Let’s Make a History Timeline Notebook...

By Cindy Rushton
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Other Books By Cindy Rushton…

A Charlotte Mason Primer
A Cup of Tea??
A Wise Woman Builds Her Home Bible Study
CHRIST-Centered Christmas
Enlarge the Place of Your Tent...KEEP Your Home! Bible Study
Fill Your Cup Back Up...
   High School! YES! It CAN Be Easy Too!
Homemade Books! Yes! You CAN Be a Writer Too!
Homeschooling: Digging Into All of the Options
Homeschooling...The Easy Way MEGA Issue
Homeschooling...The Easy Way Workshop Manual
Homeschooling: YES! You CAN Do It!
Inspiring Our Children Toward Greatness Using Great Literature
Language Arts...The Easy Way
Let’s Get Organized!
Make Your Own Alphabet Notebook
Make Your Own Alphabet Book
Make Your Own Brain-in-a-Binder
Make Your Own Discipleship Notebook for Boys
Make Your Own Discipleship Notebook for Girls
Make Your Own History Timeline Notebook
Make Your Own English from the Roots Up Notebook
Make Your Own Mommy Journal
Make Your Own Mommy Record-Keeping Notebook
Make Your Own Never-Ending Reading List Notebook
Make Your Own Recipe Notebook
Make Your Own Science Notebook
Make Your Own Student Record-Keeping Notebook
Marriage 101: Hey! What’s This All About??? Bible Study
Marriage 911: A Crash Course for Those Whose Marriages are Crashing OR A Lesson in Aerobatics for the Rest of Us Workshop Manual
Ministering to the Heart of Your Child Bible Study
Ministering to the Heart of Your Child
Nature Study...The Easy Way
Notebooking...YES! You CAN Be A Binder Queen Too!
Notebooking! Yes! You CAN Be A Binder Queen Too Workshop Manual
Oops! My Cup is Empty and My Coffee Pot is Broke!
Spiritual Mothering: The Call to Mentoring, Mothering, and Ministry Bible Study
Step-by-Step Through Daniel
The Hidden Woman of the Heart: A Bible Study for YOUR Heart
The Never-ending Rushton Reading List
The Ultimate Mommy Menu Planner
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volumes 1 and 2
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 3
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 4
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 5
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 6
Who? Me? A Virtuous Woman???
YES! YOU! A Vessel God CAN Use!

PLUS! Lots More Coming Soon!!!
   Stay Tuned!
Let’s Make A History Timeline Notebook!

You are GOING to LOVE this!

Have you been thinking about setting up a History Timeline Notebook? Just thinking about it? Have you been a bit intrigued by those adorable Timeline Notebooks that your best friend has been creating alongside of her studies? Ready to give it a try? You are going to LOVE it!

WHY? Why YOU Should Make a History Timeline Notebook?

I am the type of person that wants to know the “perks” of doing anything. Actually, we only have just SO much time in each day…each month…each year. So, I really want to make the most of every minute. Relate? Well, let’s look at the “perks” for making a History Timeline Notebook...

♥ Students (and TEACHERS) see all history in perspective!
♥ Helps to put history lessons together in order!
♥ Students see and grasp the flow of history!
♥ Easy to see events and their relationship!
♥ Appeals to all learning styles—
  Visual—SEE events that can be abstract in conversation or lectures
  Auditory—“talk” about it while adding figures/dates—improves their visual memory
  Hands-On—LOVE to MAKE the timeline notebook and timeline figures.
♥ Helps to retain information—long term! Makes it THEIRS!
♥ Great for ALL ages! All skill levels!
♥ Helps to get the kids excited about people and events throughout history!
♥ Excellent source for CONSTANT review of history!
♥ Encourages the student to research and record what they are really learning.
♥ Instills skills needed to learn for life!

♥ Produces a REAL product that makes sense to your student—eliminates busywork and push to stuff the student with meaningless facts!

♥ Helps YOU as well as your students—
  o See what has been covered and what still needs to be taught.
  o Great tool to help you review your students!
  o Great record of studies! Awesome portfolio!
  o You can see (and HEAR!) what is being learned.
  o Easy tests! 😊

♥ Makes history lessons concrete!

♥ Encourages learning as a family!

♥ Grandparents (and others!) can see what is being learned along the way!

♥ Easy to include Dad in your homeschool! Review and narrate when he gets home and looks at your notebooks!

♥ Can teach history and not worry about missing something IN ORDER. You’ll never teach it ALL. But, you CAN give the big picture and welcome additional information that fits in nicely along through the years! The timeline puts it all together!

♥ Works with all approaches and all curriculum! Every homeschool can use this fun too!
  o Curriculum? Sure! Buy or make timeline figures to go along with your studies!
  o Use figures to cover AS your study plan. Buy figures and plan studies around posting your figure in the timeline! Read a biography. Research on the internet. Plan a project like a lapbook or homemade book about the figure or event. Write a book. Copy quotes by that figure. Create a notebook all about that person. Watch videos. Use the figures or events as your skeleton of your study plan!
  o Focus on periods of time. Make or play a timeline game!

♥ Best way to remember dates with details AND informing ideas! So...they really learn!

♥ Fun!
Easy!

Ready?

Ready to go for it? OH! Then, let’s dig in and make a history timeline notebook!

For children, timelines are not for pulling together the scattered pieces of knowledge, as they do so well for adults; children haven’t yet collected enough pieces to pull together. What timelines do for children is to provide a framework into which they can put pieces of knowledge as they learn them. For this framework purpose, timelines should be very simple—so simple that children can memorize them.

Ruth Beechick

You Can Teach Your Child Successfully
What IS a Timeline?

I have no idea if my enthusiasm is showing yet, but if you have had any doubt, this is where my enthusiasm WILL have to show. I absolutely LOVE our Timeline Notebooks that we have created over the years! They may seem like simple notebooks, yet they have become a memory book of the highlights of our studies through the years.

They capture the real topics that we have covered through the years. Very few things seem to pull all of life together, but timelines pull all of our life and all of our studies together and into perspective! Timelines are great for giving an overview of history, but they are much more indispensable. They show continuity and interrelation of History. With timelines all of the subjects we study weave together for one great big picture.

If you are not sold yet, think about how versatile a Timeline Notebook is. ANYONE can use them, regardless of curriculum being used...or difficulty normally presented in documenting a study...or age, interest, or abilities of the student.

Ohhhh, and think of what a great teacher a timeline becomes. Those difficult dates become easy to review and remember. Those chains of events finally make sense. The children see real people and real events in perspective. Not only do they begin to treasure the past, but they are encouraged to treasure TODAY and TODAY’S EVENTS!

Soooo, why a notebook for a timeline?? Ohhhh, space (that commodity more precious than gold to the homeschool mom) is saved best by timelines being kept in a notebook. Not to mention, if the timeline is kept in a notebook, it can go ANYWHERE you go!

And...finally...the very best reason! Timeline Notebooks ARE EASY to make! Well, we will take your hand and walk you step-by-step through making your own History Timeline Notebook!
A Timeline Notebook—Easy As A...B...C!

Ok! Ready to dig in? Have NO idea where to begin? That is what THIS is for! Let me take you by the hand and show you how step-by-step...

♥ Choose Your Format! Well, I assume that if you are reading at this point that you are interested in a Timeline Notebook. Of course, there are MANY variations for timelines—notebooks, lapbooks, charts, wall timelines, accordian timelines, book timelines, map timelines, on and on! For real! I love the notebook timeline for several reasons—
  ○ Compact!
  ○ Portable!
  ○ Individual—or family!
  ○ See patterns/relationships like a story!
  ○ Great for all ages!
  ○ Great for all abilities!
  ○ Great for all grade levels!
  ○ See people who lived at the same time!

♥ Gather Supplies! You probably have EXACTLY what you need right in your own home already. Your supplies can be as simple as a 3-ring binder per child, plastic sheet protectors, and a pencil per child. The great thing about making a Timeline Notebook is that you can make this as simply or as crafty as you would like! Over the years, Notebooking has worked so wonderfully in our home that we are constantly on the lookout for different and fun supplies. Since I am a Scrapbooking nut, we love trying out all of the new Scrapbooking supplies during our daily school time. By doing so, our daily lessons are as fun as a Scrapbooking party—EVERYDAY! Of course, you do not have to go this wild, but I am sure you will want to! If you have no idea where to begin, see our shopping list for quick ideas on supplies that work great!

♥ Make Your Supplies Accessible...Set aside a place for your materials and a place for your children to work. There is something wonderful about having a place for everything and everything
RELIABLY in its place. The work in the beginning is well worth the time during the school year. When we begin a new study, I go through my books copying all pages that would make great coloring pages, maps, and timeline figures to go along with our copywork and narrations. I reduce many pictures or copy all thumbnails that would be great for our History Timelines. We have a shelf that contains books that I find along the way with great copywork that I would like for my children to add to their notebooks on those “no ideas are flowing” days. Just having everything there, ready to go, is such a blessing on those busy mornings. Plus, I have learned over the years that this is the best way to really utilize the resources that I have on my shelves. Just file away any pages or pictures in either manila envelopes or file folders. If the children know where they are, they are more than likely to use them on their own. Also, you will want to use anything else that you have in your home. I keep our paints, papers (plain and colored cardstock and 20lb paper; writing paper; etc.), glues, templates, cutting utensils, rulers, markers, pens, pencils, etc. on a shelf and in plastic bins by our dining table (where we do our daily lessons). They are in their spot and that spot is close by. If we want to encourage our young writers, we must give them free access to the best materials. The benefits are unbelievable!

♥ Find Your Favorite Page Style. There are SO many options available today for your Timeline Notebooks. We have a FREE blank timeline page on my website (http://www.CindyRushton.com/articles.html) that you can print off and set up for your notebook. Of course, there are lots of other cute pages that are online too—just see the website pages that follow. Choose any of those that you like OR make up your own! Just choose something that you WILL use. 😉 It is sooo worth the investment of time.

♥ Choose the Period to be Covered in Your Timeline. Will you dig in for a complete History Timeline Notebook? Will you try a State History Timeline Notebook? Will you try a smaller period of time—Life of--- Timeline? Choose a period that will be covered.

♥ Order Your Pages. Once you have decided on the period you will cover with your Timeline Notebook, decide on how to order your pages. Covering the life of Helen Keller? How would you order your pages? By each year? Five years? What about a Lewis and Clark
Expedition Timeline Notebook? Prefer to set up your pages by the month? What about an Ancient History Timeline? (we have suggestions on that included in this book!) Print out your dates on your pages and order your pages for the notebook. If you are like me, you will want to add them into plastic sheet protectors in your notebook.

♥ **Use It!** Now, you are ready to use your notebook! Keep it handy so it will be used during your studies. Add info as you go along! Miss a while? That is OK...just set aside a special night to go back and add in all of the goodies that were covered since the last entry. 😊 ENJOY!
What Goes Inside a Timeline Notebook...

Ready? What is included? How do ya do it? The good news is that your imagination is the only limit! Anything goes inside a timeline:

Dates...
Pictures and drawings of people...
Explorations...
Discoveries...
Art prints...
Books written...
Inventions...
Religious events...
Church history...
Battles...
Wars...

Key events such as...
Elections
Battles
Deaths
Marriages
Settlements such as Plymouth

You can also include clippings of...
Maps...
Weapons...
Modes of travel...
Clothing...
Jewelry...
Head-dresses...
Shoes...
Dishes...

States and Capitals...
Musical instruments...
Current events...
Food...
Family history...
Samples of songs...
Poems...
Art prints
Narrations

Quotes...
Covers of books written by authors of the period...
Covers of books about the period being studied...
ON AND ON!
Gather Your Supplies...

Oh! This part is easy! You probably have ALL you will need for this fun project right in your home already. Let’s go through what you will need. Gather these goodies and set them up in an accessible place so that your children will be able to work on their notebooks as they study through their lessons or even watch TV programs about neat people. You will not believe how much info is begging to be a part of your Timeline Notebook! 😊

What You Need To Begin...

♥ **Begin With ONE Notebook Per Child...** Yep! It is this easy! Begin with just ONE notebook per child. Our favorite notebooks are the 3-ring vinyl notebooks that have the clear pockets on the outside so the children can design their own covers. We usually choose the white notebooks (Either 2 or 3 inches thick notebooks.) and fill it full of plastic sheet protectors. Then, all our children have to do is label the dates on their sheets, slip the pages in a plastic sheet protector...then, add their work each day. (Another option if you were interested in possibly changing your forms later or changing figures around is to laminate the pages and the figures. Then you could use double-sided tape and change them around at any time you would like. Of course, this is a bit more expensive; but I would think it would be worth the expense just to have the convenience of changing the pages around. If you were to laminate the pages, I would suggest dating all of them first. We have dating suggestions in this book.)

♥ **Plastic Sheet Protectors...** Plastic Sheet Protectors are absolute MUSTS! They work great at protecting your child’s work from spills, rips, and smudges. They work great if you are using 3-ring binders. Especially for preserving pressed specimens. We use the 8 ½ by 11-inch sheet protectors. We buy them by the box at Sam’s (the best price at the writing of this book). I choose the NON-GLARE type, because they are more durable. They do not scratch easily and they are not as brittle as the shiny ones.

♥ **Paper!!!** My favorite paper for our Timeline Notebooks is the 110 pound white cardstock paper. It is perfect for gluing timeline figures, pictures, and even clips of information on the pages. 110 pound
cardstock can also handle use of any markers or watercolors. I use it for the base pages of each of our pages. We use colored cardstock (also 110 pound paper) for dividers (dividers help to find the sections more easily). We print cute borders and captions for our divider pages and slide them into sheet protectors too. Then, you can also use lighter weight white or colored paper for your actual figures or for mounting behind information and facts.

❤ Other “Essentials”... You are sure to already have lots of these. Just round them up and keep them accessible for your children. What “essentials” am I talking about? Different kinds of scissors, hole punchers, highlighters, stapler, pens, pencils, markers, watercolor pencils, sketch pencils, mounting tapes, mounting corners, glue stick, stickers, rubber stamps, old encyclopedias, paper cutters, colors, paints, and of course, Scrapbooking books and magazines!
Set Up? HELP! No Problem!

Ready to setup your pages? Need a bit of help with this part? We can help!

First of all, this is where it gets FUN! Fun…and completely original! ☺ You can order your pages to fit your specific needs. For example, you can set up an Ancient History Timeline Notebook going all the way back to Creation and all the way up to today’s date. Or...you can set up a Timeline for a specific war...or life of an author...or history of a country or state. It is completely up to you! This can work FOR YOU!

**Completely Unique Timelines...**

We have Timelines in our History Notebooks for specific time periods. We simply included a Time Line for that period in the front of our Notebook. It was a great way for us to add in smaller details than we would normally add into our main History Timeline Notebook.

With those Timelines, we usually include two pages per year (6 months for each page). Then we can have more space for information and details. Actually, if your child is "into" a period like Matthew is the Civil War, you could easily have a page per month and still have more information than room. I would recommend keeping that much detail on a separate Timeline rather than in your overall History Timeline Notebook. That is one reason that we published our History Timeline Notebook without dates...so it would have flexibility for those that simply devour History.) On those Timelines, plan out how much space you will need, then print out the pages that you need for each notebook. You will love it!

**World History Timelines...**

Now, here is a MUST! ☺ Regardless of your curriculum or your plan for studying history, you will LOVE making a World History Timeline! Here is how...

We begin at Creation with a page for events beginning with Scripture. We use 50 years for each page, making the two page spread cover an entire century, until we get to 1400 AD. At that point each page cover 25 years, with the two-page spread covering 50 years, until we get to 1700 AD. At that point, we only cover 25 years per two-page spread up until present day. Here is the order of our Timeline Notebooks...
1. Cover designed by our children, slid into the front of the notebook
2. B.C. Page
3. Creation Page
4. Pages from 4000 B.C up to 1 B.C.
5. B.C. Page
6. Life of Christ
7. A.D. Page
8. Pages from 1 A.D. up to present
9. My Family Tree
10. My Life
11. Maps
12. Narrations
13. Diagrams
14. My Keepsakes

If this seems too hard, we have ALL of this figured out for you with our *Make Your Own History Timeline Notebook* printables. We have the whole book printed and ready to add to your binder or we also have it ready-to-print (our recommendation!) from your computer for each of your children. See more details in our resources or on our webpage ([http://www.CindyRushton.com](http://www.CindyRushton.com)).

We designed our pages using 110lb. white cardstock, so they would be the most durable. The cardstock is also better for adding glue, paint, or pressed specimens. We use a 110lb. cardstock in our children’s favorite colors for dividing pages, such as at the beginning of the notebook, between BC and AD, and for extra sections such as maps, family tree, narrations, articles, books read, diagrams...

All of our pages are slid into plastic sheet protectors and kept in 3-ring binders. We use a variety of figures for placing on our timelines. We began our first timeline when using KONOS unit studies. We LOVE those figures. They are laminated, so they seem to last FOREVER! We have also found other great resources with figures that work nicely in our notebooks such as: *Lessons from History, History Through The Ages*, Geography Matters, Old Encyclopedias, Old books and textbooks, library books (just make copies... we reduce ours to fit our timelines more nicely), computer encyclopedias, websites (see some of our favorites listed in this book), ETC.! Be on the lookout! Especially now that you are ready to go!
History Timeline Figures…

Ready for Timeline Figures? Need some help? You will LOVE this!

We use a variety of figures and cute ways to display info in our History Timelines. This is yet another thing that you are free to choose your favorite styles or techniques. It can be completely original! Here are some ideas for finding or making your own! Ready? Let’s dig in…

♥ **Purchased Timeline Figures**... We began our first timeline when using KONOS unit studies. We LOVE those figures. They are laminated, so they seem to last FOREVER! Now, there are also other timeline figure sets out there. One of my favorites is produced by Amy Pak. Her sets are called, *History Through The Ages*. They feature blackline drawings with information about each person/event. Very nicely done! See her website at: [http://www.homeschoolinthewoods.com/](http://www.homeschoolinthewoods.com/)

♥ **Purchased Studies with Timeline Drawings**... One of my favorite of all time is *Lessons from History*. Gail has designed the very best resources! Each lesson in her books includes a narrative about a person, event, etc. The lesson has an accompanying illustration that would be great for History Notebooks OR History Timelines. She makes it easy to prepare ahead of time for History Timelines by having all of the illustrations in the back of the book ready-to-copy. I have always reduced the pictures by 65% to make them the right size for our notebooks. They are WONDERFUL!

♥ **Clips from Books/Encyclopedias**... Once you get started, you will see timeline figures EVERYWHERE! 😊 We love our old encyclopedias. They have wonderful "thumbnail" size prints that beg to be timeline figures! I also use our computer encyclopedia for figures. I simply look up the person, event, or topic in the encyclopedia search. Then, I print out any pictures, maps, or neat charts. If they are too big, I also reduce their size to fit our notebooks. You can also find great pictures in books that you check out—of course, you cannot cut them out, but they are great for copies. I make color copies on my little “all-in-one” printer at home. They make our notebooks PERFECT!

♥ **Websites**! Oh! YES! Websites are wonderful resources for timeline figures! I have included a HUGE list of my favorites. Any ONE would give you great resources, but all of them together takes you through the years of study. Of course, they WILL change constantly, but...
don’t let this inhibit you. The World Wide Web brings you UNLIMITED resources for your History Timelines! Have a specific person or study? Search on a search engine like http://www.google.com for that specific name or topic. When you find a page that has a neat clip, all you have to do is “right click” with your mouse. A list of options will come up at that time. Choose to COPY. Then, open a program like MICROSOFT WORD or MICROSOFT PUBLISHER. When your blank page opens, just PASTE your clip into that page. You can size your clip to fit your needs. Then, all you have to do is print it off, cut it out, and paste it into your notebook. Easy! If you want for it to be printed on sticker paper, buy packages of label sheets (print onto the label sheets like you would regular paper!) or use a Xyron machine to apply the sticker backing onto your paper. Cut them out and stick them into your notebook! Easy! Fun!

♥ Labels! Why not make up neat labels with small pictures and quick descriptions? Print them out as you need them! Great for details, dates, and text that digs into the study more!

♥ Make Your Own! Elisabeth designed her own Timeline Figures! She used the Sizzix punchout kids for her figures. She can punch them out in different colors for different fields or all the same. She printed out cute “accessories” for her figures (we printed them off from the computer) like books, inventions, etc. You can do it too! Again, the sky is the limit! 😊
Need Dates?

Have no idea when things happened? Need a bit of help? Here are some of our favorite resources...

♥ Catherine Jaime’s Resources (see our listing in RESOURCES)
♥ Wall Chart of World History (one I turn to over and over again!)
♥ Internet—see site listings
♥ Timetables of History
♥ Timeline Kits (pre-packaged by curriculum providers)
♥ Books (many have history timelines on pages)
♥ Encyclopedias (many have history timelines sprinkled among submissions)
Quick Tips for Making and Using Your Timeline Notebook...

1. Use large 3-ring binders. They are expandable…and believe it or not, you will NEED to expand in no time at all!
2. Work as a family! YOU make one too! You will LOVE it!
3. Use while you read and study through every subject! Use as you study the Bible, travel, research! Mark authors, events, people! At the most bring your notebooks out each week to add new entries. We copy pictures, reducing them to a tiny size that is perfect for our pages.
4. Don’t expect it to be PERFECT. If you “mess-up” or want to re-do later, it is ok. Even then, it would be a great tool for review! So, dig in and do it!
5. Bring in YOUR style! EVERY notebook WILL look different! Soooo, make it work for you! We glue in pictures, write a bit about the person or event, etc.
6. Try a little Scrapbooking! You may want to add “frames” of bright colors behind the pictures of the people…or cut out the pictures with paper-edgers…or use neat pens for special emphasis…etc.!
   Once you begin, you WILL be hooked!
7. Have a special spot for your children to keep their binders. If you want your children to use any of their notebooks, especially their Timeline Notebooks, they need to have easy access to the notebooks and supplies. Plus, IF there is a spot to keep their notebooks, it will be easier to keep the notebook nice and neat. Ohhhh, and if there is a special spot for the notebooks, the children can rest assured that their hard work will be safe from younger siblings and pets.
8. Oh…Don’t sweat the divisions! There will always be an exception. Some time periods may actually become such a delight to study that your family needs to develop an entire notebook just for that study. Don’t worry…just GO for it!
Oh! Let’s Try Notebooking... For History!

Notebooking...

Yes! Notebooking for History Studies! Notebooking for our History Timelines!

What great literature does to feed the mind, Notebooking does to deepen the studies, teach research skills, and record the real education that your children are receiving. Old path? Yep! But not a path that has been overgrown.

Notebooking goes as far back as eternity. In Scripture, we find that the kings were trained and prepared for leadership by copying the law and keeping it in a book (isn’t that too cute??). We find that EVEN God has a Book of Remembrance that He is keeping until that day that we join Him in heaven for that Heavenly read aloud time. Oh. Don’t worry! His Book of Remembrance does not contain a list of sins and transgressions that we have committed that He wants to be sure not to forget. Instead, it is filled to overflowing with precious quotes of praises that His servants speak to one another (My PERSONAL goal is for Him to have PLENTY to quote from my life!).

Up until about a hundred years ago, Notebooking was used in the education of every child. But, something called textbooks and "progressive" education eliminated them from the education of children. With that elimination, we find the need for more and more artificial methods of education. Well, until we find this old path.

My friend, of all the ideas I could share with you, this one is certain to change the atmosphere of your home while equipping your children to learn more deeply now AND more voraciously for the rest of their lives.

Although I cannot begin to do justice explaining Notebooking in the middle of a booklet on creating Timeline Notebooks, I have to tell you a few perks (if you want more help in this area, take a look at my book Notebooking! YES! You Can Be A Binder Queen Too!). You have to know that this is a WONDERFUL way to teach more than just the historical facts that we want for our children to learn. There are LOTS of perks!
First of all, Notebooking encourages deeper research on topics of study. As my children have found a "place" to keep their special "finds" along the way, they have had more interest in hunting for more information on every topic they run across. They may think of this as a treasure hunt, but while they are having a blast finding great ideas, facts, and heirlooms, they are learning the skills of researching that will serve them all of their life. That is not all! While our children are building notebooks on topics as they study, they are also learning how to record what they are really learning. Besides relieving me of the pressure of keeping records of every minute of their day, this teaches them the skill of record keeping and keeps a more accurate account of what is being done each and every day. Oh, and need I mention, Notebooking also teaches our children Language Arts skills and techniques the EASY WAY!

So, how do you use this old path as you teach History the easy way...as you fill in your History Timelines? First, **find great resources** that can be used for building notebooks. I am constantly on the lookout for great resources with neat Copywork. My children began using Copywork when they were very little and STILL use Copywork for building their notebooks in High School. There are many, many great resources. The very first thing we used was a large print edition of the Bible. It was easier for my young readers/writers to copy from. I also look for books with poems, quotes, narratives, songs, speeches, etc. As we travel, my children also look for special mementos to add to their notebooks. Anything from art prints to recipes to maps to pictures of the people and events from History are game for their notebooks. The key is in having a "place" to keep the information that contributes to each and every study. That place is our notebooks!

Second, **encourage your children to USE those notebooks every day**. It is so easy to put projects on the shelf only to collect dust. It is also easy for us to let the children do work that we pile all of it away in a box to put away later for them. Notebooking is NOT another thing for YOU TO DO! Well, unless you are going to keep a notebook for your own studies. 😊 My dear friend, the greatest benefits come from our children doing the work for themselves. Sure, you may have gone to every local Scrapbooking crop in your city and state. But, this is not a contest for the most creative memory book, it is a discipline that we can pass on to our children so they can learn the skills of writing, researching, recording their own education, and collecting information in a logical and understandable way. Simply find some great resources for them to copy from...buy just ONE NOTEBOOK (3-ring binder) and sheet protectors (to keep their work stored nicely in each day)...and turn them loose! The fruit you gather along this old path is simply too good to miss!
Step-By-Step Help For An EASY History Study...

Ready now? No idea on how to bring this together for a lesson plan? Have absolutely no idea of how to develop a lesson step-by-step? I won’t leave you struggling! Here are EASY steps for developing a fun and easy study on any time period...

♥ Decide on a period to study...Decide where you want to begin. No idea? Look at your children’s interests...do you see any interests that would be a good starting point? Are they into sports? Why not begin with a biography on their favorite player? Do they love ballet? Why not begin with the story behind The Nutcracker? Whatever their interest, dig in and enjoy!

♥ No idea of how to develop? Grab a great resource like The Wallchart of World History, a textbook or curriculum company’s scope and sequence (often found in catalogs or furnished upon request), or even an encyclopedia. Collect and use resource lists such as The Never-ending Rushton Reading List, Lessons from History, Lessons from History: The Art Part, What in the World’s Going On Here?, Greenleaf Guides To..., TruthQuest History Guides, etc. Make a list of information about the people that made history during that time... the literary works that preceded or were written around that period of time... the places that history took place...any battles, inventions, exploration, discoveries or government changes, etc. Just dig in!

♥ Use your list to research for resources about the period. Hunt for read alouds, picture books, maps, art, biographies, speeches, hymns or music from the period, cookbooks, journals, games, videos, or any other resource that will help you and your children to dig into that period of time.
**Decide on activities and projects to coordinate with the study.**
Activities and projects are priceless! They help to bring the children into the History periods. Decide which field trips, movies, crafts, videos, interviews with people, audios, or other activities that you will use to bring the study to life.

**Access FREE (or almost FREE) stuff!** This is where I think it gets simply TOO fun! (Am I just CHEAP???) I love finding resources that are out there waiting for us to devour! History resources are abundant. Hunt for them right where you are! Some great hide-aways are: local museums (they often have teacher/student packets that are available FREE upon request), the Internet (There is an abundance of free information, lessons plans on ANY topic, art prints, literary pieces, pictures, and music for any period.), library (Anything from books to videos to audio books, etc! Make friends with your librarians, they are awesome resources!), cemeteries (neat quotes and rubbings...really!), coin, rock, indian artifact, and gun shows, living history days, history re-enactments, historical societies, antique stores, field trips, interviews, documentaries, etc.

**Make a list of all resources needed, where to find them, and when you will need them during the study.**

**Dig into your study!** Don’t do this by yourself! Let your whole family dig in! Now, here is where you need to know that there ARE going to be rabbit trails. Expect AND, prayerfully, HOPE for them! Wondering how you will study as a family? Let the whole family research the period. Your younger children will not find the same morsels that your older children dig up, but the fruit comes as your family functions as a family with each sharing information based upon their own interests and abilities. The deeper your family shares, the deeper the studies will be. But, there is more than that! The deeper the memories and tighter the family ties. So, let the whole family dig into the study. Read! Read as a family...read individually. Assign topics for each child to research and share with the rest of the family. This deepens the studies while teaching your children how to research and share their findings with others. Discuss! Share over meals. Narrate (re-tell what is being learned). There is nothing quite like narration to prepare your children for composition, speaking, speeches, and even family life!
Document the study all along the way in History Notebooks and Timelines! This not only serves to keep records. Notebooks and timelines are treasures for life! Anything and everything can be (and should be!!) kept along the way. Their History Notebooks can "keep" their History Copywork and Dictation exercises (need ideas see the resource list from this issue), their drawings and pictures, photos, mementos, maps, and any research. Their Timeline Notebooks can trace the lives, inventions, explorations, etc. that your children study in their lessons. Not only does this document those hard to record lessons, but it creates an heirloom that will last the rest of their lives.

Pull in real life! All of it! Real places make learning hands-on. Real people are perfect teachers as our children apprentice and get to know what their lives are really like. Real disciplines not taken out of real life not only teach the subjects, but also instill a lifestyle of real learning as the children learn to develop Unit Studies, write books, write plays, make notebooks, and research topics of interest. Make your entire life a classroom. You will find that real life is one of the most powerful learning tools used to teach History the easy way.

Work on an end of study project or presentation night. Some of our most precious memories through the years come from those moments around our homemade teepee eating real live Indian foods, when company dropped in for dinner! EEK! Oh, and the castle that stayed in the children’s room until it finally fell to pieces (Castles made from refrigerator boxes just do NOT hold up as long as the "old" days!) Oh, and forgive me for another OH! But, I simply cannot talk about History without remembering the Alamo! Really! Ending a huge Unit Study on Frontiersmen, we were blessed with a trip to San Antonio courtesy of my husband’s job. When Matthew heard the plans, his only request was and I quote, "Oh, Mama, my heart’s desire is to stand at the Alamo in my coon-skin hat and Davy Crockett clothes and musket for a picture..." Yes, I was mush. Something about "my heart’s desire..." ☹ Words do not express fully what it was like to see the gleam in Matthew’s eyes every time that someone would pass by him and whisper (loudly, of course!), "Hey, I thought Davy was dead, but I am SURE that it’s him!" Oh, and there was this year, after 7 years of deep and passionate study of the Civil War, when Matthew actually toured Gettysburg. Priceless! Although studies do not have to be FINISHED (as evidenced by the Civil War Study), planning a special project or presentation night can give a special sense of accomplishment. Anything will do: a family celebration, a special History Day, a field trip, a camping trip, a movie night, a special meal/feast, etc. Let your imagination go!
Inspired? Ready to get going? Oh, I pray that you are not just ready, but you KNOW that you can begin today, right where you are! Take what is in your hand at this time. Study as a family! Take advantage of the places you travel, those hobbies that you love doing together (metal detecting, antiquing, re-enacting history...), even that special family time watching TV and videos. Make and play games to reinforce the information being found along the way. Plan meals that can bring the past alive as you cook your way through history. Equip those little ones for their many adventures by studying the clothing, designing, and sewing period clothing. Gather and create accessories (we told the grandparents who all donated to a dress-up box filled with fun goodies that are perfect for ANY period we study). Turn them loose to play! You can be sure that your little ones will hold on to every word of your read alouds so they will "know what to play" that day!

Don’t miss one memory! There is so much history in your own backyard. Make it yours! Interested in some far away place? See what you DO have! Get as hands-on as possible. Re-create as much as you can right where you are. Go there through books. Your whole family can travel together back in time and far, far away just through those moments you share in the middle of a great book!

Taking a vacation? Why not plan to see places that you have studied? OR why not plan a study of a place you will be visiting. Let your little history buffs plot the journey so you can see the chief spots of interest. When you get there, eat the food, feel the sand, smell the morning air, hear the talk, see the people, see the places! Collect postcards. Take pictures. Find mementos for those notebooks. Seize each moment. Treasure each memory being made.
History has become a passion in our home! Was it all of those read-alouds about the great men and women throughout history? Was it those stories that have been told over and over while sitting at the knees of Papaw? Was it the hours of play outside of our home as they set sieges...attacked the enemy...fought on the side of their greatly admired heroes? I am not quite sure what is to “blame” for the passion we have for history, but we certainly do approach history differently in our home. Our focus is on giving our little ones plenty of time and opportunity to make history come alive! The following are some tips on how you can also make history come alive in your home. Ready to pull it all together? Come join the adventure!

♥ **Read Lots of Biographies!** I read a while back a neat quote by Charlotte Mason, which confirmed our approach for learning about others. She said in her book Home Education the following profound quote,

> “Let him...linger pleasantly over the history of a single man, a short period, until he thinks the thoughts of that man, is at home in the ways of that period. Though he is reading and thinking of the lifetime of a single man, he is really getting intimately acquainted with the history of a whole nation, for a whole age. Let him spend a year of intimacy with Alfred, ‘the truth-teller,’ with the Conqueror, with Richard and Saladin, or with Henry V. — Shakespeare’s Henry V. —and his victorious army. Let him know the great people and the common people, the ways of the court and of the crowd. Let him know what other nations were doing while we were at home doing thus and thus. If he comes to think that the people of another age were truer, larger-hearted, simpler-minded than ourselves, that the people of some other land were, at one time, at any rate, better than we, why, so much the better for him.”

Take the time to focus on the lives of men and women throughout history! This puts the story back into history and makes it come alive!

♥ **Get Out to See History as Much as Possible!** Our children simply devour Living History Days that are so common in our area. They beg to go to historical sites and museums! They will spend hours just listening to the stories of the guides or in reading the
little signs! Their idea of real fun is to go to history reenactments and plays! Our area is rich in living history. We can go to Civil War reenactments or to plays about our own natives such as Helen Keller! We also can go to festivals in our area that celebrate time periods and events in history such as The Renaissance Fair and The Trail of Tears. This living history brings the past alive for my little history buffs!

♥ Keep a History Notebook! We have notebooks for almost every subject but history is perhaps one of our favorites! My son had so much in his History Notebook that he had to divide it up into specific notebooks of information about General History, the Civil War and our Military. You can easily keep a History Notebook as well. All you need is a three-ring binder, plastic sleeve protectors for the pages to be slid into, and lots of memorabilia! We keep narrations of books that we read for History. We copy favorite quotes and poems from our history read alouds. We keep pictures of men and women throughout history. We keep our mementos from historical sites and reenactments. We even have postcards sent to us from others who live near historical sites! In other words, our History Notebook is full of gems that keep history alive for all of us!

♥ Tap into People! Tap into grandparents, elderly, family, and friends! Our family and friends have been a key source of finding out neat stories that are not recorded in the history books! Sitting at their feet, we have learned many details from history that would be long lost without the gift of story telling! The key to making this come alive is to listen and record their stories for your History Notebooks. Keep this part of history alive for you and for generations to come!

♥ Find Treasures at Antique Stores! I am amazed at the little treasures that we have come across at old antique stores. We have found wonderful journals, uniforms, books, money, so on, which all belong in museums. Antique stores are wonderful places to find dress up clothes and play gadgets to make history come alive!

♥ Let the Little Ones Make up Their Own Costumes! My children have always loved to make up costumes for their play as they read
about various men and women in history. I used to make many of their costumes when they were little for times such as Frontiersmen, Knights and Queens, and Civil War. Now, they will go to real sources like GRANDPARENTS, Rummage Sales, and Friends to help them all clean out their closets! Anything will do for children thinking of adventures of long ago! They love old jewelry, strips of material, old uniforms, bonnets, aprons, dress clothes...anything is game! As they pull out the treasures, they pull out the imagination, which keeps history alive for them!

Let Them Make Doll Clothes! We began a passion with my daughter several years ago that has continued for 4 years and will probably continue until she has her own grandchildren. I made her a wardrobe of clothes for her Kirsten doll from the American Girl Dolls. This started a collection and a tradition! Now, her Christmas wish list each year is the next doll with a wardrobe! Since we are now working on teaching her to sew, these doll clothes will be the perfect projects for her to practice on. This year she learned to smock by making her Itty Bitty Baby a bib. She had so much fun! This is unlimited since so many patterns are now available to put those little ones to work creating period costumes for their dolls! Try it and see if the passion does not hit as they make history come alive!

Make a Timeline! (Of course!!) We have had two different kinds of timelines in our home. We had a huge one that took up an entire wall in our old home. It was fascinating to watch the little ones as they would “review” and “test” each other on history as they went by! When we built our home, my husband had one request...NO MORE WALLS COVERED WITH TIMELINES! Simple request, huh? Well, what we did was even more fun and personal. We made up a History Timeline Notebook to include all of our history facts! Our Timeline Notebook records key events, people we study and their key events, and even our family’s key events! The children have made it their own with illustrations, which remind them of those historical figures and events, pictures that they have collected from books and trips that we have taken, information from our Computer Encyclopedias and Internet Sites, and even charts we have collected or made ourselves! This has been our way of making history more than just a bunch of dull facts...rather it has come alive for us!

I pray that this will help to give you some ideas that you can use in your home to bring history alive! Keep in mind that all of this works as we give
our children time to get alone with those in History! Yes, it will work as they have time to lay sieges, carry on adventures, and live side-by-side their heroes as they go back in time! Let your children have those moments to drink in history deeply and you will find History coming alive for them! Happy History!

Excerpted From *Time for Tea Magazine*
Tips for Making History Studies (or ALL STUDIES!) Great!

Ok! Now, are you ready to close this book and dig into a fun study? Don’t leave yet! I want to send you off with some final tips for making ALL of your studies great this year! Ready? Here they are...

♥ **Bring History to life by going where it happened!** Get out there to see where it all happened! Take time to go to battlefields... museums (see those REAL documents and memorabilia LIVE!)... historical sites... historical homes... cemeteries... OH, even those in YOUR backyard!

♥ **Keep a biography going!** Get to KNOW the people who have made history! Get into their lives through the pages of books!

♥ **Try Notebooking!** Use notebooks to keep quotes that you love... to preserve your research from your studies... to have that SPOT where you can keep your info handy!

♥ **Tap into People!** Don’t forget that people all around love a multitude of topics. Get to know them and education will happen naturally! Let them share what THEY know! ☺

♥ **Find time for BOOKS!** Find time each day to just squeeze in a few minutes of a great book! Maybe over breakfast. Maybe over lunch. Maybe right before naptime. Maybe right before bedtime. Maybe on the way to town using books on tape! Find the best time to settle in and make a memory—and can you believe this is the BEST way to learn??

♥ **Dig up original source documents!** You will LOVE them! The wording...the handwriting...Oh! They are great! Plus, get the info directly from those who LIVED it! Just dig around in your local antique store...online...or in your library. You will get hooked!

♥ **Dress Up!** For real! What could make your little ones want to dig out details like dressing up and acting out the lives of really neat people? Give it a try! You will love it—and make sweet memories!

♥ **Movie Night!** What could be more fun than curling up under big comfy quilts...snacking on popcorn...and indulging in movies? Studying World War II? Go back in time with *The Hiding Place* for the evening! Wanting to learn a bit more about the Civil War?
Check out the Shaara Movies! Hard to believe that everyone will be learning!

✈ **Play Games!** Just when I wonder if the children will ever “get it” during our studies, all it takes is a game night. They just GET IT! Play a round of Timeline Games...or Chronology...or just make your own games! ENJOY!

✈ **Teach with a friend!** Do what you are good at...let them loose doing what they are good at! The study will make memories AND stretch into areas that you could only dream of!

✈ **Stay realistic!** Do frequent reality checks! Don’t overplan! And...don’t get upset when you plan too much and only the BEST can be done! Relax and enjoy each and every study! Choose the best and let go of the rest!

✈ **Have FUN!** These days are flying by! Make a point to have fun each and every day! 😊
Ideas for Timeline Notebooks...

Need some other ideas to fit your needs? There are as many variations for timeline notebooks as there are people! Here are some themes to consider...

♥ My Country Timeline

♥ My State History Timeline

♥ ----(Unit Study) Timeline
   Space Exploration Timeline
   Westward Expansion Timeline
   Lewis and Clark Expedition Timeline
   The Vikings Timeline
   Composers Timeline

♥ American Artists Timeline

♥ ----(Person) Timeline
   Robert E. Lee
   Thomas Edison
   Helen Keller

♥ ----(Time Period) Timeline
   Bible
   American Revolution
   Egyptian
   Greek
   Romans
   Middle Ages

♥ My Family Timeline

♥ Famous Men of---
   Civil War
   American Revolution

♥ Battles of---
   The American Revolution
   The Civil War
   World War I
   World War II
   The Vietnam War
   Desert Storm
Resources We Recommend...

By Us...

**Make Your Own History Timeline** Packets or Printables on CDROM by Cindy Rushton  
**Make Your Own History Timeline Figures** by Elisabeth Rushton  
**History the Easy Way** Audio Workshop by Cindy Rushton  
**Make Your Own History Timeline Notebook** Audio Workshop by Cindy Rushton

By Catherine Jaime...

*Shop for these in our bookstore or through Catherine’s online bookstore! You will love these!*

- **A Timeline Journal** by Catherine Jaime  
- **Civil War Timeline Game** by Catherine Jaime  
- **Collection of Timelines** by Catherine Jaime  
- **History of Astronomy Timeline Game** by Catherine Jaime  
- **History of Space Exploration Timeline** by Catherine Jaime  
- **Lewis and Clark Exploration Timeline Game** by Catherine Jaime  
- **Presidents Timeline Game** by Catherine Jaime  
- **Revolutionary War Timeline Game** by Catherine Jaime  
- **Statehood Timeline Game** by Catherine Jaime

By Debbie McGregor...

**A Garden Patch of Reproducibles** (in paperback or on CD--my choice!)

By Amy Pak...

- **Creation to Christ Timeline Pack**  
- **Resurrection to Revolution Timeline Pack**  
- **Napoleon to Now Timeline Pack**  
- **America’s History Timeline Pack**  
- **Collection of Historical Timeline Figures on CD**  
- **Record of Time—Timeline Notebook**

Lessons from History

Color the Classics

Hold That Thought...

- **Hold That Thought (CD’s)**  
- **A Time Line of American History**  
- **A Time Line of World History**  
- **A Time Line of Bible History**  
- **A Time Line of Church History**  
- **Bible/Church Time Line Cut Outs**  
- **World/US Time Line Cut Outs**
Internet Links...

How To Make Your Own History Timeline Notebook...
http://tinyurl.com/4q29u

Printable Timeline Page...
http://www.cindyrushton.com/pdfs/HTP.pdf

Our Links for President/Elections Unit Study...
http://tinyurl.com/dts55

Timeline Helps by Amy Pak (Absolutely excellent!!)
http://www.homeschoolinthewoods.com/HTTA/TimelineHelps/

American Presidents Portraits...
http://www.historyplace.com/specials/portraits/presidents/index.html

Classical Music Timeline...
http://www.classicalarchives.com/timeline.html

American Revolution...

Revolutionary War Timeline...
http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/revolutionarywartimeline.htm

Instructions on How to Make a History Timeline...
http://tinyurl.com/4q29u
http://www.ucls.uchicago.edu/people/faculty/Bob_Kass/Timelineinstructions.html
http://www.homeschoolunitstudies.com/Ancienthistory/creating%20a%20timeline.htm
http://www.dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/timeline.html
http://donnayoung.org/history/timeline-cw.htm

Ed-Helper’s Create Your Own Timelines...(Excellent! Ready made timelines—check this site out!)
http://www.edhelper.com/timelines.htm

Enchanted Learning’s Make Your Own History Timeline...(Several different formats! Great for notebooks, lapbooks, and books!)
http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/memory/timeline/

The Media History Timeline Project...(very extensive dates/details)
http://mediahistory.umn.edu/time/century.html
Make a Civil War Timeline
http://www.homeschoolinthewoods.com/UnitStudies/civilwar-timeline.htm
http://www.historyplace.com/civilwar/index.html
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/tl1861.html

Civil War Photographs (great for your timelines, notebooks, or homemade books!!)
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/cwphome.html

What Happened on Today (or ANY day) in History...
http://www.scopesys.com/anyday/
http://www.historychannel.com/historychannel/thisday/

This Day in Church History...
http://chi.gospelcom.net/DAILYF/daily.php

One Hundred Key Events in Church History...
http://chi.gospelcom.net/events/index.shtml

The Life of Christ...
http://chi.gospelcom.net/lifeofchrist/stalkers_life1.shtml

Classical Composers Archives... (timelines, archives of compositions, much more!)
http://www.classicalarchives.com/

Bible Timeline...
http://www.gbgm-umc.org/trinityks01/all.htm

American History Timelines...
http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/americantimelines.htm

Photos and Clipart for Your Timelines...
http://members.aol.com/donnandlee/FunHistory.html#CLIP

Timeline of Communications History...
http://library.thinkquest.org/26451/newmenu.html

History Timeline of UK...
http://www.history.uk.com/timeline/index.php

Information, photos for English Timelines...

World War II Timeline...
http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/ww2time.htm
The History Place (timelines, photos, quotes...HEAVEN!)
http://www.historyplace.com/

HyperHistory (people, maps, timelines
http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html

Timeline Maker...
http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/timelines/

History Timelines by Different Homeschool Families...
http://www.bright.net/~double/timelin1.htm
http://www.nucleus.com/~nicola/timeline.html
http://www.geocities.com/laurabeanct/Timeline.html?966195779460

Medal of Honor Coloring Book...
http://www.homeofheroes.com/coloringbook/

Timeline Ideas...
http://www.fortunecity.com/millennium/plumpton/1141/timelines.html
http://www.geocities.com/highland_heritage/notebooking.htm

Lewis and Clark Timeline...
http://www.lewisclark.net/timeline/index.html

History Timelines on the Web...
http://history.searchbeat.com/

Link-Lines...(an internet based timeline)
http://www.redshift.com/~bonajo/linklines.htm

Portfolio Ideas from Heart of Wisdom...
http://homeschoolunitstudies.com/TG/curriculum/portfolios.htm

Timelines of Art History...
http://arthistory.about.com/od/timelines/

Artycyclopedia...
http://www.artycyclopedia.com/

Art from TODAY in History...
http://www.safran-arts.com/42day/art/archive.html

History from TODAY in History...
http://www.safran-arts.com/42day/history/archive.html

Maps...

Free Outline Maps...
Outline Maps of Countries and Continents...
http://geography.about.com/library/blank/blxindex.htm

Outline Maps of the Fifty States...
http://www.50states.com/maps/
http://geography.about.com/library/blank/blxusx.htm

Make Your Own Outline Maps Online...
http://www.aquarius.geomar.de/omc/

Make Your Own Color-coded Maps...
http://monarch.tamu.edu/~maps2/us.htm

Color Maps...
http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html

Historical Maps...
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/histus.html

Lewis and Clark Maps...
http://www.lewisclark.net/maps/index.html

Storing Away Large Maps...
http://www.redshift.com/~bonajo/markmaps.htm

Links to Map Sites...
http://www.teacheroz.com/Maps_Flags_Timelines.htm
http://geography.miningco.com/msub37.htm

Links to EVEN MORE Websites!

http://www.homeschoolinthewoods.com/WebLinks/weblinks-mapstimelines.htm
http://www.homeschoolchristian.com/Links/History/
http://www.teacheroz.com/Maps_Flags_Timelines.htm
http://dep.disney.go.com/educational/ideas?cid=4&s=SS
http://www.historyteacher.net/
http://www.redshift.com/~bonajo/timeline.htm

Make Your Own Timeline Games...
http://www.redshift.com/~bonajo/game.htm#time
Let’s Make a History Timeline Notebook...
By Cindy Rushton

Ready for a fun and easy way to give your children a flow of history while introducing them to great people? Need a little help in pulling together your history studies? Ready to teach History The EASY WAY???

Join Cindy Rushton as she takes you through the basics of teaching History The EASY WAY while showing you how to make your own history timeline notebooks!

In this small, but mighty booklet, Cindy will show you how to set up a basic timeline notebook while you try your hand setting up YOUR OWN pages! Cindy will give you some cute ideas for making your own timeline figures by using the resources that you have already. This booklet goes beyond being introducing the idea to also include very practical how-to’s and ideas that are sure to help you make history lessons doable AND easy! If you are needing a bit of help for planning your lessons, breathing more life into your studies, or just knowing how to document what your children are learning, this is a booklet you won’t want to miss!

$6.95