

# Let's Make a Lapbook!



By Cindy Rushton

# Let's Make a Lapbook!



By  
Cindy Rushton

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest, [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For my yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne."

Matthew 11: 28-30 (Amplified Bible)

## **Let's Make a Lapbook!**

By: Cindy Rushton

### **Published in the United States of America by:**

Rushton Family Ministries

1225 Christy Lane

Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674

[Http://www.CindyRushton.com](http://www.CindyRushton.com)

[Http://www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/CindyRushton](http://www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/CindyRushton)

[Http://www.Mom2MomDiscussion.com](http://www.Mom2MomDiscussion.com)

[Cindy@CindyRushton.com](mailto:Cindy@CindyRushton.com)

Copyright 2005 by Cindy Rushton.

All Rights Reserved. Published 2005, January 2006 printing.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise, without expressed written permission of the publisher. Permission is granted for copies of reproducible pages to be made for use within your own family.

Cover design by Cindy Rushton

Graphics Throughout the Book by Graphic Garden, DJ Inkers, Creating Keepsakes, Journaling Genie, and Hallmark Scrapbook Studio

## 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 The Easy Way Reprint Book Volume 2  
Homeschooling The Easy Way Reprint Book Volume 3  
Inspiring Our Children Toward Greatness Using Great Literature  
Language Arts...The Easy Way  
Let's Make a History Timeline Notebook  
Make Your Own Alphabet Notebook  
Make Your Own Alphabet Book  
Make Your Own Brain-in-A-Binder Printables  
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 Book  
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  
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  
Organization 911! Help for the Messy Homeschool Mom  
Organization 911! Help for the Messy Mom!  
Spiritual Mothering: The Call to Mentoring, Mothering, and Ministry Bible Study  
Step-by-Step Through Daniel  
The Great I AM: A Study Through the Names of God—ABBA FATHER  
The Great I AM: A Study Through the Names of God—ISHI  
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  
Time for Tea Reprint book for Volume 7  
Who? Me? A Virtuous Woman???

YES! YOU! A Vessel God CAN Use!

PLUS! Lots More Coming Soon!!!

## About the Author...



### Cindy Rushton...

Cindy Rushton is the wife of her very best friend, Harold Rushton, and the mother of Matthew (19) and Elisabeth (15) who have always been homeschooled. Cindy lives in the beautiful mountains of North Alabama in her dream cedar cabin.

Cindy is the author of over 75 books, Bible studies and homeschool resources. She edits and publishes two magazines, *Time for Tea* and *Homeschooling The Easy Way* and *Scrap-A-Latte* Newsletter. She has become a beloved and favored speaker for homeschool conventions and retreats across our country.

Cindy began homeschooling Matthew and Elisabeth over fourteen years ago. Matthew homeschooled until graduating. Elisabeth is currently finishing up her high school years at home.

Cindy's homeschooling journey, tips, and ideas that she has learned along the journey are recorded in the following pages in our humble effort of sharing an EASY way to homeschool.

As you pour yourself a cup of tea and pour through the following pages, you will find a dear, dear friend to give you a great big hug, loving smile, and take you by the hand into a journey of homeschooling the EASY WAY! Get ready...you are definitely in for a treat!



"I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." Jeremiah 31: 25

# Let's Make a Lapbook!



Bear buddies read together

"Thus says the Lord, The God of Israel: Write all the words which  
I have spoken to you in a book."  
Jeremiah 30:2

# Let's Make a Lapbook!



I have the fever! Yep! I have the Lapbook fever! I was bit by the Lapbooking bug and I have never been the same since! ☺

Ready to catch the fever? Not sure if you want yet ANOTHER thing to do?

Oh, beloved friend, you are going to just LOVE making Lapbooks in your homeschool! Your children are going to LOVE making Lapbooks. Don't believe me? Well, look at the PERKS of Lapbooking...

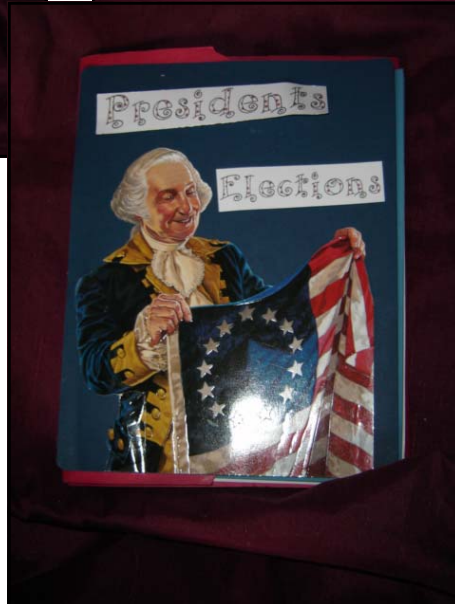
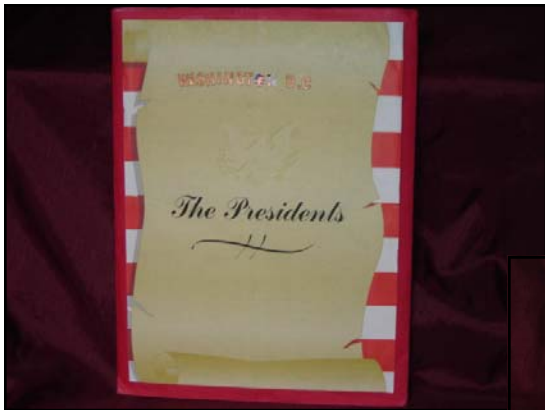
- ♥ Encourages your children to dig out (and remember! AND...review!) information from their studies.
- ♥ Students retain more information from their studies. More memorable. They remember information that would slip by in any other format.
- ♥ Options and ideas are endless! No limits!
- ♥ Encourages a constant review of information—your children CANNOT help but to open booklets when they look through their Lapbooks. ☺
- ♥ You (and everyone! ☺) see what they are really learning.
- ♥ Great hands-on project to correspond with any study.
- ♥ Inexpensive—you probably have everything that you need on hand already.
- ♥ Great for all ages...all learning styles...and all abilities! Meets them where they are!
- ♥ Fun for even the most reluctant writer! They write in snippets—intimidating and more do-able in their eyes.
- ♥ Breathes life into the doldrums. If you are dealing with burn-out, this just might be an answer to your prayers!
- ♥ Great for any curriculum—any approach!
- ♥ Uses skills of learning without even knowing it—cut and paste... copying/copywork... researching... display... outlining... note-taking... computer skills... sequencing... categorizing... compare and contrast... plus,



writing!

- ♥ Encourages the children to use their own creativity and originality.
- ♥ Great record of what is really being learned from the studies.
- ♥ Teaches the student how to organize and present material.
- ♥ Gives the child a purpose for writing. They see the reason that they are writing. They have an immediate product forming. Real purpose!
- ♥ Let's the children know that what they spend their time producing is special and worth keeping.
- ♥ Encourages a love of learning
- ♥ They see their success!

❖ Sold? Oh! You will LOVE Lapbooking! Just wait and see!





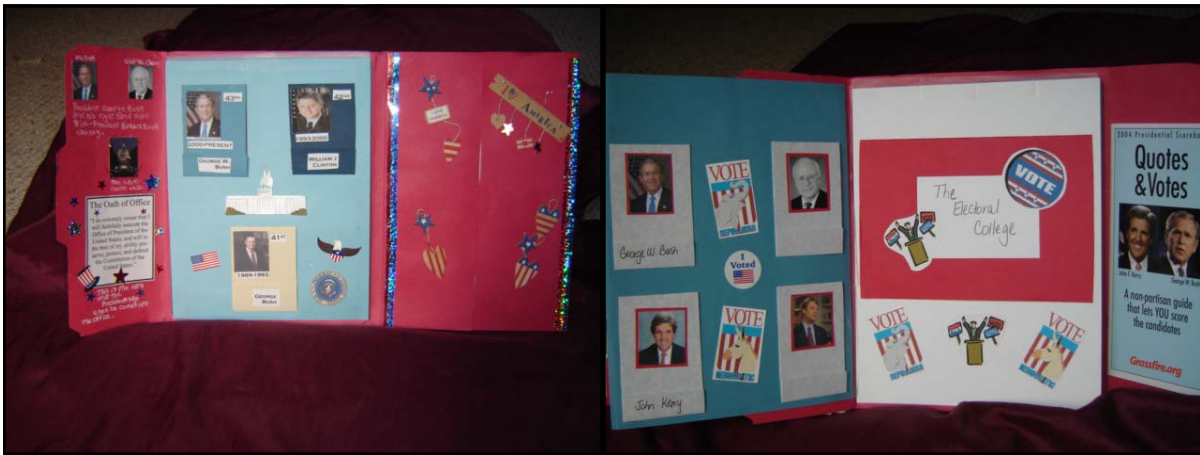
# Just WHAT IS a Lapbook???



Wondering just WHAT IS a Lapbook? Heard the rumble, but not quite sure what a Lapbook is or how to do it? Need a bit of help here? I think I can help!

## A Lapbook Is...

A Lapbook is a complete collection of booklets and display material from a particular study gathered and displayed in a folder-book that fits in your lap. . A Lapbook is commonly prepared using a file-folder, folded in a "shutter-fold" with a display of booklets and other information from a study.



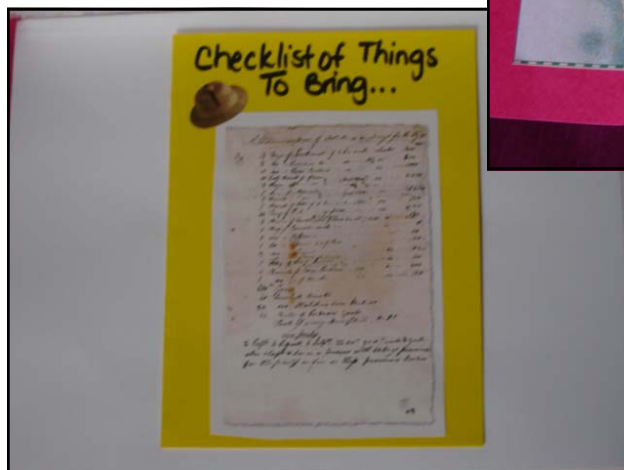
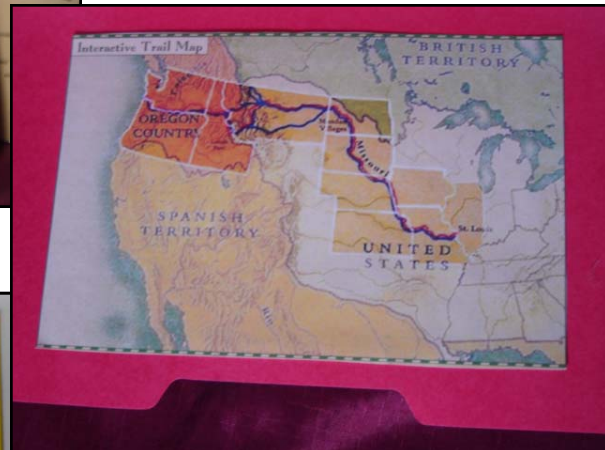
A Lapbook is displays the highlights of the study. It is used for display of information from a study and as a tool for reviewing material as the child comes back to look at the Lapbook.

The name may sound funny. All of the information from the study can be held in a book, in the student's lap. Hence, the name, Lapbook, a project book that fits in the child's lap!

### Our Addiction Begins...

- I don't know about you, but I like to continue learning alongside of my children. When I hit a dry spot, I immediately begin to look for fun and easy ideas for making our studies even more special. Lapbooking was an answer to me during a very dry time. All it took was ONE project and I was hooked!

- Since then, Lapbooking has been a fun way for us to display what we are learning from our studies. It is also a great way to share what we love from our studies with others. The skills being learned are so bountiful that if there were just ONE THING that I could ask everyone to try just ONCE...it would be to just try Lapbooking!



# Give it a Try! You are Going to be Addicted!!



Bear buddies read together

My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my verses to the King;  
My tongue is like the pen of a ready writer."

Psalm 45

## Let's Try Lapbooking (You are GOING to be HOOKED!)



Want to try Lapbooking? Does it seem to intrigue you? Does it seem like the perfect place to keep all of those precious booklets that your children have been creating? Got your interest? That is what this chapter is all about! You are going to love it!

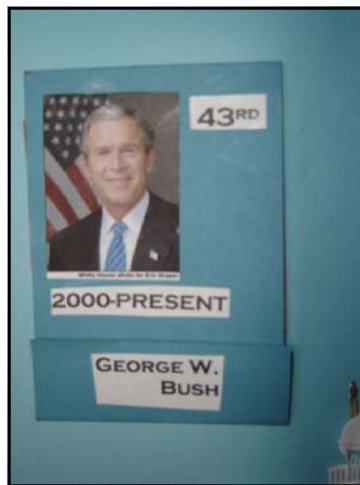
Lapbooking is going to addict you! Once you learn how and set up your first Lapbook, you will find yourself as addicted as we are. So, ready? Let's first get an overview of how to make a Lapbook. Then, we will go back over the steps to make sure that we cover all of the things that you may need to know. Ready? Let's try Lapbooking!

### Quick and Easy Steps to Getting Started Lapbooking...

Yes, there are only a few steps to making a Lapbook. Let's go over the steps!

- ♥ **Learn the Lapbook basics!** That is what this book is about. Read it through one good time to get a good overview. Then, go back through it with your first project. I will take you through the steps of making a "Sample" Lapbook in a bit. I cannot recommend that highly enough. It will help you to try your hand at the different booklet options and it will show you how to put everything together in your file folder without risking that you mess up any of the booklets or original work that your children have made. In fact, you may also want for your children to make their own "Sampler" so they can learn the basics. Usually a child will be ready-to-go with a project once they see how it is done. Then, all they will need is access to their supplies...plenty of time to work...and a whole lot of "mommy" encouragement! So, learn the basics, try them out in a "Sampler," show the little ones, and let them go! You will love it!

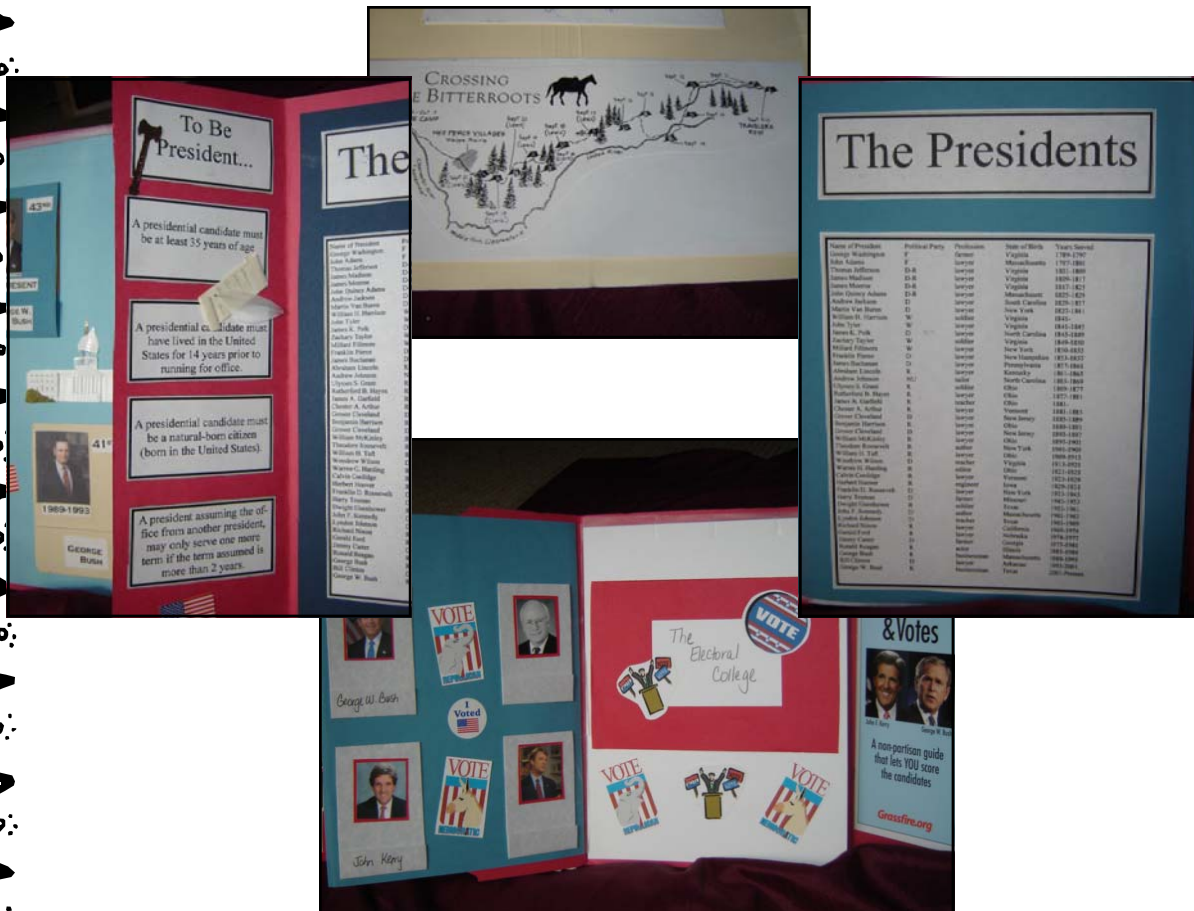
- ♥ **Learn how to make booklets.** As you will notice in each of the clips with Lapbook examples, each big folder consists of many small booklets, foldables, and information sheets. You are probably creating these already, but if you need help, check out some of the links in our website section of this book. There are great instructions for creating fun booklets. We also share a few ideas in the chapter on booklets included in this book. Let the sky be your limit! You can produce any style or shape for your booklets. They will all be adorable in your Lapbook.



- ♥ **Teach your children how to make booklets for themselves.** Again, I highly recommend making a sampler with your children. Show them the basics of making booklets. If you are a bit overwhelmed, you may want to begin with just a few simple booklets. You can make them in different sizes to fit the material that you have. Just a different size or type of paper makes the same booklet look completely unique. The fun part is that **ANYTHING** goes! So, make it easy! Show them the basics. Help them to learn just a few options (they will want to know more later and then you can dig up even more for them to try out). Give them a nice introduction. Then, you can turn them loose.
- ♥ **Teach children to record neat information into the booklets.** Information is **EVERYWHERE** begging to be added to your Lapbook! Just look at the websites included with this book. Look at your mate-



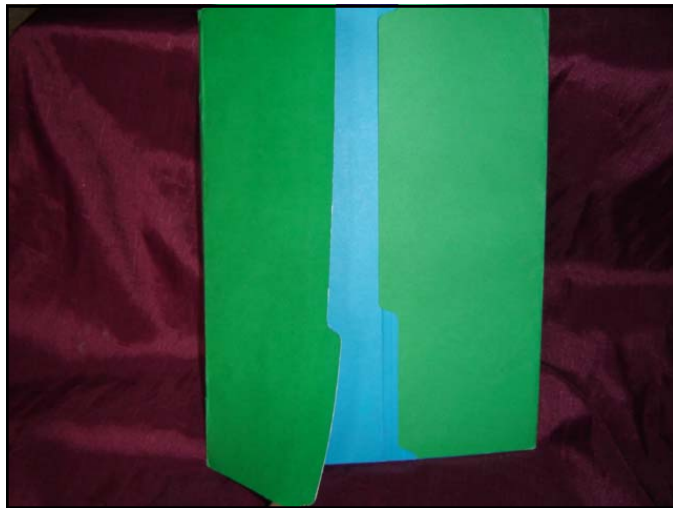
rials that you have on hand. There is so much information right around you. You can add ANY of it to your Lapbook. Lapbooks are such a cute way to display pictures, maps, charts, information booklets, lists, coloring pages, etc. They are great for the reluctant writer who needs to copy information bit-by-bit. Teach your little ones how to record information from their study and how to add it to the booklets. Then, turn them loose!



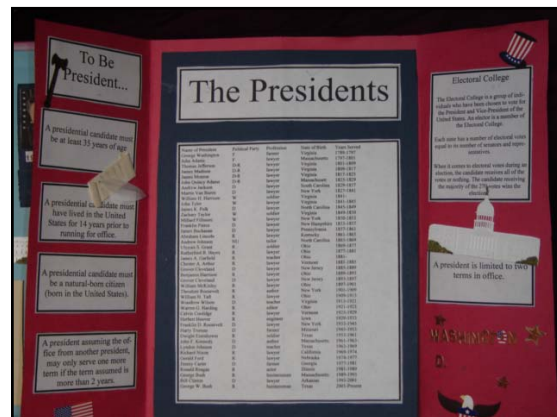
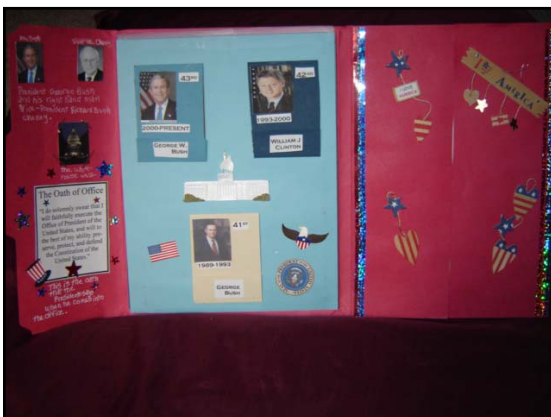
- ♥ **Keep booklets in a plastic baggie until you are finish with the study and ready to build your Lapbook.** We keep our booklets in plastic baggies in our notebooks during our studies. Once we begin wrapping up our study, we can begin to get an idea of how the booklets can be set up in our Lapbook to blend together and make a neat Lapbook. One thing to remember, if you have a certain theme, you may want to plan ahead by choosing matching specialty papers and coordinating supplies.



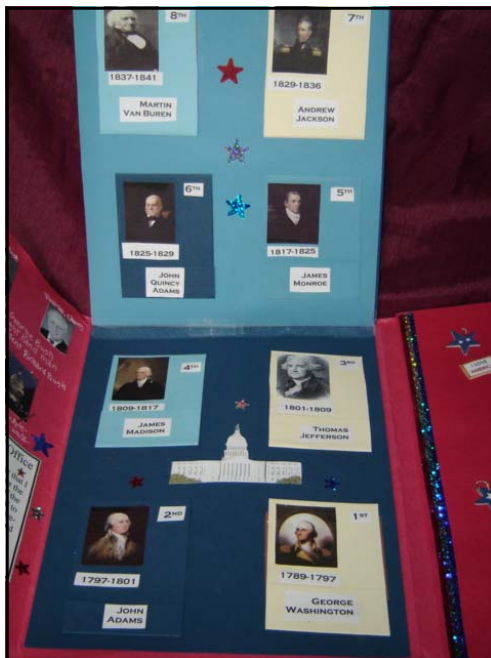
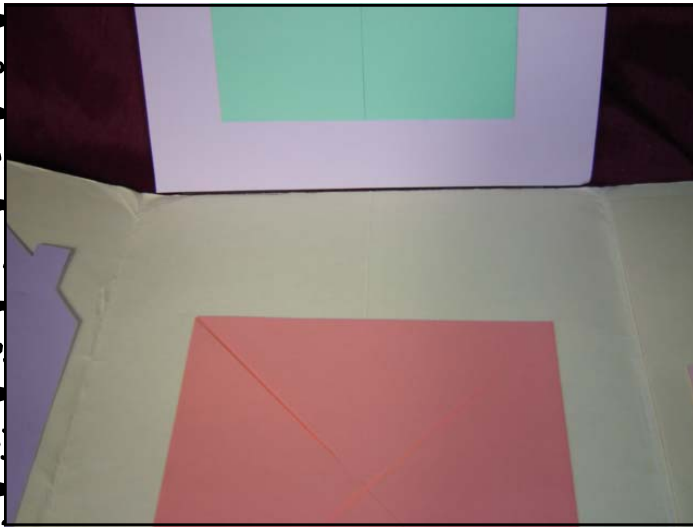
- ♥ **Take a file folder and fold into a "Shutterfold."** We use colored file folders for our projects. I usually choose a color that coordinates with the theme. You can use other paper too. You can use the 11 X 17 cardstock, which gives you even more options for colors to match your themes. If you are not sure what a "Shutterfold" is, take a peek at these pictures. The file folder (or cardstock) is re-folded with both edges folding to the center of the folder—like a shutter. You will then glue booklets and information onto the folds to display your material learned in your study. Stick with me for those details! ☺



- ♥ **Take out booklets from the study.** Get an idea of how you want to display the booklets in the Lapbook. I like for mine to have a nice flow with the information. I try to group my booklets in an order that flows.



- ♥ Add any "extensions" needed to hold and display all booklets and information. If you are like me, you will quickly run out of space for your booklets. The perfect answer to that dilemma is to use "extensions" which allow for more booklets to be added to your Lapbook. An extension can be made with another file folder or with cardstock paper or even poster-board. We use clear packing tape to attach the extension to our folders. We tape along the edge on both



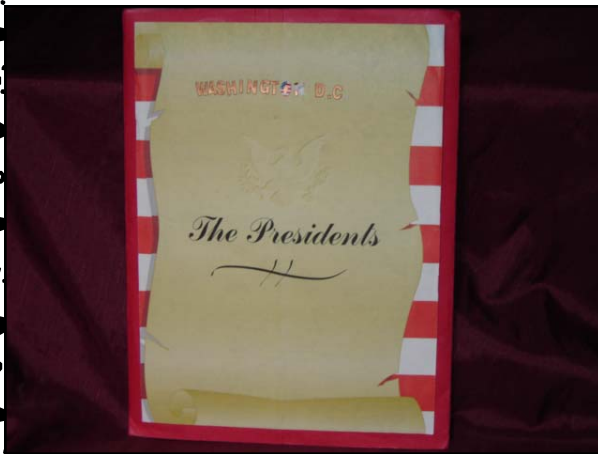
sides of the new extension so it is attached well. A friend of mine uses prong Paper Fasteners. Those work great when you want to add a bunch of pages as extensions. I have grown to really like those even better for our extensions because they tend to be stronger and better enforced. Extensions offer lots of room to display the different booklets and information from our study. They also provide even more stability to the book. One neat thing about Lapbooking is that you can keep on adding extensions and booklets for years if you come across more information that you want to add to your Lapbook. It can continue to grow with your child's education.



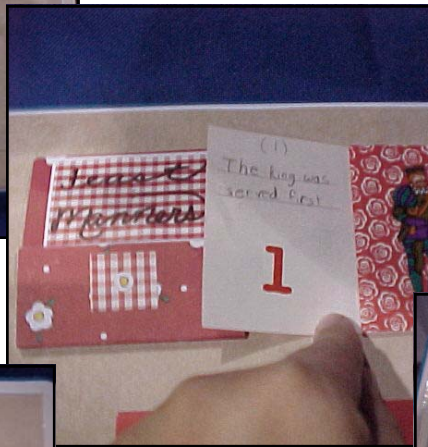
- ♥ **Glue booklets, pictures, captions into your Lapbook.** We use *glue stick* for most of our additions. Some of the heavier entries need *spray adhesive* to hold better. We use a lot of our Scrapbooking materials, supplies, tools, and techniques for making our Lapbooks really special. Elisabeth and I are always ready to "scrapbook" for any project. Perhaps that is another reason that Lapbooking just appealed to me! Lapbooks just seem to look more and more adorable as we add neat new touches to each one. And...we call it school! ☺



- ♥ **Add stickers and any other accents.** Again, I use many of the goodies that are left-over from our scrapbooking projects. For the *Presidents and Elections Lapbook*, we actually bought some adorable stickers and die cuts at our local scrapbooking store. They were JUST what the Lapbook needed to be perfect!
- ♥ **Finally, decorate and title your cover.** Titles can be designed and printed on your computer or made by hand. Just, make them special! Don't forget to add the student's name and age. Remember that although you CAN create one Lapbook for your entire family, it is really more special for each child to make his/her own book. Each Lapbook will show individual abilities and information retained from the study. In fact, one thing that we really enjoy is making one each. It is so much fun (and challenging!) when I make one too. They are each different, yet really neat. Each of us prefer different booklets and different ways of making our Lapbooks. Plus, each of us picks up different information that appeals to us from the study. We love enjoying each other's creations. Makes it fun!



♥ You are done! See how easy? Don't you think it was fun? Yep! You :o just might get addicted to Lapbooking too!



## How To Plan the PERFECT Lapbook...



Didn't you just WONDER about that title??? Is there a PERFECT way to plan out a Lapbook? Well, NO! And...YES! ☺

No, there is not a 3-step plan to making the PERFECT Lapbook. In fact, just sit down and look at the examples of different Lapbooks out there...aren't they ALL just adorable? Aren't they ALL simply perfect? I love the variety of Lapbooks out there. There is no perfect topic. No perfect layout. Each and every Lapbook is simply precious!

So, did I say that there was a PERFECT way to plan a Lapbook? Well, yes... YOUR WAY! Find the things that will make Lapbooking work for you. Find the steps that fit into your schedule. Find the tools that make it easy for you. Then, **do it YOUR way!** ☺

When I first got started, I was truly wondering which way would be the very best for planning a Lapbook. I function best by having a plan. I also function best by knowing what to expect. This was a great hindrance to Lapbooking for me right at first. I was so accustomed to the flexibility and "NON-planning" of our notebooks that it was a bit daunting to think of where to begin with our Lapbooks.

If that is not enough, I really wanted to be sure that our booklets coordinated and that our colors were complimentary. I have always been very peculiar about color and matching up everything just right—that is an area that I can be ALMOST neurotic! ☺

I asked on the Lapbooking loop for advice. My friend Amy Pak gave me some of the best help I could have received. I want to share her advice with you here. PLUS, you HAVE to see her cute history timeline products AND her awesome website—see: <http://www.homeschoolinthewoods.com/HTTA/TimelineHelps/>)



Here is her email back to me:

Hi, Cindy!

So good to see you on this list! It's a natural fit for you--isn't it refreshing to find new ways to excite our school days? I love stumbling upon another creative way to love learning...

When it comes to lapbooks, yes, they often do take a little more planning, but don't let this daunt you. You'll warm up to the idea! There are ways to "pre-plan" or work with existing booklets. One thought is to make several dummy copies of a variety of book folds.

**The PRE-PLAN METHOD:**

Using plain paper, create a few of each type at different sizes. Keep them as masters with just measurements written on them. That way, when it comes time to create a lapbook, you can get an immediate idea what mini-books or brochures will fit into your file folders. As your child goes to create each one, use the measurements of the ones you chose to fit inside the folders. Then you know everything will have its place in the end!

**The EXISTING BOOKLETS:**

So you have several already made little booklets and you don't know how to make them all fit? Create flaps for your files! Big flaps, small flaps--it will look like a "lift-n-see" book when you're done! Make the flaps big enough to hold each project and hinge them well with clear packing tape to an edge of the file, or create full page flaps to lift and find another page beneath it! Flaps can practically go on endlessly, as flaps can also be adhered to other flaps!

Clear as mud?

In His service,  
Amy Pak

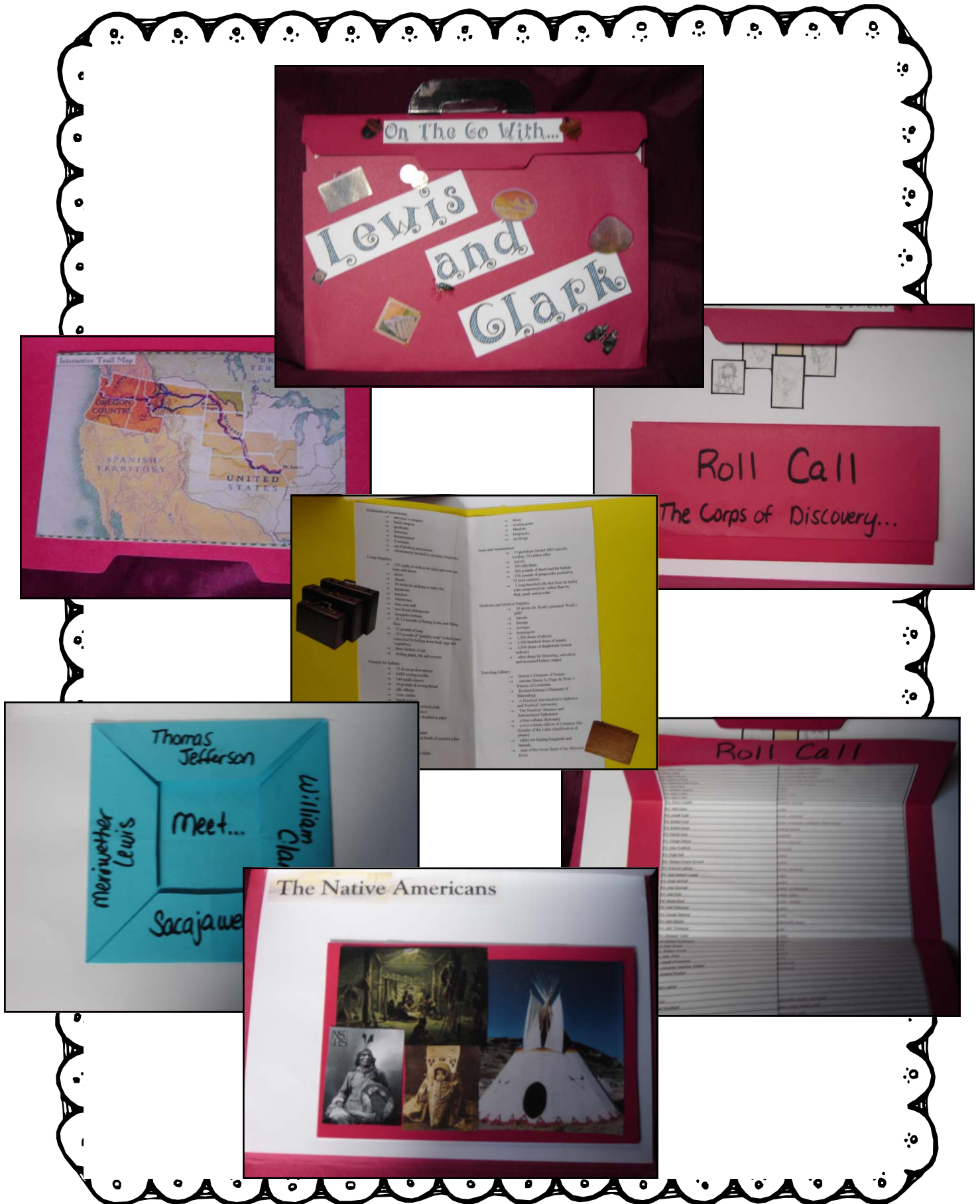
Don't you just love this? Amy's ideas were just freeing to me! They made everything fall into place. Since then, we have had a potpourri of ways that we have put our Lapbooks together.

♥ On my (Yes, I did one and Elisabeth did one! Both are completely different!) *Presidents and Elections Lapbook*, I prepared my booklets during our study, then planned out my extensions based upon how I

wanted to present my booklets as a wrap up project. It worked great on that project.

- ♥ On Elisabeth's *Presidents and Elections Lapbook*, she wanted to set up her Lapbook using *Matchbook Booklets* for each President. She used one booklet per President. She included a picture of the President on the outside of her booklet (she got it from a President's Game that was shared on the Lapbooking E-Group). On the little flap for the closure, she included their name and term of service (also clipped from the game pieces). On the inside, she used a little chart for each President that gave information about them that she thought was neat (she got it from a workbook that we bought from Sam's Discount Warehouse). After she made each of the little *Matchbook Booklets*, she figured out how many extensions she would need to have all of them displayed like she wanted them displayed. She also thought out how she wanted to begin. She began with the first President placed on the bottom extension with the chronology going forward to the top. Now, she can add to her Lapbook at any time as we have new Presidents through the years (isn't she sooo smart??). This project was made while she worked on the *Matchbook Booklets*. After she finished the last President, all she had to do was decorate the Lapbook insides with stickers (she is a Scrapbooking NUT!) and the cover with the design that she wanted. So, on this Lapbook, the project directed the study.
- ♥ For our *On the Go with Lewis and Clark* Lapbook, I decided to make the Lapbooks at the end of the study as a wrap-up for the entire study. It contained an overview of the study. Nothing in depth (that was included in our notebooks). Rather, the Lapbook gives an overview of what we covered.
- ♥ Our *Branches of Government* Lapbook contains the booklets that were left over from our *Presidents and Elections* study.

No right way or wrong way...just the way it worked out! We have been making it work for us. You can make it work for you! Just have fun!



# Let's Get Started...



"Thus says the Lord, The God of Israel: Write all the words which  
I have spoken to you in a book."

Jeremiah 30:2

## What Ya Need To Get Started... Our Easy Shopping List!



Ready to get going? Just need to know what you need? Need to gather and organize those supplies? Okey, dokey! Let's look at what you need to get started...

### Our Easy Shopping List!

- ♥ **File folders...** Use plain or manilla. You can also use colored file folders to match the theme of your Lapbook. Another great option is to use 11 X 17 or 12 X 18 card-stock paper or posterboard. You may want to use those if you need a specific color to coordinate with your project.
- ♥ **Paper...** ANY kind of paper is game. In fact, you will need a wide variety of paper for different uses. We mostly use 110 lb. white card-stock for most of our children's pages for their books and their artwork. We make the "hard-copy" of our book on this durable paper when there is a lot of artwork being used. It is usually acid-free, economical, and the most durable for a wide variety of purposes. As the years have gone by and their work has shifted to the computer, now we primarily produce their work on the computer (scanning in illustrations or using pictures taken on the digital camera as their clip-art. When books are prepared on the computer, all we need is 20lb. copy paper. We print the "hard-copy" on the computer printer and copy it on a copy machine. We have also been blessed by several of our local printers with scraps of brightly colored paper of all different weights. Most printers have so many different projects going that require different types of specialty paper. As they trim and cut those projects, they are left with an abundance of scrap paper. We usually get a huge box of scraps. The children use them for anything from bright touches on little books to added dimension on pages that need a special emphasis. The best part of it is that these scraps are FREE!