



THESE DIRECTIONS MAY ALREADY BE INCLUDED WITHIN YOUR GUIDEBOOK ITSELF, BUT WE WANTED TO INCLUDE A SEPARATE DOWNLOAD HERE, SINCE THEY CAN OFTEN BE OVERLOOKED.

THIS ALSO INCLUDES THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR EVERYTHING.

!!!ALERT!!!



For the most up-to-date links throughout the unit, use the QR code or URL below to go to our "LINKS PAGE."

On the LINKS page, we will also keep our sources , potential Scope/Sequence, book lists, and shopping lists, etc!

<https://campfirecurriculum.com/links/>

You have quick access to your LINKS pages within your *account* tab on our site, too!

From your account, click on "Membership" for an additional way to quickly access your LINKS pages.



!!!DO NOT SKIP THIS!!!

WE HIGHLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO WATCH AT LEAST THE FIRST 15 MINUTES OF THE VIDEO AT THE LINK/QR CODE BELOW. IT EXPLAINS EXACTLY HOW THESE UNITS WORK, WHICH GUIDEBOOKS TO PRINT (IF ANY), HOW TO USE IT WITH CHILDREN OF WIDE AGE RANGES, OR WITH AN ONLY CHILD (ETC)...

BASICALLY, IT SHOWS YOU EVERYTHING. WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND CONTINUING BEFORE WATCHING THIS VIDEO. SEE LINK OR QR CODE BELOW:



https://campfirecurriculum.com/how_to/

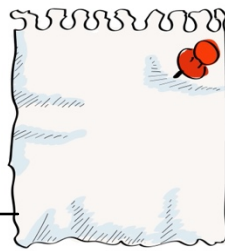
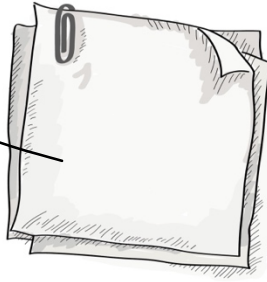


No printing required. Use digitally, if preferred!

THIS IS THE WAY A REGULAR UNIT LESSON FLOWS (HOLIDAYS MAY VARY SLIGHTLY):

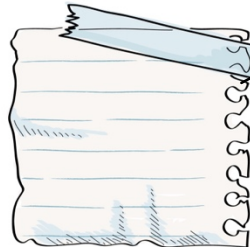
Main lesson portion with all styles of learning incorporated. Often taught in living book format (this is something that *sounds* like a story but is actually a teaching lesson in disguise). This method helps with memory retention, attention span, enjoyment, and engagement for the student (as opposed to textbook learning where information is frequently not absorbed or dumped).

(10-15 minutes total)



Think Tanks (for developing critical thinking and deep family discussion) and Faith Talks (for growth in the Lord)

(10 minutes)



Optional activities or games.

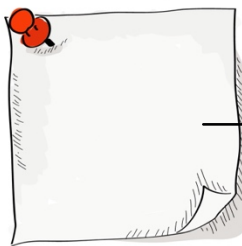
We give quite a few, so you can pick and choose which one (if any) you want to do. We often include options that are quick and can be done with items from around the home, and we ALSO provide options for those who want to go all out. It fits every family style, so choose whichever you'd prefer!

(5 min +)

Core Connections Companion

Flip to this when the lesson ends if you want to tie this unit topic to all your core school subjects equally. For those who use this as an elective in addition to their other core curriculum, feel free to use the Core Connections Companion or skip over it. For those who choose to use this for their core or those who want extra elective hours, use as much of this book as you'd like! We currently include it free of charge as a gift, so enjoy it however you'd like!

(variable)



Potential SYW [Skip if You Want] pages

These are the pages that allow you to go even deeper only IF you want. If not, skip them altogether! They're just a bonus for extra learning and not at all required.

(10 minutes)



IF YOU'D LIKE TO USE AS AN EXTRACURRICULAR, SET A TIMER TO 30 MINUTES. STOP WHEN THE BUZZER GOES OFF AND PICK IT UP AGAIN THE NEXT DAY!



WRITTEN DIRECTIONS

ADVANCED GUIDEBOOK: Recommended for high school & adult

GROWING GUIDEBOOK Recommended for elementary and middle school

EARLY GUIDEBOOK Recommended for pre-readers up to 1st grade

CORE CONNECTIONS COMPANION Includes all ages, core school subject connections!

These are just guidelines. Mix and match however best fits your family!

There is no teacher's manual. This curriculum was created for the whole family to come together and learn together.

What's the difference between the guidebooks? See here: www.CampfireCurriculums.com/colorcoding

If you do not go to the link referenced directly above, you will be doubling your work by feeling like you need to read through and compare each guidebook and figure out what to print. You don't have to do that! This is open-and-go, and we made it easy! We HIGHLY encourage you to visit this link: www.CampfireCurriculums.com/colorcoding before beginning, so it all makes sense!

Welcome to your journey. We are so excited you're here! Every lesson will be ready for you as you open your guidebook. In most units, you don't need to prepare anything for the lessons (this can be dependent on the unit study topic, of course). If any lessons require more than what can be found around the house, we will provide the shopping list on our LINKS page.

Our Campfire Method uses a living book format. We have seen incredible results with this for all students! For more details on this, you can go here: <https://campfirecurriculum.com/livingbook/>

Grab your family, have everybody sit around the campfire, car, kitchen table, or wherever... and let's get ready to start! These units are EXTREMELY flexible. You have three options (we will list them below):

OPTION #1 MOST BASIC: Complete the regular lesson as-is. Only 20-30 minutes a day, and YOU ARE DONE. Set the timer for 20-30 minutes, and when it goes off, stop for the day! Within that time, you get incredible depth (but not too much that it's overwhelming). You can do it after dinner, with your morning basket, with "Dad" or even while riding through town or at the in-laws! Pick it up again the next day wherever you left off. It's easy; it's open-and-go; it's simple and fantastic. This is ideal for those using this as an extracurricular.

OPTION #2 MIDDLE OF THE ROAD: If you WANT even deeper insight into the facts, learning, and skill or career, then complete as many of the "SYW (Skip if You Want)" pages as you'd like! SYW Pages contain extra information. These optional SYW sections are not required, but they definitely add to the insight! The amount of SYW Pages per lesson/unit fluctuates. Sometimes mini units and holiday units do not have SYW pages.

OPTION #3 ALL IN: As a courtesy, we included interdisciplinary and cross-curricular teaching approaches, so that you can use this to cover other core school subjects (except math). These Core Connections are currently added for free, as a gift, and will be found in the Core Connections Companion. This is perfect not only for the parents who like to use the units to bring together all school subjects equally, but also for the parents of high schoolers who are looking for ways to add hours for their elective credits. All school grades are covered within the Core Connections Companion, so you only need to use one, regardless of the age range of your children. Your regular guidebook will say something along the lines of, “**Stop now. Your main lesson is over. Now it is time to open up your Core Connections Companion.**” You can choose to use the Core Connections Companion or skip it. You can also choose to bind it together with your regular guidebook (if printing) or bind it separately. It is flexible to your desires. See more on Core Connections: https://campfirecurriculum.com/core_connections/

AND FINALLY...

We are careful to provide a variety of handicraft and activity options to match each family’s preferred style. Some of our activities in our units use only a paper and pencil; some go all out and teach you to suture a wounded animal or tap a tree; some take 30 seconds; some take 10 or 20 minutes. We are intentional in giving you OPTIONS. You never feel overwhelmed with “having” to do an activity that is too long. You also never feel underwhelmed by not having “enough.” We also make sure the activities reinforce the lesson while also encouraging family connection. Basically, we offer it all...and then, we let you CHOOSE between them.

Before beginning a lesson, we recommend setting a timer for 30 minutes (or however long you’d like). When the timer goes off, **STOP THE LESSON**—even if you aren’t finished. The next day, you can finish the lesson, and then stop when it is over. You can start a new lesson another day after that. If you are using this as core, then set the clock to whatever time you would like and follow the same setup.

Have fun! Get to know your family better. Get to know yourself better. Get to know God better. ...And maybe have some S’mores. We sincerely hope you enjoy your Campfire Sessions!

Pages in the GROWING/ADVANCED Guidebook do not need to be printed unless desired. All written activities can be done on the student’s own notebook paper (and saved in a memorabilia folder), depending on the family’s desires.

OLDER STUDENTS OFTEN LOVE THE ACTIVITIES IN THE EARLY LEARNER GUIDEBOOK, SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO SKIM THOSE FOR FUN!



DIRECTIONS (EARLY LEARNER GUIDEBOOK)

1. Read the previous pages first, and then come back here.
2. This guidebook is like a pre-reader activity pack intended to help keep little hands busy and minds focused on the topic while the rest of the family completes their lessons. That is the purpose of this Guidebook. We believe this is the most ideal way for the youngest children to grow and to be involved with the family. If you would rather have Early Learners do their activities afterward or even on a separate day, that's okay, too! Do it however it works best for your family. Many older children also happen to enjoy many activities within these guidebooks, depending on the unit, so always check them out!
3. We keep the Early Learner pages as a separate download (as opposed to part of the other Guidebooks) for a few reasons:
 - Some parents prefer to print Early Learner pages on thicker paper, so it helps to have it separated
 - Some young children appreciate having their own “guidebook”
 - Not everyone has pre-readers, so this packet is optional
4. If there are older children in the family, you will all sit around as a family and complete your regular lessons [from Growing – Advanced guidebooks]. During this time, the Early Learner can be completing the additional activity from their guidebook. They will also hear what the older family members are reading and/or discussing and will absorb as much as their little minds want them to. They do not have any reading portions in their guidebook since they are not at the proper reading age.
5. As a courtesy, we do include a “pre-summary” and “recap” that you can read to your Early Learner before/after the lesson. This is merely extra reinforcement of lesson content and to help prepare their little minds for learning. This is completely optional.
6. Feel free to print the Early Learner guidebook and combine it with your own, if it's easier for you to navigate that way (many parents keep it separate, but many merge the two together).
7. We highly encourage letting Early Learners engage as much as possible with the rest of the family. Our little ones learn so much for doing and observing, and just being made a part of things. Most importantly, you will be making memories!

WAIT... WHERE ARE THE WORKSHEETS??? IS THIS ALL JUST A LOT OF READING?

LEARNING STYLES / CAMPFIRE METHOD

Every person in the world has a unique learning style. Charlotte Mason was an advocate of educating the “whole person,” and the Campfire Method does the same. You will not see “worksheet” learning in our units.

“Worksheets” only focus on one style of learning (the writing), and they don’t do it well. It is not an effective way to gauge progress when used almost exclusively.

Instead, within our units you will see a FULL education for your family, as shown below. The Campfire Method utilizes all forms of teaching and learning: auditory, verbal, reading, writing, experiential, tactile, kinesthetic, visual, and more. So rather than seeing a lot of “*read this then fill in the blank,*” you will see things like, “*Pause here and touch that,*” or “*Take a break from reading really quickly and DO this or that.*” You might see a prompt for “*look at this*” or “*listen to that*” or “*speak*” or “*journal in a notebook.*” It is all very carefully and strategically laid out for you so that you do not have to prepare or know what to do. It is open and go! What at first may seem like “just reading” (because you can’t find the worksheets) turns out to be a full learning experience!

While all activities in the unit are optional, we highly encourage notetaking on your own piece of paper/notebook.

KINESTHETIC: Uses large muscle groups, gets the blood flowing, and requires whole body movement. This is typically an activity that requires not remaining in your seat.

TACTILE: Uses smaller muscle groups and deals more with touch. IE: “Touch the horse mane and dog fur to feel the difference” or “Touch the part of the diagram that is associated.” This can also include passing an item around to be smelled or discussed, playing with playdough, etc.

AUDITORY/VERBAL: We join these two because they are often a combined learning style. This learning style can include oral narration, dictation, discussion out loud, hearing a story read out loud, or reading a story out loud. This can also include poetry or music (hearing or singing along). This does NOT include standard reading as in a textbook lesson or encyclopedia.

READING/WRITING: This is traditional teaching through written facts and concepts. Reading the concept or having the student write down summations of what was learned. This is also going to include the “non-living story” reading portions of the lesson.

VISUAL: This includes seeing things in person, in picture, or in video. It includes visual diagrams and illustrations, color coding, and bolding. It also includes drawing.

EXPERIENTIAL: This can include having the student complete an activity that the contributor had us complete ourselves during our time job shadowing. It can include having the student do an activity that the contributor does themselves as part of their career field/skill/etc. It can also include critical thinking. It can also include imagination, such as understanding what the professional is going through or must go through for his/her career.

There are more learning styles and sub-categories such as math/logic/intrapersonal/interpersonal, etc. However, we decided to stick to the major styles like those above, to help simplify.

What is the "Campfire Method" we use in our units?

1 – SHORTER LESSONS.

Less time (30 minutes) leads to better memory retention and higher rate of involvement. Less time is not less learning; it's more learning and more involvement in an intentional way (no check-the-box paragraphs of unnecessary information!).

2 – DAD INVOLVEMENT.

Completely optional but encouraged. The Campfire Method believes a father's involvement is key, when/if possible. It truly makes a difference in the learning and in the family dynamic.



3 – OPEN-AND-GO MEETS CHARLOTTE MASON.

The Campfire Method believes that open-and-go is the only way to be successful without burnout. It's also the only way for a working parent to join, as intended. With little to no prep, you can OPEN and GO. The Campfire Method is the only method that successfully combines Charlotte Mason ideologies and open-and-go in one. The two don't have to be at odds!

4 – HANDICRAFTS ARE NOT BUSY CRAFTS.

While some crafts can be just for family bonding or fun, the Campfire Method teaches life skills that can lead to adulthood, possibly earning an income or helping support one's family. "Through the Eyes of" "With the Skills of" and "In the Steps of..." These are not just the beginning titles to our units; they are the purpose behind everything the Campfire Method is.



5 – NO OR LIMITED WORKSHEETS.

It's true. The Campfire Method believes in teaching all ages effectively (pre-reader to adult) WITHOUT busy worksheet learning. This requires a write-up of its own. Good thing we have one! www.CampfireCurriculums.com/worksheets



6 – GUIDEBOOKS ARE COLOR-CODED

The Campfire Method believes that families learn best together (no teacher's guide!). The entire family should be able to join together (all ages) and bond over the same lesson, while not sacrificing advanced concepts for each person's age/development. The Campfire Method created COLOR CODING and depends on it as an essential part of teaching. Littles don't get overwhelmed; older students don't get bored; yet everyone is still learning the same lesson together. The Campfire Method covers pre-reader to adult all together, and it is thanks to our color-coding system. See examples on our site "Color Coding" page.

7 – VARIABLE ENDING POINTS!!

The Campfire Method believes in flexible stopping points. Each unit has SYW (Skip if You Want) pages uniquely allowing parents to customize the amount of time spent and depth explored per lesson, based on their time allowance and personality. This option makes all the difference!



9 – EXPERIENTIAL TEACHING.

It's not just, "Read this, then do a fun drawing or cute craft." The Campfire Method often teaches lessons through included experiences and activities. It uses activities of little to no prep (usually using items from around the home, depending on the unit) to aid in memory retention and comprehension. IE: using candy-making to thoroughly teach pyroclasts, their velocity, and temperature differences when shooting out of a volcano.



10 – MULTIPLE LEARNING STYLES

Not just reading or writing; not just tactile or kinesthetic. Not just auditory or visual. The Campfire Method believes you have to include it ALL.



11 – CORE CONNECTIONS.

The Campfire Method believes in weaving the fabric of different passions to all school subjects, to draw you into real-world application. Want to learn what math skills a chef needs? Want to know how language arts is utilized as a volcanologist? The Campfire Method believes in bridging that gap and making those connections!



12 – FAITH TALKS!!!!

The Campfire Method believes in tying each lesson and unit topic to Jesus and the Bible in a way that redirects everything to our Wonderful Creator! It wouldn't be the Campfire Method without God as the source of it all, and our units have always embraced this (secular families may choose to skip this section).



13 – THINK TANKS

Part of the Campfire Method is the belief that children should become successful, independent thinkers. This is the most basic and important foundation for all success. The Campfire Method intentionally asks difficult questions within lessons. Questions where it seems every answer is right... and yet conflicts at the same time. It poses questions in ways that the student is forced to re-think their automatic responses and consider alternatives with their family's guidance. This is vital for life learning and success.

14 – JOB AND SKILL SHADOWING... FROM HOME.

The Campfire Method encourages learning for the purpose of one day applying it toward a skill or profession. Teach in a PASSION-DRIVEN way! Contributions from experts in each field are necessary to help guide in ideas for the lessons that are taught. This, like so many other aspects, is unique to the Campfire Method. It helps bring teaching to life and gives inspiration that isn't from "online encyclopedias."



*We also fact-check everything and publish only when other primary sources confirm accuracy.