



CONNECTING WITH HISTORY CO-OP INFORMATION

Connecting with History is being used successfully by homeschool co-ops and independent schools across the country and internationally!

Why Choose Connecting with History?

Activities Include:

Affordable

There is *no registration fee* for Connecting with History co-ops.* To get started, each family and classroom teacher must purchase a Connecting with History Program (Classroom or Family edition) and the student books assigned for the year.

Flexible

One of our core values is flexibility. Whatever your teaching style and whatever your child's learning style, Connecting with History can be adapted to meet your needs.

Active Learning

We go beyond just textbooks and memorization. By using engaging books and hands-on activities, we foster a love of learning and bring history to life!

Beginner & Grammar Levels

- Memorization:
History rhymes, Poetry, Catechism
- History Activities
- Literature Discussion

Logic & Rhetoric Levels

- History
- Memorization
- Literature Analysis
- Group Projects
- Socratic Discussions

How to Get Started

To use Connecting with History in your co-op follow these steps:

Step 1: Register your co-op or school** (required to purchase co-op materials)

Benefits: Registered groups may have a customized group page on the RC History website for publicity and convenience.

Step 2: Each classroom teacher and family is required to purchase Connecting with History Co-op materials. Please contact us to discuss what material is most appropriate for your group's needs.

Step 3: Purchase books associated with the lesson plans.

We have Co-op Family Lesson Plans and Classroom Teacher's Guides specifically for co-op groups and hybrid schools. The Classroom Teacher's Guides provide instructions for teaching history and literature for classes that meet one day per week.

Homework assignments for families to complete between co-op sessions are included in the Co-op Family Lesson Plans.

Contact us today at info@rchistory.com to discuss using Connecting with History in your co-op or school curriculum.

www.RCHistory.com

*Co-ops are groups which meet 1 day per week for formal classroom learning to supplement home education.

**Full-time schools are required to pay a registration fee in order to use Connecting with History as part of their curriculum. Contact us for details.

THE CONNECTING WITH HISTORY PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Connecting with History program is to share the joy of discovering the richness and depth of true history. It provides the opportunity to study saints and scientists, popes and poets, martyrs and musicians; we discover the people and the events of history as they happened, when they happened, where they happened, and why they happened. When we learn history in this integrated fashion it ceases to be just another subject to cover or a list of dates to memorize, it becomes the story of life – our story, our history, our heritage!

Distinctive Elements of the Connecting with History Co-op Program

Chronology

History is presented both chronologically and thematically. Each unit covers a specific set of dates and the events which occurred during that time in history. Chronology is a tool to assist you in understanding the causes and effects of events, as well as the interweaving of cultures and personalities. It helps answer not only the "what" of history, but the "why and how." In Year Three, we find a Christian culture that has taken root and is flowering with saints, cathedrals, universities, hospitals, the richness of paintings and sculpture, and much more.

Themes

Although the program is chronological, we also include themes for each period of history. Each unit within this volume is **thematic**: a theme (for example, The Courage to Make Peace) is highlighted to find a deeper meaning within God's plan for His people in history. Each unit this year also has a patron saint who exemplifies the theme.

Cyclical Approach

The program's cyclical approach means that history is studied chronologically. After completing a full cycle of history, the co-op then repeats the cycle: repetition reinforces learning and understanding and with each new cycle the students will be older and able to study in more depth than the previous cycle.

Real Books

Learning from "real" books engages interest more than just reading a textbook. We use a variety of books and genres for several reasons:

1. Textbook - provides a broad overview of the time
2. Non-fiction - allows the student to learn in more depth
3. Literature - introduces students to classic literature at an age-appropriate level
4. Historical fiction - inserts the student into the period in history – history becomes personal

Levels of history

History occurs on several levels. What we generally think of as history is the geopolitical level – the people, places, and events that make up history. But history also occurs on a spiritual level. Divine Providence is active in history; God doesn't just sit back and watch the world revolve, He involves Himself in human events in both hidden and tangible ways.

While wars take place between empires and countries, battles rage on the spiritual level as well. Angels and demons vie for control of individuals, and of the world. The spiritual battlefield is in the souls of people: in ourselves, our families, our neighbors, in world leaders, and in ordinary people. Connecting with History includes both levels of history, secular and spiritual, and encourages students to connect to the events of history on a personal and spiritual level.

Personal applications

History isn't just about other people, in other times, and other places. All of us are living in a specific time in history. What we think and do in our lifetimes affects the lives of countless others, in ways we may never even suspect. A few people are called to do great things that will be recorded in the history books of the future, but we are all called to live heroically in our own sphere of influence: our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes, our workplace, our schools, etc.

History becomes personal when it teaches us lessons from others' lives and enables us to apply them to our own. Through the Syllabus Overview article in each unit and the Discussion Prompts in the Consider section of the Syllabus units, Connecting with History leads students to reflect on their own choices in life, their God-given purpose, and their own unique vocation.

This is another element which makes Connecting with History a distinctively Catholic program. It's not just a matter of adding in saints and popes to a secular or protestant program; it's about coming to a deeper understanding of ourselves and developing an authentic worldview that can change our own lives and be spread to the lives of those around us.

Four-Year History Cycle

Connecting with History is based on a 4-year chronological cycle of history. It is designed so that all age levels studying the same historical period on the same rotation. This eases the burden of teaching multiple ages in the home. It also enables the formal co-op to collaborate on activities and programs throughout the year.

Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four
Ancient History Old Testament	New Testament Early Church Early Medieval	High Medieval Renaissance Reformation Early Exploration	American History
Early World through Roman Republic	A.D. 1 through early 12 th century	Late 12 th century through 17 th century	15 th century through early 20 th century

Overview of the Connecting with History Co-op Curriculum

The Role of the Family is Primary

The work done at home is integral to a successful co-op classroom experience. Weekly home reading assignments include both history and literature. Students will also select and practice memory work and activities to present in class at the end of each unit. This work is done in preparation for upcoming classes. Students who do not do their work at home will not benefit from the classroom activities. This must be stressed when introducing the co-op to families.

The Connecting with History Co-op Family Lesson Plans

Because of its unique approach, each family must own a copy of the Connecting with History Co-op Family Lesson Plans. This program goes beyond just learning the facts of history, it provides the tools for understanding history from a Catholic worldview. This will not happen by just reading the assignments and doing projects. Each unit of the program includes background readings from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a theme related to personal salvation history, open-ended questions for the family to discuss together, an article about the time period which highlights salvation history, memory work and activities for the students to prepare for class.

The Family Lesson Plans also provide a daily schedule of assignments that are required in preparation for the week's co-op class.

The Role of the Classroom is Supplemental

The role of the family in each child's education is primary. The co-op classroom experience is designed to enhance and support the learning done at home, not to replace it. We have ordered our co-op materials so that families work together at home in preparation for classroom enrichment activities. Co-ops provide experiences that are difficult to be accomplished at home, such as peer discussion, group activities, and formal presentations.

Overview of the Connecting with History Co-op Curriculum

Beginner Instruction (approximate age 5-9/grades K-3)

History - Students have short history assignments to complete at home each week. Parents are expected to be closely involved in reading these aloud to their child and making sure that they understand the basic outline of the time period being studied. History memory work is assigned for each week and parents need to review this memory work each day. The idea of memorizing the timeline is to give them a frame of reference as they learn more about history each year. In class, students will read literature books from the time period being covered as well as do activities that enhance learning. In addition, students can choose and complete a “notebook activity” at home for each unit. At the end of the unit, students present their work to their classmates.

A notebook activity can be writing or hands-on. There are suggestions listed in the program for each unit or you can adapt them to the interest of the student. The most important factor is that more in-depth learning occurs about the time period being studied.

Literature - Literature focuses on exposing students to high-quality fiction, mostly in the form of picture books. Stories follow along with history, so students are exposed to a variety of genres from fables and myths to historical fiction. Literature at this stage is read aloud to children in class followed by simple discussions and related activities. There are no home literature assignments, however a comprehensive list of picture books, read-alouds, and chapter books suggestions is included in the program for parents to choose from as enrichment at home.

Religion - Students will be memorizing selections from the Baltimore Catechism No. 1. Questions will be introduced at home and will be reviewed in class. These are for practice in memorization and an overview of our faith. They are not meant to be a full catechism program. No formal catechesis is taught in this program however, we follow history through a Catholic world view so religion and church teaching come up regularly.

Grammar Instruction (approximate age 8-11/grades 3-6)

History – Students are given weekly history reading assignments to be completed at home in preparation for co-op class activities. In class, students will do activities that enhance learning about the time period being covered. In addition, students should choose and complete a “notebook activity” at home for each unit. At the end of the unit, students present their work to their classmates.

A notebook activity can be writing or hands-on. There are suggestions listed in the program for each unit or you can adapt them to the interest of the student. The most important factor is that more in-depth learning occurs about the time period being studied.

Literature - Literature focuses on exposing students to classical works that correspond to the history being covered. Grammar level students will have weekly reading assignments in preparation for class discussion. While we realize parents cannot read all the books themselves, it is vital they ask questions to make sure

Overview of the Connecting with History Co-op Curriculum

reading has been done prior to class. Books will be discussed in class. In addition, students will be memorizing poems and verses. This enriches vocabulary as well as writing style.

Writing – No formal instruction in composition is given in the co-op. Parents are expected to be teaching language arts at home. Students at this age are at varied levels of skill and we feel that parents can best assess what is appropriate for their child. Grammar level students are rarely given formal writing assignments for co-op, however there are many opportunities for them to write for their notebook activity presentations if they wish.

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Logic Instructions (approximate age 12-15/grades 7-10)

History - The primary learning happens at home through reading and discussion. A list of Socratic Questions is available in the parent guide to help parents start conversations. Additionally, each unit begins with “Consider” questions which are open-ended questions related to the theme of the unit. While these will be reviewed in class parents are asked to first talk about them at home. This allows parents to teach more about the faith and helps enrich classroom conversation and. In class, students will do activities or have discussions that enhance learning about the time period being covered. In addition, students should choose and complete a “notebook activity” at home for each unit. At the end of the unit, students present their work to their classmates.

A notebook activity can be writing or hands-on. There are suggestions listed for each unit or you can adapt them to the interest of the student. Be creative! The most important factor is that more in-depth learning occurs about the time period being studied.

Religion - No formal catechesis is taught in this program, however, we follow history through a Catholic world view so religion and church teaching come up regularly.

Literature - Literature focuses on exposing students to classical works that correspond to the history being covered. Books will be discussed using the Socratic Method and Literary Analysis in class. In addition to reading a lot of rich language, students will be memorizing poems and verses. This enriches vocabulary as well as writing style.

Writing – Some formal composition instruction takes place related to the literature studied in class. Students at this level will be given writing assignments to complete at home and present orally in class. Parents are responsible for students’ main composition instruction and for assisting their child at home with their assignments.

Overview of the Connecting with History Co-op Curriculum

Speech - At this level we focus on how to give presentations in all subjects. They are formally evaluated on their notebook activities in History.

Rhetoric Instructions (approximate age 15-18/grades 10-12)

History - The primary learning happens at home through reading and discussion. A list of Socratic Questions is available in the parent guide to help parents start conversations. Additionally, each unit begins with “Consider” questions which are open-ended questions related to the theme of the unit. While these will be reviewed in class parents are asked to first talk about them at home. This allows parents to teach more about the faith and helps enrich classroom conversation and. In class, students will do activities or have discussions that enhance learning about the time period being covered. In addition, students should choose and complete a “notebook activity” at home for each unit. At the end of the unit, students present their work to their classmates.

A notebook activity can be writing or hands-on. There are suggestions listed for each unit or you can adapt them to the interest of the student. Be creative! The most important factor is that more in-depth learning occurs about the time period being studied.

Religion - No formal catechesis is taught in this program, however, we follow history through a Catholic world view so religion and church teaching come up regularly.

Reading/Literature - Literature focuses on exposing students to classical works that correspond to the history being covered. Books will be discussed using the Socratic Method and Literary Analysis in class. In addition to reading a lot of rich language, students will be memorizing poems and verses. This enriches vocabulary as well as writing style.

Writing – Some formal composition instruction takes place related to the literature studied in class. Students at this level will be given writing assignments to complete at home and present orally in class. Parents are responsible for students’ main composition instruction and for assisting their child at home with their assignments.

Speech - At this level we focus on how to give presentations in all subjects. They are formally evaluated on their notebook activities in History.

CLASSROOM LESSON PLANS

Classroom Teacher Guides come in four age levels:

Beginner	(1 st -3 rd grades)
Grammar	(4 th -6 th grades)
Logic	(7 th -9 th grades)
Rhetoric	(10 th -12 th grades)

Grade levels are approximate.

Each co-op determines the best classroom age levels and student placement for their needs

Some co-ops separate children by traditional school grades, others combine them.

Regardless of your structure, each classroom teacher will need a Classroom Teacher Guide.

Classroom Teacher Guides include lesson plans for coordinated classes in history and literature for one day per week. Most co-ops spend 45 - 60 minutes each on history and literature depending on age level.

Family Lesson Plans include assignments for all four age levels, four days per week in preparation for class.

For more information contact info@rchistory.com