Kindergarten or 1st Grade History

**Unit One:**

**Who Am I?**

First, the student needs to know his full name, address and phone number. Work on it for the first month.

What are some landmarks around town? i.e.: library, grocery stores, police station…

What is special about where he lives? Take a tour of the city and point out the interesting places. Take a trip to the city library. See some sites in your city.

What state does he live in? What is the official flower, song, flag etc. of your state?

Where is that State on the map? What makes your state different from all the other states? Talk about your state and how it was discovered. Visit some historic sites in your state.

**Unit Two:**

**Time & Seasons**

Show how calendars represent days, weeks, months and years. Teaching what is today, tomorrow, yesterday and next week.

Talk about the holidays the season in which they occur. Make your own calendar to show every holiday and season, we will be teaching on each holiday as they come in the year but go ahead and introduce the seasonal aspect now…just graze over it if you want but hit it.

Make a timeline using pictures of what your child does during the day, putting in order everything he does: use examples like morning, afternoon, evening.

What is a clock? Show him 12 noon and 6 o’clock. (This is not kindergarten work, it is first grade work, but introduce it anyway and see how far you get.)

Explain when the seasons change and how the weather changes with each season. Why is it colder in the winter and warmer in the summer? Can we grow food in the winter? (Only in warm states).Which states and what do they grow in the winter? How do people live in different cities with different weather conditions dress, work, live. Example: Alaska, North Dakota, Maine, Florida, Texas. It isn’t always warm everywhere at the same time, nor is it cold everywhere at the same time. Put as much time as you want in this unit…if a question goes somewhere – go with it!

**Unit Three:**

**The World we live in:**

Explain the purpose of a globe and a map. Teach how to tell the difference between land and water on both, the globe and map (brown and blue). Show and name the major bodies of water and land masses of the world. Identify and describe the differences between different land types: wetlands, forests, hills, mountains, coasts.

Identify and describe the differences between rivers, lakes, oceans and gulfs.

**\*\*Field Trips\*\***

Add as many field trips as you can to this curriculum**.** A visit to a site with written curriculum will be retained more than mere curriculum.

Remember, most children are hands on so do as many crafts as you can do, simple stuff yet fun stuff, also pictures are very important to cement learning, so use library books, movies, etc. to help visualize the past.

**Unit Four:**

**Our Community Helpers and Civic Participation:**

List some jobs people do in the community and the tools they use. All jobs are important, point out some that people might not think as glamorous and tell Micah why they are important. This is a good time to point out that God values everyone and everyone has a talent and a gift to use for Him.

As Mr. Rogers would say, “Look for the helpers” who are the helpers in your town. Talk about firefighters, police, bus drivers, postal workers, teachers, pastors, store clerks, waste collectors, construction workers; really focus on the jobs that interest your child, see if you can take them to a job site and get a tour.

This is a good opportunity to talk about laws/rules and why we have them, why do police have to enforce them and what would happen if we didn’t have laws/rules. Explain that if we break laws/rules, there is a consequence, and that jail is a consequence of breaking the laws. What are some laws and rules that children must follow?

What is self-control and how do you demonstrate it at home, in school functions, in the store, church?

Why does someone work? What do they do with the money they earn and explain the difference between needs and wants? You might cut pictures out of a magazine and have your child point to needs and wants. Also, talk about what we buy that we just want and what we buy that we need to live. This is a good time to teach that God supplies our needs and our desires if we live true to Him.

Who are his parents and what does daddy do for a living? If a parent, or both work outside the home and it is safe, take your child to work to see what you do for a living, how you provide money to purchase their wants and needs. If the parents work from home the same concept applies, you just don’t have to travel as far 😊

**Unit Five:**

**America: Our Past**

America was founded on Godly principals (this is why you home school- you can give them God and truth!) It is very important to know who we came from and what they stood for and why they were so willing to give their lives for our freedom and liberty. Who were our founders? Patrick Henry, George Washington, Andrew Jackson. Abraham Lincoln. They should great character, courage and honor and loved this country. Maybe spend one day on a famous American and what they did for our country and what they sacrificed.

Talk about our money and the picture on the money, what value each piece has; that money comes in different shapes and colors. And that all money says, “In God We Trust” and why that is important.

We show respect for those founders of our country in different ways, one is that they are on our money, on our highways, buildings, etc.

What are our national symbols? The bald eagle, the flag, individual state flags, the Statue of Liberty, Washington Monument, Lincoln Monument, the Liberty Bell.

Talk about the different states, their flags, importance, which was the first thirteen, which were the last two.

What makes America special? What makes the United States different from every other country?

Teach them the Pledge of Allegiance and listen to the national anthem.

In the early days of America, how did people live? Was there running water? How did they get water, food, shelter? How did they communicate? How did they come together to start this nation without T.V., or radio? This is important to show how things have changed and that change can be a good thing; and to understand comparison, our time vs. their time.

**Unit 6**

**Current Events and the World**

Take some current events from the news that you are interested in and keep a picture journal of what is happening, or a timeline, etc. In the current times, we must be mindful of what is on the news and be careful not to frighten children with the craziness in some places, be wise in the news you share. Note\* I did this with our grandchildren, and they have become very astute at current events. They understand the world around them and watch news with great interest. They are extremely well informed with no help of an adult.

Let your child choose another continent to study further: what color is their flag? What language do they speak? What do they wear? What do they eat? Make one of the dishes that are native to that country. Learn a word from that language. How would you get there from here and how long would it take? What do they do for fun? Do they have a holiday we don’t? Do we have one they don’t? Is there persecution for their faith? Let him know people are the same and yet very different. God didn’t intend us all to act the same but loves us all with the same love.

\*\*Any lesson can be lengthened to add any special interest you feel will enrich your child’s education. Homeschooling is what you make it and you are in charge!