

# Book of Centuries



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# Creating and Keeping a Book of Centuries

The preceding page is a format page to be used with a blank book in creating a **Book of Centuries**.

## Components for a Book of Centuries

- A two-page spread should cover a century.
- The first page will be for words or short phrases for each year of the century. It is not necessary to include an entry for every year: the important events are all that are needed. The bottom of each left side page will have some lines underneath for any additional notes.
- The second page (page on the right) is blank for simple drawings. Opinions vary as to whether pictures from other sources (internet, magazines, etc.) should be cut out and pasted or not. I tend to think that drawings should be preferred but that occasional work with a picture from another source should be acceptable as long as the book stays neat.
- The main focus should be on giving the child their own personal journal as they learn about history. They should choose what they consider most important to draw and what dates, words and phrases are included.
- The notebook should be neat and written in their best handwriting and it is suggested that the work is entered in pencil first and then color or ink added. The books were usually done with ink, but I think color would be fine as long as the tools for color are chosen carefully. I would think that colored pencils would work best so as to prevent any discoloring of the other pages.
- Leave at least 10 pages at the end blank as this is where your student can add maps they have drawn.
- I would suggest that this not contain narrations and other projects because this would draw away from the ability to focus on the flow of history by itself. I would imagine that the notebook would become more cumbersome with additional history work included. Narrations and other projects can be kept in a binder.
- Use a medium or large, unlined journal book, but be sure to check to see that the pages are not too thick before purchasing. Thinner pages will allow the lines in the format page to show through well enough to create the grid pattern for notes and dates. Our family uses a Moleskine unruled notebook.
- Be sure to guide the student in how to properly set up the dates and measure the number of pages. Instructions for how to do this are on the following page.

# Instructions for Creating a Book of Centuries

A Moleskine book from Amazon can be used for a Book of Centuries. These are very nice blank books with a bookmark strap and pocket in the back.

- Print the format guide for each student and allow them to place it under each left side page. This will give them a guide for keeping their notebook organized as the printed lines will show through the blank page.
- It might be a good idea to laminate this sheet or place it in a sheet cover.
- The right side is to remain unlined, because this side is for their drawings.
- The first box will represent the first year of a century (For example, 1700 would be the first year for the 18th century.) and each box thereafter will represent the next year running across the top and then moving down each time.

**For example:**

1700	Act of Settlement	1702	1703	1704	1705	1706	1707	1708	1709
1710	1711	1712	1713	1714	1715	1716	1717	1718	1719

- **Writing in the dates for each individual box is not needed. The above example simply demonstrates the order of the boxes.**
- Simply use the space to write one or two words of any important event for that year. For example, in the box for 1701 your student might write Act of Settlement.
- The right side page is to be used for illustrations. Your student may include any number of smaller illustrations for any people, items, events, etc. for the century of which is being covered. For example, in 1773 the Tea Act in the colonies takes effect, so your student may wish to draw a small tea cup as an illustration. Other pictures for other events of this century can also be drawn in this same space. If the grid example above continued, your student would write Tea Act in the space where 1773 would be located.



