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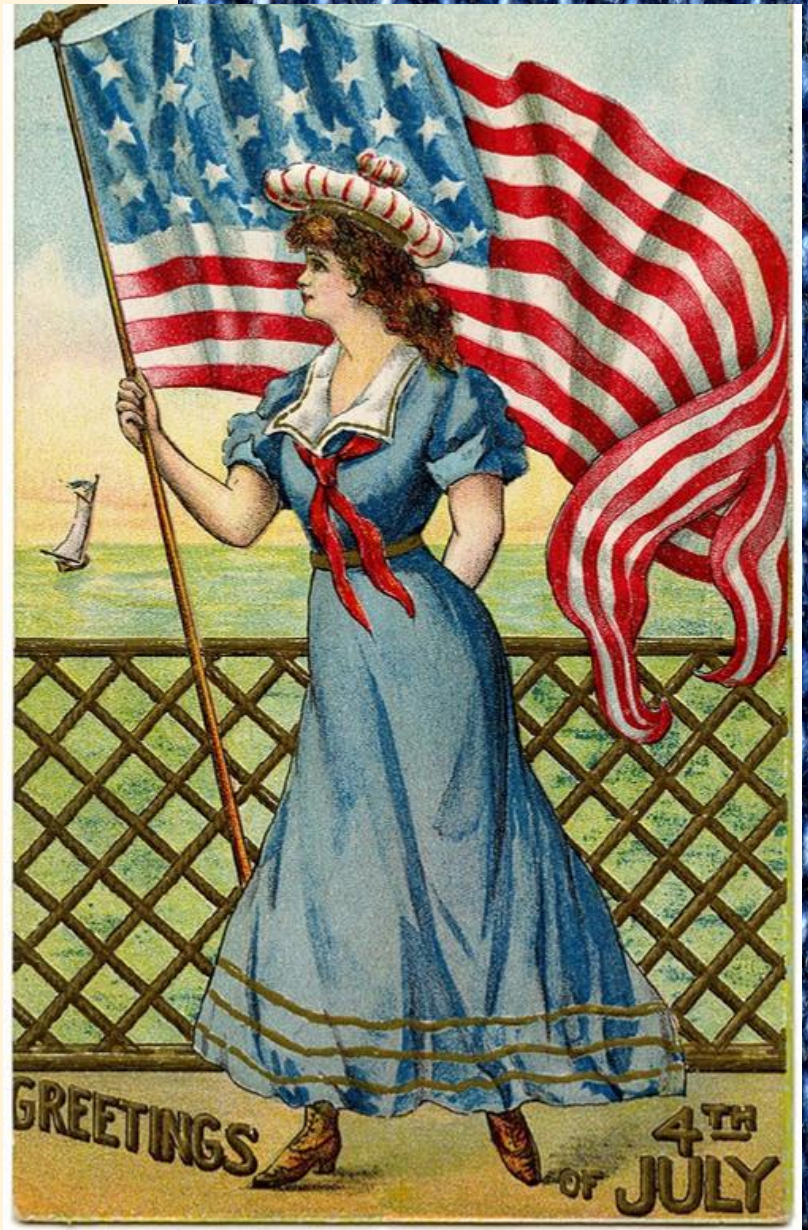




Table of Contents

- 08** **Letter from the Editor**
A reflection on fathers, foundations, faith, and the lasting work of building strong homes.
- 12** **Homeschooling Behind the Badge - Dante Hernandez**
Discover how one Border Patrol family balances service, sacrifice, and home education.
- 20** **More Than a Homeschool Room - Melissa Ebner**
A look inside real homeschool spaces where learning, family life, and creativity come together.
- 28** **Churned by Hand - Melissa Ebner**
Explore the sweet history of ice cream in America, from colonial tables to homemade summer traditions.
- 34** **The Rubik's Cube of Life**
Brad Horswell shares practical wisdom for balancing finances, family, faith, and life's many moving pieces.
- 44** **America at 250**
Celebrate the nation's upcoming 250th birthday with a look at the people, principles, and stories that shaped America.
- 49** **Heritage Kitchen**
Step back in time with a historic recipe and a taste of the past.
- 50** **Texas Rangers**
Follow the remarkable story of the legendary law enforcement agency that helped shape Texas history.
- 55** **Second Breakfast**
A simple summer recipe perfect for slow mornings, family gatherings, and hungry adventurers.
- 

Table of Contents

- 57** **Homeschool Laws**
A quick guide to understanding homeschool freedoms and requirements in Texas.
- 60** **Stories Beneath Our Feet**
Discover how local history can turn ordinary places into unforgettable learning adventures.
- 68** **Picture Studies**
Slow down, observe carefully, and learn to see the stories hidden within great works of art.
- 73** **Words Worth Knowing**
Build your Texas vocabulary with geography and history terms every young Texan should know.
- 75** **Copywork**
Practice handwriting and attention through meaningful words worth remembering.
- 76** **Conversations Worth Having**
Thoughtful questions designed to spark family discussions that matter.
- 78** **Juneteenth**
Learn the story of the day freedom finally reached Texas and why it is still remembered today.
- 82** **Kids Bible Study**
A simple summer devotion to help children grow in faith and biblical understanding.
- 83** **Women's Bible Study**
A seasonal study encouraging women to build their homes on foundations that last.





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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Summer 2026 issue of the Texas Homeschool Magazine

One of the greatest misconceptions about homeschooling is that education happens primarily through curriculum. We spend countless hours researching programs, choosing books, planning lessons, and organizing schedules. Those things certainly matter, but after more than a decade of homeschooling, I have become convinced that the most important lessons our children learn rarely come from a textbook.

They come from the home itself.

Not the house. Not the furniture. Not the homeschool room.

The home.

A home is built on far more than walls and a roof. It is built on the daily habits, values, sacrifices, and examples that shape a family over time. It is built when children learn to speak respectfully, serve others willingly, work diligently, and honor God faithfully. It is built around dinner tables, on front porches, during family devotions, and through countless ordinary moments that often seem insignificant while they are happening.

As homeschool parents, it can be easy to focus on academic goals while overlooking the deeper foundation we are laying beneath them. Long after our children forget multiplication tables or grammar rules, they will remember what it looked like to live inside our home. They will remember how we handled adversity, how we treated one another, and what we believed was worth sacrificing for.

This issue is centered around Fathers & Foundations because strong foundations matter.

A foundation is rarely the most visible part of a structure, but it is always the most important. Without it, everything built above it becomes unstable. The same is true for families. The strength of a home is not determined by its size, income, curriculum choices, or extracurricular activities. It is determined by the character, faith, and values being established within its walls.

Fathers play a vital role in that work. Mothers do too. Homeschooling was never meant to rest entirely on one parent's shoulders. The strongest families are built when both parents actively participate in creating a culture of learning, responsibility, service, and faith. Children thrive when they see mothers and fathers working together toward a shared vision for their family.

As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of America's founding, I have found myself thinking often about foundations. The men and women who came before us understood that lasting communities are built from lasting homes. They knew that strong families create strong towns, strong churches, and ultimately a strong nation.

That truth has not changed.

The future of our communities will not be determined solely by governments, institutions, or policies. It will be shaped by what is happening inside our homes today. By the stories we tell, the traditions we keep, the responsibilities we teach, and the faith we pass down to the next generation.

This summer, I hope you find encouragement in these pages. Whether you are reading about American history, exploring Texas heritage, planning family adventures, or simply gathering inspiration for your homeschool journey, my prayer is that you are reminded of the incredible work you are doing.

The lessons we teach today become the legacy our children carry tomorrow.

May we build homes that are strong, welcoming, faithful, and enduring. May we remember that the most important foundation we can give our children is not found in a curriculum guide or lesson plan, but in a home rooted in faith, character, and love.

Because when the foundation is strong, everything built upon it has the opportunity to last.



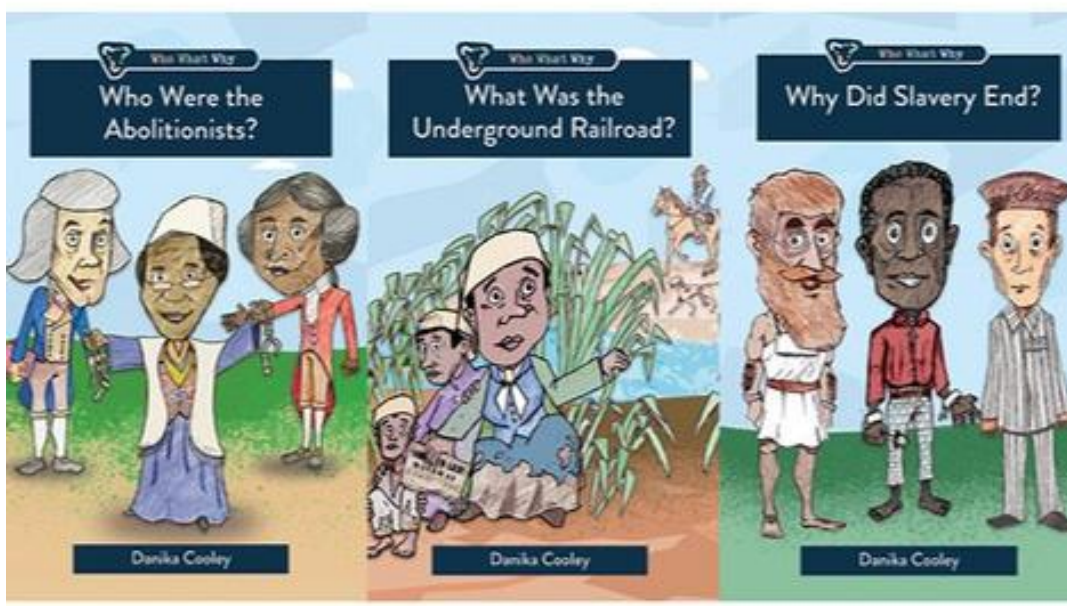
Melissa Ebner





WHO WHAT WHY

THE *Modern* CHURCH



Homeschooling Behind The Badge



Written by - Dante Hernandez

Photography by - Macady Arp - Owner of Rafter A Photography





Anchored

Our days may not look the same as everyone else's, but our children are learning, growing, and thriving in a stable environment.



Life in a law enforcement family is anything but predictable. Schedules change without warning. Holidays do not always look the way you hope they will. Nights can be long, and plans can fall apart in an instant. For our family, this isn't just occasional; it's our normal. And yet, in the middle of all that unpredictability, we found something steady: homeschooling. Homeschooling has become the anchor in our home. When everything else feels like it's shifting, such as schedules, it's the one thing that stays consistent. Our days may not look the same as everyone else's, but our children are learning, growing, and thriving in a stable environment.

Homeschooling has allowed us to move with my husband's schedule instead of constantly working against it. If he works nights, we adjust. If he has a day off mid-week, we take advantage and spend that time together. If a hard shift leaves our home needing a slower morning, we take it. Education in our home isn't rushed or forced. It's intentional, it's flexible, but most importantly, it's present. One of the unexpected blessings of homeschooling has been how it has given our family a way to connect my husband's work to our children's everyday lives. As an EMT with Border Patrol, he's been able to teach in our local co-op, leading a Junior First Aid class. One of our sons is in his class, and it makes it even more special for him to learn from his dad.



When my husband first began his career in Law Enforcement, we knew almost immediately that homeschooling was the best option for our family. His job required our family to move away from our families. We were suddenly thrust not only into a new career but an entirely new city, hundreds of miles away from the support systems we had in place back home. Suddenly, we were forced to learn not only how to navigate the world of law enforcement but also how to maintain the family life that we so desperately desired. Over the years, I have watched as my husband has played an active role in the education of our children. I have seen how something as simple as being present for mid-day school lessons has not only formed a strong bond between him and our children, but also within our marriage. It serves as a subtle reminder that although he may not be able to be present for every event, one thing we can count on is that he will be there when it is time for school.

STEADY

First, create consistency where you can. Your homeschool does not have to be perfect, but it still can be a place of steady rhythm.



Second, give yourself grace on the hard days. There will be days when you feel alone, when emotions are high, and school (or dinner) just doesn't go the way you planned. Those days don't mean you're failing. They mean you're living this life, and you're doing your best.

Third, protect the peace in your home. Our children feel what we carry. The world outside can be heavy, but here, in our homes. We, as mothers and wives, set the tone.



Photography by - Macady Arp - Owner of Rafter A Photography



Finally, hold on to your “why” and lean into your faith. On the days when it feels overwhelming, go back to the reason you chose this path and trust that God has equipped you for it.



Homeschooling for our family is more than education; it's a connection. It's choosing togetherness in a world that constantly pulls families apart. Our life may be unpredictable, but our children's education doesn't have to be. In the middle of the unknown, homeschooling has become our constant, and that has made all the difference.

ROOTED



NEW!

FROM SUNNY HILL FLOWER FARM

Follow the muddy boot prints of a farmer and her friends—Pup, Kitty, and the ducks, 1-2-3.

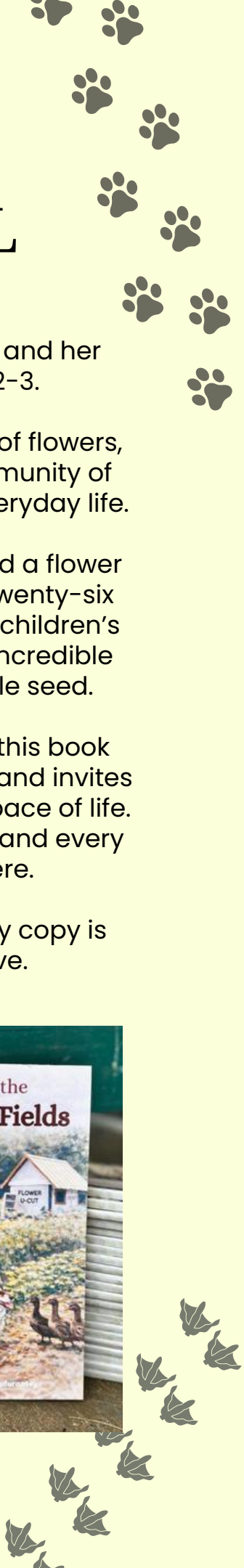
From rainy winter days to lush spring rows of flowers, discover how a family, a farm, and a community of neighbors come together to bring joy to everyday life.

As a Christian, a homeschool graduate, and a flower farmer for over six years, and as an aunt twenty-six times over, I noticed something missing: a children's book that features a flower farm and the incredible wonder that comes from planting a single seed.

Created especially for children ages 2–4, this book brings real photographs taken on the farm and invites young readers into a slower, more natural pace of life. Each image is softly finished in watercolor, and every animal in the story truly has lived here.

Printed and bound right on the farm, every copy is made by hand—and bound with love.

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MORE THAN A SCHOOL ROOM



Featured homeschool space - Carolyn turned an unused extra garage space into a functional homeschool hangout for her family. Storage, learning, and play are all combined into a cozy home base for their family.

By Melissa Ebner

One of the beautiful things about homeschooling is that learning is not confined to a building.

It lives within the rhythm of the home itself.

For some families, homeschooling happens in a dedicated school room filled with shelves, maps, books, and years of carefully gathered supplies. For others, lessons happen at the kitchen table, on the couch during read-aloud time, outside beneath the shade of a tree, or from backpacks carried through busy seasons of life.

And both count.

The strength of a homeschool is not found in matching furniture or magazine-worthy organization. It is found in the consistency, stability, and purpose built within the family itself. A homeschool space should support your family, not overwhelm it.

Children do not need perfection in order to learn well. They need rhythm. Familiarity. Guidance. A place where books can be found, conversations can happen, and curiosity is welcomed

MORE THAN A SCHOOL ROOM

Some of the most meaningful homeschooling moments happen far beyond a traditional classroom setting:

- reading together during long road trips
- practicing math while baking in the kitchen
- journaling outdoors
- studying history at museums and historic sites
- completing lessons during unexpected seasons of transition or travel

Homeschooling is flexible because family life is not static.

Sometimes learning happens in beautifully designed rooms. Sometimes it happens from folding tables, clipboards, library books, and backpacks packed for the road.

The room may change.
The mission does not.

As you look through the homeschool spaces featured in these pages, we hope you find inspiration — not pressure. Every family represented here has created something unique to serve their season of life and the children within their home.

Because ultimately, the goal is not to build a perfect classroom.

It is to build a home where learning, character, faith, and family can grow together.



Multi-purpose space with different zones for kids to spread out. (Imaginative play area above)

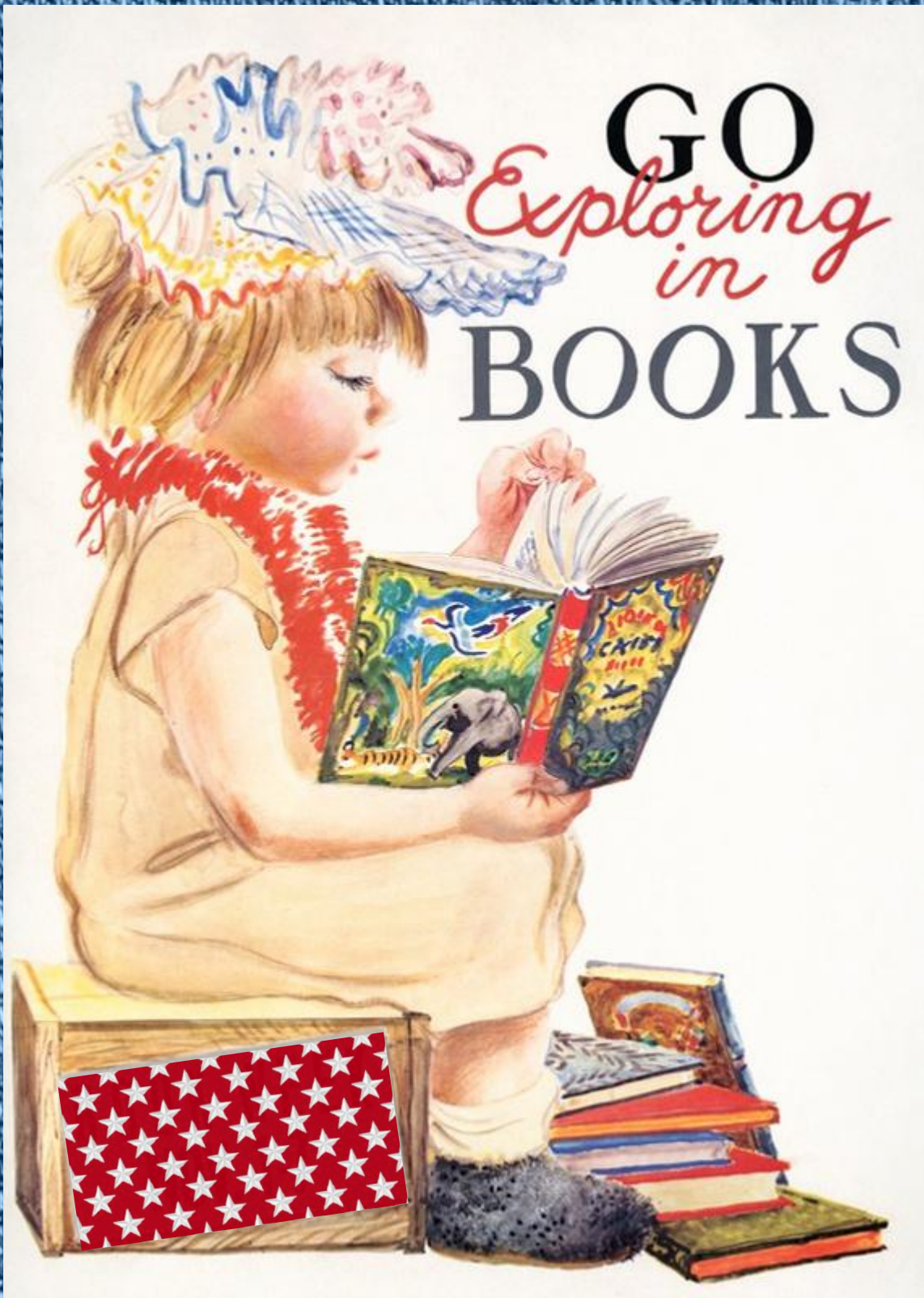


Projector screen on the converted garage door to use for videos and microscope slide views.



Open shelving to keep games and manipulatives in sight to maximize use.

GO
Exploring
in
BOOKS







Family Room Co-op lessons



Family Room dissections



Themed binder organization



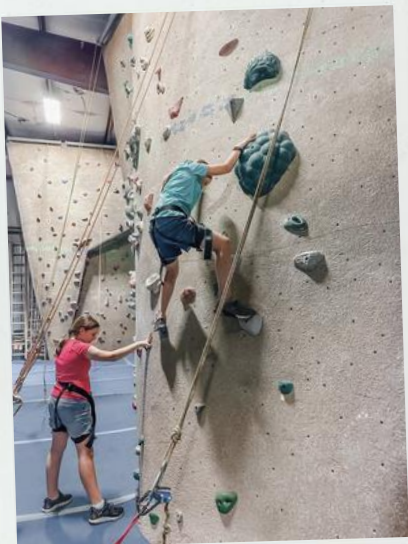
Nature as the classroom- Front yard in the fall with friends



Clouds and trees observations after a snow - Nature classroom



Nature as the classroom- Dinosaur valley State Park



Rock Climbing adventure for PE class



History class on a battleship



Read alouds in family room



math in waiting rooms



Kinder craft cubby in living room



welding class in the shop



Rolling carts for supplies



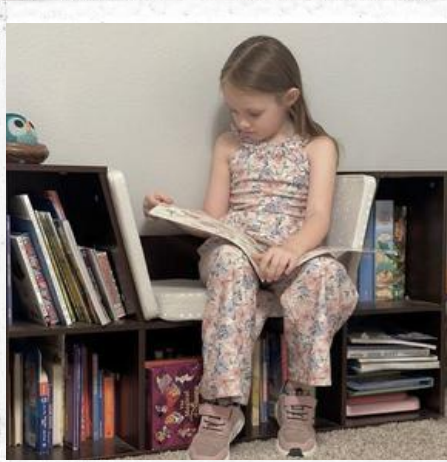
EFFORT * EXCELLENCE * EVERY DAY
COLOSSIANS 3 23



classroom in dining room



Learning on the road in an RV



A quiet reading moment in a little home library space



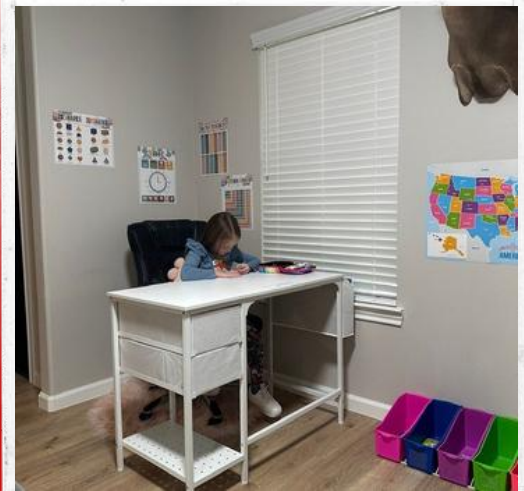
summer



Creating and using own homeschool materials through KinderBoost



Hands-on learning with movement and phonics practice using fun floor activities



homeschool space with dedicated desks for focused learning and daily work



Craft room turned learning space





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Churned By Hand

The Sweet History of Ice Cream in America

By Melissa Ebner

Some of my earliest memories involve chocolate ice cream and my grandpa.

Before I could spell my own name, I could spell ICE CREAM.

It was such a regular part of our visits that my grandparents learned to spell the words instead of saying them out loud in front of me. Like most toddlers, if I heard the words "ice cream," I immediately wanted some. Their solution was to spell it.

The funny thing is that it worked a little too well.

Before I could spell my own name, I could spell I-C-E - C-R-E-A-M.

Ice cream wasn't just a treat in our family. It was part of the rhythm of childhood.

Summer afternoons meant playing outside until the Texas heat finally drove us toward the shade. I can still remember splashing around in a little blue plastic pool wearing a red polka-dot swimsuit while the sprinkler sprayed across the yard.

On the back porch sat an old refrigerator stocked with Push Pops, sundae cups, and other frozen treasures delivered by the Schwan's truck. On other days, we'd wait and listen for the familiar music of the ice cream truck getting closer and closer, then race barefoot toward the stop sign to buy a Bomb Pop before it moved on to the next neighborhood.

Of course, who am I kidding? Here in the South, Blue Bell isn't just a summer tradition—it's a year-round staple. But there is something about summer that seems to make ice cream taste just a little better.

For generations, families have gathered around bowls of homemade ice cream, celebrated birthdays with an extra scoop, cooled off after long days outside, and created memories around a dessert that has become woven into the fabric of American life.


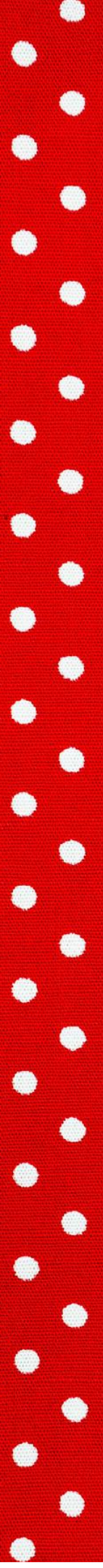
What many people don't realize is that ice cream has a history nearly as rich as the dessert itself.

HERITAGE FACT

Presidential Sweet Tooth

George Washington reportedly spent approximately \$200 on ice cream during the summer of 1790—worth several thousand dollars today.





Long before freezer aisles and neighborhood ice cream trucks, frozen desserts were considered a luxury enjoyed by wealthy families and government leaders.

Quaker colonists brought European ice cream recipes to the American colonies during the early 1700s. By the time of the American Revolution, ice cream had become popular among some of the nation's most influential figures, including Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson.

Jefferson later preserved one of America's earliest surviving ice cream recipes after returning from France.

Ice cream continued growing in popularity throughout the early nineteenth century. In 1813, First Lady Dolley Madison served ice cream at President James Madison's inaugural celebration, helping establish the dessert as a fashionable American treat.

In 1832, Philadelphia confectioner Augustus Jackson developed improved recipes and manufacturing techniques that helped shape America's growing ice cream industry.

Then, in 1843, Nancy M. Johnson patented the first hand-cranked ice cream freezer. Her invention allowed ordinary families to make ice cream at home and helped transform the dessert from a luxury into a beloved family tradition.

HERITAGE FACT

Founding Fathers Favorite

Thomas Jefferson is credited with preserving one of America's earliest surviving ice cream recipes after returning from France. The handwritten recipe remains part of the Library of Congress collections today.



AMERICA'S ICE CREAM TIMELINE

- ***Before 1700s***

Frozen desserts made from snow, ice, fruit, and sweet syrups were enjoyed in parts of Europe and Asia long before modern ice cream existed.

- ***Early 1770s***

European settlers bring ice cream recipes to the American colonies, where the dessert remains a rare luxury.

- ***1813***

Dolley Madison serves ice cream at an inaugural celebration.

- ***1832***

Augustus Jackson improves ice cream manufacturing.

- ***1843***

Nancy Johnson patents the hand-cranked ice cream freezer.

- ***Late 1800s***

Advances in refrigeration and the commercial ice trade allow ice cream to become more widely available across the country.

- ***Early 1900s***

Ice cream parlors, soda fountains, and ice cream cones help transform the frozen treat into a beloved part of everyday American life.

- ***Today***

Americans consume billions of servings of ice cream each year, making it one of the nation's most popular desserts.

Texas has its own rich ice cream story.

In 1889, the Purity Ice Cream Company opened in Galveston, becoming Texas's first major commercial ice cream manufacturer.

A few years later, in 1907, a cooperative of dairy farmers formed the Brenham Creamery Company to make use of excess milk. By 1911, the company had converted an old cotton gin into a creamery and began producing small batches of hand-churned ice cream delivered by horse and buggy.

In 1930, the company adopted a new name inspired by one of Texas's most recognizable wildflowers: Blue Bell.

As refrigerated trucks replaced horse-drawn deliveries and demand continued to grow, Blue Bell became one of the most recognized ice cream brands in the country.

Today, visitors can still travel to Brenham and learn about the history of the company that became a Texas tradition.

Texas Scoop

- **1889**

Purity Ice Cream Company was founded in Galveston in 1889, making it Texas' first large-scale commercial ice cream manufacturer.

- **1907**

Brenham Creamery Company is founded.

- **1911**

Hand-churned ice cream deliveries begin.

- **1930**

The company adopts the name Blue Bell Creameries.

- **1936**

Refrigerated delivery trucks replace wagons.

- **1958**

Blue Bell focuses exclusively on ice cream.

- **1986**

Continental Airlines flies Blue Bell nationwide during its anniversary celebration.

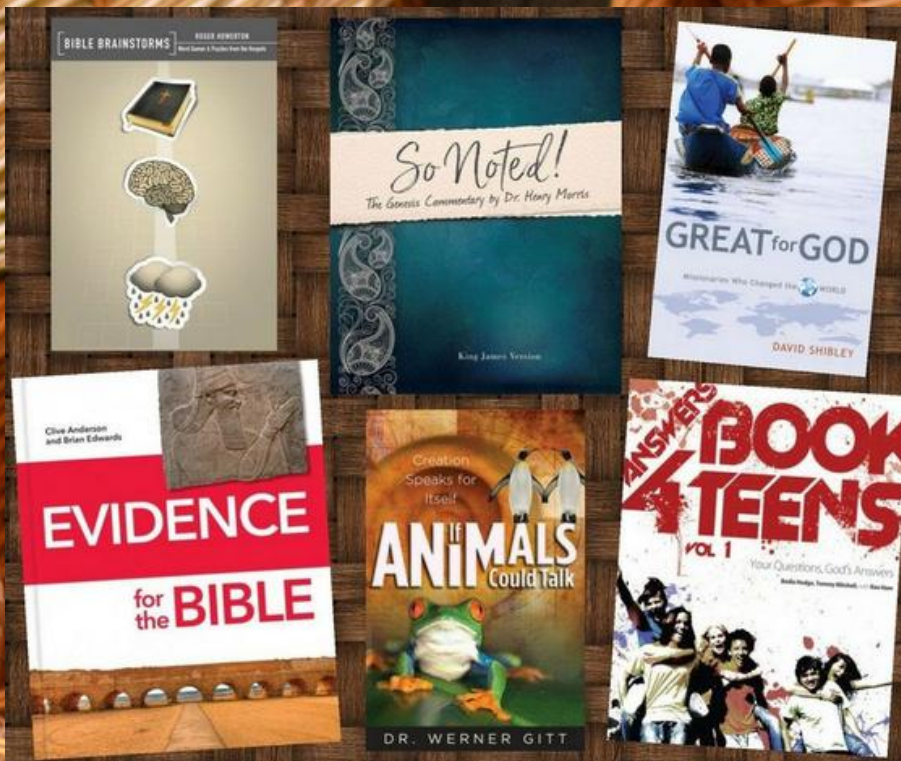
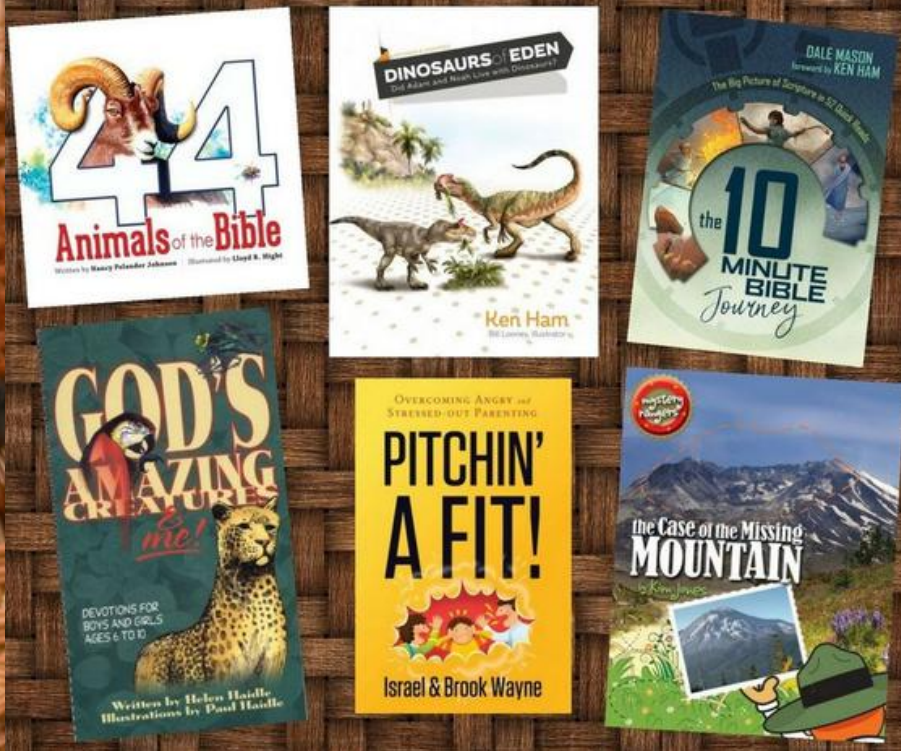
- **Today**

Blue Bell remains a beloved Texas institution.



While the methods have changed from hand-cranked freezers to modern factories, the reason families enjoy ice cream remains much the same. Whether it's a scoop shared on the front porch, a Bomb Pop on a hot summer afternoon, or a family trip to Brenham, ice cream continues to create memories one generation at a time.

Morning Baskets





IT'S MORE THAN EDUCATION
It's a Calling

Being a homeschool dad has been one of the greatest blessings in my life. It's given me the opportunity to spend real, meaningful time with my boys, not just watching them grow, but actively shaping who they become. I get to teach them what manhood looks like, instill an entrepreneurial mindset, and guide them in a way that aligns with our faith and values. Instead of the world defining who God is to them, I have the responsibility and privilege to lead them toward a true, godly understanding. There's nothing more rewarding than building that foundation side by side every day.

- *Anthony Gregory*



photography credit Daniel Grove Photography



FILM NEGATIVE



FILM NEGATIVE

FILM NEGATIVE

Homeschooling was something my wife and I each felt called to consider, and when we came together to talk and pray about it, we felt the Lord clearly confirm that it was the best decision for our family. While my wife serves as the primary teacher for our boys, I stay actively involved. When I get home from work, I often ask, "What did you learn today?" or "Can you show me what you learned?" to help reinforce the lessons, concepts, and principles she's been teaching.

From time to time, I also step in to teach them myself, offering a different perspective and style. This gives our boys the opportunity to receive instruction in a variety of ways, helping deepen their understanding and engagement.

Terrence Raby



The Rubik's Cube of Homeschool

**FULL TIME W-2 EMPLOYMENT +
FAMILY BUSINESS +
ENRICHED HOMESCHOOL EXPERIENCE**

By Brad Horswell

Having two working spouses while homeschooling is overwhelming, in and of itself. However, an entirely different level of complexity is layered on top when you mix in a family business. It is safe to say that trying to mix and mingle these dynamics together is, at the bare minimum, a head scratcher, but is more realistically equivalent to cracking a Rubik's Cube. In fact, it can seem not only impossible, but rather outright hopeless. This piece will resonate well whether you are currently facing this situation, are trying to figure out how to start homeschooling, or want to start a viable business while homeschooling. This piece is also tailored for homeschool dads, anyone who knows someone facing these dynamics, or anyone who is just flat out exhausted with the disorder and chaos of homeschool in general. My prayer is that this will shed a light of encouragement that all things are possible with Christ, and that there IS hope for your situation!

HOMESCHOOLING WITH TWO WORKING PARENTS REQUIRES STRATEGY, SACRIFICE, AND FAITH.

The million-dollar questions for this Rubik's Cube of homeschool are...how in the world do you have one parent working full-time employment, the other parent running a viable business, and also ensure that your homeschoolers are receiving an enriched learning experience? Most importantly, how do you do it while maintaining a spiritually healthy home that is honoring to God? To answer these million-dollar questions, I would like to share a little bit about myself and our story of how our family began to crack this Rubik's Cube.

I'm a husband, father of 2 young boys, entrepreneur/business owner, homeschool dad, and tribe leader for our homeschooling household. I studied comprehensive financial planning at Texas Tech University, and completed my bachelor's degree at Houston Christian University in business administration and management. I started my career in banking, where I was responsible for multiple bank operations for close to 10 years. My role in banking was focused on leadership, building and managing teams, operations, compliance, credit / lending, consumer / business banking, business development, and client relationship management.

During that time, the Lord blessed me with extensive knowledge and expertise related to both the single-family household and small business. In 2015, the Lord led our family to take a major step of faith into fulfilling a lifelong dream that I had for entrepreneurship. Over the last 10 years, I dedicated myself to enduring the trials and tribulations of simultaneously building a successful residential real estate brokerage and independent insurance agency from scratch. To God be the glory! During this time, the Lord grew an overwhelming desire in both of our hearts to homeschool our boys. We kept trying to figure out a way to "pull it off." However, it seemed to be a bit of a Rubik's cube with two young boys, my wife working full time, and me running two businesses. Needless to say, we had to make extremely challenging decisions to see this desire come to fruition.

The Lord brought our family together as a tribe with a shared purpose and vision.

**Is life perfect?
Of course not!
There will
always be
highs and lows.
Our tribe is a
constant work
in progress that
is growing and
transforming
daily.**

At the onset, we identified that it was mandatory for me to adapt my business model so that I would be able to work from home. This would allow me to be able to lead and oversee the homeschool operation, and it was an incredibly difficult change to make. I spent the last 10 years building a real estate brokerage from scratch into a viable business, and I had a big vision for the future. The issue is that real estate is a demanding business that requires your ultimate attention when the client needs it. Considering that I knew I would have to make a serious sacrifice if we were going to follow the desire that God had planted in our hearts.

During this season, the Lord revealed to me a much bigger vision and calling on my life, and it became clear that I would not be able to accommodate real estate any longer. We spent three years doing an intensive God-sized audit of our life and business. This was necessary to design a strategic framework for our tribe to be able to crack this Rubik's Cube and successfully pivot. This God-sized audit felt like the proverbial threshing floor that is referenced in scripture.

There were many gut-wrenching days when I had to make more sacrifices to a business that I spent 10 years building from the ground up through blood, sweat, and tears. With this metamorphosis, the Lord has brought our family together as a tribe with a shared purpose and vision in a very transformative way. A shared purpose and vision that is centered on the advancement of His Kingdom, and raising boys who are sharply prepared arrows to go out in these last days. Is life perfect? Of course not! There will always be highs and lows. Our tribe is a constant work in progress that is growing and transforming daily.

So, how did we do it besides changing the business model? This is in no way an all-encompassing list. However, I wanted to share some key aspects that allowed us to begin to crack the code of "The Rubik's Cube of Homeschool!"

Full Trust & Faith in Christ - This is only possible with Christ as the head of your operation! You may be able to "figure it out" on your own, but you won't be able to do it in a way that is spiritually healthy for your family and honoring to Him.

Tribe Framework & Leadership – This is the secret sauce to cracking the Rubik’s Cube under complete submission to Christ. Building a strategic framework to lead and manage your tribe is required to create the necessary order for your family to remain spiritually healthy and honoring to God! Our God is not a God of disorder, and it is the husband’s responsibility to lead and oversee this aspect of the tribe – in full partnership with the wife. In Christ, the husband and wife are one, and it is paramount that both come together in partnership to create, establish, and install this framework.

Financial Planning – We had to do a complete 360 of our financial plan in order to make the cuts required to the business model and take on the additional homeschool financial responsibilities. A few of the key items in that scope involved a comprehensive expense analysis, analyzing our cash flow, and revising our plan to accommodate the changes to our operation.

Life Insurance Planning – We realized homeschool presents unique life insurance needs. We had to make adjustments to our life insurance plan to protect the continuity of our homeschool operation. This is something that every homeschool family should be thinking about, and is true whether or not you have a business. It’s not a problem until it’s a problem. However, when it’s a problem...it’s a really big problem, and at that point it’s too late. This is not something to procrastinate in your tribe’s framework!

Learning System – We leverage an online Christian curriculum for our boys foundational learning, and we built a custom learning framework for advanced learning & discipleship. With our setup, we aren’t able to teach the day-to-day foundational learning. However, the reality is that sacrifice is unavoidable to solve this Rubik’s Cube. Despite that, we’re still heavily engaged in their foundational learning, and we’re able to focus all of our teaching effort on intensive discipleship and advanced learning. Through this system, our boys are able to get an even more enriched homeschool learning experience.

Dad’s Role – My time is dedicated to leading our tribe in our framework, overseeing foundational learning plans during the day, one-on-one advanced learning, one-on-one intensive discipleship, and one-on-one development. This is woven through the day, in the evenings, and on the weekends. The early mornings, the core day, later in the evenings, and weekends are focused on managing the business.

When you have alignment, it pulls the whole tribe together toward your shared purpose and vision.

Mom's Role - Mom helps support the tribe's needs in the early mornings, works her full-time job during the core business day, and handles all of the foundational learning schedules, grading, feedback, and one-on-one teaching in the evenings/weekends. She is also involved in discipleship and development during that time.

Kids' Role - Both boys are highly engaged in adding value to our tribe's framework. Our oldest son plays a vital role, and our youngest is adding more and more value by the day! All hands have to be on deck and in alignment with the framework. When you have alignment, it pulls the whole tribe together towards your shared purpose and vision!

I hope that you are encouraged by our personal homeschooling journey and have gained valuable insights! Be on the lookout for my column in the next edition, where I will expand on how to build a strategic framework for your tribe! Check out our free homeschool operations management emergency line - **"The H.O.M.E Line."** Follow the QR Code on page 7 to learn more.



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An American flag is flying on a wooden pole. The pole is attached to a brick wall on the left side of the image. The flag is positioned diagonally, with the top corner near the top right of the frame. The background shows a clear blue sky and some green foliage. The text is overlaid on the flag and sky.

**IF THE
FOUNDATIONS
BE DESTROYED,
WHAT CAN
THE
RIGHTEOUS DO?**

PSALM 11:3



More Valuable Than Anything in the Attic

Some inherit furniture, land, or family heirlooms. The greatest gifts are often the things that cannot be held in your hands.

Pass Down:

- A strong work ethic
 - Family stories
 - Good manners
 - A love of reading
 - Faith and prayer
 - Respect for others
 - Family recipes
- The habit of helping neighbors
 - Patriotism and gratitude
 - Time spent together
- Knowledge of where your family came from
 - The courage to do what is right
 - The ability to fix things with your hands
- The understanding that character matters more than comfort
 - Traditions worth repeating

**Wherever you
are, be all there!
Live to the hilt
every situation
you believe to
be the will of
God.**

-Jim Elliot

Summer Traditions Worth Keeping

The best summer memories are rarely the expensive ones.

- Homemade ice cream on the porch
- Catching lightning bugs at dusk
- Reading books under a shade tree
- Watching a Fourth of July parade
- Camping in the backyard
- Watermelon seed spitting contests
- Family game nights
- Fishing at a local pond
- Visiting a historic site
- Making s'mores around a fire
- Writing postcards to grandparents
- Flying a kite on a windy day
- Picking berries or visiting a farmers market
- Watching a summer thunderstorm from the porch
- Taking a family road trip
- Eating breakfast outside
- Looking for constellations after dark
- Taking a walk after dinner
- Watching a hometown baseball game
- Creating traditions your children will someday repeat

A tradition doesn't have to be old to become part of a family's heritage.



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AMERICA AT 250

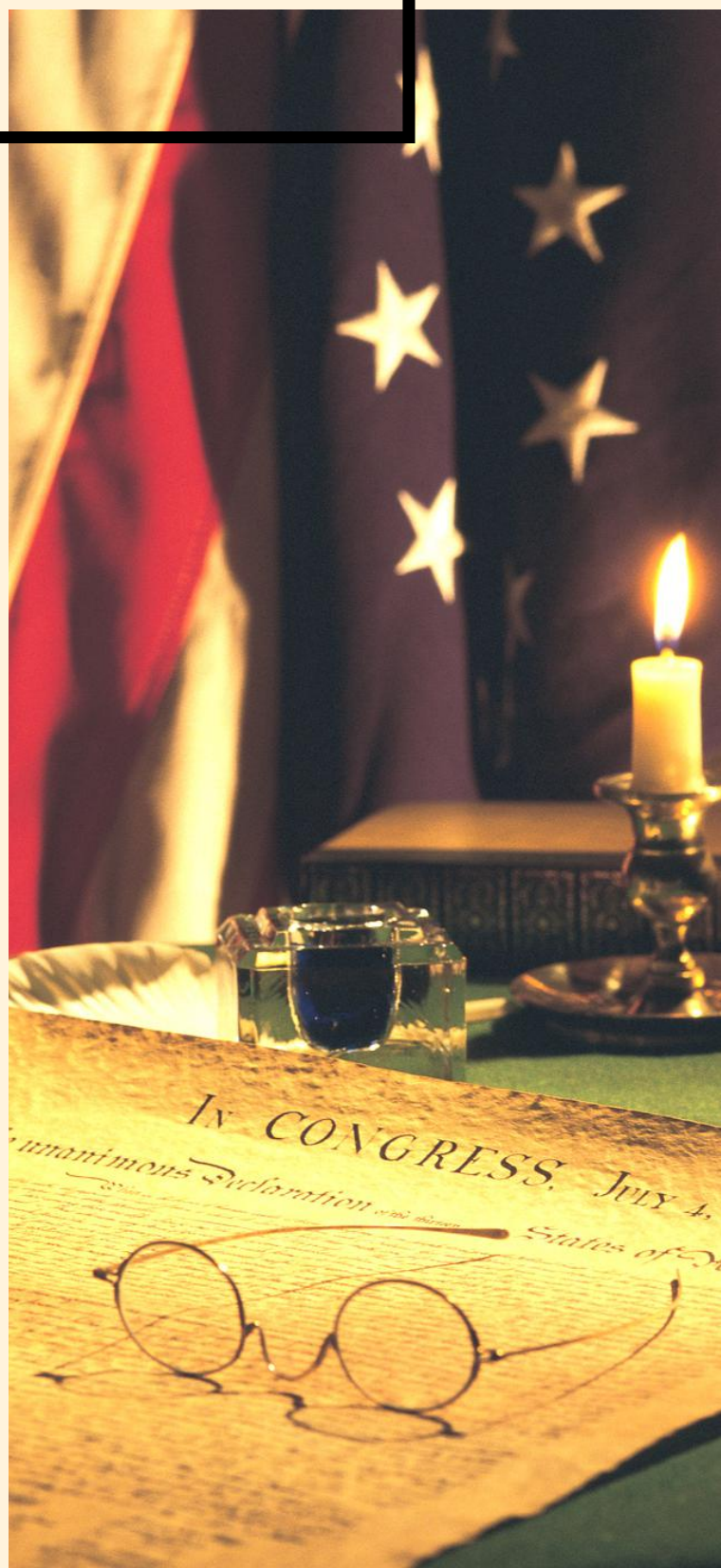
A Nation Built One Generation at a Time
A Foundation Worth Celebrating


In 2026, America celebrates its 250th birthday.

For two and a half centuries, generations of Americans have built homes, raised families, served their communities, and passed their values to the next generation. While history books often focus on presidents, battles, and famous events, the story of America has always been larger than any single leader or moment.

Before America became a nation, it was a collection of families working to build a future. Parents taught children to read, work hard, care for others, and take responsibility. Communities gathered in churches, schools, town squares, and family homes. These everyday foundations helped shape the character of a young nation.

When the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776, it announced a bold idea: that human rights come from the Creator and that people have the ability to govern themselves. Those principles would become part of the American story for generations to come.





**THE
FOUNDERS
BUILT A
NATION.
GENERATIONS
OF FAMILIES
BUILT ITS
FUTURE.**

When the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776, it announced a bold idea: that human rights come from the Creator and that people have the ability to govern themselves. Those principles would become part of the American story for generations to come.

As we celebrate 250 years of American history, we remember not only the founders who helped establish the nation but also the countless families who carried those ideals forward.

**AMERICA BY THE
NUMBERS**

- **250 YEARS SINCE THE
DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE**
- **50 STATES**
- **MORE THAN 340
MILLION CITIZENS**
- **THE CONSTITUTION
REMAINS THE OLDEST
WRITTEN NATIONAL
CONSTITUTION STILL IN
USE**

FIVE FOUNDATIONS OF THE AMERICAN STORY

Faith

For many early Americans, faith shaped daily life and community. Churches often served as gathering places, schools, and centers of local life.

Family

Families have long been America's first classroom. Values, traditions, and practical skills were often learned at home long before they appeared in textbooks.

Freedom

The desire for liberty helped shape the American experiment. The freedoms of speech, worship, and self-government remain central to the nation's identity.

Work

Farmers, ranchers, craftsmen, entrepreneurs, and workers helped build America through dedication, innovation, and perseverance.

Service

Generations of Americans have served their communities, their neighbors, and their country. Service remains one of the nation's strongest traditions.



Places Every Family Should Know

Some places help tell the story of America more clearly than words ever could.

Independence Hall in Philadelphia is where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were debated and adopted.

Mount Vernon the home of George Washington, offers a glimpse into the life of the nation's first president and the challenges of leading a new country.

The National Archives preserves America's founding documents, allowing future generations to see the words that helped shape the nation.

These landmarks remind us that history is not only something we read about—it is something we can visit, explore, and share with our children.

What Will We Pass Down?

Anniversaries invite us to look backward, but they also challenge us to look ahead. The founders understood that a free nation depends on citizens of character. Laws and documents matter, but the future is ultimately shaped by the people who live them out each day.

The lessons children learn around dinner tables, the stories shared by grandparents, the skills taught by parents, and the traditions preserved by families all become part of the nation's future.

As homeschool families, we have a unique opportunity to connect the next generation with the people, places, and ideas that shaped America. More importantly, we can help them understand that history is not finished.

America's story is still being written.

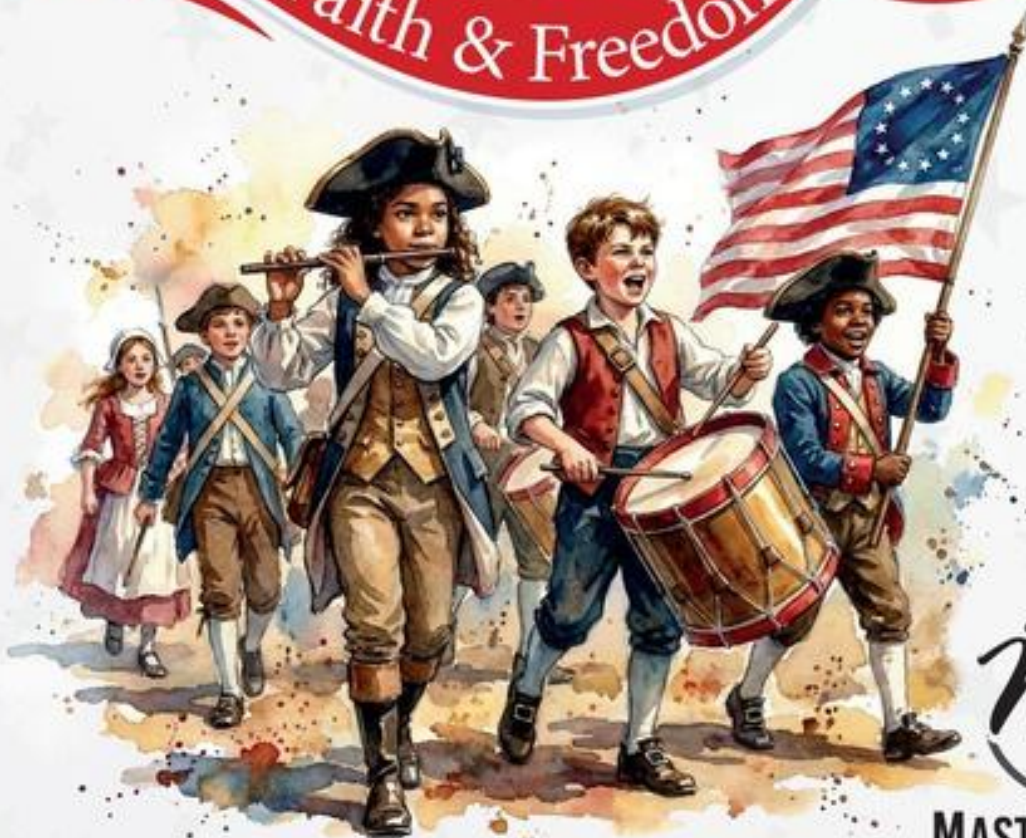
And every generation has the responsibility—and the privilege—of deciding what comes next.



AMERICA at

250

Faith & Freedom



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HERITAGE KITCHEN

Founding Fathers Parmesan Ice Cream

Historic Recipe (1789)

"Take six eggs, half a pint of syrup and a pint of cream; put them into a stewpan and boil them until it begins to thicken; then rasp three ounces of parmesan cheese, mix and pass them through a sieve, and freeze it."

— Frederick Nutt, *The Complete Confectioner*, 1789

Modern Kitchen Adaptation

Ingredients

- 6 large eggs
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup simple syrup
- 3 ounces freshly grated Parmesan cheese
-

Instructions

- In a saucepan, whisk together the eggs, cream, and simple syrup.
- Cook over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture thickens into a custard and coats the back of a spoon.
- Remove from heat and stir in the grated Parmesan cheese.
- Strain through a fine-mesh sieve.
- Chill completely in the refrigerator.
- Freeze according to your ice cream maker's instructions.
- Serve immediately or freeze until firm.

From the Past

Before ice cream became America's favorite summer dessert, frozen treats often featured flavors that would surprise modern tastes. During the late 1700s, fashionable European cookbooks included recipes flavored with fruits, flowers, spices, nuts, and even cheese. While Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington are all known to have enjoyed ice cream, recipes like this one remind us that early ice cream was often more adventurous than the vanilla and chocolate flavors we know today.



Ice cream was considered a luxury during the Founding Era. Without electric freezers, cooks relied on ice harvested during winter and stored in ice houses. Wealthy households sometimes served elaborate frozen desserts at dinners and celebrations, introducing guests to flavors that ranged from fruit and chocolate to Parmesan cheese.

FRONTIER DEFENDERS AND TEXAS LEGENDS

TEXAS RANGERS



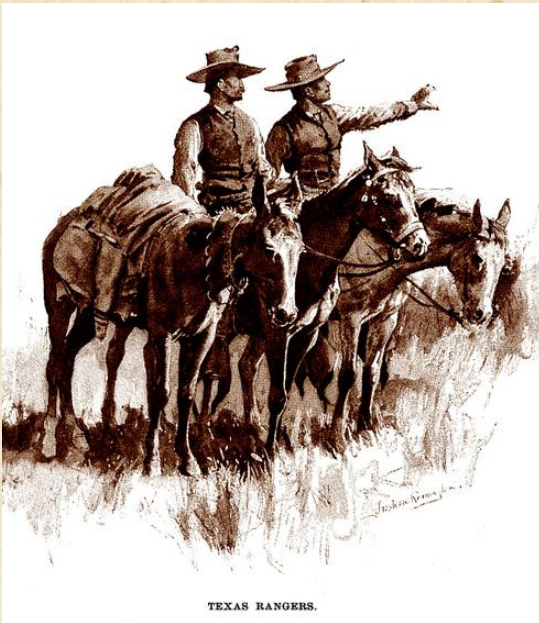
Long before highways crossed Texas and cities stretched across the horizon, the land was a rugged frontier. Settlers lived far apart, communication was slow, and help was often miles away. To meet the challenges of life on the frontier, a small group of mounted volunteers was organized in 1823 by Stephen F. Austin. Those volunteers would eventually become one of the most famous law enforcement agencies in American history: the Texas Rangers.

The early Rangers were not professional police officers. They were farmers, hunters, ranchers, and frontiersmen who agreed to patrol settlements and help protect families living in Mexican Texas. Their name came from their duty to “range” across the countryside, traveling long distances on horseback to watch for danger and carry messages between communities.

As Texas grew, so did the Rangers’ responsibilities. They served as scouts during the Texas Revolution and later helped enforce the law across a rapidly expanding state. Their ability to travel quickly, navigate difficult terrain, and operate in remote areas earned them a reputation for toughness and determination.

Stories of the Rangers spread across Texas and beyond, becoming part of the state's identity. Yet their history is more than legend. The Rangers played important roles in many chapters of Texas history, and their story reflects both the triumphs and challenges of the state itself.

More than two centuries after their founding, the Texas Rangers remain active today, continuing a tradition that began on the Texas frontier.



1823 — Stephen F. Austin organizes mounted volunteers.

1835–1836 — Rangers serve during the Texas Revolution.

1874 — Frontier Battalion established.

1935 — Rangers join the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Today — Rangers investigate major crimes across Texas.

THE HISTORY OF THE TEXAS RANGERS IS, IN MANY WAYS, THE HISTORY OF TEXAS ITSELF.

Riding the Frontier

Life on the Texas frontier demanded resilience. Settlements were often separated by great distances, roads were few, and law enforcement was limited. Rangers traveled on horseback through prairies, forests, deserts, and river crossings, often carrying only the supplies they could pack with them.

Their work included scouting routes, delivering information, tracking criminals, and helping protect isolated communities. Rangers needed strong riding skills, knowledge of the land, and the ability to make decisions far from assistance.

Their work included scouting routes, delivering information, tracking criminals, and helping protect isolated communities. Rangers needed strong riding skills, knowledge of the land, and the ability to make decisions far from assistance.

As settlers moved westward, the Rangers followed. They patrolled transportation routes, pursued outlaw gangs, and responded wherever their services were needed. Unlike local lawmen tied to a single town, Rangers could operate across large regions of Texas.

Dave Raymond's
American History

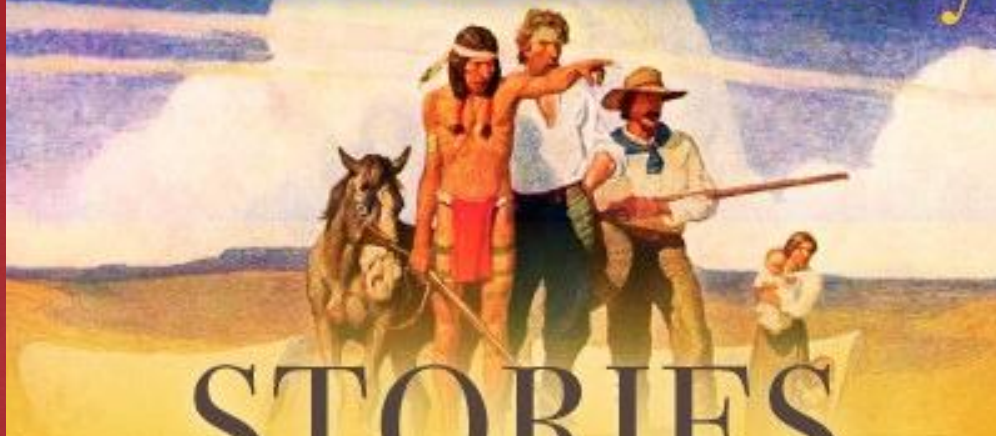


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The image of a Ranger on horseback became one of the enduring symbols of the Texas frontier. Museums throughout the state preserve the saddles, firearms, badges, and personal belongings that tell the story of these early lawmen and the world they helped shape.

Did You Know?

Many early Rangers provided their own horses, weapons, and equipment.

**A RANGER'S
GEAR OFTEN
REFLECTED BOTH
THE DEMANDS OF
FRONTIER LIFE
AND THE
INDIVIDUAL WHO
CARRIED IT.**

From Frontier Force to Modern Investigators

As Texas changed, so did the Rangers. The arrival of railroads, growing cities, and improved communication reduced the need for frontier patrols. Instead, Rangers increasingly focused on investigations and specialized law enforcement work.

In 1935, the Texas Rangers became part of the Texas Department of Public Safety. This transition helped shape the modern organization while preserving many of its traditions. Today, Rangers investigate major crimes, public corruption cases, officer-involved shootings, organized criminal activity, and unsolved cold cases. They frequently assist local agencies with complex investigations that require additional resources or expertise.





One of the most recognizable symbols of the organization is the Texas Ranger badge. Traditionally crafted from a Mexican five-peso silver coin, each badge is individually made and reflects the long heritage of Ranger service. No two badges are exactly alike.

Modern Rangers rely on forensic science, advanced technology, and investigative training, yet they remain connected to a history that stretches back more than 200 years.



Texas Ranger Museum - Waco, Texas

The Legacy of the Texas Rangers

The Texas Rangers hold a unique place in the story of Texas. Their image appears in museums, books, films, and historical exhibits across the state, helping preserve the memory of the frontier era and the people who lived through it.

For historians, the Rangers offer an opportunity to explore the complexities of Texas history. Their story includes courage, service, hardship, and change. Studying their history helps us better understand the development of Texas and the challenges faced by those who lived on the frontier.

For homeschool families, the Rangers provide a natural doorway into Texas history. Students can study geography, historical documents, artifacts, transportation, settlement patterns, and the evolution of law enforcement. A single topic can connect history, civics, writing, and critical thinking.

More than two hundred years after their founding, the Texas Rangers remain one of the most recognizable institutions in Texas. Their story continues to remind us how people and places helped shape the state we know today.

Family Discussion Questions

1. Why were the Texas Rangers originally organized?
2. How did the Rangers' responsibilities change over time?
3. What skills would have been important for a frontier Ranger?
4. How can artifacts help us understand history?

COMING SOON

Texas Rangers Unit Study

Explore timelines, primary sources, notebooking pages, geography activities, and hands-on learning through an upcoming Texas Legacy Learning unit study.

“SECOND BREAKFAST”

Patriotic Breakfast Toast Board

A simple summer breakfast inspired by America's colors.

Fresh berries, creamy cheese, and a drizzle of honey turn ordinary toast into a festive breakfast that's perfect for summer mornings. Whether you're celebrating Independence Day, hosting friends, or simply enjoying a slow breakfast at home, this colorful board is easy for children to help prepare and fun for the whole family to enjoy.



Ingredients

- 8 slices thick-cut bread, toasted
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- Honey for drizzling
- Bananas

One of the simplest ways to make family memories is by turning ordinary meals into special occasions. A colorful breakfast board invites children into the kitchen, encourages creativity, and creates a moment of celebration before the day begins.

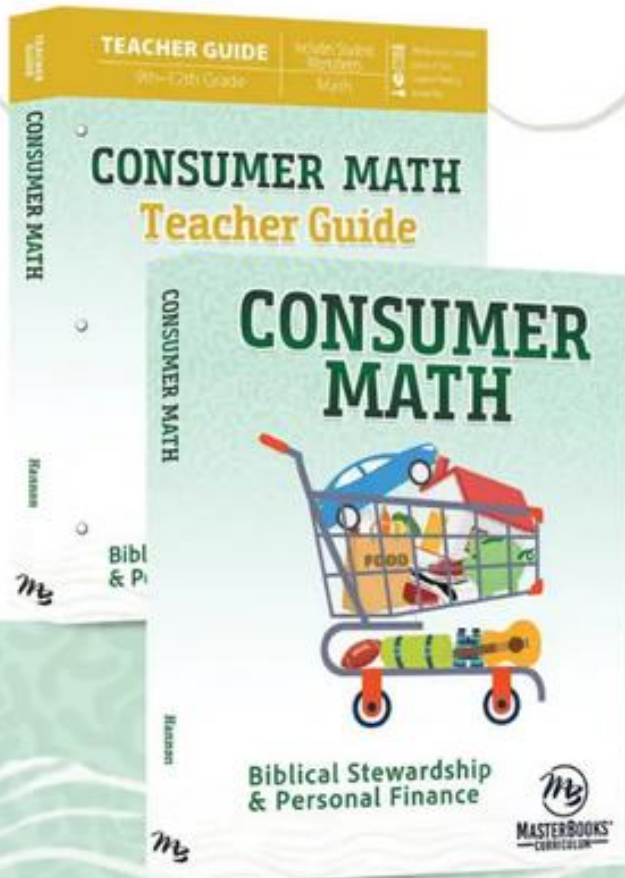
Instructions

- Toast bread until lightly golden.
- Spread each slice with a generous layer of cream cheese.
- Arrange strawberries and blueberries on top.
- Drizzle lightly with honey.
- Serve immediately.

Make it your own

- Add bananas for extra sweetness.
- Sprinkle with cinnamon.
- Use whipped cream cheese for a lighter texture.
- Substitute blackberries or raspberries.

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Texas Homeschool Laws

Homeschooling in Texas is accompanied by some of the most parent-friendly laws in the country. However, with that freedom comes the responsibility to understand and comply with the state's requirements. Whether you're brand new to homeschooling or just need a refresher, here's what you need to know to stay compliant and confident.

Is Homeschooling Legal in Texas? Yes! In 1994, the landmark *Leeper v. Arlington ISD* case confirmed that homeschooling is a legal form of private education in Texas. This decision gave parents the right to teach their children at home without government oversight.

Your Freedom! Your Responsibility!

Do I have to notify the state?

If your child has never been enrolled in public school, you don't have to notify anyone—you can simply begin homeschooling. If your child is currently enrolled in public school, you must send a withdrawal letter to the school. This ensures your child is not marked absent or considered truant.

Testing and Records

No standardized testing is required by the state. However, it's wise to keep records of transcripts (for high schoolers). These can be helpful for college admissions, the military, or transferring back into public or private school.



Requirements for Texas Homeschoolers

Unlike some states that require testing, registration, or home visits, Texas keeps it simple. The law considers a homeschool to be a type of private school, and it must meet three main requirements: Curriculum – Instruction must be in a bona fide (genuine) manner. This means you are sincerely teaching, not just going through the motions. Subjects – Your curriculum must cover at least the following: Reading, Spelling, Grammar, Mathematics, and Good Citizenship (which can include history, civics, community service, or lessons in responsibility). Written Format – Curriculum must be in a written form. This can be traditional textbooks, printed workbooks, or even digital/online programs.

What does good citizenship mean?

Texas law doesn't give a rigid definition, which gives parents flexibility. Many families cover "good citizenship" by including: Texas and U.S. history, Government, and civics lessons, Community service projects, Character and values education.

The beauty of homeschooling in Texas is the trust placed in parents to educate their children. You can customize your approach –whether you use a boxed curriculum, an online program, or a mix of hands-on projects and field trips.

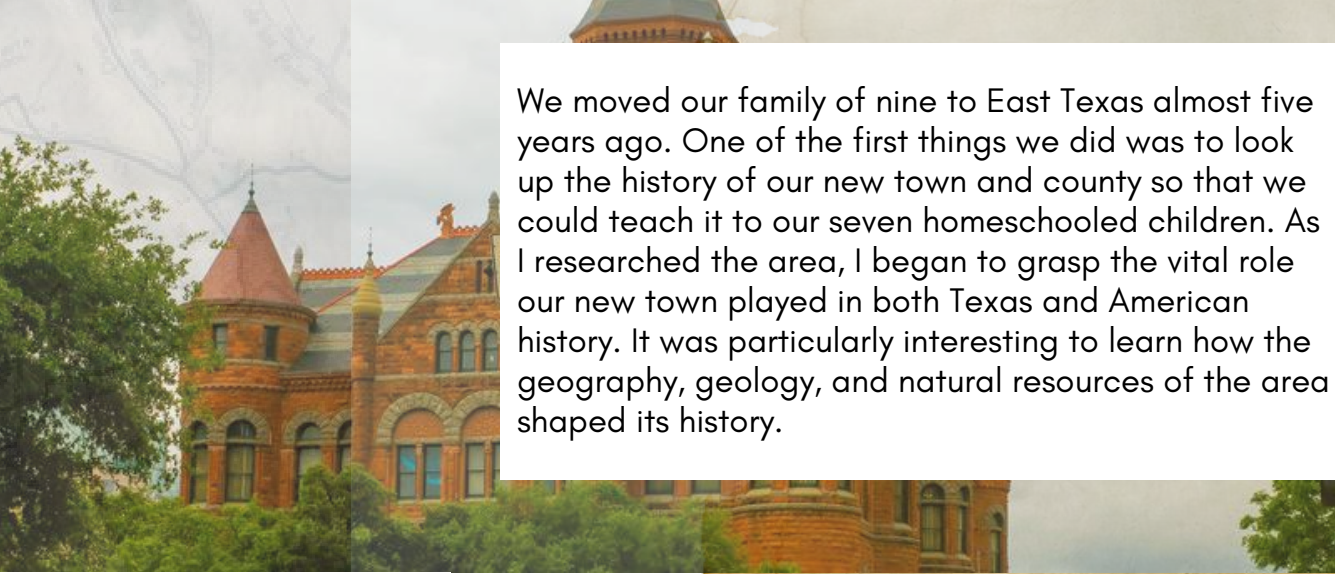
Your Freedom!
Your Choice!



The Stories Beneath Our Feet

Teaching Local History Through Everyday Exploration

Written by Nicole Angeles



We moved our family of nine to East Texas almost five years ago. One of the first things we did was to look up the history of our new town and county so that we could teach it to our seven homeschooled children. As I researched the area, I began to grasp the vital role our new town played in both Texas and American history. It was particularly interesting to learn how the geography, geology, and natural resources of the area shaped its history.

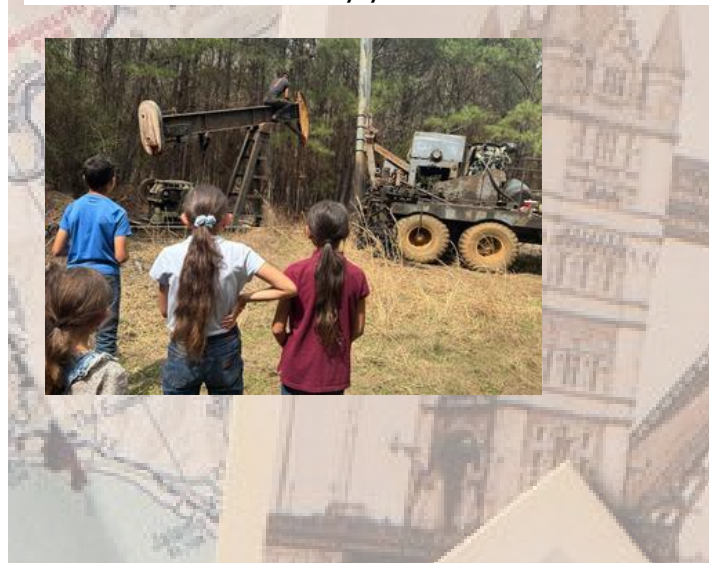
From this initial research, I began building a list of local field trip locations to take our children to, so we could help bring the local history of our region to life for them. Within the first few months of moving, we visited our county's historical museum, the local railroad museum, took a historic home tour, drove through the historic neighborhoods, and even took the old stagecoach road that passed through our town.





Our children wrote research papers, watched documentaries we found online, and learned about music, art, and notable figures from our region. They were assigned creative writing projects set in different eras of our region's history and asked to include details they learned through their research. There are so many educational benefits to learning local history. It teaches students the background of the culture that they live in and what has impacted it over time. They are able to build a strong sense of community and begin to grasp the vital role it plays in both survival and enjoyment of life. It also helps bring world history to life as students learn how their local community was affected by major events in American and global history. They can likewise gain a sense of perspective as they learn how the local community endured challenging events and that they, too, have the ability to overcome them, just as those who came before them did.

They can also benefit academically by looking at the region around them from a scientific perspective. Seeing how things like the geography, geology, natural resources, and even weather patterns of the region have impacted those in history, and how they have sustained life in their local communities for many years.



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Learning the history of those who came before in the same land that they live in and who endured the same natural processes they do can impact both their survival and enjoyment of their region. Things like learning the local history of natural disasters in times past are one practical example of the value local history can have on our students' own survival as they learn how to prepare for their recurrence during their lifetimes.



Teaching students about the natural resources that have played a vital role in the survival of their community for centuries before them can reinforce the value of those resources and build in them a desire to see them conserved for future generations. Researching how native cultures and early settlers were impacted by the geography, geology, weather, and natural resources of the area can also highlight the intersection of local history and science in a very tangible way. Likewise, learning about the earliest industries in their area is a great indicator of the richest and most valuable resources the area has to offer. Seemingly basic things like nutrient-rich soil, clean water, fresh air, sustaining woodlands and wildlife are highlighted as vital aspects of survival when you take the time to learn that they were the very building blocks of survival for generations before them.

After such an immersive experience learning local history, we found that our students, who were very new to the area, had come to know more about the region's history in a short period of time than even those who had lived in the region their whole lives. We began to find ourselves advocating for others to take time to learn local history and to visit local points of interest. Shortly after moving to the area, our family launched a One Room Schoolhouse that offers elective classes for homeschoolers who want to learn homesteading skills on our micro farm. We have about sixty-five students who drive into our town from all over East Texas to take classes. We started offering local field trips for our Schoolhouse students that highlight the intersection of how science and history have shaped the communities we all live in. We encourage our students and their families to explore their own towns and counties as well.



Field Trip Guide

This local field trip planning guide is designed to help families identify key aspects of their community's local history and points of historic interest, and become acquainted with the natural resources in their region that impact industry and survival.



- Start with a simple search on the history of your town. Make notes of the aspects that are especially interesting to you.
- Search the history of your county and make notes on the areas of interest to you.
- Search the native history of your region, including any museums or sites that are open to the public.
- Look up a list of historic markers in your area that your family can visit.
- List all museums in your area that focus on local or natural history.
- Look up the oldest neighborhoods in your town for a driving tour.
- List notable people, art, music and architecture in your area to do further research on.
- Sit down with a senior citizen to learn about how your region was affected by different eras of both American and world history.
- Look up the closest state and national parks to where you live and plan a visit.





One Room Schoolhouse in the Piney Woods

vintage education in a one-room setting

Tucked beneath the tall pines of East Texas, the One Room Schoolhouse in the Piney Woods offers a glimpse into a slower, more intentional approach to learning. Blending vintage schoolhouse charm with hands-on education, nature study, homesteading skills, and community connection, this unique East Texas destination reminds families that meaningful education often happens beyond the traditional classroom. Through workshops, outdoor learning experiences, and simple rhythms rooted in heritage and creativity, the schoolhouse has become both an educational resource and an inspiring gathering place for homeschooling families across the Piney Woods region.





Families can also extend the experience with a stay at the Guest House at Pecan Grove Estate, located on the grounds of the Schoolhouse Farm. Their family farm stay experience allows children to participate in morning feedings, collect eggs from the hen house, and spend hands-on time with goats, chickens, and other farm animals – creating memorable opportunities to slow down, learn, and experience life on a working East Texas farm.



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FROM THE TEXAS ARCHIVES

Picture Study

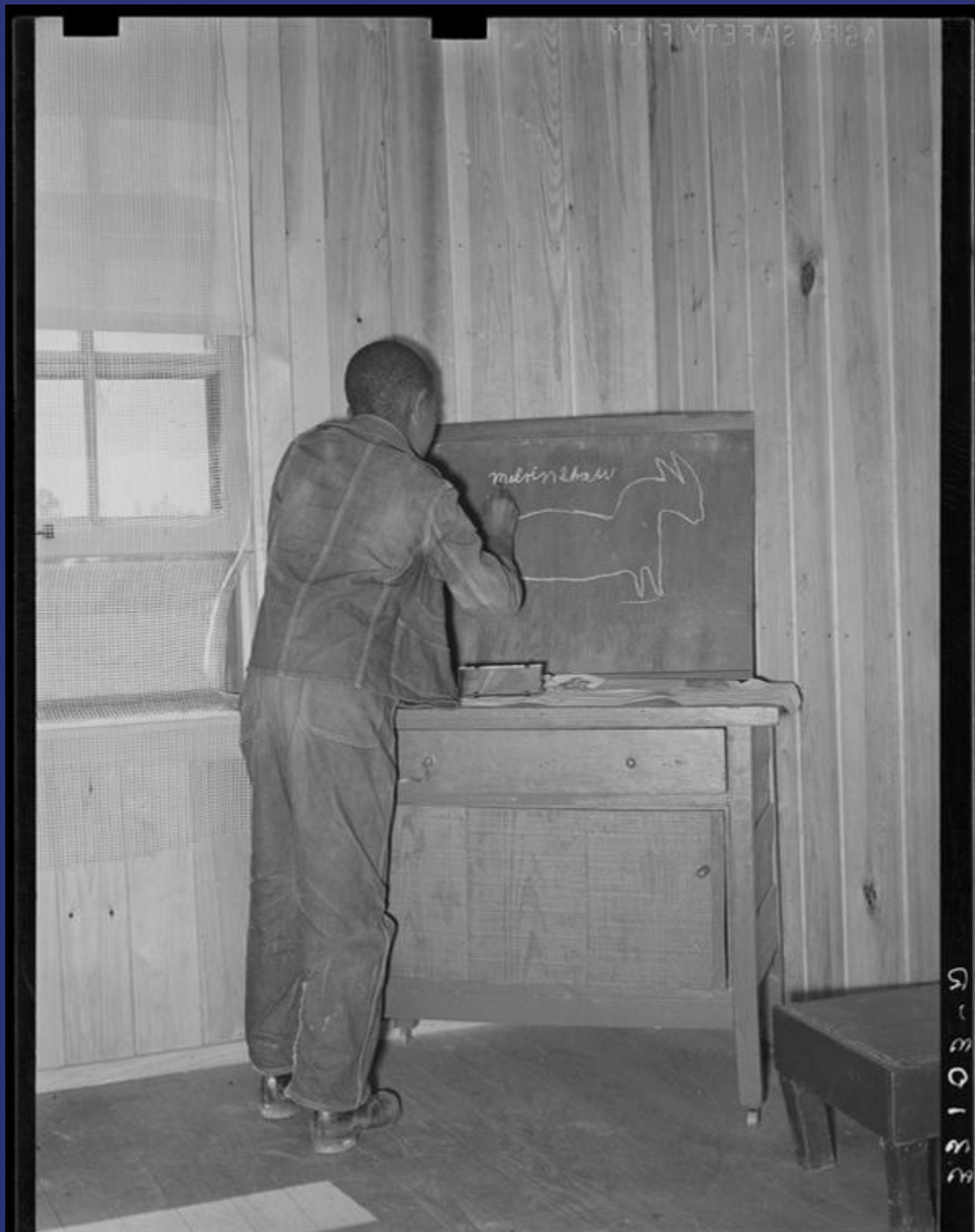
House in Houston Texas, Unknown year, Public Domain



FROM THE TEXAS ARCHIVES

Picture Study

Son of FSA (Farm Security Administration) client writing name and drawing picture of mule on board in his home. Sabine Farms, Marshall, Texas by Russell Lee



FROM THE TEXAS ARCHIVES

Picture Study

Aftermath of Galveston, Texas hurricane of 1900. House on Avenue N.





A wonderful book! It's a great resource to help children, and adults, to see what worship looks like. Totally recommend this book to be added to your library.



Great book to read to your kids to teach them about worship.

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FIVE

HERITAGE SKILLS

EVERY KID
SHOULD
TRY

1

COOK FROM SCRATCH

Make biscuits, churn butter, cook over a fire, or follow a family recipe.

2

GROW SOMETHING

Plant a garden, care for herbs, or grow vegetables from seed.

3

READ A MAP

Navigate without GPS and learn how places connect to history.

4

FIX SOMETHING

Repair a bicycle, sharpen a tool, sew a button, or mend a tear.

5

KEEP A RECORD

Journal, sketch, photograph, or document family stories and memories.

WORDS WORTH KNOWING

Geography Words Every Texas Child Should Know

The world makes more sense when you know the words used to describe it. These geography terms will help young explorers understand maps, landscapes, weather, and the places around them.

Plateau

A large area of high, flat land that rises above the surrounding landscape.

Texas Example: The Edwards Plateau covers much of Central Texas and is known for its rocky hills and springs.

Delta

A landform created when a river deposits soil and sediment near its mouth.

Texas Example: The Colorado River forms a delta near the Texas coast.

Tributary

A smaller river or stream that flows into a larger river.

Texas Example: Many creeks and smaller rivers feed into the Brazos River.

Prairie

A large area of mostly flat grassland with few trees.

Texas Example: Parts of North and Southeast Texas were once covered by vast prairies.

Canyon

A deep valley with steep sides, often carved by water over many years.

Texas Example: Palo Duro Canyon is the second-largest canyon in the United States.

Estuary

A place where fresh river water mixes with salt water from the ocean.

Texas Example: Galveston Bay is one of the most important estuaries on the Gulf Coast.

Peninsula

A piece of land surrounded by water on three sides.

Texas Example: The Bolivar Peninsula stretches along the upper Texas coast.

Elevation

The height of a place above sea level.

Texas Example: Elevation ranges from sea level along the coast to over 8,700 feet in West Texas.

WORDS WORTH KNOWING

Basin

A low area of land where water naturally collects.

Texas Example: The Permian Basin is one of Texas' most famous geographic regions.

Region

An area that shares common features such as climate, landforms, culture, or history.

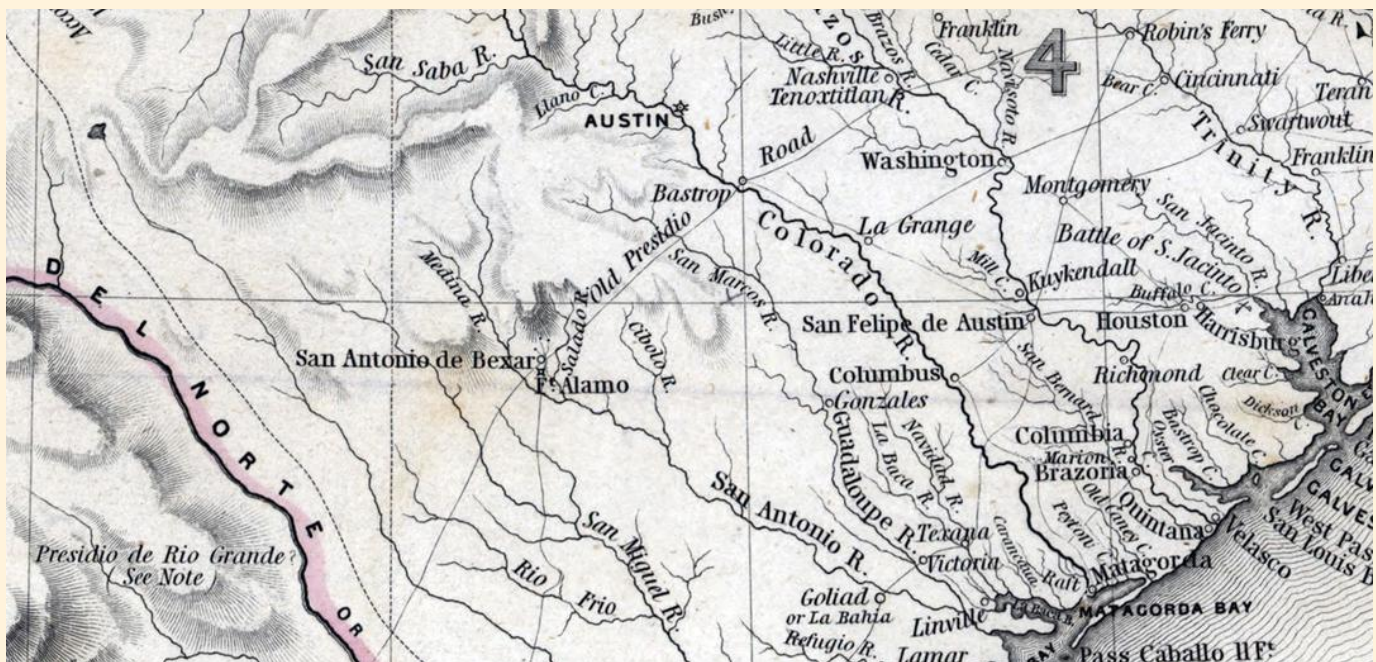
Texas Example: Texas is often divided into four major physical geographic regions, 7 regions for tourism and travel, 10 economic regions defined by the state for business development, or 12 economic regions outlined by the Texas Comptroller

FIELD NOTE CHALLENGE

- Find a prairie
- Visit a river
- Locate an estuary on a map
- Find the highest elevation in Texas
- Identify which Texas region you live in
- Spot a tributary on a map of your county

Did You Know?

The word geography comes from Greek words meaning "to write about the Earth." Long before satellites and GPS, geographers mapped the world using careful observation, travel, and handwritten notes.





Words Worth Writing

A Summer Copywork Page for Steady Hearts

Copywork is simple, but it is not small. When a child slowly writes good words, they are practicing attention, patience, neatness, spelling, punctuation, and memory — all at once. This summer, let copywork be less about finishing quickly and more about writing carefully.

Copy this:

A strong home is built one small habit at a time.

Faithfulness in little things prepares us for greater things.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land.

A child who learns to notice, listen, and serve is being prepared for a life of wisdom.

Summer gives us time to slow down, look closely, and remember what matters.

For younger students:

Choose one sentence and copy it neatly.

For older students:

Copy all five sentences, then choose one and write two sentences about what it means.

Family Discussion

What is one small habit that helps make your home stronger?

What is something your family does that you hope your children remember one day?



Conversations Worth Having

Questions for fathers, mothers, and children around the table

Some of the best lessons do not come from a worksheet. They come from the questions asked in the car, around the dinner table, on the porch, or while working side by side. These simple conversation starters are meant to help families talk about faith, character, history, home, and the kind of foundation we are building in our children.

Conversation prompts:

1. What is one thing Dad or Grandpa taught you that you still remember?
2. What does it mean to be dependable?
3. Why do strong families matter to a strong country?
4. What is one chore or skill every child should learn before growing up?
5. What does “home training” mean in our family?
6. How can we show respect to the people who protect and serve our communities?
7. What is something hard that our family has walked through together?
8. What family tradition do you hope we never stop doing?
9. What does freedom mean, and why should we be thankful for it?
10. What kind of foundation are we building in our home?

Take It Outside

Ask one question during a walk, while shelling peas, making ice cream, driving to church, or sitting outside after dinner. The point is not to force a perfect answer. The point is to make room for the kind of conversations children remember.

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JUNETEENTH

For more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, many enslaved people in Texas remained unaware that freedom had been declared. On June 19, 1865, that changed forever.

On a warm summer day in Galveston, Union troops arrived with news that would alter the course of Texas history. General Gordon Granger, commanding Union forces in Texas, announced General Order No. 3, informing enslaved people that they were free.

For thousands of men, women, and children across Texas, freedom had legally been declared years earlier through President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Yet because Texas remained under Confederate control during much of the Civil War, that freedom had not been fully enforced.

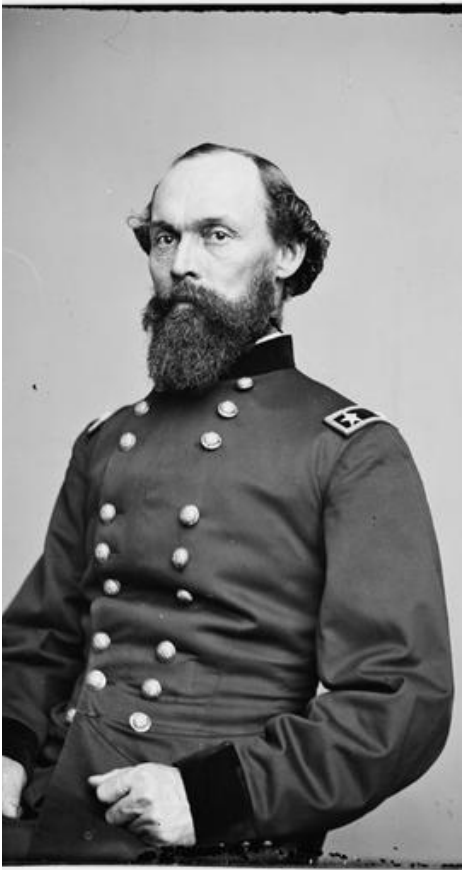
June 19, 1865 became the day freedom finally reached Texas.

In the years that followed, African American communities gathered annually to celebrate what became known as Juneteenth—a day of remembrance, thanksgiving, family, music, faith, and community. What began as local celebrations grew into a tradition passed from generation to generation.

Today, Juneteenth stands as one of the most significant historical observances in Texas and across the United States.

**THE
PEOPLE OF
TEXAS ARE
INFORMED
THAT ALL
SLAVES
ARE FREE.**

WALKING THROUGH HISTORY IN GALVESTON



Many Texas families visit Galveston for its beaches, historic homes, and waterfront attractions. Yet beyond the vacation destinations lies one of the most significant places in Texas history.

The city serves as the birthplace of Juneteenth, connecting visitors to a story that helped shape both Texas and the nation. Historical markers, museums, public art, and preserved architecture allow families to explore the places where history unfolded more than 160 years ago.

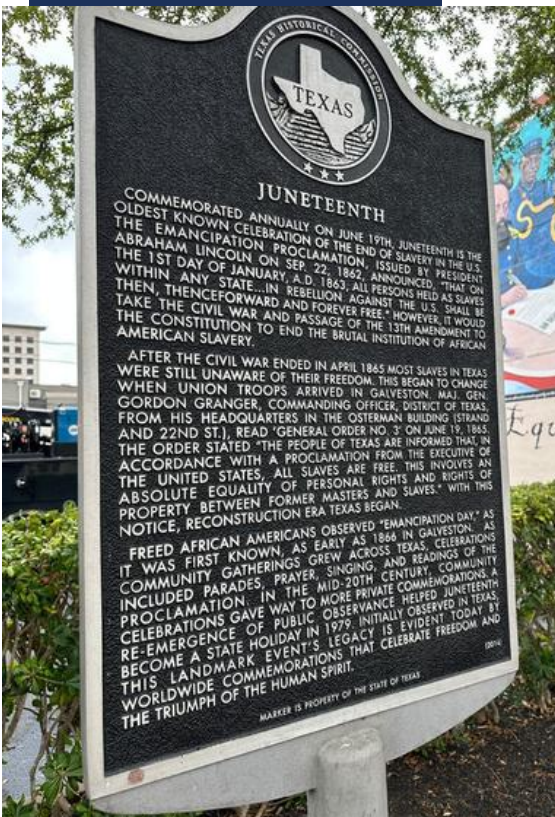
One of the most recognizable modern landmarks is the Absolute Equality mural, which has become a gathering place for visitors learning about Juneteenth. Throughout downtown Galveston, additional markers and exhibits help tell the story of the city's role in American history.

REMEMBERING AND PASSING IT DOWN

For generations, Juneteenth has been marked by family gatherings, community celebrations, music, food, faith, and storytelling. While traditions may differ from one community to another, the purpose remains the same: remembering the past and sharing those stories with the next generation.

History survives because people choose to preserve it. Parents tell stories. Grandparents share memories. Communities maintain traditions. Historical sites and museums protect artifacts and documents that help future generations understand where they came from.

For homeschool families, visiting historical sites like the Freedom Walk in Galveston creates opportunities that no textbook can fully replace. Children can read a marker, stand before a monument, examine an original building, and begin to understand that history happened in real places to real people.





Emancipation Day Celebration band,
June 19, 1900, Texas, USA

For homeschooling families, Juneteenth provides an opportunity to discuss not only historical events but also the importance of learning from the past. Visiting historic places, reading original documents, and exploring local history can help children see that history is not simply a subject to study; it is part of the story we inherit and pass forward.

As America approaches its 250th birthday, Juneteenth serves as a reminder that our nation's history is complex, meaningful, and worth understanding. The lessons of freedom, perseverance, and community continue to shape the American story today.

Family Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to preserve historical places?
- How does visiting a historical site change the way we learn history?
- What traditions does your family hope to pass on to future generations?



Kids Bible Study - The Wise Builder

Scripture Every one therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock." — Matthew 7:24 (ASV)



Have you ever built something with blocks, LEGO bricks, sand, or sticks? What happens when the bottom isn't strong? Sooner or later, the whole thing falls over. Jesus told a story about two builders. One builder built his house on a rock. The other builder built his house on sand. When the storms came, the house on the rock stood strong. The house on the sand fell down. Jesus wasn't really talking about houses. He was talking about our lives. When we listen to God's Word and obey Him, we are building our lives on a strong foundation. We may still face hard days, disappointments, mistakes, or challenges, but God's truth helps us stand firm. Every time you choose honesty, kindness, obedience, forgiveness, or courage, you are adding another brick to the strong foundation God is building in your life.

Think About It

1. What is the strongest thing you have ever built?
2. Why do foundations matter?
3. What are some ways you can obey God this week?
4. How can prayer help you build a strong foundation?
5. Who helps teach you about God?

Build It!

Using blocks, LEGO bricks, books, or even cups:

1. Build one tower on a sturdy surface.
2. Build another tower on a pillow or blanket.
3. Gently shake both.

Which one stays standing longer?

That's similar to the lesson Jesus taught about building on a strong foundation.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for loving me. Help me listen to Your Word and obey You every day. Help me make good choices, be kind to others, and trust You when life gets hard. Build a strong foundation in my heart so I can follow You all my life. - Amen.

Summer Activity - Foundation Hunt

Walk around your house or neighborhood and look for things that have foundations.

Can you find:

- A house
- A fence
- A bridge
- A playground
- A mailbox
- A tree with strong roots

Talk about why each one needs something strong to support it.

Draw It

Draw a house standing strong during a storm.

What makes its foundation strong?

Women's Bible Study - Building a House That Lasts

Scripture "The wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." — Proverbs 14:1

When we think about building a house, we often picture lumber, nails, concrete, and blueprints. Yet the most important parts of a home cannot be seen. A home is built through daily choices, quiet sacrifices, faithful habits, and a steady commitment to the people God has placed within its walls.

The world often celebrates grand accomplishments and public recognition, but much of the work that shapes future generations happens in ordinary moments. It happens while reading one more chapter aloud, teaching a child to say "yes ma'am" and "no sir," praying over a struggling teenager, preparing meals, welcoming guests, or simply creating a place where family members feel safe and loved.

Scripture tells us that a wise woman builds her house. Notice it does not say she builds a perfect house. It says she builds. Building is ongoing work. Some days feel productive and rewarding. Other days feel repetitive and unnoticed. Yet every act of faithfulness becomes part of the foundation.

As homeschool mothers, grandmothers, and caregivers, it is easy to become distracted by curriculum choices, schedules, activities, and endless to-do lists. While these things have value, the greater work is shaping hearts. Long after math lessons are forgotten, our children will remember the atmosphere of the home, the character we modeled, and the faith we lived before them. What we did more than what we said. How did we show them the way?

This summer, consider the foundations you are laying. What traditions are you passing down? What conversations are happening around your table? What memories are being created in your home? What are we cementing, what are we allowing into the foundation?

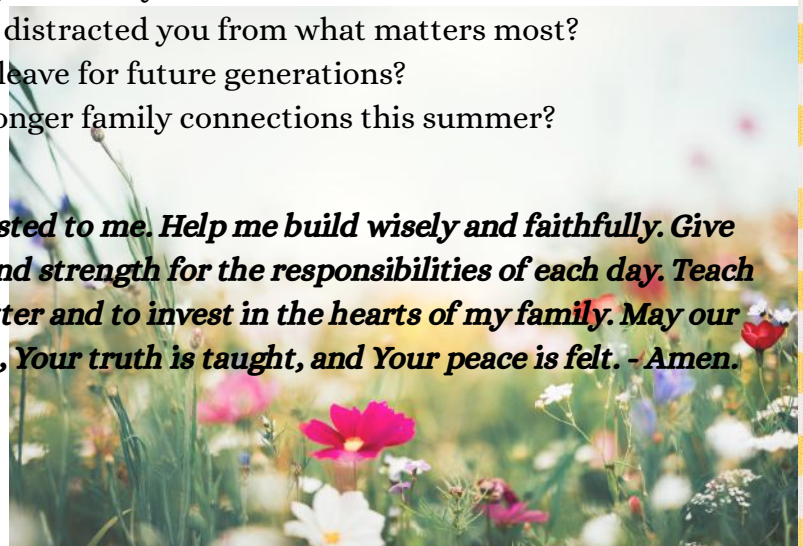
A strong foundation is rarely built in a single day. It is built one faithful choice at a time

Reflect & Discuss

1. What qualities do you want your children to remember about your home years from now?
2. Which daily habits help strengthen your family's foundation?
3. Are there areas where busyness has distracted you from what matters most?
4. What legacy of faith do you hope to leave for future generations?
5. How can you intentionally build stronger family connections this summer?

Father,

Thank You for the home You have entrusted to me. Help me build wisely and faithfully. Give me patience in the ordinary moments and strength for the responsibilities of each day. Teach me to focus on the things that truly matter and to invest in the hearts of my family. May our home be a place where Your love is seen, Your truth is taught, and Your peace is felt. - Amen.

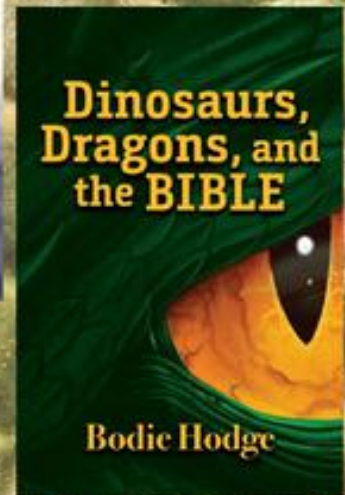
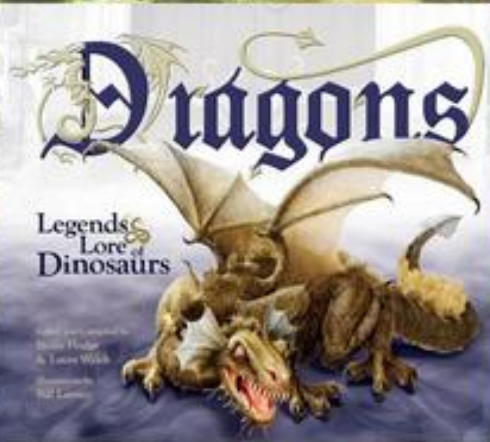
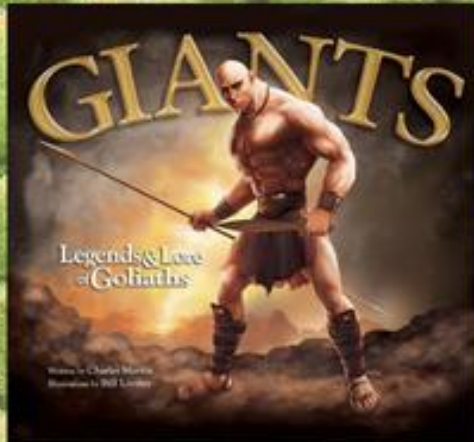




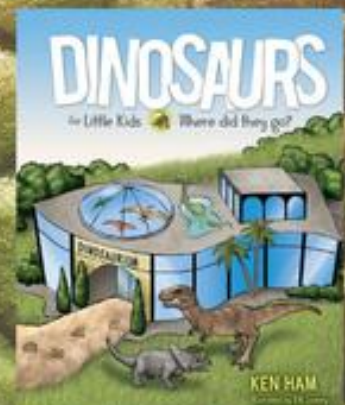
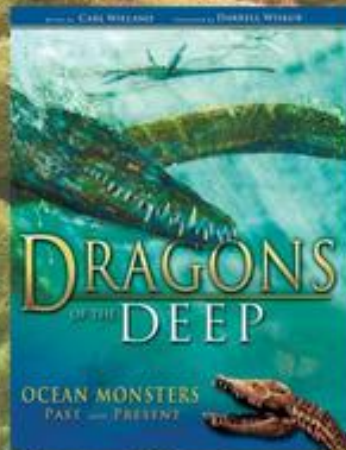
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