

Dream Big Homeschool: A Journey Through Time: April Curriculum (Ages 2-12)

I. Supplies:

- **Art Supplies:** Construction paper (various colors), cardboard, paper plates, paint, markers, crayons, glue, scissors, clay, string, beads, fabric scraps.
- **Writing Supplies:** Paper, pencils, pens, notebooks, journals, index cards, poster board.
- **Books:** Age-appropriate books about historical events, figures, and civilizations.
- **Other:** Computer/tablet with internet access, printer (optional), maps, timelines, measuring tape, rulers, clocks, calendar, magnifying glass, materials for building (LEGOs, blocks), dress-up clothes, household items for crafts and experiments.

II. Weekly Themes:

- Week 1: Ancient Civilizations
- Week 2: The Middle Ages
- Week 3: The Age of Exploration and Discovery
- Week 4: The 20th and 21st Centuries

III. Daily Activities:

Week 1: Ancient Civilizations

- **Monday: Introduction to Ancient Civilizations**
 - (2-5):

- Activity 1: "Let's Dress Up!" Dress up in simple costumes to represent ancient people (e.g., togas, pharaoh headdresses).
- Activity 2: "Sand Play." Play in a sandbox and build simple structures like pyramids.
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "What is a Civilization?" Discuss the characteristics of a civilization (e.g., organized government, cities, writing).
 - Activity 2: "Timeline Creation." Create a basic timeline of ancient civilizations (e.g., Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome).
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Research Project." Choose an ancient civilization to research.
 - Activity 2: "Mapping Activity." Locate the ancient civilizations on a world map.
- **Tuesday: Ancient Egypt**
 - (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Pyramid Building." Build pyramids using blocks or sugar cubes.
 - Activity 2: "Hieroglyphics." Draw simple pictures to represent words like hieroglyphs.
 - (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Egyptian Art." Create Egyptian-style art (e.g., painting on papyrus paper, making clay amulets).

- Activity 2: "Mummification." Learn about the process of mummification (simplified version).
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Egyptian Society." Research the social structure, religion, and daily life in ancient Egypt.
 - Activity 2: "Debate." Debate the significance of the Nile River in ancient Egyptian civilization.
- **Wednesday: Ancient Greece**
 - (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Greek Myths." Read or listen to Greek myths.
 - Activity 2: "Olympic Games." Hold your own mini-Olympic games.
 - (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Greek Theater." Learn about Greek theater and make simple masks.
 - Activity 2: "Greek Pottery." Design and decorate Greek-style pottery (using paper plates or clay).
 - (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Greek Democracy." Research the development of democracy in ancient Greece.
 - Activity 2: "Writing a Play." Write a short play based on a Greek myth.
- **Thursday: Ancient Rome**
 - (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Roman Roads." Build a Roman road using blocks.

- Activity 2: "Roman Numerals." Learn to count using Roman numerals.
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Roman Inventions." Research Roman inventions and create models of them.
 - Activity 2: "Gladiator Games." Act out a (safe and educational) gladiator competition.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "The Roman Empire." Research the rise and fall of the Roman Empire.
 - Activity 2: "Analyzing Primary Sources." Analyze primary source documents from ancient Rome (e.g., letters, laws).
- **Friday: Ancient China**
 - (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Dragon Dance." Make a simple dragon and perform a dragon dance.
 - Activity 2: "Chinese Lanterns." Make Chinese lanterns.
 - (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Chinese Inventions." Learn about Chinese inventions (e.g., paper, compass, gunpowder).
 - Activity 2: "Calligraphy." Practice basic Chinese calligraphy.
 - (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "The Silk Road." Research the Silk Road and its impact on trade and cultural exchange.

- Activity 2: "Debate." Debate the legacy of the Great Wall of China.

Week 2: The Middle Ages

- **Monday: Introduction to the Middle Ages**

- (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Castle Building." Build a castle using blocks or cardboard boxes.
 - Activity 2: "Dress-Up." Dress up as knights, princesses, or kings.
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "What were the Middle Ages?" Discuss the key characteristics of the Middle Ages in Europe.
 - Activity 2: "Timeline." Create a timeline of key events in the Middle Ages.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Feudalism." Research the feudal system and its impact on society.
 - Activity 2: "Research Project." Choose a topic related to the Middle Ages to research (e.g., knights, castles, the Black Death).

- **Tuesday: Knights and Castles**

- (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Make a Shield." Design and decorate your own shield.
 - Activity 2: "Castle Drawing." Draw pictures of castles.

- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Castle Design." Design your own castle.
 - Activity 2: "Knights' Code of Chivalry." Learn about the Code of Chivalry.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Castle Siege." Research castle sieges and military technology.
 - Activity 2: "Writing a Story." Write a story about a knight's quest.

- **Wednesday: Medieval Life**

- (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Pretend Market." Set up a pretend medieval market.
 - Activity 2: "Medieval Music." Listen to medieval music.
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Daily Life." Research daily life in a medieval village or town.
 - Activity 2: "Medieval Crafts." Try a medieval craft (e.g., weaving, candle making).
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "The Role of the Church." Research the influence of the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages.
 - Activity 2: "Creating a Documentary." Create a short documentary about medieval life.

- **Thursday: The Black Death**

- (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Doctor Dress-Up." Dress up as a medieval doctor.
 - Activity 2: "Hygiene." Discuss the importance of hygiene.
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "What was the Black Death?" Learn about the causes and effects of the Black Death.
 - Activity 2: "Mapping the Plague." Map the spread of the Black Death.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Social and Economic Impact." Research the social and economic impact of the Black Death.
 - Activity 2: "Debate." Debate the long-term consequences of the Black Death on European society.
- **Friday: The Middle Ages Around the World**
 - (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Story Time." Read stories about medieval cultures from around the world.
 - Activity 2: "Art." Create art inspired by different medieval cultures.
 - (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Medieval Cultures." Research medieval cultures outside of Europe (e.g., feudal Japan, the Islamic Golden Age).

- Activity 2: "Comparison Chart." Create a chart comparing and contrasting different medieval societies.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Cultural Exchange." Research the exchange of goods, ideas, and technologies between different regions during the Middle Ages.
 - Activity 2: "Presentation." Prepare a presentation comparing and contrasting feudal Europe and feudal Japan.

Week 3: The Age of Exploration and Discovery

- **Monday: Introduction to the Age of Exploration**

- (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Map Play." Look at maps and globes.
 - Activity 2: "Boat Building." Build simple boats.
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Why did it happen?" Discuss the reasons for the Age of Exploration.
 - Activity 2: "Timeline." Create a timeline of major voyages of exploration.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Motives for Exploration." Research the economic, political, and religious motives for exploration.
 - Activity 2: "Navigation Tools." Research and create models of navigation tools (e.g., astrolabe, compass).

- **Tuesday: Famous Explorers**

- (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Explorer Dress-Up." Dress up as explorers.
 - Activity 2: "Story Time." Read stories about famous explorers (simplified).
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Explorer Reports." Write short reports about famous explorers (e.g., Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan).
 - Activity 2: "Mapping Voyages." Trace the voyages of explorers on a map.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Impact of Exploration." Research the positive and negative impacts of European exploration on different parts of the world.
 - Activity 2: "Debate." Debate whether the Age of Exploration was ultimately beneficial or harmful.

- **Wednesday: New Lands and Cultures**

- (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Cultural Show and Tell." Share objects or stories from different cultures.
 - Activity 2: "Art." Create art inspired by different cultures.
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Indigenous Peoples." Research the cultures and societies of indigenous peoples encountered by European explorers.

- Activity 2: "Cultural Exchange." Discuss the exchange of goods, ideas, and technologies between different cultures.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Colonialism." Research the history of colonialism and its long-term effects.
 - Activity 2: "Analyzing Primary Sources." Analyze primary source accounts of encounters between explorers and indigenous peoples.
- **Thursday: Trade and Exchange**
 - (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Pretend Trade." Set up a pretend trading post.
 - Activity 2: "Counting Money." Practice counting money.
 - (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Trade Routes." Map major trade routes during the Age of Exploration.
 - Activity 2: "Goods and Spices." Research the goods and spices traded during this period.
 - (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Mercantilism." Research the economic theory of mercantilism.
 - Activity 2: "Impact on Global Economy." Discuss the impact of the Age of Exploration on the development of a global economy.
- **Friday: Legacy of Exploration**
 - (2-5):

- Activity 1: "World Map." Create a large world map.
- Activity 2: "Cultural Celebration." Celebrate the diversity of cultures in our world.
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Lasting Effects." Discuss the lasting effects of the Age of Exploration on the world today.
 - Activity 2: "Presentation." Prepare a presentation on a specific aspect of the Age of Exploration.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Globalization." Discuss the connections between the Age of Exploration and the process of globalization.
 - Activity 2: "Ethical Considerations." Debate the ethical considerations of exploration and discovery.

Week 4: The 20th and 21st Centuries

• Monday: Early 20th Century

- (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Old Photos." Look at old photos.
 - Activity 2: "Simple Machines." Explore simple machines.
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Key Events." Discuss key events of the early 20th century (e.g., World War I, the Roaring Twenties).

- Activity 2: "Timeline." Create a timeline of these events.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "World War I." Research the causes and consequences of World War I.
 - Activity 2: "Technological Advancements." Research technological advancements of the early 20th century.
- **Tuesday: The Great Depression and World War II**
 - (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Story Time." Read age-appropriate stories about this time.
 - Activity 2: "Simple Crafts." Make crafts using limited materials.
 - (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "The Great Depression." Learn about the causes and effects of the Great Depression.
 - Activity 2: "World War II." Discuss the major events of World War II.
 - (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Impact of WWII." Research the global impact of World War II.
 - Activity 2: "Analyzing Primary Sources." Analyze primary source documents from this era.
- **Wednesday: The Civil Rights Movement**
 - (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Friendship Activities." Activities about being kind to everyone.

- Activity 2: "Books about Fairness." Read books about fairness and equality.
- (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Key Figures." Learn about key figures of the Civil Rights Movement.
 - Activity 2: "Songs of the Movement." Listen to songs from the Civil Rights Movement.
- (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Causes of the Movement." Research the causes and goals of the Civil Rights Movement.
 - Activity 2: "Debate." Debate the effectiveness of different strategies used in the Civil Rights Movement.
- **Thursday: The Space Age**
 - (2-5):
 - Activity 1: "Rocket Building." Build simple rockets.
 - Activity 2: "Stars and Planets." Learn about stars and planets.
 - (6-9):
 - Activity 1: "Space Exploration." Learn about the history of space exploration.
 - Activity 2: "Solar System Model." Create a model of the solar system.
 - (10-12):
 - Activity 1: "Space Race." Research the Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

- Activity 2: "Future of Space Exploration." Discuss the future of space exploration.

- **Friday: The 21st Century**

- (2-5):

- Activity 1: "Technology Today." Look at and discuss everyday technology.
 - Activity 2: "Building the Future." Build models of future cities.

- (6-9):

- Activity 1: "Major Events." Discuss major events of the 21st century.
 - Activity 2: "News Analysis." Analyze current news events.

- (10-12):

- Activity 1: "Globalization and Technology." Research the impact of globalization and technology on the 21st century.
 - Activity 2: "Debate." Debate a current global issue.