

A Comparison of LIFE PAC & Horizons

Key Differences	
LIFE PAC	Horizons
General	
Five core subjects: Bible, History & Geography, Language Arts, Math, and Science	Two core subjects: Math and Language/Reading related courses
Math & Language Arts for Grades K-12 Bible, Science, and History for Grades 1-12 Selection of Electives for 3-12	Math (K-Pre-Algebra), Phonics/Reading (K-2), Spelling/Vocabulary (1-3), Penmanship (K-5), Health (K-8), PE (K-12)
A number of electives are available	Health and P.E. electives
Placement Tests for all core subjects Determine learning gaps and grade level placement	Readiness Evaluations for Math Determine readiness for the grade level
Designed for independent, self-paced study (particularly in Grades 2-12)	Designed to be teacher directed with a daily lesson presentation followed by practice
Mastery-based system where students are not to advance if they have not attained the recommended performance level	Spiral learning system with constant cycle of introduction and review
Updates and corrections are made yearly	Updates and corrections are made yearly
A year's material consists of 10 units 1-Semester Courses consist of 5 units	A year's material consists of 160 or 180 lessons in 1 to 4 workbooks
Better suited to independent study with occasional help and tutoring by a parent or teacher	Better suited to a "traditional" approach with a parent or teacher teaching lesson material
Teacher's Guide/Student Workbook	
Teacher's Guide provides management resources, teaching notes, additional learning activities, alternate tests, and answer keys	Teacher's Guide provides detailed lesson plans, answer key, reproducible worksheets for additional practice
Detailed daily lesson plan not provided. Teacher's guide includes suggested projects (additional learning activities) for a deeper study of presented topics	Teacher's guide contains detailed lesson plans/teaching instructions for daily lessons
Instructional material for teaching new concepts is in the Student Worktexts	Instructional material for teaching new concepts is in the Teacher's Guides
Student worktexts are consumable	Student workbooks are consumable. Perforated (tear-out) pages
Periodic self tests with a final test at the end of each unit	Weekly or bi-weekly tests with quarter tests in some math levels
Kindergarten Comparison	
Math and Language Arts: Begins with readiness skills, moves more slowly through readiness concepts. Average grade level placement. No readers with Language Arts	Math and Language Arts: Begins with readiness skills, but moves at a faster pace into more advanced skills. Advanced grade level placement. Readers are included with Phonics/Reading
Pre-school Comparison	
No formal Pre-K program provided LIFE PAC Language Arts K and Math K can be used for some preschool students (K-4)	Full pre-school program with a developmental Math and Phonics track plus hands-on activities for science, social studies, Bible, writing, health, music, crafts, story time, field trips, physical education, and creative cooking. It is everything needed in a Preschool program for less than 60 cents a day.

Who Should Use LIFEPAC or Horizons	
LIFEPAC	Horizons
Parents Preferences/Needs	
Great for families looking for an “all-in-one” curriculum	Great for families who are more eclectic and prefer the “piecemeal” curriculum approach
Great for families who are very mobile and need to take materials with them	Great for families who prefer a more traditional schoolroom setup in their home
Great for families who wish to rely on the instructional information in the material to teach the new topic	Great for families who like preparing and presenting a formal lesson on the new topic
Great for families looking for a less complicated, economical approach to homeschooling	Great for families looking for a program that provides detailed lesson plans and instructions for teaching each lesson
Great for families who prefer curriculum which uses only the King James Version of the Bible	Great for families that prefer to use the NIV or other versions of the Bible
Student Preferences/Needs	
Students with good reading and comprehension skills who like to work independently (Student-directed)	Students who thrive in a classroom or “traditional” school setting with teacher directed lessons (Teacher-directed)
Students who like to stay focused on one topic until they have mastered the concept (Mastery-based)	Students who like to multitask and work a variety of concepts on a daily basis (Spiral-based)

Features “Snap Shot” Comparisons	
LIFEPAC	Horizons
Material designed for homeschoolers	Material designed for homeschoolers
Full color, print-based consumable curriculum	Brightly illustrated, hands-on print based consumable curriculum
Offers mastery-based, student-paced unit “worktexts”	Offers fun lessons and manipulative-based activities
Promotes critical thinking and cognitive reasoning skills	Teaches concepts through a spiral learning process
Encourages academic independence and promotes strong thinking and communication skills	Encourages concept mastery through quick concept introduction, review, and reinforcement
Student-directed curriculum	Parent-directed curriculum
Self-paced & Individualized	Easy to use parent materials
Manageable amount of daily lesson material	Manageable amount of daily lesson material
Bible-based (All KJV)	Includes some Bible content (mostly NIV)

General Description

LIFEPAC & Horizons

LIFEPAC is a K-12 print-based curriculum offered by Alpha Omega Publications, a Christian-based publisher that provides curriculum and educational services to Christian schools and homeschool families. Full color and consumable, LIFEPAC is an integrated, Bible-based curriculum developed by a team of accomplished educators and teachers. Using a mastery-based learning approach, each LIFEPAC course is comprised of ten student-directed “worktexts” that provide a full year of instruction in a single subject. Individual worktexts may also be used to supplement the homeschool curriculum or to fill in learning gaps. LIFEPAC worktexts include self tests and unit tests to provide assessment of progress. Teacher’s guides offer teacher tips and answer keys.

An economical, proven homeschool curriculum, LIFEPAC integrates Scripture and a Christian worldview throughout all subjects. LIFEPAC offers the flexibility of an individualized, student-driven learning approach which encourages critical thinking and academic independence. Courses for K-12 students include: Bible (1-12), History & Geography (1-12), Language Arts (K-12), Math (K-12), and Science (1-12). Electives are also available. LIFEPAC curriculum sets include all student and teacher materials. LIFEPAC curriculum can be purchased as complete grade level sets or as individual subjects. Student and teacher materials and supplemental materials may be purchased separately.

Horizons is a PreK-12 print-based curriculum offered by Alpha Omega Publications, a Christian-based publisher that provides curriculum and educational services to homeschool families. Filled with engaging, full-color illustrations, Horizons is a workbook-based curriculum with consumable lessons and hands-on activities. Using a spiral based learning approach, Horizons encourages concept mastery through a process of skill/concept presentation, review, and reinforcement. Teacher’s guides offer clear, step-by-step instructions for parent-directed lessons and activities that are suitable for both homeschool and classroom settings.

Horizons, the winner of Cathy Duffy’s 100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum and the 2009 Homeschooling Parent Magazine Stamp of Approval Award, integrates Scripture and Christian living through many subjects. Horizons workbooks provide removable student workbook pages for ease of student use. Horizons curriculum includes courses in Math (K-7), Penmanship (1-5), Phonics & Reading (K-2), Spelling & Vocabulary (1-3), Health (K-8), and Physical Education (PreK-12). Health and Physical Education electives were designed for classroom use and may need to be adapted to homeschool use. A complete Horizons Preschool Curriculum Set & Multimedia Set is also available. Horizons curriculum sets include all student and teacher materials. Student and teacher materials can also be purchased separately.