



Dear Homeschool Friend,

Thank you for ordering *BookShark's History or Language Arts D Instructor's Guides*.

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to carry the Advanced Reader *The Story of Eli Whitney* scheduled in your guide. We are replacing this title with two new Advanced Readers, *Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch* and *Vostaas: White Buffalo's Story of Plains Indian Life*. This update only applies to families using the Advanced Readers schedule.

Enclosed, you will find a new schedule to use with either your History or Language Arts D Guide for Weeks 31-33.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this product update, please feel free to contact us. You can reach us at (303) 797-2954, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm MST Monday through Thursday and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Friday, or email us anytime at [main@BookShark.com](mailto:main@BookShark.com).

Thank you for making BookShark part of your homeschool day.

Sincerely,

The BookShark Team



DRAU Curriculum Update (2022)

Enclosure: Schedule and notes for *Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch* and *Vostaas: White Buffalo's Story of Plains Indian Life*.





# History D

## Schedule & Notes Update

Week 31				
Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
<b>Readers</b>				
<b>Advanced: <i>Timmy O' Dowd and the Big Ditch</i></b>	chaps. 1–2 	chaps. 3–4 	chaps. 5–6 	chaps. 7–8

### Day 1

#### ***Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch*** | Chapters 1–2

##### Vocabulary

Find definitions for some of the words at the back of the book.

**hoggee:** please find a glossary at the back of the book. [chap. 1]

**two horse hitch:** two horses connected with harnesses and a singletree that would connect to the boat to pull. [chap. 1]

**"...haul the packet at eight miles an hour:"** see glossary. [chap. 1]

**pantaloons:** trousers. [chap. 1]

**"Red coats are a sad sight for any Irishman:"** Ireland was controlled by England and the British army wore redcoats. Grandfather remembers army personnel with hostility and does not want his grandson to wear a red jacket. [chap. 1]

**macaroni:** see glossary. [chap. 1]

**dandy:** similar to macaroni, a man who dresses in a very fancy manner [chap. 1]

**leprechaun:** a type of an Irish fairy—he is usually pictured as a little, bearded man with a green hat and coat, who is mischievous. [chap. 1]

**daideo:** Irish for grandpa. [chap. 1]

**keeping room:** an area just off the kitchen; called that from Colonial times, when the family would use the room during cold nights as the stove would be the only heater in the house; a great room. [chap. 2]

**"...run the boat into its slip:"** a place to store a boat often with a ramp to move a boat from land to the water. [chap. 2]

##### To Discuss After You Read

Q: Why are both Timmy and Dennis reluctant to have Dennis stay? [chap. 1]

A: *Dennis doesn't want to stay in such a primitive place with a poorly dressed cousin—he doesn't feel like he belongs, and Timmy doesn't like his fancy cousin who shows off and doesn't belong*

Q: Describe the canal. [chap. 2]

A: *a ditch constructed of walls from dirt removed from the channel; four feet deep; forty feet wide at the top and twenty eight feet wide at the bottom; the sides are tapered; 363 miles long; took seven years to build; lined with clay*

Q: Why is the canal wider at the top than the bottom? [chap. 2]

A: *the walls of the canal are tapered—it looks like a wedge—because the canal is made of earth, and this style of canal is the most effective*

Q: How are the walls of the canal abused? [chap. 2]

A: *high speed canal boats create waves that damage them, and heavy rains fill the canal and weaken the walls*

##### Timeline and Map Points

*Schenectady to Buffalo* (use the map at the beginning of the book)

### Day 2

#### ***Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch*** | Chapters 3–4

##### Vocabulary

**locks:** a large box that boats sail into with doors on both ends. Once the doors close, the lock adds or removes water so the boat will be level with the next water level. [chap. 3]

**"The canal had eighty three locks:"** an engineering marvel. [chap. 4]

### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Was the canal a financial success or disaster? [chap. 3]  
A: *success; the rents from the boats that used it made money for the state and made New York City's harbor the country's biggest port; plus it enabled people who moved west to transport their goods to people who lived in the east*

### Timeline and Map Points

- 📍 Michigan (B6); Illinois (B6) (map 2)

## Day 3

### Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch | Chapters 5–6

#### Vocabulary

**"...unless you want a meeting in the wash house...":** a threat for a whipping in the privacy of the wash house. [chap. 6]

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Why did "travel-wise" passengers skip the portion of the canal trip between Schenectady and Albany? [chap. 5]  
A: *the canal descended so sharply down to the Hudson River that it required twenty-three locks in that short section; this feature added almost a full day of travel to the trip*
- Q: Why does O'Dowd fine Cap'n Sam? [chap. 6]  
A: *for speeding and because rules are rules—he can't make an exception for one captain over another*

#### Timeline and Map Points

- 📍 Albany (the capital of New York) (use the map at the beginning of the book)

## Day 4

### Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch | Chapters 7–8

#### Vocabulary

**super:** short for supervisor. [chap. 8]

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Timmy thinks Dennis is showing off when he goes to get money to pay for his piece of canvas. What do you think? [chap. 7]  
A: *probably not—his father probably gave Dennis some cash to cover unexpected expenses; notice how we can skew our perspective of different events—Dennis probably never gave his actions a second thought, but they gave Timmy a bad feeling*

The peddler mentions that he refused to vote for Governor Clinton because he thought the idea of the canal "was daft." While the canal was under construction, people had mixed feelings about it. [chap. 8]

- Q: Which tasks does a pathmaster complete? [chap. 8]  
A: *walks the towpath; patches soft spots; runs to and calls for the hurry-up boats to patch big breaks; stops fights between boat crews; acts as a liaison for farmers; fines boats for speeding ■*



# History D

## Schedule & Notes Update

Week 32				
Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
<b>Readers</b>				
<b>Advanced: <i>Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch</i></b>	chaps. 9–11	chaps. 12–13	chap. 14 & "The Erie Canal – Then and Now"	
<b>Advanced: <i>Vostaas: White Buffalo's Story of Plains Indian Life</i></b>				pp. 6–18 (up to break) 

### Day 1

**Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch** | Chapters 9–11

#### Vocabulary

**Cagey lot:** secretive, guarded, evasive group. [chap. 10]

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Grandfather says, "Oh, I still love the old sod, but a man can't put rainbows on the dinner table." (p. 56) What does he mean? [chap. 9]
- A: *he loves and misses his homeland of Ireland, but moved to America for the jobs, money, and opportunity*
- Q: How does the super deal with the break in the berm? [chap. 9]
- A: *calmly; with authority; he assigns tasks; works a plan; uses everyone; spares no expense; knows what is necessary; makes a decision to try a new idea; etc.*
- Q: Why was Timmy's job to collect workers tough? [chap. 10]
- A: *the farmers bargained to get the best prices, and one farmer wanted the canal to fail*
- Q: How did the workers fix the break? [chap. 11]
- A: *they dropped log pilings upright into a line which workers used to anchor tree trunks as the frame of the berm; then branches and twigs plugged the hole*
- Q: How does Dennis come up with a creative solution to the problem of how to stop the berm from breaking? [chap. 11]
- A: *he remembers a story from a book about the British navy and how they used canvas from sails to plug holes made from cannonballs; O'Dowd decides to imitate the idea*

### Day 2

**Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch** | Chapters 12–13

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Why does Timmy change his mind on his future career? [chap. 12]
- A: *he comes to see the canal captains as showmen and his father's work, in contrast, as meaningful and significant; he thinks a canal engineer might be a fine job to have*
- Q: How will a super's job in the future differ from Timmy's dad's current role? [chap. 13]
- A: *since the walls of the canal in the future will be stone-lined, the super won't need hurry-up boats; a super could boss a hundred men and would need to understand how to build an entire canal plus the locks, aqueducts and berms*
- Q: What decision does Timmy make about next summer toward his future? [chap. 13]
- A: *to apprentice on a canal boat in preparation for college—to see the canal in preparation for more training*

### Day 3

**Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch** | Chapters 14 and "The Erie Canal –Then and Now"

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: Do you think Timmy and Dennis became friends? Defend your answer. [chap. 14]
- A: *yes—Timmy asks his dad if he could visit Dennis in New York City next summer, he teases his cousin, helps his cousin carry his supplies to the boat, and notices the twinkle in his cousin's eye*

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## Day 4

### **Vostaas: White Buffalo's Story of Plains Indian Life** | pp. 6–18 (up to break)

**Note:** This book was written in the 1990s and does have some outdated information. Please keep this in mind as you read the statistics and vocabulary. While this book only briefly mentions the harsh treatment of Native Americans, William White Buffalo offers a valuable point of view.

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: What does William White Buffalo say about various Native American's appearance?
- A: *they don't all look the same*
- Q: After 1500, what two animals did the Native Americans use and how?
- A: *buffaloes for food, clothes, shelter; horses for hunting and travel*
- Q: What happened at Little Big Horn?
- A: *General Custer and 300 white men fought many Native Americans and died; this was the last Native American victory in a major conflict before the United States Army came to destroy their forces and put the people on reservations*

#### Timeline and Map Points

-  *Montana* (see map in front of book) ■



# History D

## Schedule & Notes Update

Week 33				
Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
<b>Readers</b>				
<b>Advanced: Vostaas: <i>White Buffalo's Story of Plains Indian Life</i></b>	pp. 18–32	pp. 33–46	pp. 47–56	pp. 57–69

### Day 1

**Vostaas: *White Buffalo's Story of Plains Indian Life*** | pp. 18–32

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: How did Native Americans get their names?  
 A: *males would have different names for different stages of life, names that fit their physical features or their deeds; women would often just have one name; they had no family names; when the government tried to record the Native Americans, they gave family names to them all*
- Q: How did the Blackfeet treat the invaders?  
 A: *they made war on any invaders, whether Native American or white*
- Q: How does the future look for the Native Americans?  
 A: *better than it has for a long time*

### Day 2

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: What were the first mobile homes?  
 A: *tipis, made of poles and buffalo skins*
- Q: After moving to the reservation, what houses did the Native Americans use?  
 A: *canvas tipis were too cold; tents worked for a while, but soon became filthy from the trampled dirt outside; some built tiny houses, but these allowed disease to spread quickly; now new homes, both prefabricated and larger log homes, stand on the reservations, complete with pipes, but not with gas or oil stoves*
- Q: How did the buffalo disappear?  
 A: *white men shot them for their hides alone, and left the meat to rot*

- Q: How did the Native Americans preserve the buffalo meat without refrigerators?  
 A: *dried it to jerky; they could mix berries with jerky and fat to make the calorie-rich pemmican*
- Q: What happened if one person went hungry?  
 A: *all were hungry, since they shared whatever food and resources they had*

### Day 3

**Vostaas: *White Buffalo's Story of Plains Indian Life*** | pp. 47–56

#### To Discuss After You Read

- Q: What did boys and girls learn before they lived on reservations?  
 A: *boys: how to shoot a bow and arrow, how to ride and care for horses, the habits of animals, the stories of the people, the dances and songs; girls: what plants are edible, care for meat, how to make clothing and tipi covers out of hides, decorations out of porcupine quills and beads, medicines from wild plants*
- Q: Before missionaries came, how did the Native Americans practice religion?  
 A: *they worshipped the Great Spirit, tried to live with him all the time, and, because he was in everything, all was holy and sacred; they prayed at all times, praised and thanked him every day*
- Q: Why was the idea of a “job” bizarre to the Native Americans?  
 A: *work does not occur for a set amount of time: if they needed to preserve the buffalo meat, everyone worked until the job was done, not from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; also, the tasks they did were necessary to stay alive*

**Vostaas: White Buffalo's Story of Plains Indian Life** |  
pp. 57–69

**To Discuss After You Read**

- Q: Why do many Native Americans not leave the reservations to get jobs?
- A: *they like their families, friends, and way of life; if they move to a city, they will be different and lonely, which would not be worth the job*
- Q: What happens at a social dance?
- A: *singers tell the stories of the people; bells on clothing and large drums provide the rhythm and keep time; whole families dance in traditional clothing*
- Q: How did the Native Americans keep their customs alive?
- A: *sometimes they taught their children in secret, but now they have nothing to fear and proudly teach the songs, dances, and ceremonies to younger generations*
- Q: Of all the hopes that William White Buffalo lists, which do you like the most, or which do you think will be the hardest to fulfill?
- Q: What does William White Buffalo think about white men's culture?
- A: *some parts are bad: too much hurry, materialism, no care for the earth; other parts are good and the Native Americans should take the good and use it* ■