these files are duplicates.

IMPORTANT TIPS

Library Books: The introduction section for most units includes a list of recommended books and websites. Whenever possible please select several of the recommended books and request them from the library in advance. These books can be used as time allows, when specifically called for in a lesson, or can be left out for your child to read on their own in their free time. If library books are not an option, YouTube often has videos of books being read aloud and these can be used as an alternative.

Art History: A number of lessons call for displaying and discussing a piece of art with the student. These art images can be Googled or if you prefer a hard copy, Core Knowledge sells an art pack for each grade level that includes high quality prints on card stock (<https://www.coreknowledge.org/product/art-resources-grade-4/>).

Globe and Maps: Many lessons suggest using a globe, world map, and/or US map. If you do not have one, most CKHG Teacher's Guides have at least one world map in the back with the student pages. Units covering US history typically have a US map in the back of the Teacher's Guide. Alternatively, you can Google map images and save the links for future use.

White Board: Many lessons suggest using a white board, chalk board, or board/chart paper. If you do not have one available, you can use a plain piece of paper to write out or draw the information called for in the activity.

Classroom-Based Activities: Some activities in this program are clearly designed for a classroom setting. Please adjust the activity as needed for your situation. For example, for an activity that suggests students work in teams, you can act as your student's teammate. For activities that involve putting on a play or presentation, your student can present one part of the information or you can make the activity a family activity and involve siblings, etc.

Topic Duplication: You may notice what appears to be duplication between topics in the CKHG lessons and the CKLA lessons. This is intentional and provides the opportunity to reinforce key concepts by approaching them from multiple perspectives. For example, a student will have a CKLA unit covering the American Revolutionary War and then will also study that same war in a CKHG unit.

Time Constraints: This is a very full social studies curriculum. There are far more activities listed in the Teacher’s Guide than can reasonably be completed in a standard number of school days. The daily schedule (<https://bit.ly/3zPmWJ2>) lists what are generally the most important activities for each chapter but as a homeschooling parent, you are free to swap out chapter activities as needed to meet the needs of your student. Activities which are missed on the scheduled days can also happen on Friday when no CKHG lessons are scheduled. Alternatively, activities that don’t end up happening during the standard school year can also be used over the summer break as opportunities for review. Please do not feel pressured to complete all the available activities. No one, including private and public school teachers, have enough time to complete them all.

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