

**4th Grade Block Rotation 2014-2015**

**Mr. Lucas, Alabama Waldorf School**

(subject to change based on the needs of the students)

**Local Geography and History - Four Weeks (8-20 to 9-19)**

**Arithmetic - Four Weeks (9-22 to 10-3)**

**Zoology - Four Weeks (10-6 to 10-31)**

**Norse Mythology - Four Weeks (11-3 to 11-25)**

**Arithmetic - Four Weeks (12-1 to 12-16 and 1-5 to 1-16)**

**Language Arts - Four Weeks (1-19 to 2-13)**

**Class Play - Two Weeks (2-16 to 3-13)**

**Zoology - Four Weeks (3-16 to 3-27 and 4-6 to 4-17)**

**Norse Mythology - Four Weeks (4-20 to 5-15)**

**Year-End Review - Two Weeks (5-18 to 5-29)**

**Local Geography and History**

Geography in the Waldorf school is pre-eminently cultural geography, so we'll spend time hearing legends of the Native Americans indigenous to our region, and stories of the first settlers in our region.

Week One: Geographical features of the world. Local geographical features. Maps, maps, maps!

Week Two: Native American language and symbols. Native American fables. Native Americans who once occupied our state.

Week Three: First settlers in our region and what attracted them to our area.

Week Four: Pioneer life in Alabama

Field trip to Moundville.

**Arithmetic**

This year we will take a look at the patterns and codes that infuse arithmetic with the magical qualities that can sometimes be elusive to the untrained eye. We will also be working with fractions and continuing to bolster our skills of the basics we have learned so far.

First Block

- Week One: Magic squares and Pascal's Triangle.
- Week Two: Review, review, review! Multiplication tables. The four operations. Place value.
- Week Three: Prime and composite numbers.
- Week Four: Factoring numbers. Abundant and deficient numbers.

#### Second Block

- Week One: Understanding fractions as parts of a whole.
- Week Two: The four operations with fractions.
- Week Three: Addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators.
- Week Four: Improper fractions and mixed numbers.

#### **Zoology**

Now that the 10-year-old begins to distinguish between the "inner self" and the "outer world," a degree of objectivity arises which makes the study of science meaningful. In fourth grade we will look at the animal world, the closest "kingdom of nature" to the human being. Our focus will be on what the animals can teach us about being human. Through the study of the world outside of ourselves, we learn much about what lives within us.

#### First Block

- Week One: The physical form of the human being. Animal forms and their relationship to the human form.
- Week Two: Mice, beavers and other rodents.
- Week Three: The octopus and the dolphin, creatures of the sea.
- Week Four: Cows, horses and other ungulates.

Field trip to Anniston Museum of Natural History and Mt. Cheaha

#### Second Block

- Week One: Hummingbirds and penguins, eagles and chickadees.
- Week Two: Lions and cats, wolves and dogs.
- Week Three: Snakes and turtles.

Week Four: Animal reports.

Field trip to Montgomery Zoo

### **Norse Mythology**

Filled with exploits of great triumph and often greater tragedy, the tales of the Norse gods serve as a remarkably accurate reflection of the fourth graders who study them. Willful and adventurous, the Norse gods find themselves striving to create a world of power and beauty in spite of their knowledge of their own impending doom. Their courage and sacrifice would leave its mark on the world when they were gone and the world turned over to the care of mankind.

#### First Block

Week One: The Norse Creation myth; the lineage of the Aesir, the gods of Asgard. Yggdrasil, the World Ash.

Week Two: Odin, Thor, Loki and other gods and goddesses. The Norns and their prophecies.

Week Three: Stories of the gods. Adventures of Odin, Thor and Loki.

Week Four: Stories of the gods. Exploits of the Vanir and minor Aesir.

#### Second Block

Week One: The story of Loki's children.

Week Two: Loki's anger at the Aesir. The death of Baldur.

Week Three: Loki's punishment.

Week Four: Ragnarok: The final days of the Aesir

Field trip to Cathedral Caverns