

We have constructed some guidelines to help keep the reviews similar in the content that each is reporting on. We've tried to include the items that we are often asked about. Feel free to add to the review as you desire.

The reviews will be used in the newsletter and later put onto the website (temporarily) and then to the Curriculum Guide (when we update). (Wording may be changed to fit the article into the format needed.)

Your submission gives us permission to use your reviews in the ways indicated above... or in another way of sharing within the AHE organization. You own the copyright of your own written works and you may use them as you desire (church newsletter, blog, etc.)

We want to take a moment to thank you for the time you may put into this project. It is too hard for one person to review all curriculums and books that are out there, but with help, we can make a bigger dent in sharing how curriculum fits into the SDA faith.

Thank you!

The Adventist Home Educator Leadership Team  
[www.adventisthomeducator.org](http://www.adventisthomeducator.org)

## Book or Curriculum Review Guidelines

For the most part we would like the book reviews to share the physical features of the item, the facts about the item, then a summary and review of the item. Please feel free to copy and paste the questions below and fill in the blanks as you compile your review.

### Details

Book Rating: On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you rate the book overall? 5

- 1– Very poor (would not recommend)
- 2 - Poor (not interesting or confusing to use)
- 3 – OK, neither loved nor hated, got the learning accomplished
- 4 – Enjoyed, with changes
- 5 – Enjoyed, without changes.

Name of Book / Curriculum:

Author of Book / Publisher of Curriculum:

Edition, if listed:

What age level is this appropriate for? Is it appropriate for multi-age teaching?

Is the material consumable? Reproducible?

Please describe the physical features of the product... (lots of pictures, large print, hard cover, includes CD's, etc.)

### Overview

In the next section, we would like a written overview that covers as many points listed below that are applicable:

- Please describe the overall content of the book or curriculum.
- Did you notice any religious themes or any doctrine that does not agree with the SDA church? If so, can you be specific about it... amount of influence in the book... where it is located, if possible... (the specific details about the differing thoughts is not required... but is helpful for some people)
- Did this book include fiction? Was it historical fiction? Did it contain true to life ideals, or did it have silliness, imaginable ideas, ... things that don't normally happen in real life?

- If curriculum, does it require parent instruction/interpretation or can it be used independently by a child?
- Did you use the curriculum as instructed or with some changes? Explain briefly, if you have room\*
- If a book, did you read the book aloud or did the child read the book?
- Was this book a fair value for the price?

Things you may wish to include, but it is not required:

- Did this book benefit your child or family, how?
- How did you use the book or curriculum? Was it assigned reading?
- Was it for teacher application?
- Did it fulfill a requirement for you?

### **Submitted by**

Please include name, address, and email. Contact information will not be shared. It is used so that we can verify information and ask questions if we feel more explanation is needed.

Initials and/or first name and state may be included with review.

### **Submit your review to:**

[adventisthomeducator@gmail.com](mailto:adventisthomeducator@gmail.com)

## EXAMPLES:

- A. Book Rating: On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you rate the book overall? 5
- 1– Very poor (would not recommend)
  - 2 - Poor (not interesting or confusing to use)
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  - 4 – Enjoyed, with changes
  - 5 – Enjoyed, without changes.

Name of Book / Curriculum: Cooking Up U.S. History

Author of Book / Publisher of Curriculum: Suzanne I. Barchers, Patricia C. Marden

Edition, if listed: 1991, First (there is a second edition now available)

What age level is this appropriate for? Is it appropriate for multi-age teaching?  
Elementary ages. Yes it can be used for multi-age teaching!

Is the material a consumable? No

Was this book a fair value for the price? Yes, but is readily available used for cheaper.

Please describe the physical features of the product... (lots of pictures, large print, hard cover, etc.) Book is divided by eras. Each era features a word list, recipes common to that time period, and then a bibliography of books that share book titles and appropriate grade levels, it even divides books into categories (non-fiction, fiction) and each book is given a short description. There are also questions throughout, called library links, which you can give to your children to search for answers at the library. (Answers are in the back of the book). Limited copying permission is given for teachers.

This book can be quite useful in creating unit studies. When studying a particular era, you can open up and add to a unit study quite easily. You can find books to read by appropriate reading levels, plus some fun library activities like finding which king loved sweet potato pie so much that he imported sweet potatoes from Spain? The word lists are great reminders of common terms that are no longer common and make for great conversation starters and good vocabulary studies. The book itself is not a book to read, but rather a resource for a parent or teacher in putting together a study.

The recipes in the book are pretty much as they were back in the day, so you will find some recipes that are inappropriate for SDAs because they include pork or meat products that many typically do not eat. However, there are many recipes for each era and you will be able to find some that will work for a common SDA diet.

This book is beneficial in adding to studies on American History, helping the children to experience a bit of life through the books, vocabulary, and recipes.

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**B. Author Review:** Jim Arnosky

Jim Arnosky has written many books on nature topics. The library I go to, has only a handful of these books, so please feel free to screen each book as you decide to use them. The book Deer at the Brook is a delightful picture book. The pictures are realistic and the story line is simply a short description about deer, a beginner introduction for children. This book in particular would be nice for children ages 2yo to beginner readers. It appears some of his other books may reach an older student as well.

To learn more about Jim Arnosky, visit his website: [www.jimarnosky.com](http://www.jimarnosky.com)

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**C. Book Review:** Learning In Spite of Labels by Joyce Herzog

Do you have a child that seems to struggle with learning in one way or another? This book is going to be an encouragement for you. Not centered around a specific learning disorder, this book rather discusses a variety of disorders, and even some normal delays that can bring us to our knees in prayer seeking for help. Joyce shares practical advice and I was encouraged by how much Biblical advice was given in the book. This book does not give you every reason or answer for learning disorders, but it does give you, the

parent and teacher, some real answers and encouragement for how to help your child who might be struggling with learning. A listing of resource books for continued, more detailed, learning is included in the back of the book. If you have a child that is struggling, or perhaps you feel you aren't getting this "teaching" thing... perhaps this book will enlighten you to some areas to look into to help your child take off and LEARN.

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