

Year Eight

Science and Nature Study

Students in Year Eight will continue their study of botany, primarily through object lessons, but now with *The Second Book of Botany*. Natural History will also include a choice of books by Rachel Carson and an additional choice from several other authors. They will begin to study astronomy using Moeschl's *Exploring the Sky* and Rey's *The Stars*. Chemistry will be studied with a biography of a chemist, *The Wonder Book of Chemistry* and supplemental labs.

History & Geography

Year Eight students will begin their study of world history anew with a study of the medieval time period.

This year students will study American History with American History Survey II, designed to flow chronologically and based on nonfiction, biography and historical fiction books. Since American history and World history are studied concurrently, an overview of American history will better fit with the medieval time period.

Geography

In Geography, students will read the second book from *The Book of Marvels* (The Orient) by Richard Halliburton as well as learn about Marco Polo, keeping a map record of his travels. Students read the first book from Halliburton's *The Book of Marvels* in Year Seven.

Literature & Poetry

This year students will read *Beowulf*, a selected work by J. R. R. Tolkien as well as additional historical poems and ballads.

Literature selections will include selected chapters from *English Literature for Young People* and works such as *Ivanhoe*, *Watership Down* and more. Students will also read Shakespeare's *Henry V* and *Macbeth*.

The Arts

Artists: Botticelli, J. Waterhouse, Fra Angelico and Van Eyck

Composers: Felix Mendelssohn, Johann Strauss, Hector Berlioz and Igor Stravinsky

Citizenship

While this curriculum will include selections from Plutarch, it will also include other books, speeches and documents which provide opportunities to discuss citizenship. This year, students will spend some time looking at law by reading *The Magna Charta* and *The Code of Hammurabi*. Plutarch selections this year will be Alcibiades and Marcus Cato.

Additionally, students will be reading, studying and discussing current articles from reputable sources.

Ancient History

Students in Year Eight will begin the cycle of ancient history anew. Their study will focus on the Near East, including such areas as Persia, Babylon and Egypt.