

# How to choose the right curriculum

It is relatively easy to make a curriculum choice if you think strategically...

## Questions to consider:

- 1) Will you teach all your children?
- 2) Are you planning to send any kids back to public or private Jr. High, or High school?
- 3) Can you team up with other homeschoolers to share teaching expertise?

## Time-Management:

Also keep in mind...

- 1) With experience homeschooling, your time management will gradually improve.
- 2) Students will become more independent over time.
- 3) Older students make excellent "assistant" teachers.

## Planning:

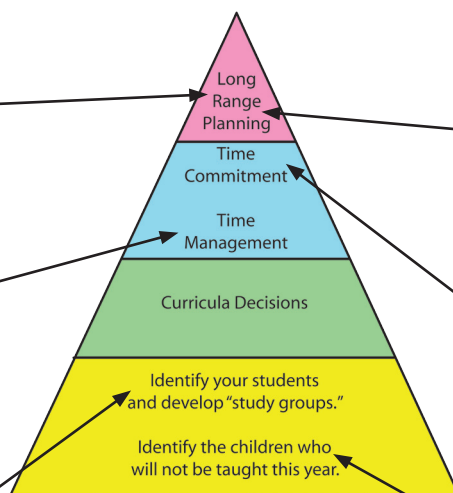
Always think well past this year. There are several reasons . . .

- 1) You plan the overarching strategy to teach all your children.
- 2) Your total cost of education is distributed over your total student body.

## Time-Commitment:

And remember...

- 1) Each Sonlight Core curriculum requires at least 1½ hours a day of direct involvement for the parent.
- 2) Teaching multiple Cores can be very time consuming.



## Student List:

Name	Age	Study Group
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## Non-Student List:

Name	Age
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

If you have questions, we encourage you to contact one of our advisors—all of whom are experienced Sonlighters. Email your questions to [advisor@sonlight.com](mailto:advisor@sonlight.com), or call 303-730-6292, select option 3, then leave your question, name, and phone number an advisor will call you back within one business day. Or visit our choosing forum at [www.sonlight-forums.com](http://www.sonlight-forums.com), or "Ask Sonia!" (See page 6.)

## How to identify the best curriculum options to teach one or many students . . .

Whether you are teaching one, two, three, or more children, the charts on pages 13-14 will help you make the best curriculum decisions possible.

*Please note that there are three Core programs (Levels 2, 4, and 7) that are the second curriculum package in a two-year program. Sonlight recommends that you do not start with these.*

*Also, please note that on the charts on the following pages (13-14), if there is no color listed for a given age range, then that Core program is completely inappropriate for students in that age range.*

**Red** indicates a program will be challenging or very challenging for the age range, and will require modification.

**Yellow** indicates it is appropriate for the age range.

**Blue** indicates that it is moderate to light for the age range, and will require enhancement.

When teaching one student:

- Select a program where the chart's box is colored in yellow for your child's age.

When teaching more than one student:

- Identify any "Study Groups" you will be forming (use the Student List in the chart above)
  - Ideally a study group should be made up of children that are approximately 36 or fewer months apart in age.
  - Group your students together by age range (take into account both maturity level and academic skill).
  - Note that the charts on pages 13-14 show a wider age range of students than 36 months. But remember, the further out from the yellow range you go, the more modification will be required to teach the students on the outer edges of the range.
- Decide if you are teaching to the oldest, the youngest, or the middle student.
  - Use the chart on page 13 to find a Core program that has a usability which extends across the age ranges of your students, and lists your targeted student's age in yellow in the box.
  - Remember you may have to modify or enhance the curriculum to meet the other children's needs.
  - Don't forget to purchase a set of consumable items for each of your additional students.

### KEY

<span style="background-color: red; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	= Challenging for the Age Range, may require minor modification.
<span style="background-color: yellow; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	= Appropriate for the Age Range with little or no modification.
<span style="background-color: blue; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	= Moderate to light, for the Age Range, may require minor enhancement.

Whether you are teaching one, two, three or more children — the following charts will help you make the best curriculum choices for your family.

## Core Programs

Sonlight Core Programs	Public School Grade/Age	Pre-K 4-5	K 5-6	1st 6-7	2nd 7-8	3rd 8-9	4th 9-10	5th 10-11	6th 11-12	7th 12-13	8th 13-14	9th 14-15	10th 15-16	11th 16-17	12th 17-18	See Pages
Pre-K Exploring God's World																pp. 15-16
K Intro to the World: Cultures																pp. 18-23
1 Intro to World History Part 1																pp. 24-29
1+2 One-Year Condensed World History																pp. 30-33
2 Intro to World History Part 2																pp. 34-41
3 Intro to American History Part 1																pp. 42-48
3+4 One-Year Condensed American History																pp. 49-52
4 Intro to American History Part 2																pp. 53-59
5 Eastern Hemisphere																pp. 60-66
Alt. 6 One-Year World History																pp. 67-69
6 World History Part 1																pp. 70-73
7 World History Part 2																pp. 74-77
100 American History in Depth																pp. 78-81
200 History of God's Kingdom																pp. 82-85
300 20th Century World History																pp. 86-89
400 Civics/American Government																pp. 90-94
530 British Literature																pp. 95-97

## Scope & Sequence

Course Level	Name	History-Subject	Science
Pre-K	Exploring God's World	A 36-week program designed to give you and your child a delightful initial learning experience.	A beginning look at science and nature.
K	Intro to World Cultures	Geography and Cultures around the world and across time from creation through modern times.	General Science: Introduction to Natural Sciences. Includes experiments.
1	Intro to World History Part 1	A history of early peoples and civilizations through the fall of Rome. Geography assignments focus on the Middle East and Asia.	General Science: Beginning overview of science from Astronomy to Physiology and more. Includes experiments.
1+2	One-Year Condensed World History	A condensed one-year historical and geographical survey of early peoples and civilizations through the 20th Century.	Use level 1 or 2
2	Intro to World History Part 2	Continues from the fall of Rome and takes you through the 20th Century. Geography assignments span the globe.	General Science: Physics, Mechanics, History of Manufacturing Technology, and more. Includes experiments.
3	Intro to American History Part 1	American history from before the Spanish conquistadors through the mid-19th Century. Geography assignments cover the early exploration of the Americas.	Intro to Biology with special emphasis on taxonomy. Includes experiments.
3+4	One-Year Condensed American History	A condensed one-year historical survey of America from its discovery through the 20th Century. The geography assignments focus on the Americas.	Use Level 3 or 4 Science
4	Intro to American History Part 2	American history from the mid-19th through 20th Centuries. Geography assignments cover the Americas.	Beginning Physics, Electricity, Light, Magnetism and more. Includes experiments.
5	Eastern Hemisphere	A cultural study of the countries of the Eastern Hemisphere including Asia, China, India and the Middle East. The geography assignments cover the entire Eastern Hemisphere.	Human Anatomy: Health, medicine, food, survival, sex education and more. Includes experiments.
Alt. 6	One-Year World History	A one-year survey of World History. Geography assignments cover the entire world.	Use Level 6 or 7 Science
6	World History Part 1	A study of World History from ancient Egypt through the Reformation. Geography assignments cover the entire world.	Intro to Basic Physics, Chemistry, Biology and to the Philosophy of Science. Includes experiments.
7	World History Part 2	World History continues from the 17th Century through the fall of the USSR. Geography assignments span the globe.	General Science: An overview of the entire range of scientific inquiry using Apologia's <i>Exploring Creation with General Science</i> . Includes experiments.
100	American History in Depth	A in-depth study of the history of the United States from pre-Columbian America through the early 21st Century. Geography assignments focus on the United States.	A study of the principles of Earth Science and basic Physics using Apologia's <i>Exploring Creation with Physical Science</i> . Includes experiments.
200	History of God's Kingdom	An in-depth study of the spread of the Gospel worldwide from the time of Christ to the present. Geography assignments span the entire world.	High School Biology. Includes experimental biology (microscopy and dissection). Uses Apologia's <i>Exploring Creation with Biology</i> .
300	20th Century World History	A history of major events throughout the world during the 20th Century. The literature program focuses on works that helped establish the Western culture's view of reality. Geography assignments span the entire world.	High School Chemistry. Covers the theoretical and mathematical bases of chemistry using Apologia's <i>Exploring Creation with Chemistry</i> . Includes experiments.
400	Civics/American Government	A thorough study of civics and the American government with a historical look at how events and social currents of the past two centuries have altered American's understanding of the Constitution. Geography assignments focus on the United States.	High School Physics. Advanced High School level science experience. Apologia's <i>Exploring Creation with Physics</i> . Includes experiments.
530	British Literature	An in-depth survey of British Literature with an eye toward preparation for the AP English Literature exam. This full year literature course counts as a Core program.	

# Completing Your Curriculum

## Choosing the right Language Arts program

- **Levels K-2:** In these levels Sonlight's Language Arts programs match the Reader package. Select the appropriate LA program.
- **Above Level 2:** The assignments in Language Arts are linked to the Core program; match the Language Arts program with the Core program you select.

**NOTE: CoreUltra and CorePlus programs include the appropriate Language Arts program.**

## Choosing the right Science program

- Sonlight Science programs are designed to work across even wider age ranges. This allows you to make choices based on subject matter interest rather than age. It also allows you to combine students into a study group more easily.
- See the charts below for descriptions and age ranges.

**Note: CoreUltra and CorePlus programs include an age appropriate Science program.**

## Science Programs

Sonlight Science Programs	Public School Grade/Age	K 5-6	1st 6-7	2nd 7-8	3rd 8-9	4th 9-10	5th 10-11	6th 11-12	7th 12-13	8th 13-14	9th 14-15	10th 15-16	11th 16-17	12th 17-18	See Pages
K General Science															p. 22
1 General Science															pp. 28-29
2 General Science															p. 41
3 Intro to Biology															pp. 47-48
4 Electricity, Magnetism, Astronomy															p. 58
5 Human Anatomy & Physiology															pp. 65-66
6 Intro to Biology, Chemistry & Physics															p. 73
7 Apologia General Science															p. 77
150 Apologia Physical Science															p. 81
250 Apologia H.S. Biology															pp. 98-100
350 Apologia H.S. Chemistry															pp. 98-100
450 Apologia H.S. Physics															pp. 98-100

## Choosing the right Math program

- Math programs are unique in that they build one year on top of the next. It is important in making Math selections to gauge your student's skill level before making a final choice. We highly recommend that you have your student take the placement tests we carry online before making that final selection. The placement/readiness tests can be found at:
  - [www.sonlight.com/singapore-placement-tests.html](http://www.sonlight.com/singapore-placement-tests.html)
  - [www.sonlight.com/saxon-placement-tests.html](http://www.sonlight.com/saxon-placement-tests.html)
  - [www.sonlight.com/horizons-readiness-evaluations.html](http://www.sonlight.com/horizons-readiness-evaluations.html)

**Note: CoreUltra programs include an age appropriate Horizons Math program.**

## Are Electives really important?

We believe electives are very important to every student's development. Those "extra" subjects—Art, Music, Foreign Languages and so forth—really can make a difference between an average student and an outstanding student. We recommend that you select at least one elective per year per student and that you ask them to participate in making that choice.

**Note: CoreUltra and CorePlus packages include pre-selected enrichment materials. Also in level 6 and above we highly recommend you include a foreign language program in your curriculum.**

## Finishing Touches

After choosing the 5 components of your curriculum (Core, Language Arts, Science, Math and Electives) it is time to apply the final two finishing touches.

1. **Select your Required Resources:** Items that you purchase once from Sonlight but use again and again over many years of study. These items are listed in each level and are required for the successful completion of the package.
2. **Consumable Items:** Items that will be used up by your student over the school year. You'll need an extra set of these for each additional student you are teaching using a specific level. Consumable items are marked (see Key to Catalog Listings below) in each level.

# Key to Catalog Listings

**TRIMESTER:** (1st, 2nd, or 3rd 12-week period) in which the book is first used. Permits staggered purchasing. If you see two symbols (e.g. ②①), the first one is for Four-day schedule, second is Five-day.

**EXTENDED USE:** Used for more than 3 weeks in the fastest-paced programs.

Of special **Cross-Cultural** and/or Christian ambassadorial interest.

**NEW LISTING**

**ITEM #**

**RETAIL PRICE** as of catalog publication date. Subject to change.

**BINDING:**  
Pb = Paperback  
Hb = Hardbound

**PUBLICATION AVAILABILITY:**  
S = Sonlight publication (to our knowledge, available for purchase at this time only from us).  
X = Christian publisher (unlikely to be found in a public library; usually available through Christian bookstores and/or distributors).

**PROGRAM INDICATOR.**  
⑤ Indicates a book used in Five-day program ONLY.  
□ Indicates use in Four-day AND Five-day programs.

Appropriate Audience if Read Aloud by a competent reader with no additional explanation, commentary or discussion.

Appropriate grade-level if Read to oneself.

**CONSUMABLE.** You may want one for each student.

Most books in the elementary levels can be read aloud, with explanation and/or discussion, to students at least a year or two younger than the lowest level indicated. That means our low-end RA (Read Aloud) ratings are actually conservative. When you get to Level 7 we start listing many books that we believe are not good candidates for reading aloud—even with commentary—to younger audiences. In such cases, we have noted the fact in the descriptive copy.

Understanding the "RA" (Read Aloud) and "R" (Reader) ratings.  
The numbers following the RA and R codes indicate the levels they are appropriate for: P=Pre-K, K=Kindergarten, 1=Level 1...A=Adult.

**Mission to Cathay** ②① + → (NEW) 5R34 \$9.25

**5** Pollard. A fictional story of Matteo Ricci, the first Roman Catholic ambassador to enter China. Full of cultural detail and adventure. Presents an astonishingly realistic look at many of the difficulties facing Christian ambassadors to unreached peoples. Consumable. S Pb.  
RA: 2-A; R: 5-8