

# America's Story 2 Supplemental Resource List

## Read Aloud Recommendations:

- *Moccasin Trail* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw (settling the West)
- *Freedom Train* by Dorothy Sterling (Pre-Civil War/Civil War)
- *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt (Civil War)
- *Shades of Gray* by Carolyn Reeder (Civil War)
- *The Great Turkey Walk* by Kathleen Carr (Post-Civil War days)

## Reader Recommendations for 3rd/4th - jr. high level:

*The Childhoods of Famous Americans* is a wonderful series of books written by various authors telling the story of the early years of famous people in our history. I recommend any of these depicting the lives of famous Americans studied in this time period. The one about Abraham Lincoln is fabulous. Many of these are available through most library systems.

- \**The Last Safe House* by Barbara Greenwood (pre and Civil War days) HIGHLY recommended
- \**Pioneer Sampler* by Barbara Greenwood (1800s) HIGHLY recommended
- *Lantern in Her Hand* by Bess Streeter Aldrich (Pioneer Era) upper elementary - jr. high
- *Helen Keller* by Margaret Davidson (Victorian Era)
- *The Great Wheel* by Robert Lawson (World Fair of 1893)
- *Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink (late 1880s)
- Heroes of History *George Washington Carver, from Slave to Scientist* (YWAM publication)

## Audios/Movies/Documentaries:

- *Your Story Hour* (various time periods) CDs are another wonderful supplemental resource for history. These dramatized stories bring famous people and events to life with music and voice inflections. My whole family thoroughly enjoys listening to these in the van, on road trips.
- If you like Doris Day, then you have to see *Calamity Jane!* A hilarious depiction of the legendary figures covered in the Wild West chapter.
- *Seven Alone* is the story of a family of children who are traveling West and fall upon hard times.
- The Laura and Mary books and movies are classic tales of the upper Midwest during the pioneer days. Also available on audio books.
- *The Apple Dumpling Gang* movies are a comical, light hearted depiction of pioneers, forts, outlaws, stage coaches, etc.

Miscellaneous:

- If you really want to have some fun with this time period, I highly recommend that you get the Little House Cookbook.
- If you have younger children that you would like to include in your pioneer studies, you may enjoy the beautiful picture books written for young readers. There are quite a few of these and available at most bookstores and libraries.

Note to parent:

Children this age should be encouraged to explore and connect with the world around them. When studying history (or science!) with this age group, I work to follow the motto "Keep it simple, sweetie!" More is not better - it's just more. Keeping it simple and only assigning the best of the best books to be read individually, and choosing only the best of the best to read aloud, we allow the children time to think about what they have taken in. I've discovered that my children actually connect better with the story of our history when they are not inundated with too many books, movies, or activities. Allow your children time to process!

\* These two books by Barbara Greenwood are hands-down my favorite children's fiction set during the 1800s. Both of these books include crafts, recipes, and a lovely storyline. Please find a copy of them! Both boys and girls enjoy these. So highly recommended.