

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY GRADES 4-6

GENERAL REMARKS

As in the first cycle of elementary school, all the instruction each month is related to a center of interest. This center of interest furnishes the theme of the reading and exercises in Lao and in French, as well as the arithmetic exercises. To the degree possible, lessons in geography, science, agriculture, animal husbandry (or handicrafts), hygiene, and religion should also relate to the center of interest.

The programs have been set up in such a way that the subjects for one year complement each other around a center of interest. For example, in grade 4, one of the centers of interest is food. Therefore, in history, the history of food could be studied; in science, the food for animals; in hygiene, digestion and diet; in religion, the rules for moderation in food; in geography, the largest producers of rice, corn, meat, etc. Each point of the program, in each subject, is thus related to something analogous in the other subjects.

LAO LANGUAGE

1. Brief descriptive talks, vocabulary, reading (as much as possible) and written exercises will be related to the center of interest for the month. Aspects of Lao culture will be emphasized during Lao language study, but not exclusively.
2. The brief descriptive talks by the students should be related to the observation periods, which will be concerned with Lao aspects of centers of interest, and to the activities of the class, such as gardening, community projects, hygiene, etc. They will be followed by brief discussions and be directed towards practical application (improving existing conditions adopting certain things from abroad, preserving that which is good in Laos).
3. Dictations taken from the reading and also spelling lists will be given, but never use words that the students have not already seen and understood. The official spelling set by "le comite Litteraire" will be used.
4. Compositions should concern something concrete, either on work done, or to do, or on a problem of school life. Letter writing should also be utilized.
5. In grade 4 the students will begin to read selections from Lao literature and poetry. They should learn to recite some of the selections. By grade 6, they should be encouraged to write some poems.

FRENCH LANGUAGE (Details not Translated)

MATHEMATICS

- P. 4. Study decimal numbers in relation to the study of measurements, weights, capacity; multiplication and division by 10, 100, 1,000. Practice the four operations with decimal numbers. Review the multiplication table; prove by 9's. Review problems of surface. Measures of volume and capacity, relate to local measures. Teach rapid mental problem solving. Problems about the centers of interest, the activities of the class, the garden, or animal husbandry.
- P. 5. Units of cost and weight; percentage and decimal fractions; problems on interest rates.
Simple fractions
Comparison of fractions, reducing to common denominator. Adding and subtracting simple fractions; multiplication and division of a fraction by a whole number. Problems using fractions; measuring time, speed.
- P. 6. General Review
Practical problems: estimates, bills; customs, taxes, insurance, interest; a small business, investment, maintenance and operation costs, etc.
Converting money (kip, baht, franc, dollar, pound); problems of the cost of transportation.

GEOGRAPHY

- P. 4. The different climates: zones of vegetation; fauna. Agriculture in the world; the important producers of corn, wheat, rice, animals, wood (Emphasize France and, chiefly, Laos and neighboring countries).
- P. 5. The mineral resources of the world; mining possibilities in Laos; the great industrial centers of the world.
The city; the great cities of the world.
- P. 6. Human geography: races, religions, languages.
Commercial geography: Means of communication; natural obstacles to commerce (the case of Laos); international commerce.
Review: Laos and its neighbors; France; the great powers: China, Japan, India, USSR, USA, Great Britain; former colonies which have become independent since 1945.

HISTORY

- P. 4. History of civilization: development of agriculture, domestic animals, shelter.

At the same time, world history, until the 16th century: history of the earth, the evolution of animals--the appearance of man, the long infancy of humanity, the first agricultural civilizations (Examples: China and India); the development of agriculture in Europe to the end of the Middle Ages; Laos from pre-history to the 16th century (Emphasize the duration of the different periods)

- P..5.) History of civilization: the development of machines: simple machines (lever, inclined plane, wheel, wedge); use of natural forces (water wheel, wind mill); discovery of steam, and its application; the discoveries of the past 100 years: the combustion engine and its uses, electricity and its uses, atomic energy.

At the same time, world history from the 16th century to 1939: the rise of Europe and of science and technical knowledge; Europe and the discovery of the world; European colonization, particularly in Asia, Indo-China, and Laos.

- P. 6. History of civilization: the progress of human society (slavery and its suppression; social laws and work conditions, the status of women); the advent of democracy; the fight against racism; compulsory education; UNESCO; the contribution of Buddhism to civilization.

At the same time: World war II, nationalism, the UN, independence for Laos, the role of an independent and Buddhist Laos in the world.

SCIENCE

- P. 4. Zoology and animal husbandry.

- a) the digestive system of animals, non-ruminants, ruminants, poultry--practices as a consequence.
- b) different types of weaning
- c) The manner of grazing of buffalo, horses, sheep, and goats--practices as a consequence (rotation).
- d) preparation of feed.

Botany and Agriculture

- a) review the organs of plants, roots (reproduction by roots), means of absorbing moisture, the collar of the root (importance for planting); the stem (cuttings); leaves (recognizing common plants by their leaves); flowers and fruit (how to obtain good fruit and seeds).

Concepts of meteorology; thermometer, barometer, rain gauge.
Concepts about erosion.

- P. 5. Plants from which we get textiles, dyes, and medicines.
Wool producing animals.
Preserving fruits, vegetables, meats.
Geology: concepts about the formation of the earth and the land; principal minerals and rocks; collections.
Physics: communicating vessels; the three states of matter (example: ice, water, vapor); magnets, compass, electricity.
- P. 6. Agriculture: the reproduction of vegetation, the flowers, seeds, selection, conservation, germination.
Animal husbandry: gestation, weaning; breeds, selection.
Packing, transporting, and marketing the products of agriculture and domestic animals.
The balance, weighing (in relation to the math program), mixing in fixed proportions.

HYGIENE THEORY

- P. 4. Digestion (role of the teeth, saliva, the stomach, the liver, the intestines); digestive troubles.
Nourishment necessary for health; a balanced diet; harmful foods: alcohol, excess fats, poisons, dangerous medicines; spoiled food; badly cooked, badly washed, and badly preserved food; parasites and microbes.
Personal hygiene for the student: eating wholesome foods slowly, at regular hours, and without excess; exercise and rest; sleep; the care of the body and of clothing; the care of the eyes; glasses; the correct position.
- P. 5. Wounds; hemorrhages; cleaning of wounds, bandaging; infection of wounds; tetanus, gangrene; poisonous snakes; preventing accidents.
Microbes; the microscope; antiseptics, disinfectants, anti-biotics.
- P. 6. Infectious diseases (general review)
Contagion by the digestive system (typhoid, dysentery, cholera)
Contagion by the respiratory system ("rhume, grippe, bronchite, tuberculose")
Contagion by the circulatory system--rabies, typhus, malaria
Contagion by lice (typhus)
Other: leprosy, small pox.

Preventing the spread of disease (review)

- r. A tired person is more easily a victim of contagious disease than a strong person; need for a balanced, natural life; mental health; friendship with classmates, the teacher, and neighbors; the love of nature; hygiene and Buddhist ethics.

RELIGION (Translation Omitted)

GARDENING, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, HANDICRAFTS

(See special instructions)

Science classes will be utilized for the theory of agriculture and animal husbandry.