

Notebooks & Journals

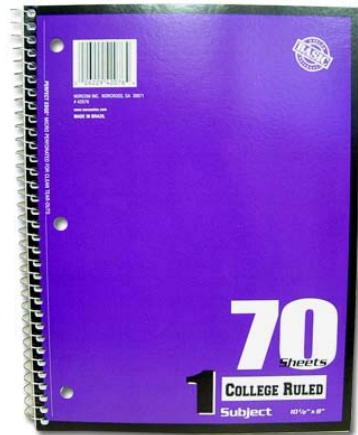
The Dictation Notebook, Science Notebook, History Journal and History Record Book are items you will need to provide. Depending on the subject, they may be standard notebooks or three-ring binders.



3-Ring
Binder

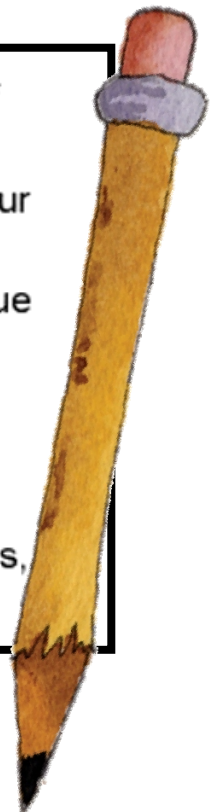


Composition
Book



Notebook

- Start with notebooks in early grades to have a visual record of history
- Multiple options for history notebooks – use what works for your child
- Science notebooks encourage proper recording of data like true scientists
- Keep digital photos of artwork to save space
- Compare self-portraits from year to year to see improvements
- Continue to update your teacher notebook to record pertinent information, websites to visit, schedules, calendar, grocery lists, etc.





History Journal (grades 4-8):

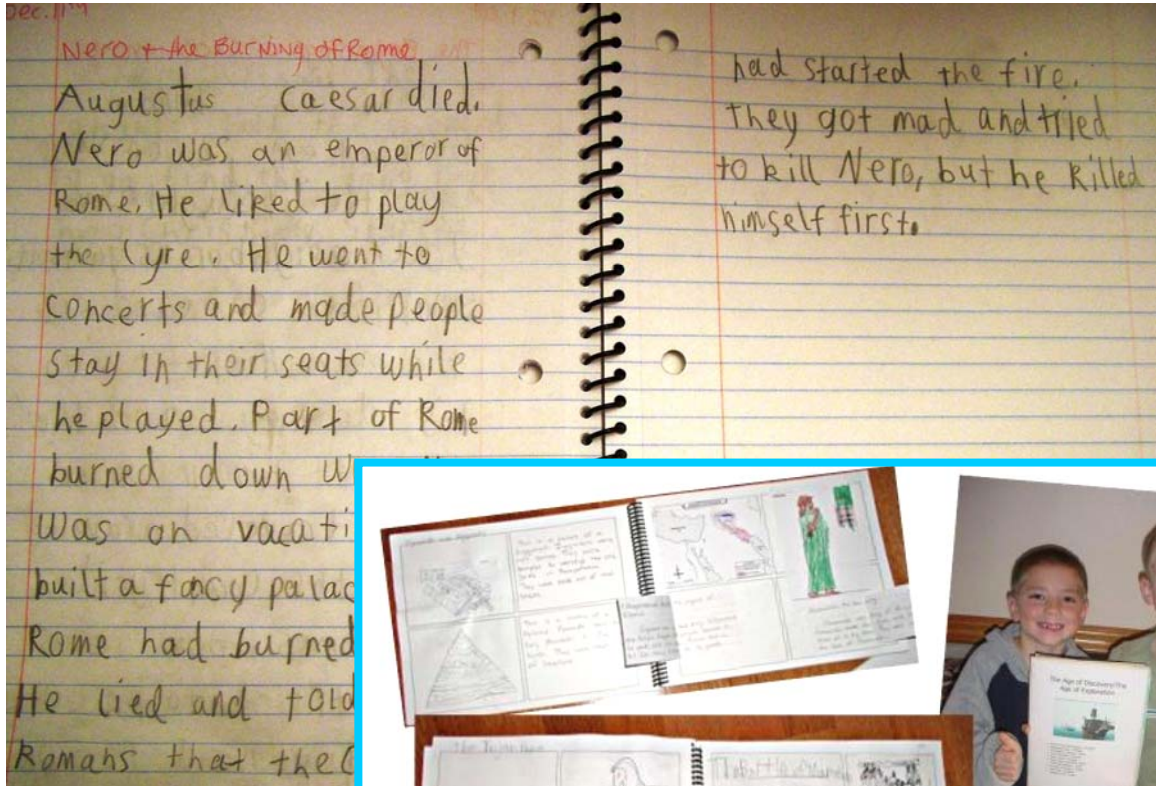
The History Journal is your student's portfolio for History, a three-ring binder in which to keep work samples and a running record of what your student has learned. The History Journal might include short answers to a series of questions about Benjamin Franklin, or a map your student has completed showing Napoleon's conquests. Here is an example of how the History Journal is used.

This is from History | Unit: A New Age and New Industries | Lesson 4:

In today's reading, you will learn about a number of innovations in transportation in the early 1800s that changed life and the economy in the United States.

- **Read Chapter 22, "Going Places" (pages 110-115).**
 - **Answer the following questions in your History Journal.**
1. **What was transportation like before 1800, and why was there a need for change?**
 2. **What were the four modern innovations in transportation in the early 1800s?**
 3. **How did the National Road improve trade in America?**
 4. **What changes came about as a result of building the Erie Canal?**

Sample History Journal entries:



Your student will use it as a review and study tool before taking an assessment at the end of each unit.





History Record Book (grades K-3):

The History Record Book is your child's portfolio for History, a three-ring binder in which to keep work samples and a running record of what your child has learned. The Record Book might include a coloring sheet of the Great Pyramids or a map of the Roman Empire on which your child has marked the routes of invading peoples.

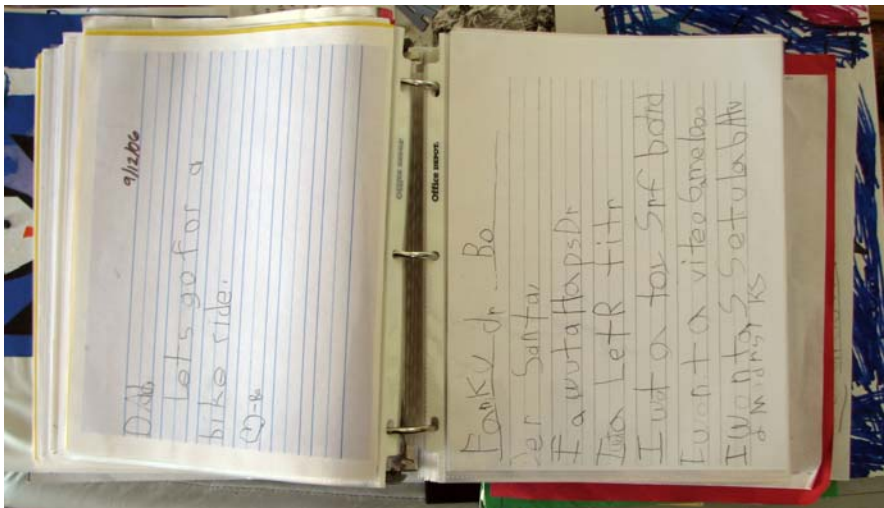
- Narrations: In grades 1 and 2, the Record Book is also used to store the narration that your child is asked to do in almost every lesson. A narration is a way for your child to “tell back” and thus internalize what he or she has learned. A narration consists of either writing a few sentences explaining what the lesson was about, or drawing a picture of the part of the lesson that interested your child the most. Until your child is comfortable writing, he or she should dictate the sentences for you to write. Use this as an opportunity to prompt your child to focus on the most important points in the lesson. With gentle questioning and guidance, you can direct your child to write (or dictate to you) sentences that capture key elements of the lesson.
- Using the Record Book for Review: Be sure to keep up with the History Record Book. Your child will use it as a review and study tool before taking an assessment at the end of each unit.

Student Portfolio (grades K-8)

One of the most useful ways to document your student's progress is to compile a portfolio. The portfolio can be a three-ring binder, a scrapbook or a homemade book. In science and history, additional portfolio pockets can be added in the back of the Science & History Notebooks. Typically, the portfolio offers these kinds of items as supplements to the notebook:

- Exceptional or favorite pieces of work
- Your notes about your student's progress and experiences
- Printed copies of completed Assessments
- Photographs of your student performing experiments
- Photographs of completed projects

At the end of each unit, take some time to review the portfolio with your student and celebrate a job well done!



Sample
Kindergarten
Writing
Portfolio



Science Notebook (grades 3-8):

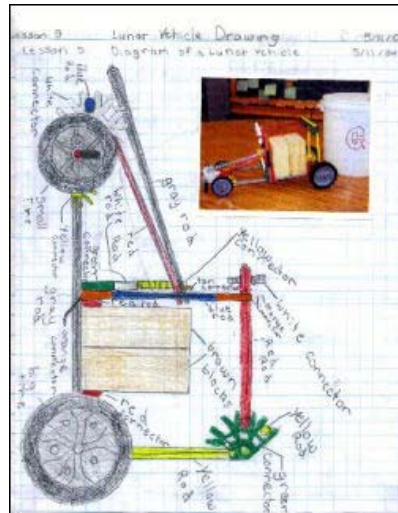
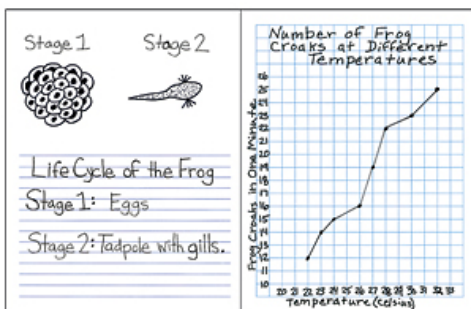
Encourage your student to use an organized system for keeping track of completed work. This can be a helpful learning tool.

Store examples of your student's work in a three-ring notebook. You may wish to divide the notebook into sections using store-bought tabs or pieces of colored paper to separate different units of science study.

As you complete each Science lesson, have your student place Science work from the day (lab sheets, drawings, notes, project directions, etc.) into the area of the notebook designated for that unit of study.

Your student can also use the Science Notebook to prepare for assessments. Your student may choose to review items in the notebook lesson-by-lesson, and eventually unit-by-unit, to prepare for lesson assessments and semester assessments.

Sample Science Notebook entries:

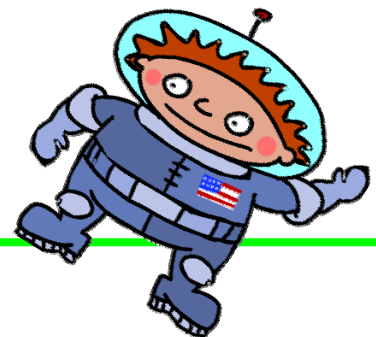


Does the shape of a solid make it easier to roll?
Which solids do you think will roll the best?

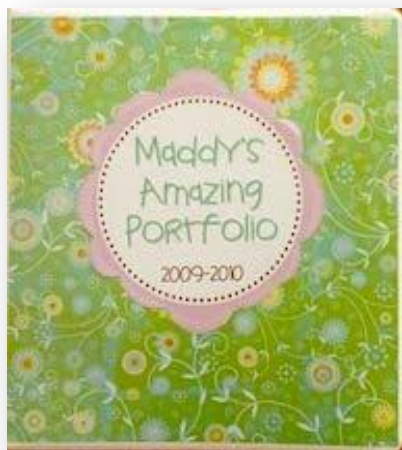
Question: Which solid that rolls goes the farthest off the ramp? Prediction: I think the silver ball will roll farthest off the ramp.

Materials	Procedure steps
Set of 20 solids	1) Get your materials.
Ruler	2) Set up your ramp.
2 books	3) One at a time, test solids that roll.
Flexible measuring tape	4) Measure how far it rolled and record in data table.

Conclusion: The silver ball and the blue ball rolled the farthest down the ramp. The data shows the silver ball and blue ball were best. ^{the golf ball} _{was} ^{the} _{second} best.



Save or Toss?



A question I hear from parents every year is, "What do I do with all of this stuff?" Throughout the year, you may wonder what to keep and what to toss. I say we address this now. My advice? Use portfolios!

One of the most useful ways to document your student's progress is to create two portfolios - one for **Writing** and another for **Favorite Projects**. A portfolio could be in the form of a binder, a large album or a scrapbook. Large view binders are my favorite, because you can personalize the cover with scrapbook paper and a title (left). You can also add clear plastic sheet protectors inside to hold odd-sized pages.

Writing Portfolio: Whether you are a kindergartener or an 8th grader, it is important to store your writing in a portfolio. Every piece of writing can go into the portfolio (even if it was a quick write or rough draft). Keep everything in order by date and you will be amazed at your student's progress over time!

Favorite Projects: Have your students choose their favorite lessons and projects as you go through the year. If they want to keep EVERY project, put them in a bin and revisit them at the end of the school year. Fun things to include are:

- Exceptional or favorite pieces of work
- Notes about your student's progress and experiences
- Photographs of your student performing science experiments and other fun lessons
- Photographs from educational outings and family trips
- Photographs or scanned images of completed projects

Students will enjoy sharing their portfolios with family and friends. They also serve as a memory book of the year. Many of my former students (who are now in their twenties!) have told me that they still enjoy looking through their portfolios from elementary school!

~MRA. SOL

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