

## Eighth Grade Earthschooling *Written Curriculum* Summary of the Year & Supply List

### SUMMARY OF THE EIGHTH GRADE YEAR

#### Overview: First Part of the Year

The document outlines a comprehensive curriculum for eighth-grade students, focusing on the study of Elizabethan England, algebra, and portraiture. It emphasizes a holistic approach to education, integrating various subjects and encouraging students to connect historical events with contemporary issues.

#### Curriculum Structure

The curriculum is divided into planners, with the first planner dedicated to Elizabethan England. It includes main lessons, complementary lessons, and creative lessons, structured over four weeks. The document advises teachers to read the "Introduction to All Eighth Grade Planners" before starting the planner to understand how to navigate the charts and lesson plans effectively.

#### Historical Context

The curriculum begins with a focus on Elizabethan England, a pivotal period in history that serves as a foundation for understanding subsequent historical events such as the Industrial Revolution and World Wars. The document stresses the importance of teaching history through the lens of personal experience and storytelling, as recommended by Rudolf Steiner, the founder of Waldorf education.

#### Key Historical Themes

- **Elizabethan Era:** The curriculum highlights the significance of Queen Elizabeth I's reign (1558-1603) and its impact on England's emergence as a naval and commercial power. The defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 is noted as a crucial event that solidified England's position in the world.
- **Cultural Integration:** The curriculum encourages integrating lessons on Shakespeare and Elizabethan music, emphasizing their relevance to the historical context.

#### Teaching Methodology

The document outlines various teaching methods, including:

- **Interactive Learning:** Students are encouraged to engage with the material through discussions, creative assignments, and current events analysis. For instance, teachers are advised to start lessons with news clips to connect historical themes with modern-day issues.
- **Creative Expression:** The curriculum includes art projects, such as creating portraits of historical figures like Queen Elizabeth, using various techniques to enhance students' artistic skills.

#### Algebra Component

The algebra section begins with a review of core concepts from the previous year, ensuring that students have a solid foundation before progressing to more complex topics. The document provides curated practice problems and emphasizes individualized learning, allowing students to work at their own pace.

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### **Key Algebra Concepts**

- **Equations and Variables:** The curriculum introduces students to the concept of equations, emphasizing the importance of understanding variables and constants. Students learn to balance equations and solve for unknowns, using practical examples to illustrate these concepts.

### **Music Education**

The music component of the curriculum focuses on Elizabethan music, with students engaging in listening exercises and discussions about the historical context of the pieces. The document provides a list of recommended songs and sheet music for students to practice, fostering an appreciation for the musical heritage of the era.

### **Weekly Structure**

The curriculum is organized into weekly themes, with specific activities planned for each day. For example, the first week includes lessons on Elizabethan rice and barley, integrating nutrition with historical studies. Each day features a mix of main lessons, creative projects, and music lessons, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience.

### **Conclusion**

The "Eighth Grade Year Part I.pdf" document presents a detailed and structured approach to teaching eighth-grade students about Elizabethan England, algebra, and music. By integrating various subjects and emphasizing experiential learning, the curriculum aims to foster a deeper understanding of history and its relevance to contemporary life. The emphasis on creativity, discussion, and personal connection to the material reflects the principles of Waldorf education, encouraging students to engage with their learning in meaningful ways.

### **Overview: Second Half of the Year**

The second part of the year serves as an educational planner for eighth-grade students, focusing on various subjects, including cooking, women's roles during wartime, and scientific experiments. It emphasizes the contributions of women during World Wars I and II, their involvement in various occupations, and the impact of war on scientific innovation.

### **Cooking Section**

The document includes a detailed recipe for making basic bread, which serves as a practical lesson for students. The recipe outlines the ingredients needed, such as 6 cups of warm water, 2 tablespoons of dry yeast, and 16 cups of various flours, along with step-by-step instructions for preparation and baking. The process involves dissolving yeast in warm water, mixing in sugar and salt, allowing the dough to rise, and finally baking it at 400 degrees for 20-30 minutes.

### **Women's Contributions During War**

The document highlights the significant roles women played during the wars, particularly in munitions factories in England, where they worked tirelessly to produce ammunition. This effort was crucial in supporting the war effort when men were away fighting. The text notes that women were often paid less than men for the same work, yet they persevered, demonstrating a strong sense of patriotism and duty.

## **Varied Occupations**

Women took on a wide range of jobs during the war, including roles in factories, transportation, and nursing. They worked as lift attendants, ticket sellers, and even in traditionally male-dominated fields like carpentry and driving. The document emphasizes that over a million women joined the workforce in England during the first two years of the war, showcasing their adaptability and resilience.

## **Nursing and Medical Roles**

The document discusses the vital contributions of women as nurses and physicians during the war. It mentions the establishment of the Women's Section of the Navy League, which aimed to support naval forces and assist in recruiting efforts. Women not only served as nurses but also as doctors, with many offering their services to the government as soon as the war began. The text highlights the dedication of women like Edith Cavell, who became a symbol of sacrifice and bravery.

## **Economic Contributions**

The document outlines how women were encouraged to economize and contribute to the war effort by adopting more practical fashions and reducing unnecessary expenditures. This initiative aimed to redirect resources towards the war, emphasizing the collective responsibility of women during this time.

## **Scientific Innovation**

The document also delves into the advancements in science and technology that arose from the pressures of war. It notes that the necessity of wartime conditions led to significant developments in chemistry, particularly in creating explosives and food substitutes. Chemists played a crucial role in developing new materials and processes that would not have been explored without the urgency of war.

## **Food Production and Substitutes**

The text discusses how chemists found ways to produce food substitutes from previously neglected plants and materials, which was essential due to food shortages caused by the war. This innovation was critical for sustaining both military and civilian populations during the conflict.

## **Experiments and Lessons**

The planner includes various scientific experiments for students, such as exploring solar energy and convection currents. These experiments are designed to engage students in hands-on learning, allowing them to observe scientific principles in action and relate them to real-world applications.

## **Conclusion**

This serves as a comprehensive educational resource that intertwines practical cooking lessons, historical insights into women's roles during wartime, and scientific exploration. It emphasizes the importance of women's contributions to society, particularly during times of crisis, and encourages students to engage with both historical and scientific concepts through interactive learning experiences. The document ultimately aims to foster a deeper understanding of the past while equipping students with practical skills and knowledge for the future.

## **DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE EIGHTH GRADE YEAR**

### **Eighth Grade Planner One**

Main Lesson: Elizabethan England  
Complimentary Lesson: Algebra Review  
Creative Lesson: Portraits Music: Elizabethan Music

### **Eighth Grade Planner Two**

Main Lesson: Industrial Revolution  
Complimentary Lesson: Language - Short Stories  
Creative Lesson: Darning and Sewing

### **Eighth Grade Planner Three**

Main Lesson: Revolutionary War  
Complimentary Lesson: Math: Surface and Volume  
Creative Lesson: Woodworking: Making a Stool

### **Eighth Grade Planner Four**

Main Lesson Block: The Civil War  
Supporting Main Lesson Block: Anatomy  
Creative Block: Cross-Hatching

### **Eighth Grade Planner Five**

Main Lesson: WWI & WWII  
Complementary Main Lesson: Organic Chemistry  
Creative Block: NONE

### **Eighth Grade Planner Six**

Main Lesson Block: Physics  
Supporting Main Lesson Block: WWI & WWII  
Creative Block: Hinged Box/Woodworking

### **Eighth Grade Planner Seven**

Main Lesson Block: The Eye and Ear  
Complimentary Lesson Block: Binary Systems and Computers  
Creative Block: Landscapes

### **Eighth Grade Planner Eight**

Main Lesson Block: The Four Cosmic Curves  
Supporting Lesson Block: Geometry in Architecture  
Creative Block: Architectural Drawing

### **Eighth Grade Planner Nine**

Main Lesson Block: Plant Classification  
Supporting Main Lesson Block: Local Government  
Creative Block: Sketching Plants

### **Eighth Grade Planner Ten**

Main Lesson Block: 12 Figures of Speech  
Supporting Main Lesson Block: Myth, Legend, and the "12 Words"  
Creative Block: Language

## **SUPPLY LISTS FOR EIGHTH GRADE WRITTEN CURRICULUM**

### **Basic Supplies for All Lessons All Year**

These supplies are used in many grades of the Waldorf curriculum, so if you have already been teaching in the Waldorf style, you may have many of these on hand. This is also a general list to get you started. If you get everything on this list, you will not need to supplement with much else all year. *You will also need the supplies from the "specific supply list" below this one.*

### **Optional Supplies for the Year**

These are not required in the curriculum. However, they may be suggested or can be used to supplement lessons and support creative expression.

### **Specific Supplies for the Year**

This list was taken directly from the crafts and projects presented in the curriculum

### **Basic Supplies for All Lessons All Year**

These supplies are used in many grades of the Waldorf curriculum, so if you have already been teaching in the Waldorf style, you may have many of these on hand. This is also a general list to get you started. If you get everything on this list, you will not need to supplement with much else all year. *You will also need the supplies from the "specific supply list" below this one.*

1 Main Lesson Book - 32 Pages, Landscape, 32x24 cm, Blank, With or Without Onion Skin.\*\*

1 Main Lesson Book - Composition Book 21 x 29.7 cm Portrait Format – Blank\*\*

4 Composition Books - 21x29.7 cm Portrait Format - Lined - 35 Lines Each Page\*\*

1 Main Lesson Book - Composition Book - 21 x 29.7 cm, Portrait, Graph Paper 5x5mm\*\*

Watercolors (Set of 8)

Watercolor Brushes (Different Sizes)

Watercolor Paper (At Least 11' x 14")

Watercolor Board (Can purchase, make, or use the back of a frame)

Instrument of Choice (Violin, Piano, etc.)

Wool Roving - At Least 16 Colors

Felt Board (At Least 11" x 14" - Can Make or Purchase)

Yarn (8-10 Balls) - 100% Cotton or Wool

Wood Knitting Needles (Size 4)

Colored Pencils - At Least 16 Colors

Drawing Paper (Minimum 8" x 10")

Pencils for Writing

Pencil Sharpener

Eraser

Protractor & Compass

Blackboard and Chalk for Teachers to Present Lessons (Recommended but Optional)

### **Optional Supplies for the Year**

Small Blackboard & Chalk for Child

Modeling Beeswax (Stockmar or can be made at home)

Modeling Clay (Stockmar or can be purchased at a local art supply store)

Weaving Loom (Small 12" x 12" is Fine)

Origami and/or Kite Paper

Circle paper

## **Specific Supplies for the Year**

### **Supplies for First Half of the Year**

1. **Paper doll template** - This is mentioned as a suggested supply for creating puppets for a puppet show, which involves using a backdrop and dialogue based on the Declaration of Independence.
2. **Cardboard** - This material is needed for constructing puppets, as indicated in the puppet show preparation section.
3. **Glue** - Essential for assembling the puppet components, as noted in the suggested supplies for the puppet show.
4. **Popsicle sticks** - These are also part of the puppet-making supplies, allowing for easy manipulation of the puppets.
5. **Markers, paint, crayons** - These art supplies are recommended for decorating the puppet backdrop and puppets.
6. **Ingredients for Biscotti** - The special snack of the week includes common pantry ingredients, which can be gathered to make this treat.
7. **Ingredients for Friendship Bread** - This includes a live yeast starter, which can be ordered online or obtained from a friend.
8. **Ingredients for Stained Glass Window Cookies** - This is another special snack mentioned in the document, requiring specific baking ingredients.
9. **Votive-size candle** - This is listed as part of the supplies needed for a specific lesson involving a candle holder.
10. **Brown paper bags** - These are suggested for a lipid testing station, where students will cut small squares for experiments.

### **Supplies for Second Half of the Year**

1. **For the Rainbows Experiment:**
  - 2 Books
  - 2 Clear Glasses
  - White Paper
2. **For the Biomass Experiment:**
  - A small bag of shelled nuts or beans (or both for comparison)
  - Cork
  - Needle
  - Large metal can (from coffee or juice)
  - Small metal can (like from soup) with label removed
  - Can opener
  - Hammer
  - Metal BBQ skewer
  - Cup of water
  - Thermometer
  - Matches or Lighter

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**3. For the Wind Power Diagram:**

- Drawing materials (specific items not listed, but students will need paper and drawing tools)

**4. For the Cooking Activities:**

- Ingredients for Irish Soda Bread: Flour, Soda, Salt.
- Ingredients for Lentil Soup including various vegetables, chickpeas, white beans, red lentils, and spices like cardamom, garam masala, cumin, and fresh ginger.

**5. For the Special Snack of the Week (Graham Crackers):**

- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 ¼ cups whole wheat flour
- ½ cup light rye flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
- ½ cup (1 stick) cold butter, cut into pea-size bits
- 2 TBS. Honey
- 1 TBS. Molasses
- ¼ Cup Cold Water
- 1 tsp. Vanilla Extract

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**About Main Lesson Books:** Although we provide a supply list, the main lesson books you use can vary according to preference. The only reason we have a list of different main lesson books on the supply list is to provide you with a variety of main lesson book experiences or the option to use different formats. There is no rule as to which book goes with which lesson. Some teachers prefer to use the lined books for writing, and others prefer to use the blank page/lined book combination for writing. Blank page books often work best for math. However, lined books can also be used. Once you become familiar with the main lesson book experience, you can choose your own books according to your preference. To decide on which lesson books you want to use/order, you can use the following list:

1. Main lesson books are used for each different subject. Every time a student does a math lesson or math practice, they write or draw in their math main lesson book. Each time a student does a language lesson, they use their language main lesson book. I usually provide my students with at least one nature journal book and one “free” book (in which they can do whatever they want or practice lessons before they put it into their main book), so base how many books you need on this guideline.
2. There is no rule as to what kind of book you need. I know one Waldorf teacher who has students make their own books with plain paper and yarn. I have seen some teachers use very specific books for each subject. I, personally, prefer the style of book with lines on one side and a blank page on the other side so the student has space to write and draw each day. Although I have seen others use the lined books exclusively (and then just glue or tape in plain paper as needed) and others use just the plain pages only, and either ask students to write without lines or create their own lines before they write.
3. For size, I usually choose the largest size available or at least medium. I find the students have a hard time opening up their creativity with the smaller books. Although a smaller book might work as a nature journal if you are carrying it with you.
4. The only requirement is that the book you create needs to be able to lie flat. Sometimes you can use a piece of the child’s art or wet-on-wet watercolor as the book cover.

**Question from Member:** *When should we start using lined books for writing?*

**Reply from Earthschooling:** We recommend second or third grade, depending on the comfort level of the child. When you do start, begin with wider lines before moving to thinner ones. You can “try them out” in second grade and observe how the child responds. If they are comfortable, then you can continue using them. Some signs of discomfort might be complaining about the restrictions of the lines, consistently writing off the line, or refusal to write in the books.

**Question from Member:** *I am having trouble finding the exact main lesson book that is suggested on the “suggested supply list.”*

**Reply from Earthschooling:** Although we provide a supply list, the main lesson books you use can vary according to preference. The only reason we have a list of different main lesson books on the supply list is to provide you with a variety of main lesson book experiences or the option to use different formats. There is no rule as to which book goes with which lesson. Some teachers prefer to use the lined books for writing, and others prefer to use the blank page/lined book combination for writing. Blank page books often work best for math. However, lined books can also be used. Once you become familiar with the main lesson book experience, you can choose your own books according to your preference.

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## EIGHTH GRADE WRITTEN CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

All items below have a direct link, but can also be accessed by using your [main eighth-grade page](#)

REQUIRED ITEMS	REQUIRED
I have downloaded my curriculum from the eighth-grade page <a href="#">by the year</a> , or I will download <a href="#">each month individually</a> . I understand this is all I need to complete the year and that everything else is extra resources. I understand there is also a page that has all the daily planners individually on an archived (older page) <a href="#">here</a> .	
I understand that if I download the planners by the month that I also need to download the document called "Introduction to All Months" as this will help guide me in using the curriculum. If I download the curriculum by the year, this document is included in that download.	
The videos that come with some of the lesson blocks can only be found on the <a href="#">Individual Lesson Planner Pages</a> , so even if I download the lessons by the year I may still need to use these pages.	
I have downloaded the <a href="#">Ultimate Eighth Grade Written Curriculum Guide</a> PDF. This checklist can be found within this guide so I might be using this file now.	
I understand that <a href="#">EarthschoolingHelp.com</a> is the only place to submit support questions.	
I understand that if I use more lessons beyond the required curriculum, I risk becoming confused or overwhelmed. I will proceed slowly and cautiously through all extra materials. If I start to feel overwhelmed or confused, I will take a step back and consider using only the required lessons or will add extra lessons and teacher education at a much slower pace. Earthschooling provides extra resources, so I have <i>choices</i> , not because they expect me to use them all.	
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BELOW	PRIORITY
I have visited the <a href="#">Teacher Support Page</a> for eighth-grade and have browsed or watched the videos on that page that will help me in my journey (Package Members only – this is not available for Core Bundles)	
I have browsed the <a href="#">START HERE</a> page to become familiar with those resources and have read or listened to the ones that I need at this time.	
ALL EXTRA AND OPTIONAL BELOW	EXTRAS
I have visited the <a href="#">Introduction page</a> for eighth-grade for help with organizing and record keeping.	
I understand that I also have the option to use the archived <a href="#">eighth-grade blocks</a> . However, the material in these blocks is not as complete as the planners.	
I have visited the <a href="#">Teacher Essentials Page</a> and have skimmed through some of the important materials there for future reference such as: Waldorf 101, My Waldorf Year, Member FAQs, Planning Essentials, Classroom Essentials, and more	
I have skimmed the <a href="#">Eighth Grade Music Page</a> to be aware of the extra resources I have there such as charts, sheet music, extra verses, and mp3s	
I am aware of the member galleries <a href="#">here</a> on the Member Gallery page. However, I also know I can access all the member galleries from the EarthschoolingHelp.com page.	
I am aware that Earthschooling provides <a href="#">extra lessons for eighth-grade</a> if I need them on the Extra Lessons page	
I have looked at the optional book list for eighth-grade on the <a href="#">Book List page</a> .	
I am aware that students will need to practice the math they learn in the planners and that Earthschooling provides practice problems on the <a href="#">Math Problems</a> page. However, I am also aware I can find math problems for all grades linked from the EarthschoolingHelp.com page.	
I know where to find the <a href="#">Eighth Grade FAQs page</a> . However, I am also aware I can link to this page from EarthschoolingHelp.com.	
I am aware there is a <a href="#">Cultural Enrichment page</a> for all members and have skimmed the content to be aware of what is available.	