

A River of Voices Vol. 2

Teaser: Spines Book List, Anticipated Rollout Timeline

Updated: March 11, 2023

Very Important! Please note that we are still in the process of working with a committee of consultants and this volume is still very much under construction. It is still **subject to change**.

Pre-sale Link: blossomandroot.com/l/whACdC

Use this code for an additional 30% off the pre-sale price: river30

Vol. 2 Release Timeline

We have been releasing preview / pre-sale lessons on a rolling release timeline, and lessons that have been released for preview during this pre-sale period will still be undergoing changes and updating until the curriculum's final version is released in full. This is a work in progress—it is fluid and evolving.

The best place to track updates will be the listing for this volume in our store (blossomandroot.com/l/whACdC) and on our updates page on our website (<https://blossomandroot.com/updates-and-new-releases/> .)

This Timeline Updated: March 11, 2023

“Preview lessons” = These lessons have been released but they are still undergoing final review and are subject to change before the final curriculum is released in full.

As of January, 2023, all preview lessons have been released and are available upon purchase.

New Information (3/11/23):

The final version of A River of Voices Vol. 2 will be released on April 15th, 2023.

Vol. 2 Spines: Please read all of the information below. This section will be updated in the future if needed.

The lists below reflect the spines only, not the optional supplemental books. The supplemental book lists will only be available to you after purchase.

Very Important!: Please note that we are still in the process of working with a committee of consultants and this volume is still very much under construction. It is still subject to change, as is this book list. As with the teaser book list we released for Vol. 1, this list reflects the spines being used in the curriculum as it stands now, and is a work in progress. It is subject to alteration prior to the release of the curriculum. Please read through our notes below carefully, and understand that this list may be altered slightly, if our committee has a strong reason to remove a selection or to add an additional one for your consideration.

That being said, you'll recognize the majority of these lists from Vol. 1. Several of the books listed will be used in all three volumes of *A River of Voices*, and have already been used in the first one.

Please remember that history is best taught through multiple lenses. Every resource is subject to some degree of bias. The idea behind this curriculum is to examine the history of the United States of America through many lenses. This curriculum is a living work in progress, and we intend to update it regularly as more high-quality resources are written and published for young people.

Gentle Pathway

Recommended for k - 2 and more sensitive learners. Please note that, while we provide this option for families with younger learners, this curriculum will not be appropriate for all children in this range. We highly recommend that you preview the spines on Amazon, and (once released) the parent guide samples carefully before deciding to purchase for a younger learner.

The spines required for the Gentle Pathway are listed below. Please note that the first three spines listed below will be used in all levels of *A River of Voices* for the Gentle Pathways.

- ***A Kid's Guide to Native American History* by Yvonne Wakim Dennis and Arlene Hirschfelder**
- ***A Kid's Guide to Latino History* by Valerie Petrillo**
- ***A Child's Introduction to African American History* by Jabari Asim**

- ****A Kid's Guide to Asian American History* by Valerie Petrillo**

*Please note that this selection is still under consideration and review. We have many strong selections in the "supplemental book list" written by Asian American authors, and have not determined whether or not we will use this as a spine in the final curriculum.

Standard Pathway

Recommended for grades 3 - 8

This is the foundational pathway for this curriculum, and was designed with grades 3 - 8 in mind. Please note that this does not mean it will be appropriate for every elementary learner, and you will want to screen content even if your child falls into this age range. We highly recommend that you preview the spines on Amazon, and (once released) the parent guide samples carefully before deciding to purchase for your learner.

The spines required for the Standard Pathway are listed below. Please note that the first three spines listed below will be used in all levels of *A River of Voices* for the Standard Pathway.

- ***A Kid's Guide to Native American History* by Yvonne Wakim Dennis and Arlene Hirschfelder**
- ***A Kid's Guide to Latino History* by Valerie Petrillo**
- ***1001 Things Everyone Should Know About African American History* by Jeffrey C. Stewart** Please note that this book is not written for children and does contain some adult content that may be inappropriate for younger learners. For this reason, please always screen each section before reading it to your child. If you are uncertain about whether this resource will be appropriate for your child, you may wish to use the Jabari Asim book in the Gentle Pathway list instead. That being said, this spine provides a wealth of information. You can always change a word here or there, or omit an item while screening (before reading hit out loud to your child.) We do not recommend handing this one over to your child to be read independently.
- ***A Kid's Guide to Asian American History* by Valerie Petrillo** *Please note that this selection is still under consideration and review. We have many strong selections in the "supplemental book list" written by Asian American authors, and have not determined whether or not we will use this as a spine in the final curriculum.

Civil War Spines: At least one of the following can be used for the section on the Civil War. These spines help to tell the story of the war itself, but they are optional. You can choose one, mix and match from several, or use the supplemental books and video links in lieu of them. If you do not feel the need to cover the specific events of the war at this time, feel free to skip this particular element during the Civil War section.

- ***Two Miserable Presidents* by Steve Sheinkin** This selection is easy to read, engaging, and hits the main points without going into an overwhelming amount of detail. Please note that the tone is on the lighter and more playful side, which may not feel appropriate for some families. If you prefer a more reverent spine for the section on the Civil War, this may not be a good fit for you.
- ***The Civil War for Kids: A History with 21 Activities* by Janis Herbert** This is a meaty option for middle schoolers and / or upper elementary kids who devour military history focusing on specific battles. It digs quite deeply into the war itself. Please do look at samples on Amazon before choosing this one—it may be a bit much for many learners. Does contain some problematic language, which should be discussed as you move through the book. We will provide guidance for this in the curriculum guide.
- ***DK Eyewitness Books: Civil War*** This is mostly recommended as a visual reference as you move through the Civil War section.

Please note: We may be adding an additional option or two for the Civil War spines between now and the full curriculum's release. If we do, we will update this document.

Strongly Recommended (But Not Required):

- ***Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans* by Kadir Nelson**
- ***Dreams from Many Rivers: A Hispanic History of the United States Told in Poems* by Margarita Engle**

- ***Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds**

Advanced Pathway

Recommended in addition to the Standard Pathway for older learners (grades 7+ with parental discretion) and parents.

The spines required for the Advanced Pathway are listed below. Please note that several of these spines will be used in all levels of A River of Voices for the Advanced Pathway. Please take time to read previews of each spine before ordering. The Advanced Pathway is not designed with younger or more sensitive learners in mind, therefore these selections will not be appropriate for younger or more sensitive learners.

- ***A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America* by Ronald Takaki**
- ***A Young People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn**
- ***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz**
- (Recommended only for parents or high school students at the discretion of the parent) ***A Queer History of the United States for Young People* by Michael Bronski**
- ***Escape to Gold Mountain: A Graphic History of the Chinese in North America* by David H. T. Wong** (includes some graphic and violent imagery)
- For parents / adults and advanced high school students: ***The Making of Asian America* by Erika Lee** I truly hope to see a “young people’s” edition of this book in the future. In the meantime, this is a wonderful resource, but it’s quite hefty and will likely be best for adults or advanced high school learners.

Vol. 2 Information (General)

At this time, we are not ready to share a complete Table of Contents. We will make that available at a later date. In the meantime, here is some information to help you understand the scope of this second volume of *A River of Voices*:

- Vol. 2 will cover the 1790s to the 1890s.
- It is broken into five sections, with multiple lessons in each section. We anticipate between 32 and 38 total lessons. (Vol. 1 had 36 lessons distributed over four sections.)
- Section 1 will cover the 1790's up until ~1800.
- Section 2 will cover 1801 to the 1830s.
- Section 3 will cover the 1840s and 1850s.
- Section 4 will cover the Civil War years.
- Section 5 will cover 1865 to the end of the 1890s.
- As with Vol. 1, the study of Indigenous peoples by region will continue. Each section will include one lesson focusing on a specific region.
- As with Vol. 1, each lesson will include assigned readings from the spines, supplemental book suggestions, video and website links, activity suggestions, and a notebook prompt (with occasional mapping activities included.)
- As with Vol. 1, each section will include a list of longer read-aloud suggestions to read over the course of that entire section. These are typically historical fiction selections.
- As with Vol. 1, we will encourage you to adapt and adjust the curriculum to suit your family's individual preferences and needs.

FAQs

What will this look like?

If you purchase before the first sections are released, you will receive each **lesson** as it is released through Gumroad. As each new **section** is released in full, you will receive an email from Gumroad with PDF files containing the book lists, section introduction, lessons, student notebook pages, and clickable links for that section. If you are beginning Vol. 2 this year, we recommend using a three-ring binder for the student notebook and to either use the parent guide pages digitally, or print and place it into a three-ring binder. If you're holding off until fall of 2022 to begin, you can wait for the completed parent guide and student notebook to be released, and then have them printed and bound.

If you purchase after the first sections are released, but before the final section is released, you will receive any sections and lessons that have already been released upon purchase. They will not be in the “final format” until all five sections have been released. As each new, completed **section** is released, you will get an email from Gumroad with PDF files containing the book lists, section introduction, lessons, student notebook pages, and clickable links for that section.

When can I purchase it?

The curriculum has been available for pre-sale since October 11th, 2021. It will be **steeply** discounted during the roll-out, and won't be updated to its “regular price” until the entire curriculum is released. Please see the code at the beginning of this pdf to save an additional 30% off the discounted pre-sale price.

Please note that we will release more information (Table of Contents, samples, etc.) as it becomes finalized and available. Please track updates, releases, pre-sale information, etc. on our updates page: <https://blossomandroot.com/updates-and-new-releases/>

We are very excited for the second volume, and are committed to making it the best we can for you and your family.