

Differences and Similarities Between *Exploring America* and *America the Beautiful*

Many parents have asked how *Exploring America* and *America the Beautiful* compare. We see the two as complementing one another. As we were writing *America the Beautiful*, we kept in mind that many of the students using it would later use *Exploring America* in high school. Of course, there are similarities because they both cover American history. However, they are really geared to two different audiences.

America the Beautiful is designed specifically for the student in grades 5 through 8. It explores America as a whole. This curriculum paints a picture of what God created when He made America, while telling about major events that happened here, individuals who lived here, aspects of American culture in various time periods, and landmarks Americans have built. We believe that having a fun look at American history and culture in grades 5 through 8 will give students a good foundation for when they study *Exploring America* later on.

Exploring America is a much more in-depth history designed specifically for high school students. The text not only teaches students what happened, but also helps students to develop a Christian worldview. It explores Biblical teachings that relate to American history. For example, when learning about the 1970s, students learn about the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision and learn Biblical teachings about the sanctity of life. The literature selections in *American Voices* are on a much higher reading level, as are the twelve classic books that the students read. *American Voices* introduces students to many of our nation's most important political documents. The weekly unit projects in *Exploring America* are more complex and involve higher-level thinking skills.

How to Homeschool Using *Exploring America* with High Schoolers While Using *America the Beautiful* with Children in Grades 5 through 8

Parents wonder how to teach *America the Beautiful* to younger children while teaching *Exploring America* at the same time. Because the two curricula emphasize different aspects of American history, each progresses at a different pace. For example, *America the Beautiful* covers more about Native Americans and technological innovations, while *Exploring America* covers more about the Constitution and the Civil War. The following chart shows how the two curricula correspond to each other chronologically.

How to Match Up Units in *Exploring America* and *America the Beautiful*

Time Period	Exploring America	America the Beautiful
up to 1600	Unit 1: This is Our Country	Unit 1: America Before the Arrival of Europeans Unit 2: Spanish Explorers Come to America
1600 - 1770s	Unit 2: English Settlement of America Unit 3: English Colonies in the 1700s	Unit 3: English and French Settlers Come to America Unit 4: Early Colonial Life in America Unit 5: Colonial Life in America During the 1700s
1770s - 1780s	Unit 4: Revolution	Unit 6: The American Revolution
1780s - 1800	Unit 5: The Constitution Unit 6: The New Nation	Unit 7: A New Nation and a New Frontier
1800 - 1820s	Unit 7: An Expanding Nation Unit 8: Growing Pains	Unit 8: Americans Explore West of the Mississippi River Unit 9: New Ways of Life in the Early 1800s
1820s - 1840s	Unit 9: Democrats and Whigs	Unit 10: America in the Jacksonian Era Unit 11: New Ways to Travel and to Communicate Unit 12: A Belief in Manifest Destiny
1840s - 1860	Unit 10: Challenges and Changes Unit 11: A Time of Crisis	Unit 13: The Turbulent 1850s
1860 - 1865	Unit 12: The Nation Divides Unit 13: The Terrible Conflict	Unit 14: A Nation Divided
1865 - 1870s	Unit 14: Reconstruction Unit 15: Moving Forward	Unit 15: America Begins to Heal After the Civil War
1870s - 1890s	Unit 16: The Gilded Age Unit 17: The Business of America Unit 18: Beginnings of the Modern Age	Unit 16: Go West! Unit 17: Americans Move from the Farm to the Factory
1890s - 1910	Unit 19: The Triumph of Progressivism	Unit 18: America Enters a New Century Unit 19: America Takes a New Role in the World
1910 - 1920	Unit 20: America and the Great War	Unit 20: Americans Go "Over There"
1920 - 1930	Unit 21: America in the Twenties	Unit 21: The Roaring Twenties
1930 - 1940	Unit 22: The New Deal	Unit 22: The Great Depression
1940 - 1945	Unit 23: World War II	Unit 23: Every Citizen a Soldier
1945 - 1950	Unit 24: Postwar America	Unit 24: America Recovers and Moves Forward
1950 - 1960	Unit 25: The 1950s	Unit 25: The 1950s
1960 - 1970	Unit 26: The Turbulent Sixties	Unit 26: The 1960s
1970 - 1980	Unit 27: The 1970s	Unit 27: The 1970s
1980 - 1990	Unit 28: The Reagan-Bush Era	Unit 28: The 1980s
1990 - 2000	Unit 29: The 1990s	Unit 29: The 1990s
2000 -	Unit 30: The New Millennium	Unit 30: America Enters a New Millennium