

Golf History Curriculum

Parent-Teacher Notes

Stage 1 — Discover & Play

Your role: playful co-explorer · 6 Weeks · 24 Lessons · Homeschool Edition

How to Use This Document

This document contains every parent-teacher note from the Golf History Curriculum for Stage 1 — Discover & Play. All six weeks, all four lessons per week, organized in one place.

Each note tells you what the lesson is doing analytically, how to facilitate the key discussion or activity, what to watch for in your student's response, and where to push further if your student is ready.

Notes are written for you — the parent-teacher — not for your student. Read the week-level guidance box at the start of each section before beginning that week's lessons.

The Quick Reference table at the back lists every lesson with a single-sentence facilitation priority — ideal for a fast review before each session.

Stage Overview

Your role: playful co-explorer

At this stage your role is adventure companion, not instructor. Read lessons aloud together, go outside, and follow your child's questions wherever they lead. Every session should feel like exploration. Assessment is observational — you are noticing curiosity, recall, and enthusiasm, not grading performance.

Week 1 — Where Did Golf Begin? · Scotland · 15th century

Week Guidance

Week 1 lays the emotional foundation for everything else. Stories work better than facts at this stage. If your child asks 'why did the kings hate golf?' that question IS the lesson — follow it.

LESSON

1

A Walk on a Windy Beach

Parent-Teacher Note

The outdoor stick-and-stone game is the single most effective lesson in this stage. Children who have physically played a primitive version of golf understand instinctively why the game was invented. Do not skip it.

LESSON

2

The Land of Links

Parent-Teacher Note

Aerial photographs of St. Andrews communicate history in a way that words cannot. Google Maps satellite view works beautifully. Let your child explore the image before you explain anything.

LESSON

3

The Kings Who Banned Golf

Parent-Teacher Note

Role-play builds historical empathy more effectively than any lecture at this age. Keep it playful. If your child wants to argue the commoner's case for ten minutes, let them — they are doing historical reasoning.

LESSON

4

Mary Queen of Scots

Parent-Teacher Note

Connecting a historical fact to real people your child can meet at the facility is uniquely powerful. The caddie conversation is a living piece of history. If no one knows the etymology, that is also educational — it opens a research question.

Week 2 — The First Golf Clubs and Balls · Equipment · 1400s–1800s

Week Guidance

Equipment history is concrete and tactile — perfect for this stage. Whenever possible let your child hold and compare actual clubs and balls. If your facility has vintage equipment on display, this is the week to look at it closely.

LESSON

1

The Wooden Club

Parent-Teacher Note

The stick experiment makes the limitations of early equipment viscerally real. Children who have tried to hit a ball with an unsuitable stick understand immediately why craftsmen spent years perfecting club design.

LESSON

2

The Featherie Ball

Parent-Teacher Note

The craft activity takes 15-20 minutes and produces genuine appreciation for the difficulty of featherie manufacturing. Even an imperfect attempt gives your child a physical understanding of what golfers used for 400 years.

LESSON

3

The Gutta-Percha Revolution

Parent-Teacher Note

The bounce comparison makes ball performance concrete. Connecting featherie (poor bounce) vs. gutty (better bounce) vs. modern ball (engineered bounce) builds a timeline of material science through hands-on experience.

LESSON

4

Steel Shafts and the Modern Club

Parent-Teacher Note

Ask your facility's director of coaching if they have any hickory-shafted clubs — even one demonstrates the difference between hickory and steel more powerfully than any description.

Week 3 — The First Golf Rules · Edinburgh · 1744

Week Guidance

Rules lessons work best connected to real situations on the course. Every time your child encounters a rule during actual play this week, reference the lesson: 'Remember — someone in 1744 had to figure out what to do about exactly this situation.'

LESSON

1

Why Golf Needed Rules

Parent-Teacher Note

Looking up the actual original 13 rules together is a primary source encounter — your child is reading the same rules that Edinburgh golfers read in 1744. Even if the language is old-fashioned, working through it together is genuinely exciting.

LESSON

2

The Most Important Rule: Play It As It Lies

Parent-Teacher Note

The physical experience of having to play from a genuinely bad lie — not just hearing about the rule — makes 'play it as it lies' real in a way no description can match. Let the frustration land, then ask: why do you think this rule exists?

LESSON

3

Golfers Judge Themselves

Parent-Teacher Note

The role-play practice is important because calling a penalty on yourself can feel awkward until it has been rehearsed. Making it a practiced behavior — something your child has actually said aloud — dramatically increases the chance they will do it in real rounds.

LESSON

4

Rules for Everyone

Parent-Teacher Note

The bird rule — what happens if a bird picks up your golf ball — is real and children find it delightful. Using the actual rulebook as a discovery document makes the rules feel alive rather than a burden to memorize.

Week 4 — Golf Spreads to the World · Global expansion · 1800s–1900s

Week Guidance

The global spread of golf is a geography lesson as much as a history lesson. Use a globe or world map throughout this week — the tactile experience of tracing golf's journey across oceans is more memorable than any description.

LESSON

1

Golf Sails to England and America

Parent-Teacher Note

The treasure map activity makes migration visual and spatial. If you have a physical globe, let your child trace the routes with their finger — the physical sensation of spanning oceans adds meaning to the distance involved.

LESSON

2

The Open Championship

Parent-Teacher Note

A photograph of the Claret Jug — especially one where you can see the names inscribed on it — communicates the weight of golf history more powerfully than any statistics. If the Open is on television this week, connect it directly to what you are studying.

LESSON

3

The Underdog Story: Francis Ouimet

Parent-Teacher Note

The story is genuinely thrilling and translates beautifully to child-appropriate writing. Some children will want to research more — follow that impulse.

LESSON

4

Golf Around the World Today

Parent-Teacher Note

The unusual golf courses research is reliably wonderful — courses on volcanoes, Arctic courses, cliff-edge courses over the ocean. This lesson is designed to end with wonder, which is exactly the emotion that sustains long-term interest in learning.

Week 5 — Golf Legends · Famous players · All eras

Week Guidance

Children connect to history through people, not events. Let your child choose their favorite legend from the four presented and do extra research on that one — depth on one person beats breadth across four.

LESSON

1

Bobby Jones: The Amateur Who Beat Everyone

Parent-Teacher Note

The honesty quote — 'You might as well praise me for not robbing banks' — is one of the most powerful things any golfer has ever said and deserves time. Ask your child: what did he mean? Do you agree?

LESSON

2

Arnold Palmer: Golf's First Superstar

Parent-Teacher Note

The reporter interview format develops both historical empathy and writing skills simultaneously. If your child wants to research Palmer's actual quotes and use them, encourage it — that is primary source thinking.

LESSON

3

Jack Nicklaus: The Golden Bear

Parent-Teacher Note

The major championship scorecard develops data interpretation alongside historical knowledge. The pattern — dominant in the 1970s, still winning in the 1980s at an age when others had faded — tells a story by itself.

LESSON

4

Tiger Woods: Changing Everything

Parent-Teacher Note

The Golf Legends Hall of Fame is the Week 5 capstone and the strongest portfolio piece for this stage. Encourage your child to invest real time in making it beautiful. Some children produce simple entries; others produce elaborate illustrated pages. Both are exactly right.

Week 6 — Our Golf History Gallery · Celebration and review

Week Guidance

Week 6 is celebration, not assessment. The gallery wall, the museum tour, and the letter to a younger golfer are all ways of honoring six weeks of genuine learning. Your enthusiasm is the most important ingredient this week.

LESSON

1

Looking Back: What Have We Learned?

Parent-Teacher Note

The review activity is a metacognitive exercise — thinking about what you learned and what you valued. The explanation of 'why' is more important than the fact itself. A child who can articulate why something struck them has genuinely processed the learning.

LESSON

2

Build Your Golf History Gallery Wall

Parent-Teacher Note

Photograph the gallery before taking it down — it belongs in a portfolio. The act of giving a tour is a genuine public speaking exercise. What your child chooses to emphasize and how they explain it reveals what they truly understood.

LESSON

3

You Are a Golf Historian

Parent-Teacher Note

The letter to a younger child is the most revealing assessment at this stage — children can only write clearly about things they genuinely understand. Translating learning into language a younger child can follow is one of the highest-order cognitive tasks in this curriculum.

LESSON

4

Questions for the Future

Parent-Teacher Note

Ending with an open question rather than a neat conclusion models the intellectual posture that will serve your child throughout all future learning. The question they write on the first page of a new notebook is worth keeping — show it to them at the end of the next stage.

QUICK REFERENCE — FACILITATION PRIORITIES

One-sentence facilitation priority for every lesson in this stage

W k	Le s	Lesson Title	Key Facilitation Priority
1	1	A Walk on a Windy Beach	Do the outdoor stick-and-stone game — do not skip it.
1	2	The Land of Links	Show aerial photos of St. Andrews and let your child explore before you explain.
1	3	The Kings Who Banned Golf	Role-play the king and the commoner — let your child argue as long as they want.
1	4	Mary Queen of Scots	Ask a real caddie at your facility if they know where the word 'caddie' came from.
2	1	The Wooden Club	Try hitting a ball with a stick and feel the limitations of early equipment firsthand.
2	2	The Featherie Ball	Make a cloth-and-cotton featherie together — feel how hard it was to produce.
2	3	The Gutta-Percha Revolution	Drop different balls and compare bounces — make the material difference physical.
2	4	Steel Shafts and the Modern Club	Find a hickory-shafted club at your facility if at all possible.
3	1	Why Golf Needed Rules	Read the actual 1744 rules together — it is a genuine primary source moment.
3	2	The Most Important Rule: Play It As It Lies	Play from bad lies without moving the ball — let the frustration land before explaining.
3	3	Golfers Judge Themselves	Practice saying 'I have to count a penalty' aloud until it feels natural.
3	4	Rules for Everyone	Use the USGA Rules app as a discovery tool — find the rule about birds picking up balls.
4	1	Golf Sails to England and America	Use a physical globe and trace the route with your finger across the actual ocean.
4	2	The Open Championship	Find a photo of the Claret Jug and count the champion names together.
4	3	The Underdog Story: Francis Ouimet	Write a newspaper front page about his victory — make the headline dramatic.
4	4	Golf Around the World Today	Search 'most unusual golf courses in the world' and explore together with wonder.
5	1	Bobby Jones: The Amateur Who Beat Everyone	Sit with the honesty quote — do not rush past it.
5	2	Arnold Palmer: Golf's First Superstar	Write five interview questions and try to answer them as Palmer would have.
5	3	Jack Nicklaus: The Golden Bear	Create a scorecard of his 18 majors by decade — let the pattern tell the story.
5	4	Tiger Woods: Changing Everything	Build the Golf Legends Hall of Fame — invest real time in making it beautiful.
6	1	Looking Back: What Have We Learned?	Ask 'why' about each chosen favorite entry — the explanation is the real learning.

6	2	Build Your Golf History Gallery Wall	Photograph the gallery when complete — it belongs in a permanent portfolio.
6	3	You Are a Golf Historian	The letter to a younger child reveals exactly what your student genuinely understood.
6	4	Questions for the Future	The open question on a new notebook page is the most important thing they write today.