

Core Curriculum Suggestions for Grade 5

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: Most links below lead to our Peppermint Stick Learning Company website but the rest of the links are NOT affiliate links.

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

Writing: [Writing Stories, Letters, Reports, Essays, and Speeches](#) (e-book) – designed for grades 4/5-12. Our resource for writing poetry is [Songs, Riddles, and Poetry](#) – designed for elementary and secondary levels.

Math: [Prism Math Yellow](#) (McGraw-Hill, Canadian – if available; it is “out-of-print” and on short supply at our supplier’s) OR [Math Mammoth](#) grade 5 (we’ve discontinued it but it is available in paper or electronic versions through [that author’s website](#)); Optional reference book but very nice: [Math at Hand Handbook](#) (\$59.99) (published by Nelson, Canadian version; we may still have some in-stock but it is out-of-print). (There are topical clearance reproducible books in the math section of [our shop](#) too which would be a grade 5 level.)

Reading and Literature Bundles: Choose from a [grades 4-5 bundle](#) and/or a [pre-teen bundle](#), depending on interest or reading level. Read and discuss the books together and summarize various things through small projects and reports. Our reading comprehension curriculum has not been published for this level yet. One favourite resource that is very good for comprehension skills is [Test-taking Strategies](#) by Remedia Publications. We also offer readers: [Wide Open Windows](#) (Cdn) and the [Alice and Jerry series](#) (USA).

Spelling, Grammar – Language Arts: not published yet for this level. We might have very good language arts/writing handbooks left in-stock (a discontinued/out-of-print Canadian series which is excellent). The one for grades 4-5 is called [Write on Track](#). The one for grades 5/6 to grade 8 is called “[Write Source 2000](#)” or “[Writers Express](#)”. They did have grammar consumable workbooks too which we used to carry (but now are out-of-print. There might be a copy or so left in-stock. That is full-year curriculum and not as cheap as simple review-type books.) [Working With Syllables](#) is also a possible small, simple unit study applicable for this grade.

History: We offer outlined studies (project-based/notebook-based) for both Canadian and World History, designed for the levels of grades 5-8. Look at [Ancient Civilizations Lesson Outlines](#) (1st or 2nd editions) and [Organizing Canadian History: Help for Grades 5-8+](#). We also offer a reference/textbook (junior elementary level) within our World History Bundle for studying the periods of the Dark Ages/Middle Ages/Renaissance (European History) called [Story of the Middle Ages](#).

Pioneer Studies: If interested or if not studied yet in grades 3/4, there is also [Pioneer Life in Upper Canada: Scrapbook-Style Curriculum Designed for Primary/Junior Levels](#).

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

We have not published a resource specifically for the topics of Indigenous history or European explorers. If one is interested in a unit study approach from a Christian perspective, Gather ‘Round Homeschool (another Canadian curriculum company) has produced one on [Indigenous People](#) in the spring of 2020. There are other places to find Canadian history for homeschooling too such as [Northwoods Press \(Donna Ward’s website\)](#).

Geography: [Apple Press Map Skills Books](#) are excellent! They feature Canadian geography (although also have one focusing on world geography too). We also have a short curriculum to teach map drawing/labelling/reading skills called [Making Maps of Canada](#).

For world geography, we offer a resource designed for grade 2 but could be used up to about a grade 6 level called [Our Big World and People](#). For Canadian geography, we have curriculum designed for grades 3/4 called [Canadian Communities](#).

(There are another two (2) resources planned for geography for grades 5-10 but they are not published yet. One would present North American and British Geography. The other focuses on helping to outline Canadian Geography, similar to the history resource.)

Government & Society: [Family, Government, and Society](#) is designed for grades 5+. (The other resource mentioned on [our planning guide here](#) has not been published yet. It combines some geography with trade relations topics.)

French: [Mission Monde 2](#) is the core FSL program we offer for grade 5.

Science: Often homeschooling families choose their own topics for science based on a variety of reasons such as being able to coordinate multi-grades. We offer some suggestions in the link(s) provided in [this blog post link\(s\)](#) as well as some literature bundles for a variety of science topics in [our online shop here](#). We have not published core curriculum for science beyond grade 3 yet. But we do give suggestions on the blog.

If you are looking for the topics a grade 5 student would normally study in a public-school system in Canada, you can look at your province's (or territory) Ministry of Education website to see their standards. I summarized the one for Ontario in 2014 and you can see it [at this link on page 3](#). (I also copied that part of that page on the next page.)

I hope this helps you in your planning! 😊

- Joy Delmore
Peppermint Stick Learning Company Inc.
As of May 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).