

#### D. A New Plan

1. In previous years, History At Our House has presented a fairly traditional curriculum of Ancient, European, and American history, with some world history added in. This year, that changes.
2. The goal of new History At Our House curriculum is *reveal and explain* the world that we live in. Thus, it must do more include cultures like those of Asia and the rest of the Western world (Europe and its modern offshoots) especially.
3. The new three year curriculum of History At Our House will be as follows:
  - a) **Year 1 - The United States and the World We Live In:** This program will replace “American history” with an America-centric look at the world we live in, that connects America’s history to Europe, Russia, the Islamic World, and even China (the five *cardinal* cultural blocks of the world we live in.)
  - b) **Year 2 - Asia, Africa, and the World We Live In:** This new program starts in ancient Egypt & Mesopotamia, and follow through to modern Japan, China, India, the Islamic World, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Common threads unite these cultures and their role in the modern world.
  - c) **Year 3 - Europe and the Rise of the World We Live In:** This new program year will focus on Europe, but like Year 1, will branch out far and wide. It will explore the modern blocks of Europe, the Anglosphere and Iberosphere, and then ancient roots of the whole agglomeration that is “Western Civilization” in ancient Greece & Rome.
4. All ten major cultural blocks are covered in this new approach to varying degrees, and even outliers are looked at. (Important examples include North Korea in Asia, and Israel, surrounding by the Islamic world.)
5. One of the features of this new program is that no part of the course begins and ends in *the past*. Every year begins and ends in *the present* — even when the content stretches back thousands of years.

## II. Creating a Basic Framework for American History

#### A. How do we begin?

1. The story of any cultural block, indeed any one country, is like the map of the world we live in. If we try to understand it by treating all the constituent facts as if they were the same, we’ll becoming instantly and permanently lost. It’s just too complex.
2. To overcome the plethora that is the past of a country like the United States, we must employ every possible method to arrive at an organized, integrated awareness that informs our understanding of the present and helps us make sense of the world we see around us.
3. It is so easy to fall into the trap of studying events because they seem “interesting,” or because we can’t really articulate why *not*. Plus, it seems like that’s what everyone else

does. But that has never worked for any student of history (me, Mr. Powell, included). History is broken for a reason. We've been using the wrong method to try to learn it, and even though it's difficult to challenge a method that is so widely accepted around us, if we look at the results, we can see why we need to: history is a subject that some people treat as an intellectual bauble, and most people completely ignore.

4. If we are really going to learn history, we need to make a fresh start, and proceed by a new method. The method that I espouse involves a concept not found in any other history program. It is a method I invented known as the method of *anchor facts*<sup>TM</sup>.