



Fifth Grade

We believe that you have just purchased the best complete curriculum package available, and we want to make getting started as easy as possible for you. Inside you will find the information you need to get started today.

Our experience is that schoolwork only takes about three hours a day at this age. (In fact, some students actually complete their work in much less time!) This may seem like too little time at first, but keep in mind that not only are you able to tailor your teaching to your child, but you also don't need to take roll, allow for recess, or deal with many other classroom issues.

As a bonus to you, by this time your child is ready to take responsibility for much of his learning. Our family uses a weekly checklist that lets the teacher assign the work and the student complete it at his pace, checking each subject off when he's done. If that method works for you, check out the free PDFs on our website. If not, the important thing is to find a method that helps your student succeed at working independently to meet the goals.

This year's curriculum is simple and easy to use; we are sure it will be a blessing to you. Enjoy this year with your child, and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Hints for Planning

READING

We believe reading is the single most important skill your student needs to cultivate, and you'll want to set up his school schedule accordingly. Our experience is that the best way to help your child become an eager reader is to constantly supply him with reading materials that interest him. Future doctors may want to read up on anatomy, young explorers are drawn to the escapades of adventurers young and old, and the baby-lover in your family will be captivated by adoption stories. Assign reading if you must, but encourage it at all costs; a child who enjoys reading will find it easier to excel in every area.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Lessons still forms the backbone of your fifth grader's English program. Simply complete each day's short lesson with your child for a complete and easy language arts program. **Daily Traits** consists of short daily writing assignments designed to build his writing skills without overwhelming him. You'll notice that he does not have a specific handwriting book this year. By now he is likely well acquainted with the mechanics of writing, so we suggest that the writing he does with Language Lessons and Sequential Spelling is sufficient for most children if done neatly. **Sequential Spelling** is not only the most logical spelling program we've seen, but it is also one of the easiest to use. Simply do one list of words a day, correcting any mistakes as you go. If your student has not yet completed Sequential Spelling books 1 through 3, you will want to do those levels first. Your child will be continuing on with **Word Roots** this year. Plan on having him do one to two lessons a week in order to complete the book this year.



THINKING SKILLS

This year your child will be working through two different thinking skills books, each with a different emphasis to cultivate a well-rounded thinker. Your child can complete **Critical and Creative** independently. However, **Red Herring Mysteries** is an interactive book where you pose the problem and he asks yes or no questions until he figures it out. It is sure to be enjoyable for your whole family! Planning on about four pages from **Critical and Creative** and one or two **Red Herring Mysteries** a week will set a pace for completing both books this year.

Please note: If your child has not yet completed Building Thinking Skills 2, we strongly encourage you to do that this year.

SCIENCE

Exploring Creation with Zoology 3 is part of our most popular science series.

One simple approach is to read a chapter one week, then do the activities during the following week. Technically, you have two-and-a-half weeks to complete each chapter, so if you hit a portion that particularly intrigues your young scientist, by all means, stop and explore it in greater detail!

Please note: The author strongly recommends that Zoology 1 and Zoology 2 be completed prior to beginning Zoology 3. However, the most critical component of Zoology 1 & 2 not reviewed in this book is classification, particularly at the Phylum level. If your student is well acquainted with this, you may find book 3 to be perfect for you.

MATH

This year your child gets to use our very favorite math program. **Teaching Textbooks** is computer based and self-teaching, so you should find yourself not doing much more than giving assignments and watching his progress! We've added **Daily Word Problems** as a wonderfully bite-sized approach to helping your child become a logical mathematician, ready to apply what he's learned in math to the real world scenarios he encounters daily.



HISTORY

All American History is the best USA history program we've found. Your child will simply read the weekly chapter in the reader, then complete the corresponding worksheets in the activity book. If you'd like, feel free to use some of their 'for further study' ideas—but at this grade we don't feel that it is necessary. Don't forget to work in the **graphic novels** at some point, as reading assignments or just for fun.

GEOGRAPHY

Daily Geography uses a school-friendly layout that may or may not be ideal for you. Feel free to do it only once a week, combining all five days into a single lesson, if that is a better fit for your child. The **Global Puzzle** is a great way to review basic geography; have him complete it at least once a month, or until it is too easy for him.

OTHER

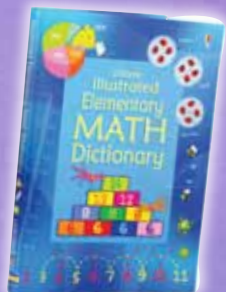
Thinking Putty is perfect for your student to fiddle with while listening to the **Teaching Textbook** lectures, or at other times when his mind is more engaged than his hands. Use it if it helps him, or set it aside if it is a distraction. At the end of the year use **Spectrum Test Prep** to prepare him for annual testing (if your state requires it) and to review what he has learned. Keep it low key, and let the change of pace be a fun experience for him. If you run into a concept he doesn't know, stop and explain it to him; that is why you are doing the prep now rather than just waiting to get results back!

Want More?



Terrapin Logo teaches basic computer programming in a straight-forward fashion.

The **Illustrated Elementary Math Dictionary** is an indispensable book for every homeschool library.



Finally, an engrossing approach to learning chess: **Once A Pawn A Time!**



Done already? Some children are very fast-paced learners. Move on to **Sixth Grade** as soon as they are ready!



Free customizable schedules are available online at www.timberdoodle.com/schedule



999-9905

www.Timberdoodle.com