

# *America's Story 1 Supplemental Materials*

## **Read Aloud Recommendations:**

Books by Ingrid and Edgar Paris D'Aulaire, in order that they would be used:

- *Leif the Lucky* (contains mention of Nordic gods)
- *Columbus*
- *Pocahontas* (contains mention of Native American gods)
- *George Washington*
- *Benjamin Franklin*

## **Other recommended Read Aloud material:**

- *Ben and Me* by Robert Lawson
- *Amos Fortune* by Elizabeth Yates - Amazing read aloud material (Colonial time period)
- *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes - (Winds of Change time period - the Revolutionary period)
- *Carry on Mr. Bowditch* by Jean Lee Latham - (Post Revolutionary time period)
- *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth G. Speare
- *The Skippack School* by Marguerite de Angeli (both of these are post Revolutionary Era)

## **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 people in our history. I recommend any of these depicting the lives of famous Americans studied in this time period. The one about Daniel Boone is fabulous. Many of these are available through most library systems.

- *Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims* by Clyde Robert Bulla (a wonderfully accurate and readable story of a very important person in history.)
- *The Cabin Faced West* by Jean Fritz (late Colonial Era - Pre-Revolutionary) - a sweet story about a young girl's surprise meeting with an American hero.
- *Phoebe the Spy* by Judith Berry Griffin - a smart, little African American girl saves Washington's life.

- *By the Great Horn Spoon* by Sid Flieschman - a hilarious trip to California for the Gold Rush.

#### Movies/Documentaries

- Disney has a decent rendition of *Johnny Tremain* - we have enjoyed watching it on Family movie night.
- The George Washington movie by Nest Family Entertainment is wonderful.
- If you want to spend time as a family, learning about the providential history of our country, I highly recommend that you invest in the Building on the American Heritage Series from Wallbuilders. These DVDs are phenomenal in their understandable approach.
- Also highly recommended - the four *Drive Thru History America* DVDs. My family loves these!

#### **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 simply 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!