

Yes, my beloved friend, Copybooks are eternal. ANYTHING can go inside them. We began our very first Copybooks with Bible verses, poems, and neat quotes. We did not try to cover any subjects, but we did anyway (remember Matthew 6:33—seek God and HIS WAYS...then, ALL these things will be added unto you!)! You may be beginning a notebook with a pre-schooler or you may be beginning with a seventeen-year-old reluctant writer! Regardless of the age, skill, or interest, you will find a Copybook a great choice as you begin.

So...how do you begin? It is easy! Find an area of interest. If there aren't any interests that just jump out, then begin with a daily time of Copywork (Need more help with Copywork? See our website <http://www.cindyrushton.com> for a free article on the basics of Copywork OR see our books *Language Arts...The Easy Way and Homemade Books! YES! You CAN Be a Writer Too*, which are full of practical how-to's on Copywork. Oh! Don't forget to look later in THIS book and in our *Notebooking Companion CD* too!). You can use anything for Copywork: Bible verses, great quotes from books they are currently reading, poems, speeches, or definitions to new vocabulary. You may have a child who is interested in cooking, use recipes for Copywork. You may have a child who loves to sing, addict them to Copywork by encouraging them to copy songs. You may have a voracious reader who would simply treasure keeping their favorite quotes in a Notebook. You may have a little artist in your home. Often, they have the most gorgeous notebooks as they keep the pictures (complete with their journaling about the pictures) they collect, color or create. Oh, even those hands-on learners can label pictures of their work. Anything goes! As they grow older, they can copy longer passages. Anything from their own narrations (of books read, events, or information learned), to their own stories or short stories written by others, to essays of interest, to speeches, to how-to's...yes, anything works!

*"And when he (The King) sits on his royal throne, he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, out of what is before the Levitical priests. And he shall keep it with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn (reverently) to fear the Lord his God, by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes and doing them. That his [mind and] heart may not be lifted up above his brethren and that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left; so that he may continue long, he and his sons, in his kingdom in Israel."*  
Deuteronomy 17: 18-20

Reluctant writers? Seize them where they are! My daughter will write all day long if it is related to art, music, or biology. My son doesn't even realize he is writing IF it is on a topic related to history, people, or ideas of people. Have a child like this?? It seems as though most reluctant writers tend to learn best very hands-on or very auditory (This describes BOTH of my children!). The

good news is that even the most reluctant writer can be reached by Notebooking. I think there are three main reasons...because Notebooking is so hands-on...they can be so much more creative with their writing and notebooks...and their writing has purpose and meaning. This will reach them!

**Don't try to "assign" material for the Copybooks just to cover a certain subject or topic, instead watch for natural interests.**

Your children can add to their Copybooks any information that follows in the rest of this chapter. Don't try to "assign" material for the Copybooks just to cover a certain subject or topic, instead watch for natural interests. Choose neat selections that will appeal to your child. If your child is older, the best way to appeal to them is to leave the choice of material to them.

You will probably have one general Copybook covering all of the extras that don't seem to fit under a category or topic. Expect to be VERY surprised when you see the natural divisions that will spring forth! And...best yet! You will get to know your child even better as you see those deep interests pop up! Why not begin a Copybook today?

### Discipleship Journal...

In our home, discipleship is the #1 priority. If nothing else is done each day, we consider a day a success if we have further instilled the disciplines of a consistent Christian walk. Likewise, God has sent blessings immeasurable as we have been faithful to encourage our children to their daily quiet time...to seek God EACH day...and to keep a record of that walk with God (PLUS! It is sooo academic! Well, you will see that in a bit!)

Discipleship Journals (Notebooks) are a "given" with our family. We are fully convicted about equipping our children fully for their walk with God and we are fully convinced of the worth of keeping journals/notebooks! Do you wonder where I get this conviction? In Scripture, we see that God instructs us over

and over to REMEMBER what He teaches us...to REMEMBER the wonders that He has done in our lives! God instructed His people to WRITE down in a book His work among them, His Words spoken to them...warnings and promises!

Our Discipleship Journals (Notebooks) are our feeble attempt to instill the discipline of writing down the work of God in our lives. They are very personal and are not evaluated as schoolwork. For our Discipleship Journals, we began using 5-subject spiral bound (9 1/2 in. X 6 in.) Notebooks (Matthew still prefers to use an even smaller notebook that fits in his Bible better). You could use a small 3-ring binder if you prefer. Of course, don't be limited by this suggestion. Elisabeth uses the nice big binders like she uses for all of her other school work. Matthew prefers the spiral bound because they already have the dividers and sections petitioned off and they are more economical and easier to carry along to church inside our Bible-carriers.

We divide our notebooks into the following sections:

1. Sunday morning worship notes
2. Sunday evening worship notes
3. Wednesday evening worship notes
4. Quiet time notes
5. Prayer lists and Memory Verse lists

We began at an early age discipling our children to take notes in church. It began as they drew pictures or copied words in their "journals" just as Mommy did in hers. This built the discipline and they began very young to take notes on their own in the church services and Bible studies. During church, they did not always keep up with the complete outlines, but they did keep up with key thoughts and Scripture references. Matthew has been doing this since he was 7 but of course, not like he does today at 18 years old!

At home, we began the first real journals through our Copywork. The children would copy passages of Scripture into their notebooks. This developed the discipline for them to keep their own personal Bible Journals because Copywork is a daily discipline. The children have always kept their insights and thoughts jotted down as they study through their quiet times. They also copy verses that are memorized into their notebooks. Matthew and Elisabeth spend their quiet times jotting down thoughts, insights, and copying special Scriptures that

they want to commit to memory...yes, they do learn 10 times as much as old mom does! Now, they copy larger amounts of Scripture during their quiet times into their Scripture Notebook like Psalm 1, Psalm 23, Matthew 5, The Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. I give them freedom to copy their own gems and I have seen great benefits in their "school skills" as a result. (Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all of these things shall be added unto you?) Yes, God blesses our faithfulness! Not only do the children learn the skills of writing, but also Bible Journals are great for review and to encourage the children as they look back and see ALL the wonderful verses that they have hidden in their heart!

Because there are often so many things to remember in our prayers we have adopted a systematic plan for prayer. We were encouraged a few years ago by our church to have a program set up to pray. We did use their program for several years but now we have gotten really simple in our way of remembering requests. We have a list in the back of our Discipleship Notebook of needs that we are concerned about praying for. It is so neat to be able to check off the answered prayers! On those days that we have a request that seems too BIG to our little heavy hearts, we can just go back and see all the answers that God has provided! Another bonus—we have a great history of God's work in our lives!

On the last 20 pages or so of the notebook, we keep a list of Bible verses we are committing to memory. As we memorize them, we check them off but still have them in the list for review. Each week, we have a time of accountability when we quote our verses and share highlights from our quiet times. This is what keeps our notebook alive and purposeful. It is amazing to see prayers being answered, to share insights from quiet times and services, and to actually see our growth as Christians as we walk along together.

You may prefer to have different sections OR have a separate notebook for each area of discipleship OR just for one area right now. Whatever works for you is great! Below are some options of great journals that can spin off of these ideas. Keep in mind that ANY of the following can be included in a Discipleship Notebook OR a Copybook until there is enough material for a separate notebook of its own.

Here are those ideas...

1. **Life Journal**...Your walk with God, God's work in YOUR life, goals, verse God gives specific to you, praise reports, meditations, preparation studies for godly womanhood/manhood or parenting, brainstorm ideas or articles...
2. **Prayer Journal**...Include prayer lists, answers, or even written out prayers...
3. **Bible Study Notebook**...Notes, outlines, journaling, word studies, doctrinal studies...
4. **Bible Timeline**...*Days of Creation, people from Bible Study, Events in Scripture, Life of Christ, Life and Journeys of Paul, Events of the Exodus, Life of Abraham, etc...*
5. **Inspirational Journal**...Great quotes and prayers from other saints...
6. **Names of God**...Keep lists of *Names of God*, meanings of names; uses in Scripture; prayers with His different names...
7. **Names of Jesus**...Same ideas as *Names of God*...
8. **Church History Notebook**...Keep stories, biographies, timelines, source documents, information about leaders in the movement, essays, doctrines, catechism, Scriptural background...
9. **Unit Studies**...Studies based on Scripture: *Courtship, Marriage, Sailing, Pruning, Abiding, Life of Christ, Ancient History* (based on book of Daniel), *Creation...etc.*
10. **Maps**...Trace voyages, travels, lives of great men and women of the Bible...etc.
11. **Bible Reading Notebook**...Keep your *Bible Reading Chart* inside with notes jotted down during reading time.
12. **Bible Memory Notebook**...Keep lists of verses, Copywork of verses being memorized...etc.
13. **Bible Art**...Collections of Art of the Bible: Rembrandt, Dore'... OR original drawings by your children.
14. **Sermon Notes**...Keep drawings by your little pre-schoolers (great for keeping them quiet during sermons!), outlines by elementary ages, dictation for High Schoolers/College age children, follow-up studies during quiet times...

**Resource Recommendation!**

Need some great reproducible pages for these notebooks? Check out our NEW Make Your Own Notebook Pack:

**Make Your Own Discipleship Notebook**

## Language Notebooks...

Did you notice that the sky is the limit with Discipleship Notebooks??? Well, once again the sky is the limit! Any age can begin a Language Notebook. In fact, those difficult language studies can become a lot more fun to learn (and teach) with Notebooking. Here are some ideas that should encourage your young writers...

### Resource Recommendation!

Need some great Reproducible pages for these notebooks? Check out our NEW Make Your Own Notebook Pack:

#### Make Your Own Alphabet Notebook

1. **Alphabet Notebook**...Got a pre-schooler trying to learn their alphabet?? This is a FUN notebook! On each page write the "letter" being covered. Let the children glue or draw pictures of things beginning with that letter. This notebook can also help them review their letters OR teach them to their younger siblings and friends! FUN! One fun twist to this notebook is to encourage your child to make an "Alphabet Book" for their younger siblings or friends. They could make a cute notebook or book that would be a great gift—or even the beginning of their own BUSINESS! FUN!
2. **Phonics Notebook**...Same idea as the Alphabet notebook. Either have the letter and/or rule at the top of the page...list words or draw/glue pictures of words with those sounds included in them. Again, great for learning the basics, review, and sharing with others!
3. **Spelling Notebook**...Want to still cover spelling even though you love Copywork?? Why not make the lessons a bit more fun and living? Find a book with spelling rules (see our resource list for descriptions of some of our favorites that are easy to use!), copy the rule on the top of the sheet, then list words that fall into that category. You could also keep lists of words broken into syllables or Copywork in this notebook. A great follow-up to daily phonics lessons!
4. **Grammar Notebook**...Same train of thought as the Spelling Notebook. Only Grammar rules instead of Spelling rules. In fact, you could even combine these notebooks for a **Spelling/Grammar Rules Notebook** since they overlap so much. Recommendations for great "rule" books are included in our resource list. Another great follow-up to daily phonics lessons OR a great unit study for your High Schooler!

5. **Latin/Greek Notebook**...We are currently studying through *English from the Roots Up*. We have adapted this program to fit our own family. One of the adaptations that has made a world of difference is that we are creating our notebooks instead of making index cards with the roots and examples. We began doing this because my little girl was struggling so much to fit her writing on the back of the index cards. The notebooks give more space for her to copy her examples and definitions.
6. **Foreign Language Notebook**...Same application as our Latin/Greek Notebook only apply to your studies. Keep a notebook for each language study. Anything can be kept in these: sounds, symbols, vocabulary/definitions, grammar/usage rules, terms, practice exercises, copywork, tests, stories... This idea has also been used to teach pre-schoolers a foreign language by pasting pictures in a notebook and "reading" together. Great for adoptions or for learning a second language.
7. **Writing Journal**...Include any original writing such as essays, outlines, articles, ideas, poems, research and writing projects...
8. **Vocabulary Notebook**...New words, word studies, definitions, etc. We use the *Noah Webster 1828 Dictionary* for all of our word and vocabulary studies. Why not begin by copying definitions from one neat new word per week? These will add up quick! One fun thing that we have enjoyed is looking up words that are very common for us but we may miss the REAL meaning. Words like: blessed, loving, lovingkindness, endurance, etc. We have learned more about God during these word searches than we ever imagined when we began.
9. **Dictation Notebook**...These notebooks are great for any age. Younger students may have only one word or one line, but this is a great place to "keep" their dictation lessons. As they mature, their Dictation Notebooks can include anything from Scripture to speeches to history sketches. We use several favorites all the time for our children. Some of our favorites are *Lessons From History*, *God and The Christian Artists*, *God and the History of Art*, *Color the Classics*, and of course, *The Bible*.

**Resource Recommendation!**

Need some great reproducible pages for these notebooks? Check out our NEW Make Your Own Notebook Pack:

**Make Your Own English from the Roots Up Notebook**

**Resource Recommendation!**

Need more help? Want to try your hand at creating homemade books with your little writers? You have GOT to see our new book!

**Homemade Books!  
YES! You Can Be a  
Writer Too!**

**10. Book/Booklet Notebook...**Have a little author who LOVES to write and make their own books and booklets?? Seize their interest! Let their books contain little stories they write or dictate to you... facts they find in their studies... pictures they collect or draw... etc. Either add their books and booklets to another notebook on the topic or make a notebook of them all, especially if they have a lot of books that they have written. My favorite "helps" through the years for creating books are listed in the appendix. The best tip for making this work for you is to do what works best for YOU and YOUR CHILD! We expect to release a booklet on how we make ours in the near future. ☺ Keep posted! (GREAT NEWS! This book is NOW finished! It is BEYOND our expectations! Need help? Check out our NEWEST book: *Homemade Books! YES! You Can Be a Writer Too!*

**Literature Notebook...**

Want to use great literature for all of the subjects studied within the home, but have NO idea how to document those studies???. This is YOUR answer!

Anything can be added to this notebook from narrations about the books read... to sketches or narrations about the authors being studied...to book reviews... to lists of books read... to essays about the books being studied...to beloved quotes from books read... to pictures draw by your younger students as you read aloud (pictures ARE narrations!)... to dictation exercises from the books being read... on and on! Some other variations for notebooks include:

**1. Narration Notebook...**Want to encourage your young writers as they move into original composition? This is a wonderful project! We began instructing our children to write by reading together, copying great models of literature, and listening to them narrate about the books we were reading. Years were spent without original composition, but years were definitely not wasted! As their copywork grew in length and their narrations were in greater detail, we knew it was time for the narrations to be written down. How did we bridge the gap without losing the fervor for writing? We spent about six months with the children dictating their

narrations to me, followed by me transcribing them into a model to copy, followed by the child copying the model into a ***Narration Notebook***. At the end of the season of training them in this simple process, they were able to write their own original work. Oh, and may I also mention that the notebooks that they built are wonderful texts for History and Literature?! Back to what to include in these notebooks...include Narrations about books read, people studied, stories read, events, life experiences...

2. **Essay Journal**...Same as ***Narration Notebooks*** except essays are written in the child's style and with a potpourri of information and ideas that they compile together originally themselves. In early years, the child can dictate their essays to you. As you transfer the process, they can copy the models that you prepare for them.
3. **Reading Lists**...For those teaching with a Literature Based Approach, this is the best and easiest way I have found to document all those great books. Your Notebook can simply log the books read, author, and child's age OR it can include book narrations, critiques, reviews or lists of books read for each subject. On my list for my children, we jot down the books in the order we cover them with a special note to the side of the subjects that are covered (over time I forget which areas are covered in a book unless it is jotted down somewhere). This makes it sooo much easier for me to log the books into subjects for our progress reports and portfolios.
4. **Author Notebook**...Include sketches about the author's life and works, pictures, narrations from the works written by the author, mini-timelines of the author's life...
5. **Literature Timeline**...This can be part of your overall timeline of World History OR a timeline of its own OR a timeline for each author. Make it work for you!

#### Poetry Notebook...

This is probably one of the EASIEST and FUN daily Language Lessons

#### Resource Recommendations!

Need some great reproducible pages for these notebooks? Check out our NEW Make Your Own Notebook Pack:

[Make Your Own Never-Ending Reading List Notebook](#)

[Make Your Own History Timeline Notebook](#)

[Let's Make a History Timeline Notebook](#)

available. Our children have an abundance of poems in their notebooks of all topics AND an entire notebook dedicated only to their favorite poetry. As they have unsuspectingly copied poems, they had no clue that they were learning how to spell, punctuate, and write—all with lessons from the masters of literature!

I have to let you know that if I could let Robert Louis Stevenson or Emily Dickenson or Christina Rosetti have a daily time of teaching my children the basics of composition AND pouring into their hearts all that was on their hearts while they wrote poem after poem to become some of the greatest writers of all time, you can be assured I would mark that time on my daily calendar. Well, the blessing of great literature is that our children CAN have this daily time.

The words that these dear writers recorded are definitely as Charlotte Mason once brought out, *illimitable*. They truly go on from generation to generation...from country to country...to places that the author could never dream to go in person. They teach to those that the author may not even live to see. Because these precious authors recorded in writing their insights and treasures from their hearts my children can now be blessed to sit at the feet of the masters, copying their techniques and style, all while having food for their insatiably hungry minds. Poetry Notebooks are easy to create. The hardest part is just getting started. Want some quick tips for teaching poetry AND recording those lessons in notebooks???

- ⇒ **Pick a few good Poetry books** (Some of our favorites are *Famous Poems Old and New*, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Child's Garden of Verses*). Have them in your home. GIVE your children EASY access to them!
- ⇒ **Use Poetry for Copywork!** Don't forget to ILLUSTRATE! Keep in your notebooks or hang in your home or give as gifts.
- ⇒ **Memorize and recite beloved poetry.** This has been an element in a full education for hundreds of years. Over 100 years ago, Charlotte Mason wrote in *Home Education*,

"All children have it in them to recite; it is an imprisoned gift

waiting to be delivered...The child should speak beautiful thoughts so beautifully, with such delicate rendering of each nuance of meaning, that he becomes to the listener the interpreter of the author's thought...Consider what appreciation, sympathy, power of expression this implies...The child is led to find the just expression of the thought for himself; never is the poor teacher allowed to set a pattern—'say this as I say it.' The ideas are kept well within the child's range, and the expression is his own."

- ⇒ **Post copies of poetry around the home!**
- ⇒ **Always read beautifully!**
- ⇒ **Take time to enjoy poetry!**
- ⇒ **Focus on one poet at a time!** Let your children collect information about the poet, adding their pictures, life story, and samples of their work to their notebooks. Your children may enjoy a poet so much that they eventually have enough material for a whole entire notebook dedicated to that person's life and works. Let them GO!
- ⇒ **In all of your studies, remember to pull in poetry.** American History study is incomplete without reading Henry Wordsworth Longfellow's poem, *Paul Revere's Ride*. Nature Studies are dull and lifeless without the study of poetry alongside. Bible History is incomplete without the Psalms alongside showing the thoughts of the hearts of men and women during all of history. Just tie in poetry into all studies to give balance and beauty! Either add the poems to the appropriate notebook OR to their *Poetry Notebook*.
- ⇒ **Study poetry in the Bible.** Copy and add to the notebook or their *Discipleship Journal*.
- ⇒ **Study terms...** Become familiar with terms such as rhyme, meter, couplet, alliteration, sonnet, limerick, metaphor... If you wanted to "teach" poetry, your children could search for examples of these and keep them in sections in their notebook.
- ⇒ **Study a poet...** Their lives, works, Worldviews... You may want a separate notebook just for poets that are studied.

⇒ **Encourage them to try their hand at poetry!** Add to their notebook!

**Resource Recommendations!**

Need some great reproducible pages for these notebooks? Check out our NEW Make Your Own Notebook Pack:

**Make Your Own History Timeline Notebook**

**Let's Make a History Timeline Notebook**

What goes into a poetry notebook??? All of the above will give a good start. Just be sure to include poems that are copied in daily Copywork lessons, narrations about poets, timelines showing the lives of poets, research behind the poems, etc.! Keep a notebook of beloved poetry. My daughter's all time favorite is Robert Louis Stevenson. She has drawn borders around the poems...added sketches and pressed flowers...written in fancy lettering...etc. Poems can be handwritten, typed, written in calligraphy. Borders and special artwork can be added. A timeline of poets and special poetry can even be added to the notebook. The key is just to let the child make the notebook their own!

**Motto Notebook...**

My confession time...for YEARS I have been filling notebooks FULL to overflowing with mottoes as I run across them. One of my favorite tiny journals is always kept snug in my purse so I can add little gems as I come across them. Gems are everywhere, just waiting to be uncovered and treasured! I find them tucked away in the pages of our read alouds...on calendars...on coffee mugs...in greeting cards...in devotionals...etc. My daughter has caught this habit, only she loves to add them to her drawings and sketches. These are precious in notebooks! What a treasure! Even the most reluctant writer would not object to copying a small motto each day. Try it out!

**Unit Study Notebook...**

Regardless of the topic, notebooks are perfect companions for Unit Studies. Whether the study is a small study that can be documented in a small folder, booklet, or notebook OR a large study that goes on for years and years, filling a several binders, you can make this work for your specific child's interests. We prepare ours "Scrapbook" style and include everything pertaining to that study (pictures, copywork, book lists, information, research, original writing, narrations, neat quotes, encyclopedia and internet information, etc.)

## Science Notebooks...

Chances are you already have many things that could be included in a Science Notebook around your home. Look for those "goodies" that do not have their own special place and add them to your Science Notebooks. This is the perfect opportunity to develop "a place" for those "goodies" while developing a nice product for displaying all the growing knowledge of nature all while your children are keeping special memorabilia! One of the things that I like about using supplies intended for scrapbooking is that there are so many products that enable us to keep bulky materials safely inside of our notebooks. Not to mention, scrapbooking makes EVERY notebook so much cuter! ☺

### Resource Recommendation!

Need some great reproducible pages for these notebooks? Check out our NEW Make Your Own Notebook Pack:

**Make Your Own  
Science  
Notebook**

Want some ideas of things to include in your Science Notebooks???

- ⇒ **Sketches**...Don't forget to include date, time, place, Latin Name, and Common Name. Oh! Don't forget to document where you found it!
- ⇒ **Snapshots**...Don't forget to journal about your snapshot!
- ⇒ **Pressed Flowers, Leaves, Feathers, Butterflies, etc.**
- ⇒ **Glossary of Terms Studied**...
- ⇒ **Artwork**... (Nature art, original drawings, coloring pages...)
- ⇒ **Diagrams**...
- ⇒ **Poetry**...
- ⇒ **Information about discoveries**...
- ⇒ **Lists of new findings**...
- ⇒ **Handouts from trips**...
- ⇒ **Narrations from trips, outings, hikes, Nature walks, books read about nature or scientists/naturalists**...
- ⇒ **Timeline**...Mark your excursions, inventions, famous men and women, so on!
- ⇒ **Instruction Sheets** on "How to Care for..." or "How to Collect..." etc. (Kathryn Howshall, daughter of author Marilyn Howshall, has produced an entire set of her Instruction Sheets called *Nature Projects*, which is great for the novice like me, but also a great idea for communicating all the children know about a topic in nature!
- ⇒ **Booklets**...

### On the Nature Walk Don't Forget To Carry...

- ⇒ Index Cards to write down information to help ID your specimens
- ⇒ Pencils for everyone
- ⇒ Field Guides (choose the focus on your trip and pick the appropriate guide: birds, flowers, trees, etc.)
- ⇒ Ziploc Bags
- ⇒ Paper for sketches (we carry 110 lb. white cardstock paper)
- ⇒ Sheet protectors
- ⇒ Notebook or book to flatten objects
- ⇒ Watercolors
- ⇒ Project Data...
- ⇒ Bible Verses...
- ⇒ Hymns...
- ⇒ Nature Devotions...
- ⇒ Current Events...
- ⇒ Stories...Nature, Pets, Metaphors, about Outings!
- ⇒ Journal Entries...
- ⇒ Details from Outings...
- ⇒ Favorite Quotes about Nature...
- ⇒ Reading List...
- ⇒ Research...
- ⇒ Reports...
- ⇒ Essays...
- ⇒ Science Experiment Logs...
- ⇒ Notes from any Science Study...

You can add a lot of life to your Science Notebooks with special supplies you find along the way. I have found that the little touches have made our notebooks so much more fun and in the process hooked my children.

Encourage your children to use die-cuts, frames, stencils, shapes, and edgings galore to make their notebooks fun and beautiful! My children now beg each weekend to work on our binders/scrapbooks. We have taken these simple skills into other projects for our Science studies such as creating books or booklets... making cards with pressed flowers, sketches, poetry and Scripture Verses...and displaying our collections. The key is to just have fun and enjoy making your Notebooks all yours!

A few variations that you may prefer...

1. **Nature Notebooks**
2. **Weather Notebook**...Collected facts about weather...weather charts from YOUR back yard...sketches...etc.!
3. **Gardening Notebook/Journal**
4. **Nature Poetry Notebook**
5. **Nature Bible Verses**
6. **Nature Art**

7. **Creation Notebook**

8. **Volcano Notebook**

9. **Geology Notebook**

10. **Rivers Notebook**

11. **Continents Notebook**

12. **Space Notebook**...Expeditions, astronauts, space program, planets, stars, constellations...

13. **My Own Field Guide**

14. **Science Lab Notebook**

15. **Science Timeline**

16. **Animal Notebook**... For those children that have a **PASSION** for learning all about a certain animal whether horses, birds, dogs, goats, on and on; this is certain to become their **FAVORITE** notebook. Any information about the animals is game for the notebook...life cycle, tracks, sketches, favorite foods, care how-to's, history, pictures, book reviews, narrations from books read...on and on!

17. **Life Cycle**...Trace life cycle, collect samples, sketches. You may want life cycles of trees, flowers, animals, insects...

18. **Seasons**...Holidays, pictures, weather, poetry, Bible verses...

19. **Inventions and Inventors**... Include biographies, pictures, background leading up to the invention, how the invention works...

### **Memory Notebook...**

Most of the memory work that we have done in our home is included in our Bible Memory Section of our Discipleship Journal. However, you may want for your children to commit other work to memory such as poems, mottoes, speeches, etc. The perfect place to "keep" the copies for review is in a notebook. ☺

### **Collection Notebook...**

There are many collections that beg to be kept in a notebook of their own.

Some of that are perfect include:

1. **Stamps**
2. **Postcards**
3. **Feathers**

4. Leaves
5. Spider Webs
6. Dried Flowers
7. Sketches
8. Letters
9. Baseball cards
10. ETC.!!!! (Got another idea?? Use a notebook!)

### Family Scrapbook...

Want to make precious memories with your children? This is one place to begin! My children LOVE the stories that just burst forth as we work on scrapbooks of our lives or as we look back over the scrapbooks that we have finished. These can take on MANY looks and directions. My favorite helps in this area come from scrapbooking classes, books, and magazines. There is also a wealth of help online for scrapbooking "YOUR STORY!" Some variations include:

1. **Family Activities**
2. **Homeschool Scrapbook** (Yearbook)...Include pictures of family, friends, activities, studies, extra events, awards, etc.
3. **"My" Life**...Interests, memorabilia, scouts, clubs, job process, any life skills being developed (automotive repair, building, business, home management...).
4. **Family History**...Genealogy, family stories...
5. **Family Traditions**
6. **Family Memories**
7. **Field Trips**
8. **Family Stories**
9. **Family Cemeteries**
10. **Family Vacations**
11. **"My Family Timeline"**
12. **Family Work Projects**—Imagine my delight when my husband began HIS own notebook with clips from our family playground installation business! They are not just for the memories—they can also be great business tools!
13. **Family Projects**...Automobile/motorcycle/boat restoration step-by-step...building the family home...

## History Notebooks...

Ahhhh...History! There is something deep within me that cannot imagine teaching History without our History Notebooks and great books! Want a great program for teaching your children History? Why not give notebooking and reading aloud a try for teaching the bulk of your lessons? You are SURE to be hooked...and SO will your children!

As for History Notebook ideas, the sky is the limit! Just about anything can be added to your notebooks. Our children have included a wide range of treasures as they have studied through different periods.

- ⇒ **Copywork**...Great quotes found in read alouds and biographies... narratives and sketches found in books—some of our favorite resources with reliable information are *Lessons from History* and the various *Greenleaf Guides to Famous Men*... poems from the period OR about the period being studied... songs and hymns... vocabulary... Scripture... speeches... sermons... letters... diary entries... important documents...
- ⇒ **Narrations**...Retellings of the lives of historical figures, events, field trips, stories, books read...
- ⇒ **Dictation selections**...These are really nice for your older students. My *Western Civilization* teacher in Jr. College lectured by giving dictation each day in class. At the end of the semester, we had a FULL notebook of REAL, LIVING notes...actually we had a book on Ancient History! Of all of the classes I had all my years in school, this was one of my favorite AND I STILL have those notebooks! Hummm...Yes! That speaks to me today about what should and should not be done with my older students. Now, before you get to thinking that this is a formidable idea, only for the truly creative homeschool moms, let me suggest some excellent resources which are ready for you to use TODAY! Our most favorite is *Lessons From History* written by Gail Shultz. She has several to choose from. Great if you have a certain period you would like to begin with or if you would like to move through History chronologically with one complete but easy to use program. Other favorites are written by Rob and Cyndy Shearer, *The Greenleaf Guides to Famous Men of...* series.

### Resource Recommendations!

Need some great Copywork to get you started?? Check out Matthew's bestselling book (also in EBOOK now!)

Famous Copywork of the Civil War

These are a little more "wordy" than *Lessons from History*, but still great for easy dictation exercises for those older students.

⇒ **Art**...Fine art from or about the period...sketches...clippings...postcards ... photos...coloring pages...

⇒ **Booklists**

⇒ **Timeline**...My son has a timeline in each of his History Notebooks, in addition to his big Ancient History Timeline. These are great additions, especially for your children that LOVE History! Matthew has a timeline (and entire notebook) just for Battles of the Civil War and Great Men of the Civil War. Your children may have another area that seems to just "take over" their timelines...why not have a separate timeline so they can mark the details that they don't want to miss!

⇒ **Essays**

⇒ **Resources/References**

⇒ **Maps**

⇒ **Projects**

⇒ **Research Studies**

⇒ **Etc.!**

### Resource Recommendations!

Need some great reproducible pages for these notebooks? Check out our NEW Make Your Own Notebook Pack:

**Make Your Own Never-Ending Reading List Notebook**

**Make Your Own History Timeline Notebook**

**Let's Make a History Timeline Notebook**

Whew! Yes! There are soooo many things that can be added into a History Notebook. In addition, there are a multitude of variations for History Notebooks. There is sure to be one to appeal to each of your children. Here are a few ideas...

1. **Government Notebook**...Talk about a great way to teach without those boring, dull textbooks! This could have a survey of the lives of Presidents...study of the branches of government...study of laws/constitution...etc. Include pictures, research, narrative, timeline, famous quotes, etc.
2. **History of Clothing**...This is not just a "girl" thing! Let this notebook trace the history of clothing or even military uniforms. Have an "artsy" child?? This will be a FUN notebook for them. Have a child that would rather go to the dentist for a root canal than draw? That is OK, just let them research encyclopedia's or the Internet for pictures to clip and paste into their notebook!

3. **History of ----** One thing I have found in my little ones is that if there is a period that is studied, we eventually have more than a notebook full of goodies, so we just go ahead and begin notebooks for each period we study! What do I mean? Well, why not notebooks as your family studies Ancient Egypt...Ancient Greece...Ancient Rome...The Middle Ages...The Renaissance...The Reformation...Explorers...Early American History... English History...State History...on and on! Imagine how wonderful it will be when your children look back upon their studies with complete "books" that they have written from their studies!
4. **Songs**...Copies of the words...narrations about the composers/writers...details behind the composition...
5. **Presidents**...Pictures...narratives about their lives...samples of their writing, speeches, etc....
6. **States/Capitals**
7. **"My State History"**...Talk about creating THE BEST textbook on state history!! Nothing better is out there than those beloved notebooks!
8. **Historical Documents**
9. **History Narrations**
10. **Government Notebook**
11. **Coins/Currency**
12. **Book List**
13. **Map Notebook**
14. **Recipes from History**
15. **Timeline Notebook**
16. **Battles of ---**
17. **Great Men from ---**
18. **History Museum Notebook**
19. **Living History Scrapbook**...If you are big buffs on attending local Living History Days, you may want to encourage your little ones to begin Scrapbooks of their pictures and memorabilia that they collect from the Living History Days that they attend. FUN!
20. **"My Family History" Notebook**...Is there anything MORE precious than keeping those dear stories of YOUR family? We

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**Make Your Own Recipe Notebook**

have a funny story of the day that Matthew was interviewing his grandfather for a story about a great, great, great grandfather who had an awesome story of his life from the Civil War time period. (Go figure that this man would capture Matthew's attention!) As Papaw was sharing his story, Matthew's Great Grandmother chimed in with the story of HER grandfather. Matthew busily began jotting down details that **MUST** be kept in his notebook. As she finished up, Matthew's Great Grandfather spoke up, "If you think that is neat...let me tell you about MY grandfather and HIS story!" Ohhhh, the treasures that were shared and written down that day! **Every** family has a storehouse of great family stories that **MUST** be saved for the future generations. What better place to keep the overflow than **NOTEBOOKS!** This one is a **MUST!**

**21. Travel Notebook...**Include pictures or sketches of modes of travel...

**22. Current Events**

### **Timeline Notebook...**

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! 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! Sure, our 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 those subjects 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, 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!

Ready? What is included? How do ya do it? Again, your imagination is the only limit! Anything goes inside a timeline: dates...pictures/drawings of people... explorations... discoveries... art prints... books written... inventions... religious events... church history... battles... wars... key events such as elections, battles, births, deaths, marriages... settlements such as Plymouth, etc.... maps... weapons... modes of travel... clothing/jewelry/headaddresses/ shoes... dishes... date discovered... states/capitals... musical instruments... current events... food... family history...samples of songs, poems, art prints, narrations, quotes, covers of books...on and on!

All you need to make your own are the same supplies as for any other notebook. Simply design your pages. We have included a blank reproducible that we use with our timelines. 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 covers 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.

Our pages are designed on 110lb. white cardstock, so they will be 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

**Resource Recommendations!**

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great resources with figures that work nicely in our notebooks such as...*Lessons from History, 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, ETC.! Be on the lookout!

Want some quick tips for making your *Timeline Notebooks*??

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. **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.
5. **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!
6. **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.
7. **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!

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

1. "My Country Timeline"
2. "My State History Timeline"
3. ----(Unit Study) Timeline...Space Exploration, Westward Expansion, The Vikings, Composers, American Artists...
4. ----(Person) Timeline...Robert E. Lee, Thomas Edison...
5. ----(Time Period) Timeline...American Revolution, Egyptian, Greek, Romans, Middle Ages...
6. "My Family Timeline"
7. "Famous Men of---"...Civil War, American Revolution...
8. "Battles of---" The American Revolution, The Civil War, World War I, World War II, The Vietnam War, Desert Storm...

### Geography Notebook...

Yep! Another subject begging for its own notebook! Geography can often be "abstract" within the walls of the home. The best way to SEE and KNOW Geography is through getting out there IN IT. Yet, this is not always possible. That is where great literature comes in to fill in the gaps! Geography is easy to teach as you enjoy great literature. The perfect place to KEEP that information is in a notebook! Here are some quick tips to help you...

- ⇒ **Look up all places in your read alouds on a globe or on maps.** One of my favorite resources that we use to chart expeditions and journeys of characters or settlements of territories as we study is the *Uncle Josh's Outline Map Book* by Josh and Hannah Wiggers. It comes complete with blank maps that can be reproduced for any study (and for ALL of your children!). Since we began making our notebooks, there are now a whole host of great resources out there—even free online! Sure makes my life MUCH, MUCH easier!
- ⇒ **Look up facts about those countries or places (rivers, mountains, deserts, lakes, food, clothing, music, art...).** Mark on the maps or add pictures of the people or historical sites on the map.
- ⇒ **Draw maps.** Matthew says I should stress at this point the BENEFIT of tracing as well! ☺

- ⇒ **Play games.** Some of our favorites that seem to just teach *Geography* naturally are our *Geosafari* and the games included in our *The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide*.
- ⇒ **Tell directions on how to get there.** USE those opportunities from travels to learn mapping skills. Keep them in the notebooks!
- ⇒ **Keep a *Travel Journal*.** Include postcards, descriptions of places and trips, pictures, mementos, sketches, etc.
- ⇒ **Get out for nature walks...hikes.** Include sketches in your notebooks!
- ⇒ **Bring in MISSIONS.** Adopt a country or missionary. Study the country and any mission needs. We love to use our church literature. It usually has great information on the customs, foods, geography, beliefs, work being done. It also keeps us abreast of prayer requests so we can keep a specific prayer list in our notebook. There is nothing quite like this FAMILY mission project! All of this information goes nicely in a notebook of its own or in the *Geography Notebook*.

Some variations you may enjoy:

1. **"My Maps" Notebook**
2. **Travel Journal**...Include sketches, postcards, narrations of trips...
3. **Missions Notebook**
4. **Continents Notebook**
5. **Volcanoes Notebook**
6. **Rivers Notebook**
7. **Oceans Notebook**
8. ---- **Culture Notebook**...Try a notebook on the American Culture, the African Culture...the English Culture...the Japanese Culture... Latin American Culture...etc.

### **Math Notebook...**

Yeppie...EVEN Math can be Notebooked! Even though I am perfectly certain that there will never be a book written by me entitled *Math...The Easy Way*, I CAN share some EASY ideas for Math Notebooks! Here are a few...

1. **Number Notebook**...Great for those Pre-schoolers who are soooo eager to begin lessons. Set up like the *Alphabet Notebook*. On each page write the "number" being covered. Let the children glue or draw pictures of things showing that number. This notebook can also help them review their numbers OR teach them to their younger siblings and friends! TOO FUN!
2. **Shape Notebook**...Same concept as the *Number Notebook*.
3. **Color Notebook**...Same concept as the *Number Notebook*.
4. **Basic Math Notebook**...Include charts, games, manipulatives, narratives of the Mathematicians (with their pictures), visual help (pie's, etc.)...

**Resource Recommendation!**

Need some great reproducible pages for these notebooks? Check out our NEW Make Your Own Notebook Pack:

**Make Your Own  
Alphabet  
Notebook**

**Art Notebook...**

If there is one subject most commonly ignored by most approaches to education, I would have to say that the study of Fine Art would have to be THE most neglected of all studies. Of all the studies in the home, don't forget (or put off till a better time) to include the great, beautiful, and truly excellent in life—Fine Art!

The Fine Arts nourish our souls and those of our children. They challenge us to virtue, honor, greatness, and heroism. They are a vital part of praising our Lord! Want to lighten the load? Melt away the cares? Breath LIFE into the Homeschool? Bring beauty into your home with Fine Art!

Soooo, how on earth can you do this through a simple ART NOTEBOOK??? Here are some QUICK ideas...

⇒ **Choose an artist or print to begin with.** Have no idea of WHERE on earth to begin? One of my favorite resources is written by Barry Stebbing, *God and the History of Art*. Being TOTALLY untaught in this area, this resource has proved to be a gift from God! The book is set up in chronological order, with artists and periods of art discussed in great detail. I love it because it gives information behind the scenes