

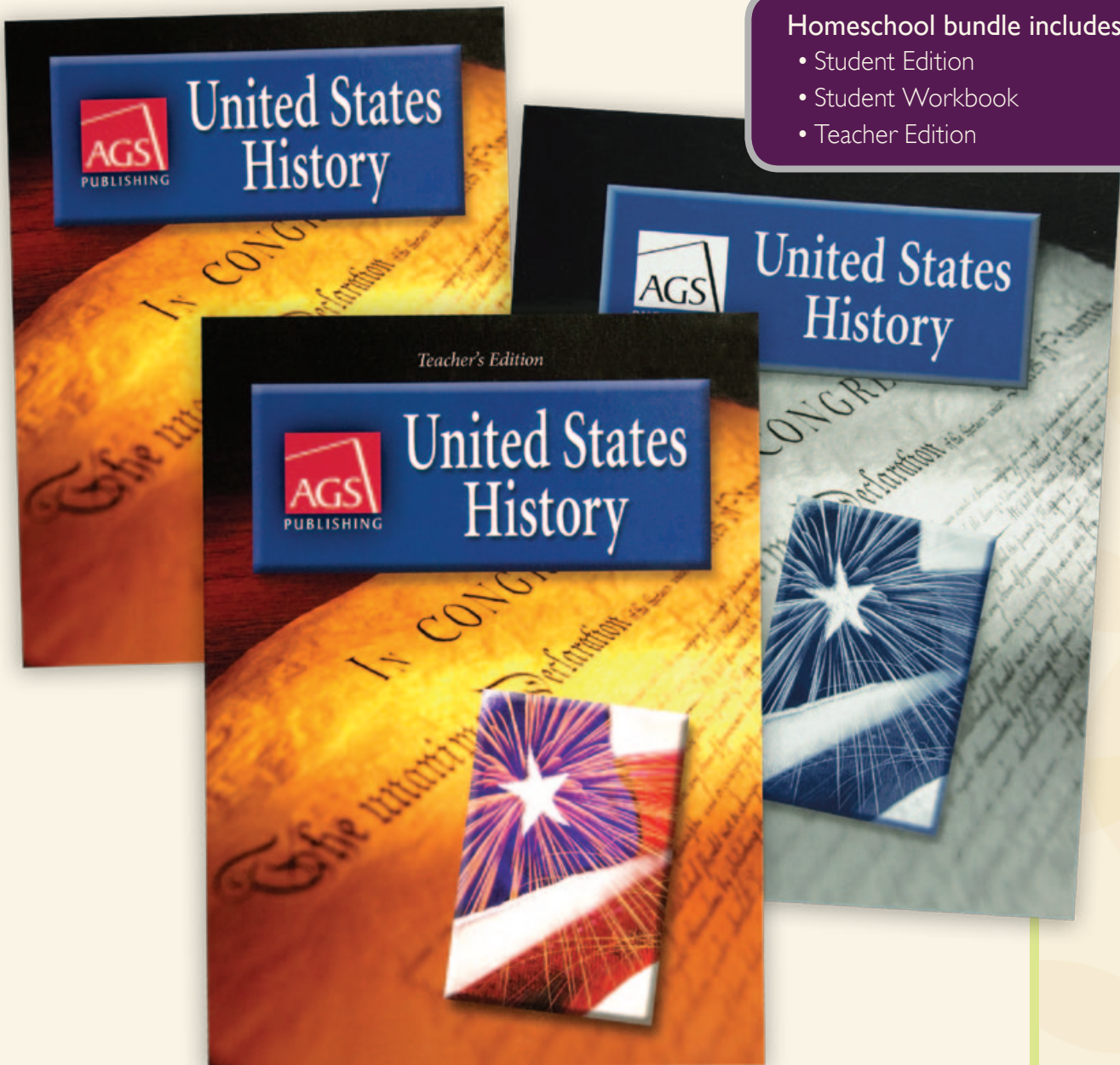
PARENT GUIDE 

AGS Social Studies

United States History | United States Government
World History | World Geography and Cultures

Homeschool bundle includes:

- Student Edition
- Student Workbook
- Teacher Edition



Because You Know What Matters Most



Thank you for choosing Pearson to help you on your homeschool journey. Making the right decision about homeschooling can set your child on an exciting path to a lifetime of learning and success. Pearson makes it easy for you to inspire a joy of learning with flexible programs to fit your child's unique learning style. This built-in flexibility lets you set the schedule and the pace that works for you and your child. As you read through this guide and review the included materials, you'll experience how easy it is to personalize the curriculum to match your child's learning style and ensure success with our engaging programs.

Plus, you can rest assured that all of the fundamentals for success are included. The homeschool curriculum you have chosen has been thoughtfully developed and tested by seasoned professionals, to make sure your child receives the finest education.

Welcome to Pearson Homeschool!

Preparation

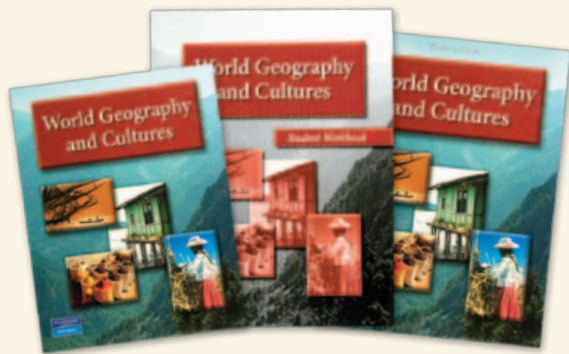
It is always an exciting time when you get to open the box with your new curriculum. All of the books and materials are colorful, the pages are crisp and they are filled with the possibilities of the coming year. The anticipation of using the books and teaching your child is new and fresh. Like the air after a spring shower, it is invigorating. You can't wait until you can get started.

Open the bundle of materials, flip through the pages of each book, take in how they look and feel. Get familiar with all of the components. Let your child share in the excitement and catch the enthusiasm you have for starting this new adventure. These will be your companions over the course of the next year.

Once you get familiar with the material, you may experience the overwhelming feeling that is common to homeschool parents: "How will I ever cover all of this material?" You may be flooded with insecurities that you don't know or remember the subject or content. All of these are normal thoughts and experiences for anyone who has homeschooled.

Remember the value of the journey you are on. Focus on the reasons you chose to homeschool in the first place, the daily interaction with your child, and teaching them how to learn. As the tutor, you as the parent don't have to know all of the material. It's fine to learn it with your child as you go through the material together. You are the guide for your child as you journey with them through the learning process.



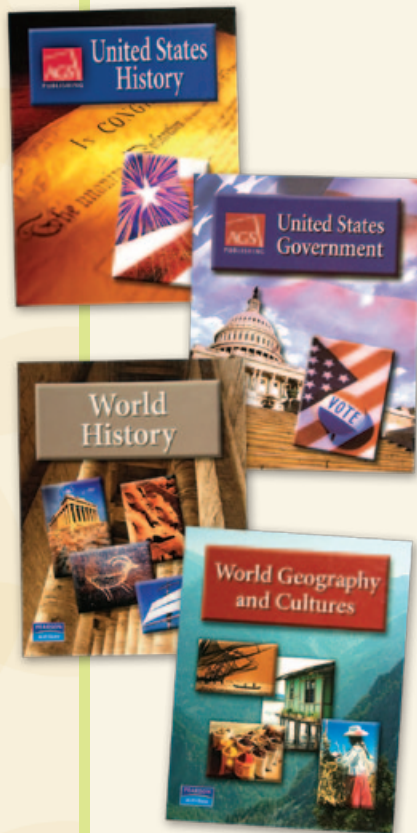


Overview

The AGS *Social Studies* homeschool bundle includes the following components:

- Student Edition
- Student Workbook
- Teacher Edition

The AGS *Social Studies* series - World Geography and Cultures, World History, United States History, United States Government - offers a unique, integrated approach to social studies. The program includes high-interest graphics and photos, an easy-to-read text that enables comprehension, short manageable lessons that break content and skills into smaller pieces, and practice and review. The lessons help children explore the diverse physical geography, history, people, environments, cultures, politics, and economies of the world, and within the United States.



AGS United States History is organized chronologically, bringing history to life. This edition includes new documents and appendices for study, such as Washington's Farewell Address and the Emancipation Proclamation. Fascinating sidebars make important connections between historical events and civics, economics, technology, and geography.

AGS United States Government is a comprehensive text that explores the origins and development of our government, the history of political parties, and branches of government. This course is designed to appeal to children with colorful graphics, charts, biographies, vocabulary, and study tips to motivate learning. Throughout, your child will be encouraged to relate government to his or her life.

AGS World History covers human society through contemporary times. This program provides engaging features such as a History in Your Life and Then and Now, which make history relevant to children's lives. Biographies, Spotlight Stories, Map Skills and Map Studies, and Document-Based Readings provide multiple perspectives from which to view and learn about history.

AGS World Geography and Cultures covers the rich variety of life on earth with its easy-to-follow format and illustrated text. This course encourages children to read and gain a better understanding about the world in which they live. Engaging features like Geography in Your Life, Geographer's Toolkit, and Everyday Life make lessons applicable to children's lives.

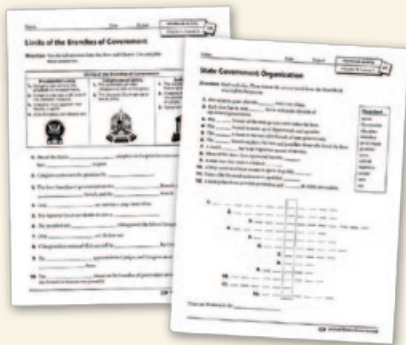
Using the Materials

Pearson curriculum materials are thoughtfully planned to present the subject in a way that is engaging. Each lesson builds upon itself, but provides flexibility so you can make it your own.

Using the Student Edition

There are many features built into the daily lessons to help your child learn the important skills and concepts he or she will need to be successful in this course. These features include:

- *Goals For Learning* – Key concepts and main ideas of each section in the chapter.
- *Key Vocabulary Words* – Bold-face terms defined in the margin, at the top of page, for easy reference.
- *Maps, Photos, Illustrations, Charts, and Graphs* – Visual representation of the content to aid your child's understanding.
- *Lesson Review* – Brief questions allow your child to check his or her understanding of the lesson.
- *Document-Based Readings* – A personal record of events in the chapter.
- *Lesson Reviews* – Brief questions and review of the material covered to assess understanding.
- *Summaries* – The main ideas of each chapter for follow-up review.
- *Chapter Reviews* – To check for skill mastery of the objectives of each chapter.

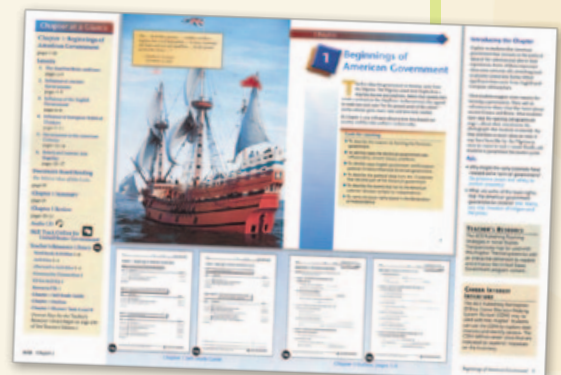


Using the Student Workbook

Each *Student Workbook* aligns with the *Student Edition* to reinforce the knowledge, skills and comprehension of the material covered. Each lesson from the *Student Workbook* has a review to help your child build upon their skills, and assess their understanding of the lesson.

Using the Teacher Edition

Each *Teacher's Edition* provides instructional strategies and includes everything from preparation guidelines to teaching tips in an easy-to-use format. Each chapter begins with the Chapter At A Glance introduction. Next, the chapter lessons are provided, which highlight the objectives of the chapter. Lesson information is presented around a reduced version of your child's text, annotated with answers. Each lesson begins with warm-up activities, provides teaching walkthroughs, and offers ideas to reinforce and extend the lessons. Many teaching strategies and learning styles are listed, including some for children with diverse needs.



Lesson Plans

Lesson plans are important to a successful homeschool environment. They help keep you on track, progress through the material and provide a steady structure for teaching your child. It is important to plan out your lessons but remember - lesson plans are a guide. You should leave room to adapt to your child and adjust the plan to ensure he or she understands the material. The objective is to have a tool you can use to watch your child progress and master the material you present over the school year.

Before you begin your lesson plan, review the materials to see how they are structured. Use this as a guide to help you evaluate and formulate your lesson plan for the coming year. Additionally, there are a number of items to consider when preparing your plan. How many days per week will you have school? Do you plan to have extended breaks for the holidays or vacations? The number of children you have and their ages will affect how and what you can do as well.

Lesson plans in general should have certain vital components. A suggested list would include some or all of the following:

- the portion of text covered during the lesson
- key concepts
- activities to do
- assignments given
- main ideas of the lesson
- questions to ask
- potential field trip ideas
- materials and resources needed

Each course in this series is designed to be covered over 36 weeks. Detailed lesson plans are presented in the *Teacher's Edition* and cover the following elements:

- Quick overviews of chapters and lesson objectives.
- Background information with interesting details that extends the lesson content and furthers discussion.
- Terminology pronunciation guides.
- Career, Community, Home and Global Applications to relate history and geography to each child's life, and making learning more fun and relevant.
- Study skills - highlight strategies to develop effective study habits.
- Learning Styles - teaching strategies to help reach all types of learners.

After reviewing the lesson objectives, start your lesson with the engaging Warm-up Activity that is identified at the beginning of the lesson plan. Then continue with the Teaching The Lesson section. This section is designed to identify what your child already knows, before presenting the concepts of the lesson to allow you to tap into your child's prior knowledge and build upon it. As your child reads the text, keep the objectives in mind and pose questions for thoughtful discussion. As you complete the lesson, use the Reinforce and Extend section, and accompanying activities from the *Student Workbook*, to reinforce what your child has learned.

As you plan your lessons, be sure to be familiarize yourself with any legal requirements you may have in your local area or state. The Pearson Homeschool website (PearsonHomeschool.com) has links to each state Department of Education so that you may review the laws and how to comply with them.

Adapt the Curriculum

One of the great benefits of homeschooling is that you know the instruction is personal. Everything you teach will be personalized to fit your child. The lessons provided within each course of this series are easy to pace, and offer enrichment activities, and additional support when necessary.

Pacing

As you progress through the material you will find that your child grasps certain lessons with ease while needing more time and practice on other sections. Adapt your pace accordingly, to ensure your child understands the material. Refer to the lesson plans provided for ideas to engage your child beyond the lesson basics, and measure their understanding. There is plenty of flexibility within the lessons to enhance them with additional challenging content. This will keep your child engaged and interested.

Teaching is Everywhere

Another part of the homeschool benefit is that teaching can occur all of the time. You can incorporate learning into everyday life. When you are outside of “school” ask your child about concepts learned in previous lessons. Tie them into life situations and world events. Check your local museums for history and geography exhibits, and align your lesson plans to incorporate those events. Check with your local government offices to plan visits so your child can experience government in action. Use your own resources to complement the material, and tie the lessons into your child’s interests and hobbies.

Conflicting Materials

Lastly, any homeschool parent will be faced with the dilemma of what to do when you come across material in the curriculum you don’t like or disagree with. While no curriculum will ever be able to satisfy all the beliefs, opinions or values held by each family, there are several approaches that you can take in these situations.

One approach is to just ignore or skip over the material in question. Another suggestion would be to use this as an opportunity for a special teachable moment. Review the material with your child. Check if they can discern what you see. Discuss why you may take exception to the material, idea or value presented. Take the opportunity to share the diversity of thought/opinion in the world and the need to be discerning of principles and ideas that may challenge yours.

Use it as an opportunity to affirm the ideas, principles and values you find important, while at the same time providing an opportunity to see how to deal with differing ones and still maintain your core convictions. You can teach them much by reasonably confronting ideas that differ from yours.

There is a definite balance between having the freedom that homeschool brings, and the responsibility you assume in educating your child. The good news is that most families find that balance and it works for them.

Thank you

As you progress along the journey, you will have moments of frustration and moments that make it all worthwhile. Remember to keep it in perspective. Homeschool parents live for those moments when their children are most teachable. You will know when those moments happen as you can see the light go on, they really get it. Cherish those times and use them as the fuel to motivate you through the tough times.

Thank you for choosing Pearson as a partner in your homeschool journey. We know the importance that you place in taking the time to teach your child and we appreciate your trust in us to help you and your child achieve the best education possible.



For additional programs to support your child's social studies curriculum,
please visit our website at:

www.PearsonHomeschool.com

For other product related questions, please contact 1-800-848-9500
or submit the Contact Us form available on our website.



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