

Sample Pages from the

America the Beautiful Student Workbook

Part of the *America the Beautiful* Curriculum

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America the Beautiful Student Workbook by Mary Evelyn McCurdy

The activities in this book review information learned in the daily lessons of *America the Beautiful*. After your child reads a lesson in *America the Beautiful*, he should complete the activity in this book that corresponds to that lesson.

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Units 12 & 25

James K. Polk and the Mexican War

Read each of the following sentences. Fit the **BOLD** words into the puzzle. Write each of the underlined letters in order in the blanks at the bottom of the page to complete the Bible verse.

James Knox Polk was born in North Carolina. His family moved to **Tennessee** when he was ten years old. When he was grown, Polk became a **lawyer**. He was elected to the state legislature when he was 27 years old and to the U.S. House of Representatives two years later. Polk was a man of integrity. He was elected **Governor** of Tennessee before serving as **President** of the United States of America.

While Polk was President, the border between the western United States and **Canada** was established. Also during his presidency, the United States fought a war with **Mexico** and won; construction began on the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C.; and Texas, Iowa, and Wisconsin became a part of the Union.

J A M E S

K N O X

P O L K

Nashville State Capitol

I also do my _____ to maintain always a

both before _____ and before _____ .

Acts 24:16

Moving West on the Oregon Trail

Draw a line from each sentence beginning on the left to its ending on the right.

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 1. People began their Oregon Trail journey by going to a | • | • steamboat. |
| 2. Many travelers began their trip by riding on a | • | • the animals in. |
| 3. The wagon covers were made of cotton and treated with | • | • jumping off town. |
| 4. For the journey, a family of four needed to take 1,000 pounds of | • | • bread and bacon. |
| 5. Later travelers could follow the Oregon Trail by staying in the | • | • fifteen miles. |
| 6. At night travelers made a circle with their wagons to keep | • | • linseed oil. |
| 7. If there wasn't enough wood to start a fire, pioneers used | • | • food. |
| 8. In one day, a wagon could travel about | • | • wagon ruts. |
| 9. Often the only thing the pioneers had to eat was | • | • oxen and mules. |
| 10. The best animals to pull the wagons were | • | • buffalo dung. |



Lesson 58

The Smithsonian Institution

Fill in the blanks using the words in the word bank at the bottom of the page. When you are finished, read through the paragraphs again.

_____ Smithson was a British _____. In his will, he left his estate to his _____ and declared that if his nephew died without any heirs, the estate would go to the _____ to found an _____ that would “increase and diffuse _____ among men.” The nephew died leaving no heirs, so the estate went to the United States.

People debated about whether or not the United States should accept the gift. President _____ asked _____ to pass a _____ allowing him to accept it, which they did. People had varying ideas of what the institution should be like. Finally in 1846, President _____ signed into law “An Act to Establish the Smithsonian Institution.” It said that the Institution would have an _____ gallery, a lecture hall, a library, a _____ laboratory, a natural history laboratory, and a science museum.

Today the Smithsonian Institution is the world’s largest museum system with _____ museums. It is funded by money from the James Smithson Trust, from U.S. _____ money appropriated by Congress, and from _____ made by foundations, corporations, and individuals.

contributions	tax	James	knowledge	nephew
law	United States	sixteen	scientist	Polk
Jackson	chemical	Congress	art	institution

God Created Niagara Falls

Unscramble each of the scrambled words below to complete the sentences about crossing the Niagara River and Niagara Falls.

1. Theodore Wright said that travelers could safely cross the Niagara on a _____ .
F R E R Y

2. The first bridge across the Niagara River was made of _____ planks.
O K A

3. The Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge, which was completed in 1855, had two decks.

_____ crossed on the upper deck while
T A R N I S
_____ and _____ crossed on the lower one.
P D E E T R S A N I S C R A R A G I E S

4. In 1859 and 1860, Charles Blodin crossed Niagara Falls on a _____ .
T I H G T O R P E

5. In 1901, a Michigan schoolteacher went over Niagara Falls in a _____ .
W I H R P L O O L

6. Beginning in 1916, tourists could ride the _____ Aero Car over Niagara.



7. The _____ bridge collapsed in an ice storm in 1938.
H O E N Y O M O N

8. The world's longest hingeless _____ arch bridge goes across the Niagara River.
S E T E L

Lesson 60

John James Audubon, Artist and Naturalist

Unscramble each of the scrambled words below. When you are finished, read through the paragraphs.

John James _____ was born in _____ in 1785. After his
mother died, Audubon moved to _____ where he grew up with his father and
stepmother. When he was a boy, Audubon enjoyed gathering birds' _____ and
_____ and _____ them.

Audubon came to _____ when he was _____ and
continued his interest in _____ and art. In 1820 Audubon set out with his
_____, _____ materials, and an _____ and began painting the
_____ of America. He painted _____ portraits for people along
the way to earn _____ during his venture. Audubon was unable to find a

publisher who was interested in his project. He traveled to

_____ where he found an
engraver in _____ who agreed to reproduce
his work. Audubon became wealthy and famous. With the

help of his two _____ he also completed a book of
paintings of North American _____.

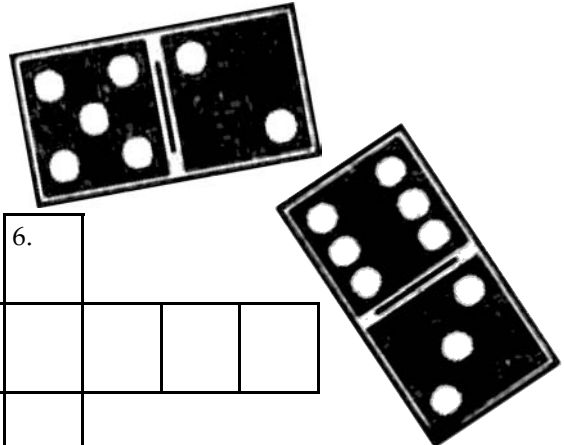
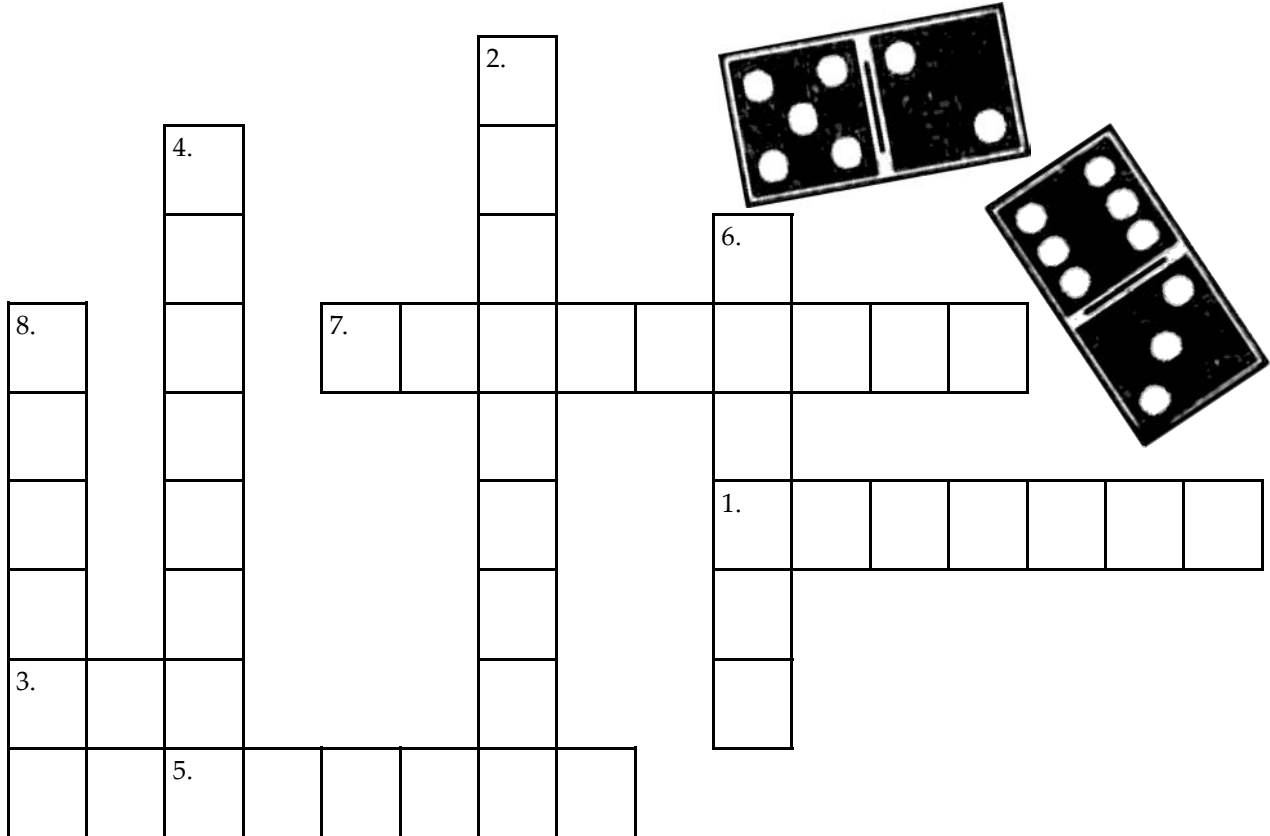


A World War II General Becomes President

Use the words in the word bank to complete the crossword puzzle.

- Across**
- Eisenhower was _____ Commander of the Allied forces during World War II.
 - A popular Eisenhower campaign slogan was "I Like _____."
 - The St. Lawrence _____ opened in 1959 during Eisenhower's second term.
 - Soviets launched a _____ in 1957.

- Down**
- Eisenhower met with Khrushchev, leader of the Soviet Union, in _____.
 - Eisenhower feared that if Vietnam became Communist, other countries would soon fall like _____.
 - _____ became the forty-ninth state in 1959.
 - _____ became the fiftieth state in 1959.



- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| SEAWAY | HAWAII |
| ALASKA | SATELLITE |
| SWITZERLAND | IKE |
| SUPREME | DOMINOES |

Drive-Ins, Bobby Socks, and Poodle Skirts

Use the word bank to fill in each of the blanks below. Then find each word from the word bank in the puzzle.

1. Teachers in the 1950s often said a _____ at school.
2. Children in the 1950s got excited when they heard an ice cream _____ .
3. It was popular in the 1950s to join the Boy or Girl _____ .
4. The Mr. Potato Head toys of the 1950s used a real _____ .
5. Teenage girls enjoyed wearing the popular _____ skirts.
6. A vaccine for _____ came out in the 1950s.
7. Ed Sullivan hosted a _____ show featuring a variety of entertainment.
8. Eisenhower signed a law making "In God We _____" the official motto of the United States.

TRUCK
POODLE
TRUST
VARIETY
POTATO
POLIO
SCOUTS
PRAYER



P	O	T	A	T	S	A	K	L	O	F	G
O	V	A	R	I	E	T	Y	T	S	T	S
L	O	O	D	L	E	O	S	R	C	R	C
S	C	H	O	U	C	T	T	S	O	S	T
C	P	R	A	Y	E	R	T	T	U	T	S
U	O	D	T	E	R	U	A	S	T	P	T
O	T	F	A	Y	T	S	S	C	S	L	R
R	A	V	O	A	R	T	C	T	R	I	U
A	T	Y	T	R	S	H	G	S	A	O	C
P	O	L	I	O	T	S	C	T	S	R	K
V	A	R	T	E	P	O	O	D	L	E	A

Little Rock Central High School

Read the following paragraphs. Each time you come to a place where there are two words in **BOLD** print, circle the one that is correct.

In the 1950s, many school children across the country attended schools that were only for white children or only for black children. In **1954 / 1964** the **Supreme / County** Court decided that having these segregated schools was unconstitutional. Schools across the country began to **close / integrate**.

Officials in Little Rock, **Arkansas / California** , decided to integrate gradually, beginning with the **high / elementary** school. **Five / Nine** African American students were chosen to be the first to attend classes at Little Rock Central High. The **mayor / Governor** of Arkansas did not like the idea of blacks and whites attending the same schools, however, so he called out the **National Guard / city gangs** to keep the students from attending the school. President **Eisenhower / Nixon** knew he had to make sure the Constitution was upheld, so he sent members of the 101st **Airborne / Marine** Division to Little Rock to see that the Little Rock Nine were allowed to go to Central High. Many people in Little Rock agreed with the Governor and didn't want the school to be integrated. They began to **riot / move away** , but the military personnel worked to maintain order.

Finally classes resumed and the school year progressed. Some of the white students continued to be violent and hateful toward the Little Rock Nine. Some students were suspended or expelled for their behavior. Ernest Green, the only **senior / boy** among the Little Rock Nine, became the first African American to graduate from Central that spring.

Little Rock Central High School is now on the **Arkansas / National** Register of Historic Places. It became a National Historic Site in **1958 / 1998**. In 1999 each of the Little Rock Nine received the Congressional **Gold / Silver** Medal.



Norman Rockwell,
Painter of American Life

Use the word bank at the bottom of the page to fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

Norman Rockwell

... was born in _____ in 1894.

... decided he wanted to be a _____
and began his own training program when he was ten.

... gave up that goal and decided to pursue
his talent of _____.

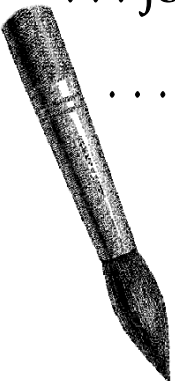
... joined the _____ during World War I.

... created many covers for the annual calendar
of the _____.

... created many illustrations for the
_____ *Evening Post*.

... used his _____ and his own children
for many of his models.

... created a series of illustrations called
“The Four _____” that helped raise money
through the sale of war bonds during World War II.



neighbors	Boy Scouts	weight lifter	New York City
Saturday	Freedoms	Navy	drawing

God Created Alaska

Follow the directions in each sentence below.

1. Draw a snowflake over the country that is separated from Alaska by the Bering Strait.
2. Draw waves under the body of water which lies north of Alaska.
3. Draw a star over the capital of Alaska.
4. Draw a mountain peak over the tallest mountain in North America.
5. Draw a box around the northernmost point in Alaska's Arctic region.
6. Draw a diamond over the location of a nineteen-day battle between the U.S. and Japan in 1943.
7. Draw a dotted line under what Canada and the U.S. built together during World War II.
8. Circle the place where the Alaska Army National Guard built an outpost in 1960.

RUSSIA

LITTLE DIOMEDE

ALASKA HIGHWAY

JUNEAU

ATTU ISLAND

ARCTIC OCEAN

POINT BARROW

MT. MCKINLEY