

Core Curriculum Suggestions for Grade 2

Important Note: For supplemental curriculum, please go to [this blog post](#) and search by the subject area(s) that you are interested in from that link to see what resources we have enjoyed using in our family.

Full Disclosure: All links below lead to our Peppermint Stick Learning Company website.

Art: [Multi-grade Art Projects](#) (e-book) OR [Art for Grades 1 to 8 with Pencil Points](#) (paper version only)

Writing: [Creative Writing for Primaries](#) (e-book, second edition of curriculum) **OR** the first edition in printed on paper format [Creative Writing for Primary Grades](#) – designed to be used for grades 1, 2, and 3 (i.e. there is enough material in this one curriculum for 3 years of studies). Our resource for writing poetry is [Songs, Riddles, and Poetry](#) – designed for elementary and secondary levels.

Math: [Math Sticks 2](#) (our full-year downloadable printable e-book curriculum). (There are topical clearance reproducible books and a few math manipulatives left in the math section of [our shop](#) too which would be appropriate for a grade 2 level.) To download a FREE chart about math manipulatives and what they can be used for, please see this link here on our website: <https://www.peppermintsticklearningco.com/our-twist-on-math/> You can find math manipulatives around your home and online at larger places such as Amazon.ca and Scholar’s Choice.

Literature Bundles and Readers: Choose from a [Step 4 bundle](#) (or similar depending on the interest or reading level). Read and discuss the books together and summarize various things through small projects and reports. We also offer readers: [Stories Old and New](#) (Cdn publisher) and the [Alice and Jerry series](#) (USA author). Important: If your child is not ready for grade 2 level of reading yet, please consider using at least some of the grade 1 level of readers first, to gain more confidence/fluency.

Reading Comprehension: We offer (as long as supplies last) a printed book which contains various reading comprehension activities for grades 1, 2, and 3 (i.e. all primary grades in one book). It is called [Reading Comprehension for Primaries](#). As of August 1, 2020, [Let Me Read: Step 4](#) has NOT been finalized (even though it perhaps might be by Fall 2020). Part of my plan is to extract the grade 2 portion of this book and expand it slightly for the comprehension section within that new resource. Until [Let Me Read: Step 4](#) is published, the reading comprehension for grade 2 that we offer remains within [Reading Comprehension for Primaries](#).

Phonics: We offer our phonics program mainly in multi-grade unit books. The series is called “[Phonics is Fun!](#)” Each phonics e-book contains printables for all levels of phonics studies – from grade 1 - 3/4. To date, we have these titles available: [Phonics is Fun! Unit 1: Consonants](#) and [Phonics is Fun! Unit 2: Vowels](#). (Units 3 and onwards have not been finalized yet – they will cover consonant blends, consonant digraphs, inflectional endings, plurals, prefixes, and suffixes.) (Note: Our upcoming [Let Me Read](#) reading curriculum and [Reading Sticks](#) curriculum will of course have smaller amounts of phonics mentioned within it but they will not be including the in-depth coverage of the Phonics is Fun! series.) There is a printable poster set also available of interest for grades 2-3: [Hallway Display: Vowels](#)

Spelling: (If this is the **first year of spelling** for the student, please consider going through our grade 1 spelling program instead for this year: [Grade 1A Spelling: Gingham](#) and [Grade 1B Spelling: Calico](#) – there are 30 weeks in total of spelling instruction and fun lessons, currently available in printed-on-cardstock format, while supplies last. Both “Gingham” and “Calico” will be included within our soon-to-be-released [Let Me Read: Step 3](#) printable curriculum e-book for grade 1.) If this is the **second year of spelling** for the student, then [Grade 2A Spelling: Denim](#) is the first half of grade 2’s spelling curriculum. The second half of that year has been completed (with more stories about Grace and Little Zack) but since spelling lessons will be included within the [Let Me Read: Step 4](#) printable curriculum e-book for grade 2, and we hope that the entire resource will be completed within the next few months, we have no plans to print that second half separately. To summarize, what we have available now is linked above. Otherwise, the resource to look for whenever it gets into our shop will be called [Let Me Read: Step 4](#).

Grammar: We have carried a series of very good language arts/writing handbooks (a now discontinued/out-of-print Canadian series). I hope to shortly put up on our website, all the remaining titles of that series at close-to-wholesale pricing – we just have bit left of these and once they’re gone, they’re gone. The one for grades 2-3 is called [Write Away](#). There is a grammar consumable workbook which coordinates with it too. I will list the clearance titles [here at this link](#). We have a multi-grade grammar series started but most of that series are not completed/published yet and are lower down on our list of priorities for the moment. The title that has been published and is appropriate for grade 2 is [Grammar Unit A: Capitalization and Presentation](#).

Our recommendation is that you choose 1-2 areas of study per year for history, geography, social studies – not all topics! For example, choose 1-2 of:

- *Canadian history (Pioneer Life)*
- *Canadian geography (Canadian Communities)*
- *World Geography (Our Big World and People)*
- *World History (not as common for grade 2 studies; more typical for grade 4+)*
- *Social Studies (My First Social Studies – typically grades K-1, then government in grade 5)*
- *Mapping Skills*

History: We offer [Pioneer Life in Upper Canada: Scrapbook-Style Curriculum Designed for Primary/Junior Levels](#). It was originally designed for grade 3 history in Ontario but is quite useful for anyone wanting a Canadian history curriculum for grade 2. Many of the storybooks within our [Canadian History literature bundle](#) are geared for junior-senior grades although have a few titles of interest to primary grades within it.

Bible History: We also offer a poster/colouring page type resource called [Pictorial Bible History](#).

Geography: Apple Press Map Skills Books are excellent! They feature Canadian geography. [Canada Map Book 1](#) is the recommended title for grades 2-3.

For world geography, we offer a resource designed for grade 2 called [Our Big World and People](#). We also offer a multi-grade [supplementary bundle for world geography here](#). There are “bookmarks” within this bundle which would be of special interest to grade 2.

For Canadian geography, we have curriculum designed for grades 3/4 called [Canadian Communities](#).

Social Studies: [My First Social Studies](#) is a hopefully-soon-to-be-released title which combines and expands the curriculum currently in [Beginner Social Studies](#) and [First Grade Social Studies](#) which can be [seen here at this link](#). We also offer a [literature bundle for primary-level social studies topics](#). (Some families simply want to read and discuss topics together each year rather than having a formal social studies curriculum and this selection of book would assist with that style of learning.)

French: French is not typical for grade 2 (since FSL begins in grade 4). However, for those who want to have French instruction for K-3, we offer a French curriculum (booklets + Cd) by a Canadian author/teacher called [Mission ABC](#).

Science: We offer a full-year grade 2 curriculum for science that is lots of fun and easy to use! It is in downloadable/printable format and entitled, [Science, Health, and Technology Level B \(2nd edition\)](#).

I hope this helps you in your planning! 😊

- *Joy Delmore*
Peppermint Stick Learning Company Inc.
As of August 1, 2020

P.S. See also [the links on this page for planning help](#). Many of our blog posts from 2019-2020 also discuss homeschool planning and management topics.

Our 2014 Grade-by-Grade Planning Chart for Science Topics

(Summary is based on the Ontario Ministry of Education topics):

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Life Science	Living Things (needs & characteristics)	Animals	Plants	Habitats & Communities	Human Organ Systems	Diversity of Living Things
Earth/Space	Daily & Seasonal Changes (cycles)	Weather, Air & Water Energy	Soils	Rocks & Minerals	Conservation of Matter & Energy	Space (planets, moon, etc.)
Structures & Mechanisms	Materials, Objects, Everyday Structures	Simple Machines	Strong & Stable Structures	Pulleys & Gears	Forces Acting on Structures & Mechanisms	Flight Technology & Air
Matter & Energy	Energy in Our Lives	Liquids & Solids	Forces causing Movement (e.g. magnetism, static electricity)	Light & Sound	Changes in Matter	Electricity & Electrical Devices
	Grade 7		Grade 8			
Life Science	Ecosystems		Cells			
Earth/Space	Heat (e.g. geological, weather, radiation)		Water Systems (e.g. oceans, local water quality, weather)			
Structures/Mechanisms	Designing/Building/Testing of Structural Forms, Forces		Systems in Action (e.g. mechanical advantage, factory automation, efficiency, Work = force x distance, etc.)			
Matter & Energy	Pure Substances & Mixtures (Chemistry)		Fluid Properties and Mechanics (e.g. buoyancy, density, viscosity, hydraulics, pneumatics, flow-rates, blood, chemical spills)			

2014 Grade-by-Grade Planning Chart for History & Geography Topics

(Summary is based on the Ontario Ministry of Education topics):

JK/SK	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
<u>Beginner Social Studies</u> (communities, family, character education)	<u>First Grade Social Studies</u> (more about my community, family, character education)	<u>Our Big World and People</u> (world geography - land and people; celebrations in Canada)	<u>Pioneers in Upper Canada; Canadian Communities</u> (e.g. urban, rural, fishing, mining, forestry, Northern)	<u>The Story of the Middle Ages; Our Country, Canada</u> (provinces, territories, regions)	<u>Ancient Civilizations; Canadian Government</u>	<u>The Early Peoples in Canada;</u> (First Nations and European Explorers) <u>Canada's relations</u> (e.g. trade/economics, U.S.A. geography)

Grade 7 & 8 review Canadian history with more details, essentially up to the beginning of the 1900's.

Grade 7 Canadian geography focuses on more detailed physical geography (advanced mapping skills, world natural disasters, types of regions, landforms, rivers, drainage basins, global climate issues/debates, world agricultural patterns, natural resources).

Grade 8 Canadian geography focuses on more detailed human geography (communities, map and advanced graphing skills, population pattern, development patterns (human rights, life expectancy, world living conditions, etc.), world and Canadian economic issues (free market, types of industry, world trade issues, etc.), migration patterns, multiculturalism).