

**What's the difference between
Saxon Math 3, Saxon Math 5/4, and Saxon Math 6/5
and
*Saxon Intermediate 3, Saxon Intermediate 4, and Saxon Intermediate 5?***

Lesson Structure of Math 3 and Intermediate 3

The traditional Saxon K-3 curriculum was written by a different author, and features a different structure than *Math Intermediate 3* and the other Saxon curriculum. *Saxon Math 3* is centered on the use of manipulatives and a scripted teacher's manual. The student workbooks include problems only; all teaching must be done in-person through the use of the teacher's guide, which provides the information needed for teaching with manipulatives and administering the student worksheets. This early elementary curriculum is also structured very differently from Math 5/4 and 6/5, which are closer in style to the *Intermediate* series books (compared below).

Comparison of Math 5/4 and 6/5 with the Intermediate 3, 4, and 5 Series

Saxon Math 5/4 and *6/5* are more similar to *Intermediate 4* and *Saxon Intermediate 5* than *Saxon Math 3* is to *Saxon Intermediate 3*. However, there are still some differences.

In all *Intermediate* books, there is more of a sustained emphasis on problem solving throughout the course. Students are encouraged to use a four-step problem solving process:

- Understand (Know where you are and where you want to go)
- Plan (Plan your route)
- Solve (Follow the Plan)
- Check (Check that you have reached the right place)

There are also problem-solving strategies (types of plans) provided, and a focus on describing how problems are solved.

All texts have a similar start to the textbook lesson. *Math 5/4* and *6/5* have a "Warm-Up" section with facts practice, mental math, and problem-solving exercises. The *Intermediate* series has a "Power-Up" section. In *Intermediate 3*, this section contains: fact practice, jump start, mental math, and problem solving questions. In *Intermediate 4* and *5*, this section contains: facts practice, "count aloud," mental math, and problem-solving.

The "Warm-Up"/"Power-Up" is followed in all textbooks by a "New Concept" section which explains the new skills. Though present in all texts, the *Intermediate* texts have more visual representations of abstract concepts (e.g. using dice graphics as well as numerals while showcasing addition, showing images of coins, etc.). In the *Intermediate* texts, example problems are also set off a bit more from the lesson by being outlined, and all instructions are slightly more emphasized through blue-highlighted circles that tell students what skills to focus on (e.g. "Analyze," "Classify," "Represent," "Explain").

All texts follow the “New Concept” lesson with “Lesson Practice” problems that help students and parents check if the new concept is being properly understood and mastered.

This is followed by “Mixed Practice” questions in *Saxon Math 5/4* and *6/5* and “Written Practice” questions (distributed and integrated) in *Saxon Intermediate 3, 4, and 5*. These problems serve the same purpose: they provide review not only for the new concept, but also concepts learned in earlier lessons. These questions are crucial for Saxon’s spiral approach to learning and provide the bulk of the questions in each lesson (25-30 problems in all textbooks). These provide distributed practice that encourages long-term retention of concepts and allows students to work with several strands of mathematics concurrently.

All texts feature activities, but the *Intermediate* texts feature more activities. In *Math 5/4* there are 8 in-lesson activities and 5 investigation activities; in *Intermediate 4*, there are 40 in-lesson activities, and every investigation features 1-2 activities. In *Math 6/5* there are 6 in-lesson activities and 5 investigation activities; in *Intermediate 5* there are 19 in-lesson activities and 14 investigation activities for 9 (out of 12) section investigations.

All texts include “Investigations” that follow every tenth lesson. These are more in-depth applications, though as mentioned above, the *Intermediate* series includes more activities within these sections.

“Early Finishers” problems provide “real-world connections” and are only in the *Intermediate* texts; they are not included in *Math 5/4* or *Math 6/5*.

Curriculum Book Structure

[Math 3](#) is taught using a fully-scripted teacher’s edition, two student workbooks, a home study meeting book, and a set of fact cards. A set of manipulatives is also required, and sold-separately from the primary kit. All kit components are also available separately.

[Math 5/4](#) and [Math 6/5](#) are taught through a student text (softcover, write-in), a tests & worksheets book, and a solutions manual; all components are available as a kit or separately.

Saxon Math [Intermediate 3](#), [Intermediate 4](#) and [Intermediate 5](#) are taught using the student text (only available in a kit; not sold-separately), the testing book (with test answers and forms included), the *Power-Up* Workbook (problems and forms to complete the “Power-Up” section in the textbook), and the Solutions Manual (all solutions except “Power-Up” exercises, for which no answer key is available). For more detailed information on each component, please see the [Saxon Math Intermediate 3 Kit](#), [Saxon Math Intermediate 4 Kit](#), or [Saxon Math Intermediate 5 Kit](#) product descriptions.

Two additional workbook options are sold-separately for parents to choose from: The *Saxon Math Intermediate Adaptations Workbook* or the *Written Practice Workbook*. These workbooks don’t provide additional new problems, but rather ready-to-write worksheets that give students enough space to solve problems.

The *Adaptations* workbook is more complete, and includes space to write out all the work for the “Lesson Practice,” “Written Practice,” and “Investigations” problems in the Saxon *Intermediate* textbooks. Some questions are restated exactly as in the textbook, but for others, additional assistance such as bolded key words, restated questions, step-by-step leads or graphic helps, textbook page references, unit prompts, and other hints are provided. It does not include the “Power-Up” and “Early Finishers” problems.

The *Written Practice* workbook is considered to contain the most important exercises in the Saxon *Intermediate* textbooks; it reprints the “Written Practice” exercises as well as the “Early Finishers” questions. It does **not** reprint the “Lesson Practice” or “Investigations” problems, which are found in the textbook and in the *Adaptations* workbook, or the “Power-Up” exercises, which are found in the textbook and *Power-Up* workbook.

A reference chart that covers the most important references in both *Intermediate 4* and *5* is also available separately.