History and Geography through Literature

by Maggie Hogan

Why?

Helps to relate time periods, places, and social issues. Provides a taste of culture. Teach many different grade levels at the same time. Real feel for what's going on at that time.

Choose good books

Start with prayer. Ask friends. Peruse good websites.

- SchoolHouse Publishing (http://bit.ly/wc58wP)
- Paula's Archives (http://bit.ly/wFZZTH)
- Penny Gardner (http://bit.ly/wrM0N7)
- Rainbow Resource (http://bit.ly/yMz1Mn)
- Bright Ideas Press Literature Study Guides (http://bit.ly/yFw5Eo)

Don't use every book available—pick and choose!

Fitting them into your day

Read at lunch time. Read at bed time. Listen to books on tape/CD in the car. Create your own books on tape. Read while dinner's cooking. Older children read to younger. Read during bath time. Read during potty training. Allow kids to stay up later than bedtime if reading or listening to a book.

Stay on track and keep kids motivated

Dump books if they're not working for you. Inject theatrics—make it interesting. Keep a chart.

Visual motivation

Symbols on wall—different color or symbol for each person in the family. Links in a chain. Thermometer for books read.

Book clubs

Family night—act out parts of favorite books.
Dress in character. Everybody read part of their favorite book.
One-person show.
Book exchange with friends.

Notes

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How to glean as much as possible

What do you hope to learn? Find books available with pictures from that place or time. Use highlighters. Map your story. Make predictions. Create response journal. Compare where you live with the neighborhood or town in your book. Graphic organizers help visual learners assimilate info.

Projects

- Project folder
- Diary
- Dramatization
- Timeline
- Culture kits
- Diorama
- Venn diagram
- Lapbooks

Examples

- *George Washington's Breakfast*
- *Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates*
- *A Single Shard*
- *Crispin: Cross of Lead*
- *The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow*
- *God King*
- *Adara*
- *Sign of the Beaver*
- *The Cay*
- *Girl In a Cage*
- *Raiders of the Sea*

Illuminations: Lighting Your Path Toward Excellence

Tired of Planning it all Yourself?! Looking for a Language Arts program to complement *The Mystery of History* or *All American History*? Wish it could be Bible based, practical, fun, and affordable? Well, you've found it!

Illuminations is here!
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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Illuminations1/

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Notes

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