

The Why America Is Free Curriculum

“A well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people.” James Madison

The *Why America Is Free Curriculum* is a non-partisan enrichment curriculum that produces extraordinary results by using a revolutionary combination of content and methods. Over ten years of full time research at outstanding historical institutions, writing, and classroom testing in diverse schools went into the meticulous creation of the curriculum. It epitomizes the ideal teaching methods of the national core curriculum standards. It also meets or surpasses state standards in every subject. Fitting within the mandated time limits, it is a unique, interdisciplinary, course of study for upper elementary students in which all senses are engaged and the students live what they are learning. No subject is taught in isolation but rather as tightly integrated elements. It is unparalleled in providing the most comprehensive, engaging, accurate account of the American Revolution and founding period, including the influence of the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment. For six weeks, students are immersed in this era in every subject—Science, Math, Social Studies, Language Arts, Music, Philosophy, Visual Arts, Character Education, Performing Arts and Physical Education—in a hands-on study that brings this period to life like never before. These meaningful experiences and connections result in academic excitement, true learning, high-level thinking, in-depth retained knowledge, and improved behavior and decision-making.

Why America Is Free instills respect for self and others, a sense of community, a recognition of the rights and responsibilities of citizens of our country, and an enthusiasm for learning. It is like no other program we have seen. It is truly “revolutionary.”

*Dorothy Menzies, Headmistress
Carlthorp School
Santa Monica, California*

Why is this curriculum critical?

Because there is a crisis in American education today.

Fewer than one in ten high school graduating seniors can pass the United States Naturalization Test, which assesses basic knowledge of U. S. history and government. This is a crucial matter because no democratic republic is automatically self-sustaining. Our government absolutely requires an educated and responsibly involved citizenship for its long-term health and survival. Yet, even as the population of the nation is becoming increasingly diverse, much that defines and unifies us as Americans—the world-changing history of the founding of our country, the treasure of outstanding role-models from that time, and the underlying Enlightenment principles upon which our nation depends—is being taught less and less.

Furthermore, across the nation, alarming numbers of students are not engaged in learning in the classroom, and their behavior and decision-making skills are matters of serious concern. Their respect for teachers has vastly deteriorated, as have self-respect and self-control. Many are learning far less than they need or are dropping out entirely.

The Why America Is Free Curriculum

is the solution

Easy to use Virtually everything needed is provided, including outstanding teacher training and support. The program allows teachers almost unlimited choices about which lessons plans they use, and it does not slow them down in any subject.

Teaches character education based on civic values and principle-based, rational evaluation and decision making

Students live according to a code based on self-respect, respect for others, and self-control. They enjoy it, come to really understand it, and then own it.

Multi-sensory and hands-on

The curriculum provides highly experiential lesson plans and materials in all academic disciplines.

Recreates 18th century classical approach to integrated learning Math, architecture, science, reasoning, and other disciplines were seen as tightly connected, and were therefore simultaneously taught as essential knowledge. This form of integrated teaching provides powerful connectors for lasting retention.

Introduces students to the Enlightenment This nation was seen by its founders as an enormous social science experiment based on the revolutionary ideas of the Enlightenment. Students learn these ideas and principles, and using key Enlightenment reasoning techniques, they examine and debate elements of the United States Constitution and Bill of rights.



Meets or surpasses state academic standards The standards are met in Social Studies as well as all other subjects.

Teaches critical thinking and principle-based problem solving

Students use Enlightenment-based scientific reasoning techniques for evaluation and decision-making every day in every class.

Sparks students' imaginations Meaningful role-play engages the students' imaginations and critical thinking, immersing the children in the world of 18th century America and the issues faced by people involved in the events of the time.

The curriculum engages the students because it makes all subjects relevant

CONNECTORS - NOTHING IS TAUGHT IN ISOLATION

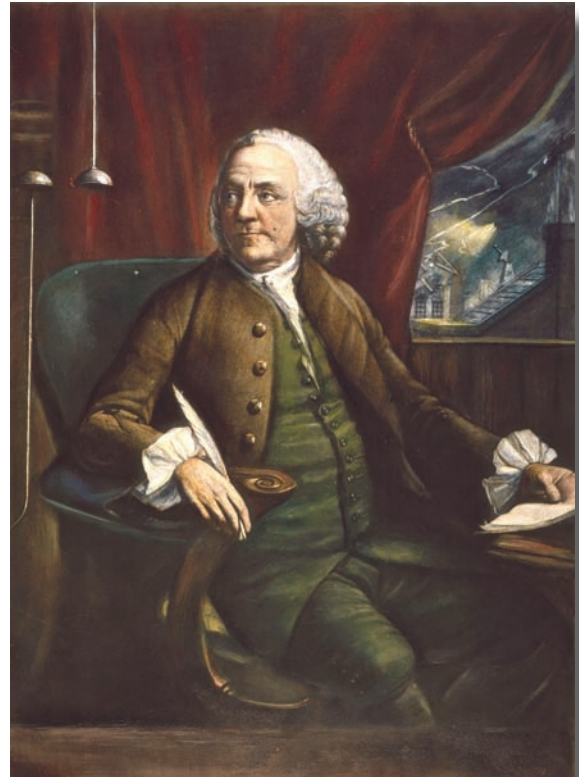
*As an example of this integrated learning,
when students study*

Benjamin Franklin ~

In Social Studies, they discover that Franklin was a key figure in our nation's founding history, politically, scientifically, musically, and philosophically...

In Science, they learn that Franklin was the one who proved that lightning was electricity, invented the lightning rod, hosted electric parties, and made "bottled fire" (a battery). The students learn how to make their own batteries ...

In Music, they learn that Franklin's favorite invention was the glass armonica. They then make a glass armonica and play it...



In Art, Science & Music, they learn that earth, wind, fire and water are the four elements that make glass. They watch "Elements," a DVD that incorporates art and music, featuring the glass armonica and other instruments of the period...

In Computer Science, they play a virtual glass armonica.

Another example is...

*F*or several weeks the students are immersed in the founding period in every subject—Science, Math, Social Studies, Language Arts, Music, Philosophy, Visual Arts, Character Education, Performing Arts and Physical Education.

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*T*he curriculum they study is unparalleled in providing the most comprehensive, engaging, accurate account of the founding period, including the influence of the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment.

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*T*he curriculum brings to life the issues of the time from many points of view and introduces outstanding men, women and children drawn from all sides of the conflict.

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*T*he students apply 18th century reasoning techniques, and conduct themselves at school according to the manners of the time.

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*T*he students create an alter ego who lives in the revolutionary period. Through role-play and directed writing in journals, the history of our nation becomes real to them.

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*T*hrough study of the actions and motivations of people in history, students discover the importance of great character, learn how to develop the traits they most admire, and begin to make those traits their own.

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*T*he students learn how, why, by whom, and at what cost our nation was born.

And then ...

PATRIOTS DAY

All that the students have learned becomes real to them as they live a day and a night in the middle of the American Revolution!





Why America Is Free Curriculum

Contents

52 *Why America Is Free* Textbooks

9 ½' x 12' Mastodon Skeleton

Manual of Correlations Between the Curriculum and State Learning Standards

9 Hard-Frame Subject-Specific Cases

LANGUAGE ARTS

Instructions for Teaching Language Arts CD
Vocabulary CD (printable)
Language Arts Teacher's Manual
Creating an 18th Century Persona Manual
Why America is Free Planning Calendar
Journal Writing Manual
Sally Wister's Journal
Diary of Anna Green Winslow
 Blackline Copy Masters in Sleeve

MATH

Instructions for Teaching Math CD
Math Problems With and Without Answers CD
 (printable)
Math Teacher's Manual
Creating an 18th Century Persona Manual
Why America is Free Planning Calendar
 Pieces of Eight

ART

Instructions for Teaching Art CD
Colonial Artists and Their Subjects DVD
Art Teacher's Manual
Creating an 18th Century Persona Manual
Why America is Free Planning Calendar
Calligraphy in the Copperplate Style
 1 Color Image in Sleeve
 8 Quills
 Fabric, Ribbon, Lace and Buttons for Painting Activity
 2 John Singleton Copley 20" x 30" Mounted
 Reproduction Paintings in a Zippered Portfolio Case

SOCIAL STUDIES

Battle Road Narrative CD
Instructions for Teaching Social Studies CD
Glossary and Vocabulary CD (printable)
Social Studies Teacher's Manual
Creating an 18th Century Persona Manual
Why America is Free Planning Calendar
Early American Roots CD
Rules of Civility Book
 Blackline Copy Masters and *Book of Manners*
 Wig Curler
 Musket Ball
 2 Maps Coordinated with Textbook on CD
Social Studies Supplemental Materials of Primary
 Documents, Maps, Vignettes and Color Images

PATRIOTS DAY

Instructions for Patriots Day CD
Why America is Free Curriculum DVD
Patriots Day Instructional Manual
Creating an 18th Century Persona Manual
Evening Reception Manual
 Sample Ribbon-Tied *Price of Freedom* Scroll
 Sample Wax-Sealed Invitation
 Sample Wooden Fan
 Sample Hornbook with Latin Axioms
 Sealing Wax and Brass Seal
 Sample Fabric
 Sample *Young Gentlemen and Ladies Private Tutor*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Instructions for Teaching PE CD
PE Teacher's Manual
Creating an 18th Century Persona Manual
Why America is Free Planning Calendar
 2 Large Pieces of Chalk

SCIENCE

Science Leads the Way and Creates a Nation CD
Instructions for Teaching Science CD
Science Teacher's Manual
Peale's Museum Manual
Creating an 18th Century Persona Manual
Why America is Free Planning Calendar
 Sample Peale Museum Ticket
 6 Color Images in Sleeve
 Scientist Name Signs for Science CD

MASTER

Instructions for Principal CD
Why America is Free Curriculum DVD
Master Manual
Creating an 18th Century Persona Manual
Why America is Free Planning Calendar
 Sample *Book of Manners* in Sleeve
 2 Sets of 3-Pack Copy Masters

MUSIC

Instructions for Teaching Music CD
John Adams: The Voice Heard 'Round the World CD
Colonial Dance CD
Music Teacher's Manual
Creating an 18th Century Persona Manual
Why America is Free Planning Calendar
The Elements DVD
The World Turned Upside Down CD
Fife and Drum Instruction Booklet
 1 Color Image in Sleeve
 Set of Drum Sticks
 Fife