



# Why History?

As students examine a history book, they may ask, “Why is it necessary for us to study this information?” The answer to this important question has several parts.

## **History illustrates the cycles of mankind.**

Old empires fall and are soon replaced by new ones. Political disagreements rise and are resolved. Recessions give way to economic growth.

These cycles may be accompanied by violence and great suffering. But understanding the patterns of history can help us to take each day as it comes, rather than growing hysterical at each new threat. As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6, “Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”

## **History reveals choices and consequences.**

It is often said that “those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.” History gives us many examples of choices that people have made, and it shows the consequences of those wise or foolish decisions.

A knowledge of history can help us avoid the mistakes others have made, and this knowledge also allows us to imitate the examples of wise people.

## **History shows the importance of commitment.**

History is filled with men and women who committed themselves to a course of action. Julius Caesar,

Genghis Khan, and Napoleon wrought death and destruction. The Apostle Paul, Martin Luther, and Menno Simons changed the church. The legacy of these individuals comes from their commitment. Some were devoted to their own advancement, while others were dedicated to serving God.

Although our names may never be recorded in a history book, each of us must choose whether to commit ourselves to Christ’s kingdom or Satan’s realm. That commitment dictates whether our lives influence people for evil or for good.

## **History demonstrates the hand of God.**

Daniel 2:21 tells us that “he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings.” Those who study history can see God at work in the details of human life. If we choose to trust God, the knowledge of history gives us added confidence in the future rather than fear of the unknown.

God directed and cared for His people in ages past, and He also allowed suffering and hardships. But through it all, His Word remains, and His truth endures.

**Adapted from the Introduction to *Across the Ages: A History of Western Civilization*. See page 2.**



# Grade 7

With plenty of maps and illustrations, this textbook teaches the course of Western civilization from the ancient Middle East to North America. A “Going Global” feature opens a window for students to glimpse cultures and empires from China and India to Africa and the Americas. Published 2019.

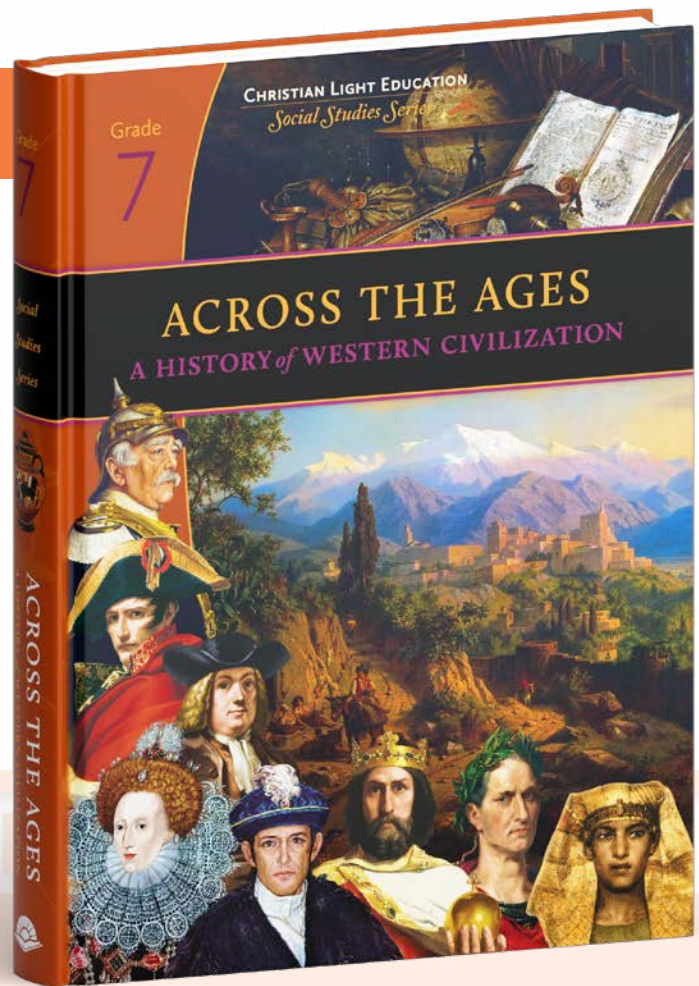
## Selection from *Across the Ages*

As dictator, Julius Caesar carried out a number of reforms. He provided construction jobs for Rome’s poor and guaranteed farmers more money for their farm products. He also worked to keep the rich from getting richer by limiting the amount of land one man could own. More people in the provinces were granted citizenship.

Caesar also reformed the calendar. When he became emperor, the Roman calendar was complex and difficult to use. It was also inaccurate, with fewer days than it takes the earth to orbit the sun. Because of this, the calendar often did not match the seasons.

On our calendar, the autumn months for the Northern Hemisphere last from September to November each year. If we still used the Roman calendar, autumn would come a few days later each year. If autumn lasted from September to November in the year you were born, it would be from January to March by about the time you were twelve years old.

Before the time of Caesar, the Romans tried to keep the calendar accurate by adjusting it. Occasionally, they added a few days or even an entire month to a



year to make the seasons match up with the correct months again. Politicians sometimes took advantage of the calendar system and added time to the year to make their term in office longer.

Caesar consulted the astronomer Sosigenes to produce a more dependable calendar. After careful study, Sosigenes concluded that the calendar year should be  $365\frac{1}{4}$  days long. He divided the year into 12 months and gave every fourth year an extra day in February. The year with the extra day later became known as a leap year. Caesar ordered that Sosigenes’ calendar be used beginning in 45 B.C. From that time, the Julian calendar, as it became known, was the official calendar for hundreds of years.

The calendar we use today is based on the Julian calendar. The names of the months, the number of days in each month, and the number of days in a year all come from the calendar instituted by Julius Caesar. July was named for Julius Caesar, and August was named for Caesar’s heir, Caesar Augustus.

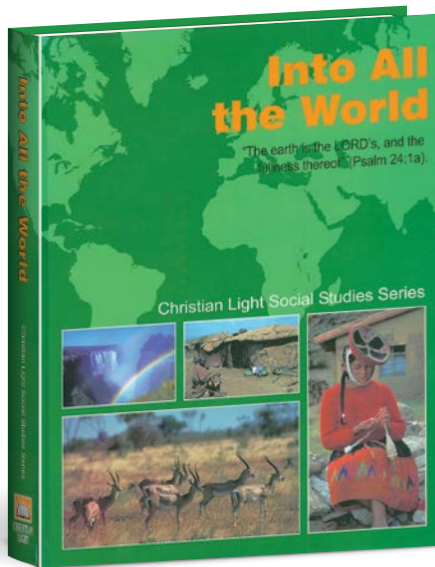
— Adapted from pages 164, 165



# Social Studies Textbooks

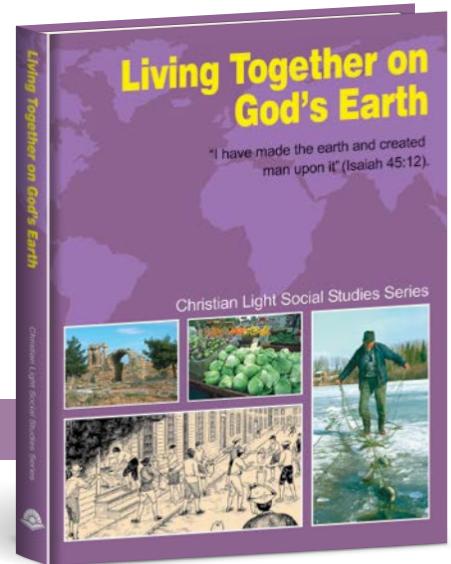
Studying people and places, past and present, students in Grades 3-8 realize that the world is much larger and more complex than just their neighborhood.

Each textbook features two study options: (1) using LightUnits that have built-in reviews, or (2) using textbook questions or worksheets that require more teacher involvement. Check the Christian Light curriculum catalog or website for more information.



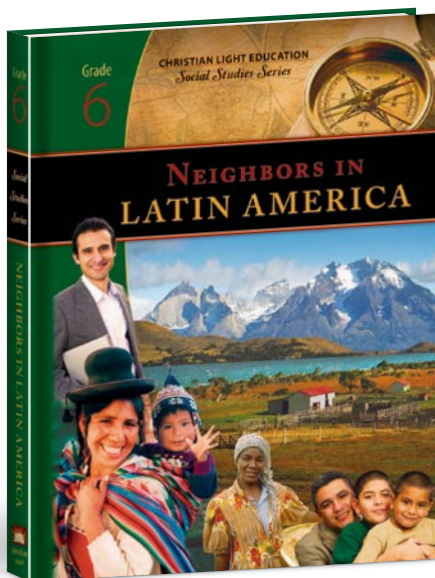
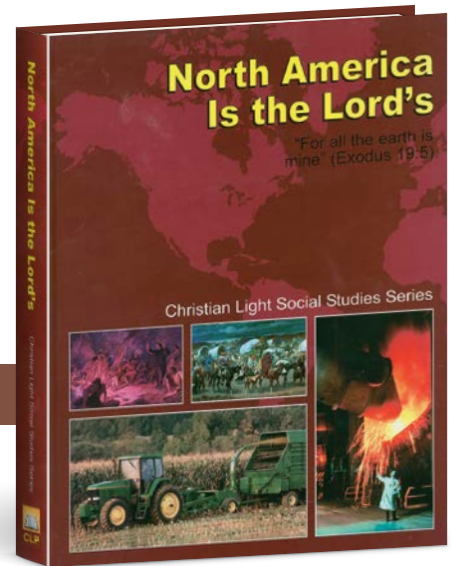
## Grade 3

Covers four Bible-time communities, more recent communities in Amsterdam and Philadelphia, and 20th-century Israel. Second edition 1996.



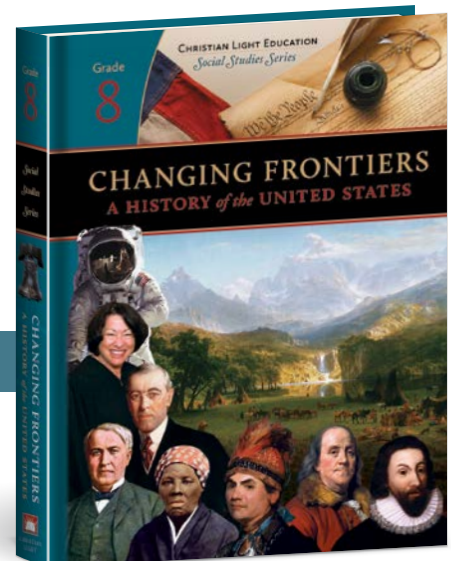
## Grade 4

Explores the geography, people, and resources of each continent. Published 1991.



## Grade 5

Explores the history and geography of the United States and Canada. Published 1980.

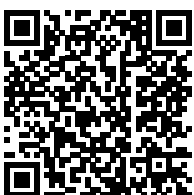


## Grade 6

Covers the early history, geography, and climate of Latin America and gives specific information about the major countries. Published 2008.

## Grade 8

Begins with pre-Columbus Americans and European explorers and follows American history into the early 21st century. Published 2015.



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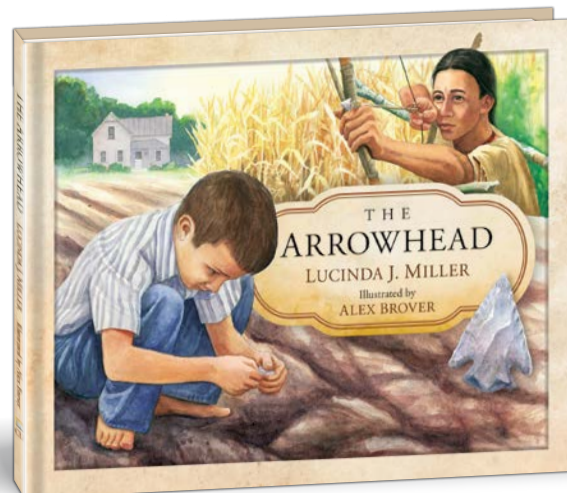


# Summer Reading for Children

## The Arrowhead Lucinda J. Miller

For years an arrowhead lay buried in the soil of an Indiana farm. The Indian who had shot it was long forgotten. Generations of settlers and other families who worked the land never found it. Then came Ted, praying and searching for an arrowhead like those his sisters had found.

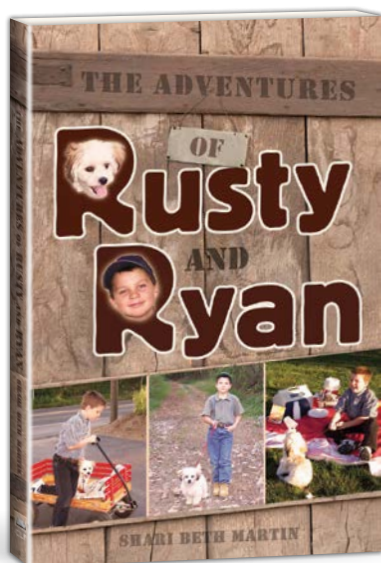
265240 **\$16.95** 44 pages



## The Adventures of Rusty and Ryan Shari Beth Martin

Rusty and Ryan are best friends. Being a puppy, Rusty has some things to learn. Being a boy, so does Ryan. Twenty fun chapters with titles such as "Rusty Gets Lost," "Rusty Is a Hero," "Rusty Visits the Hospital," "Rusty Goes to Church," and more.

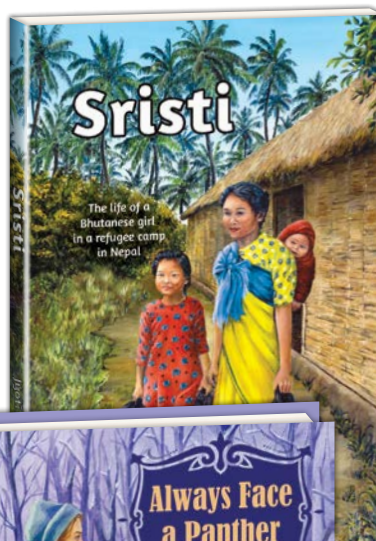
264365 **\$8.95** 177 pages



## Sristi Jyoti Nepal

Sristi's home was a bamboo hut in a refugee camp in Nepal. She went to school, played with her friends, and traipsed after her little brother. Every morning Sristi's mother offered incense to a Hindu goddess. One day Sristi opened the Bible a friend had given her and found a surprise in the first sentence.

265470 **\$9.95** 165 pages

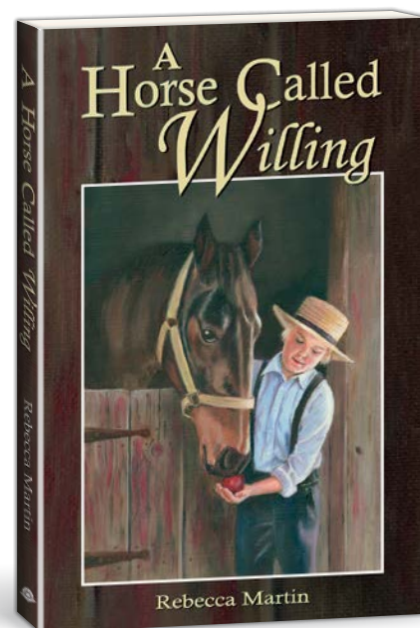
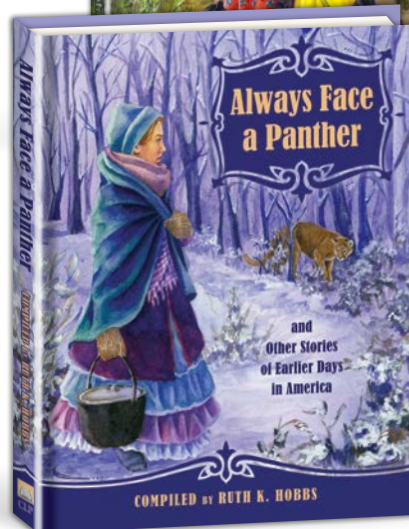


## Always Face a Panther

Compiled by Ruth K. Hobbs

Imagine running a farm and taking care of your family alone, spending a winter in the north woods trapping animals, or working long hours in a grinding room. While young people today don't do those kinds of things, obedience, respect, kindness, and hard work are just as important now. Eighteen stories from earlier days in America.

264660 **\$10.95** 254 pages



## A Horse Called Willing

Rebecca Martin

When Lady's gallop across the pasture ended in disaster, Joel's family needed another horse. That's how Willing arrived at their farm. Willing was a model of . . . stubbornness. Through the adventures, struggles, and surprises that followed, Joel learned about willingness, getting along with others, and that God does all things well.

263650 **\$8.25** 165 pages

# Summer Reading for Teens and Adults

## A Drop of Mercy Becky McGurrin

"Is this what you want?" Heinrich asked, holding up his cider skin. The soldier's face lit up. Heinrich spat. "Not even a drop." He turned the skin upside down and squeezed every last drop onto the ground. Set in the American Revolution, this is the fictional story of a young man finding his way through the confusion of war.

265230 **\$8.50** 142 pages

## Clutched in the Talons Darryl Derstine

Three powerful stories illustrating the danger of becoming ensnared and the blessings of living free: Jordan looked down at the magazine cover hungrily, his heart thudding against his ribs. Captain Jim felt calm elation as he leveled the C-130 at cruise altitude. He'd show those boys some real power. Kaitlin slipped down by her bed and the words came, broken words from a broken soul.

265225 **\$7.50** 114 pages

## But Not Forsaken Helen Good Brenneman

Caught in the terrors of World War II, Hans and Maria Penner fled Russia with their family in a dangerous flight for freedom. Tragically separated, each feared the other was lost or dead. Hoping against hope, each continued west. A gripping story partially based on true accounts.

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## Under a Silent Sky Claudia Lehman

Defying the state church, Jurian has dedicated his life to translating Scripture. Now the powerful and ruthless Konrad von Marburg is on the prowl for heretics, and Jurian's time is running out. Only God can save him and the Work. But where is God as Marburg closes in? Historical fiction set in the 1200s.

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## Light From Heaven Christmas Carol Kauffman

Joseph's father showed little concern for his wife and children. Work came first; praise was a foreign language. He portrayed himself as flawlessly pious to those outside the family, making his home a potential hotbed for bitterness. A devout mother bridged the gap, and her prayers were heard. Joseph's heavenly Father helped him rise above his circumstances to a life of purpose. Based on a true account.

263730 **\$10.50** 537 pages



**i Out of Print** The book *Love Lifted Me* was published by Christian Light in 2014 as a true story. However, we recently learned that Dennis, one of the main characters, was not forthright about his past. For this reason, we have discontinued selling the book.





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