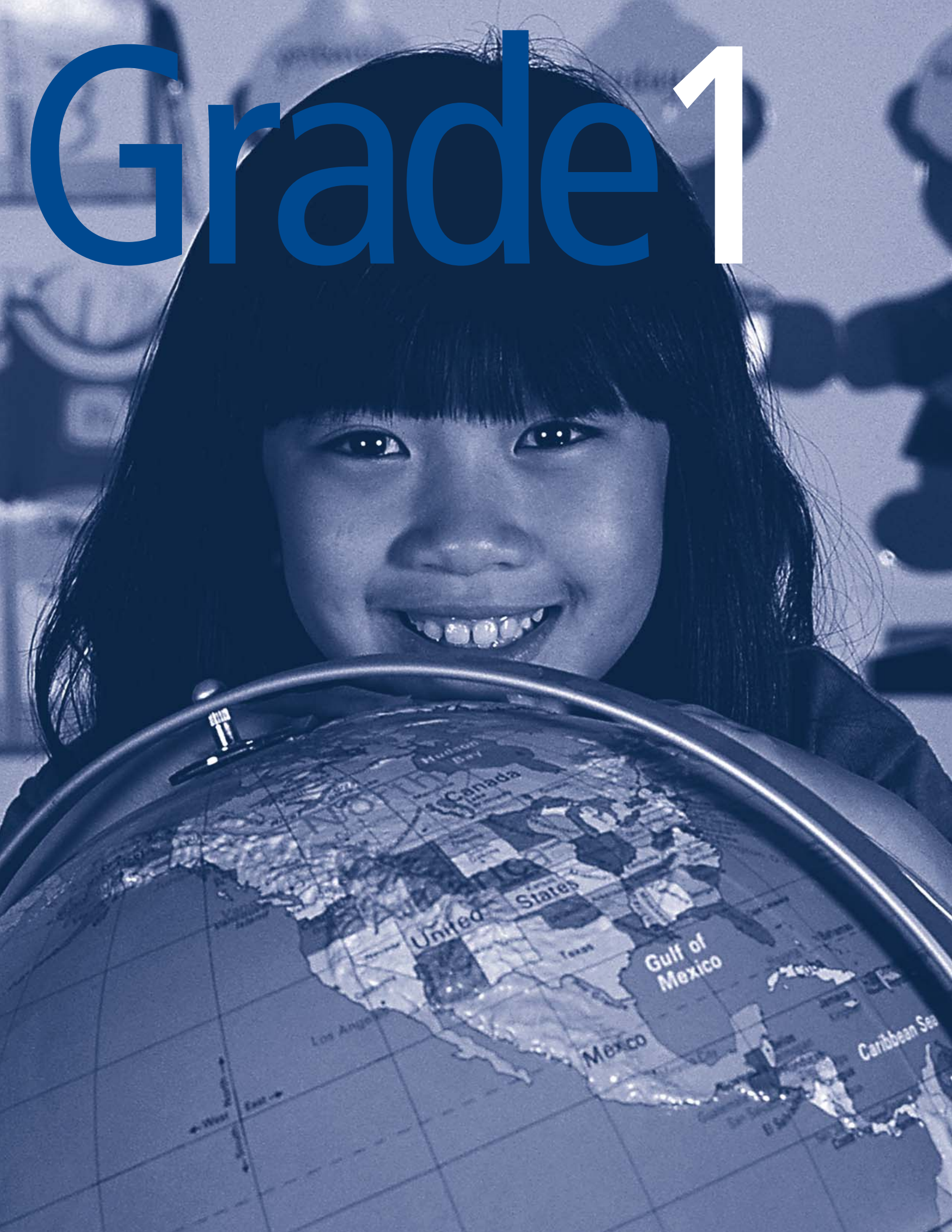
Core Knowledge Sequence

Content and Skill Guidelines for Grades K–8



Core Knowledge®

Grade 1



Overview of Topics

Grade 1

Language Arts

I. Listening and Speaking
   - A. Classroom Discussion
   - B. Presentation of Ideas and Information
   - C. Comprehension and Discussion of Read-Alouds—All Texts
   - D. Comprehension and Discussion of Read-Alouds—Fiction, Drama, and Poetry
   - E. Comprehension and Discussion of Read-Alouds—Nonfiction and Informational Text

II. Reading
   - A. Print Awareness
   - B. Phonemic Awareness
   - C. Phonics: Decoding and Encoding
   - D. Oral Reading and Fluency
   - E. Reading Comprehension—All Texts
   - F. Reading Comprehension—Fiction, Drama, and Poetry
   - G. Reading Comprehension—Nonfiction and Informational Text

III. Writing
   - A. Narrative Writing
   - B. Informative/Explanatory Writing
   - C. Persuasive Writing (Opinion)

IV. Language Conventions
   - A. Handwriting and Spelling
   - B. Parts of Speech and Sentence Structure
   - C. Capitalization and Punctuation

V. Poetry

VI. Fiction
   - A. Stories
   - B. Aesop's Fables
   - C. Different Lands, Similar Stories
   - D. Literary Terms

VII. Sayings and Phrases

History and Geography

World:

I. Geography
   - A. Spatial Sense
   - B. Geographical Terms and Features

II. Early World Civilizations
   - A. Mesopotamia: The "Cradle of Civilization"
   - B. Ancient Egypt
   - C. History of World Religions

III. Modern Civilization and Culture: Mexico
   - A. Geography
   - B. Culture

American:

I. Early People and Civilizations
   - A. The Earliest People: Hunters and Nomads
   - B. Early American Civilizations

II. Early Exploration and Settlement
   - A. Columbus
   - B. The Conquistadors
   - C. English Settlers

III. From Colonies to Independence: The American Revolution

IV. Early Exploration of the American West

V. Symbols and Figures

Visual Arts

I. Art from Long Ago

II. Elements of Art
   - A. Color
   - B. Line
   - C. Shape
   - D. Texture

III. Kinds of Pictures: Portrait and Still Life

Music

I. Elements of Music

II. Listening and Understanding
   - A. Musical Terms and Concepts
   - B. Music Can Tell a Story
   - C. American Musical Traditions (Jazz)

III. Songs

Mathematics

I. Patterns and Classification

II. Numbers and Number Sense

III. Money

IV. Computation
   - A. Addition
   - B. Subtraction
   - C. Solving Problems and Equations

V. Measurement

VI. Geometry

Science

I. Living Things and Their Environments
   - A. Habitats
   - B. Oceans and Undersea Life
   - C. Environmental Change and Habitat Destruction
   - D. Special Classifications of Animals

II. The Human Body
   - A. Body Systems
   - B. Germs, Diseases, and Preventing Illness

III. Matter

IV. Properties of Matter: Measurement

V. Introduction to Electricity

VI. Astronomy

VII. The Earth
   - A. Geographical Features of the Earth's Surface
   - B. What's Inside the Earth

VIII. Science Biographies

Music: Grade 1



SEE INTRODUCTION, "The Arts in the Curriculum."

Teachers: In schools, lessons on music should feature activities and works that illustrate important musical concepts and terms, and should introduce important composers and works. When appropriate, topics in music may be linked to topics in other disciplines.

The following guidelines focus on content, not performance skills, though many concepts are best learned through active practice (singing, clapping rhythms, playing instruments, etc.).

I. Elements of Music

- Through participation become familiar with basic elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre, etc.).
  - Recognize a steady beat; moving to a beat; play a steady beat; recognize accents.
  - Move responsively to music (marching, walking, hopping, swaying, etc.).
  - Recognize short and long sounds.
  - Discriminate between fast and slow.
  - Discriminate between obvious differences in pitch: high and low.
  - Discriminate between loud and soft.
  - Understand that melody can move up and down.
  - Hum the melody while listening to music.
  - Echo short rhythms and melodic patterns.
  - Play simple rhythms and melodies.
  - Recognize like and unlike phrases.
  - Recognize that music has timbre or tone color.
  - Sing unaccompanied, accompanied, and in unison.
- Understand that music is written down in a special way and become familiar with the following notation:
  - 𝅝 whole note 𝅗𝅥 half note ♩ quarter note

II. Listening and Understanding

Teachers: Expose children to a wide range of music, including children's music, popular instrumental music, and music from various cultures.

A. MUSICAL TERMS AND CONCEPTS

- Composers
  - Know that a composer is someone who writes music.
  - Become familiar with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart as a composer who wrote what is known as classical music, and listen to the Allegro (first movement) from *A Little Night Music* (*Eine kleine Nachtmusik*).
- Orchestra
  - Become familiar with the families of instruments in the orchestra: strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion.
  - Know that the leader of the orchestra is called the conductor.
  - Listen to Sergei Prokofiev, *Peter and the Wolf.*

Note: Children will review families of instruments and specific instruments in later grades.



B. MUSIC CAN TELL A STORY

- Opera
  - Understand that opera combines music, singing, and acting.
  - Listen to selections from Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel:* "Brother, Come Dance with Me," "I Am the Little Sandman," "Children's Prayer."
- Instrumental Music
  - Listen to Paul Dukas, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice.*
- Ballet
  - Understand that ballet combines music and movement, often to tell a story.
  - Listen to Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite.*

Teachers: Familiarize children with other types of dance, such as square dancing and tap dancing.

C. AMERICAN MUSICAL TRADITIONS

- Jazz
  - Understand that jazz is a kind of music that developed in America, with African and African American roots, and that jazz musicians improvise.
  - Recognize Louis Armstrong as a great early jazz musician.

Note: If resources are available, read aloud to students the story behind Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, and either attend a performance or show scenes from the ballet, which is available on videotape. You may also wish to introduce children to the Suite from Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*, in relation to the story in Language Arts 1, "Sleeping Beauty."

III. Songs

Teachers: You may also wish to teach children the song "Brother, Come Dance with Me" in connection with their introduction to the opera *Hansel and Gretel.* And you may wish to teach the poem "Thanksgiving Day" ("Over the river and through the wood") as a song (see Language Arts 1: Poetry).

America the Beautiful
Billy Boy
Dry Bones
For He's a Jolly Good Fellow
Frère Jacques
La Cucaracha
Make New Friends
Michael, Row the Boat Ashore
Oh, Dear, What Can the Matter Be?
Oh, John the Rabbit
Oh! Susanna
On Top of Old Smokey
She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain
Skip to My Lou
Take Me Out to the Ball Game
There's a Hole in the Bucket
When the Saints Go Marching In
Yankee Doodle

Core Knowledge at a Glance

	Preschool	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
Language Arts/English	I. Oral Language II. Nursery Rhymes, Poems, Finger-Plays, and Songs III. Storybook Reading and Storytelling IV. Emerging Literacy Skills	I. Listening and Speaking II. Reading III. Writing IV. Language Conventions V. Poetry VI. Fiction VII. Sayings and Phrases	I. Listening and Speaking II. Reading III. Writing IV. Language Conventions V. Poetry VI. Fiction VII. Sayings and Phrases	I. Listening and Speaking II. Reading III. Writing IV. Language Conventions V. Poetry VI. Fiction VII. Sayings and Phrases	I. Reading and Writing II. Poetry III. Fiction IV. Sayings and Phrases
History and Geography	Time: I. Vocabulary II. Measures of Time III. Passage of Time (Past, Present, Future) Space: I. Vocabulary II. Actual and Representational Space III. Simple Maps IV. Basic Geographic Concepts	World: I. Geography: Spatial Sense II. Overview of the Seven Continents American I. Geography II. Native American Peoples, Past and Present III. Early Exploration and Settlement IV. Presidents, Past and Present V. Symbols and Figures	World: I. Geography II. Early World Civilizations III. Modern Civilization and Culture: Mexico American I. Early People and Civilizations II. Early Exploration and Settlement III. From Colonies to Independence: The American Revolution IV. Early Exploration of American West V. Symbols and Figures	World: I. Geography II. Early Asian Civilizations III. Modern Japanese Civilization IV. The Ancient Greek Civilization American I. American Government: The Constitution II. The War of 1812 III. Westward Expansion IV. The Civil War V. Immigration and Citizenship VI. Fighting for a Cause VII. Geography of the Americas VIII. Symbols and Figures	World: I. World Geography II. The Ancient Roman Civilization III. The Vikings American I. The Earliest Americans II. Early Exploration of North America III. The Thirteen Colonies: Life and Times Before the Revolution
Visual Arts	I. Attention to visual detail II. Creating Art III. Looking and Talking about Art	I. Elements of Art II. Sculpture III. Looking at and Talking About Art	I. Art from Long Ago II. Elements of Art III. Kinds of Pictures: Portrait and Still Life	I. Elements of Art II. Sculpture III. Kinds of Pictures: Landscapes IV. Abstract Art V. Architecture	I. Elements of Art II. American Indian Art III. Art of Ancient Rome and Byzantine Civilization
Music	I. Attention to Differences in Sound II. Imitate and Produce Sounds III. Listen and Sing IV. Listen and Move	I. Elements of Music II. Listening and Understanding III. Songs	I. Elements of Music II. Listening and Understanding (Composers; Orchestra; Opera; Ballet; Jazz) III. Songs	I. Elements of Music II. Listening and Understanding (Orchestra; Keyboards; Composers) III. Songs	I. Elements of Music II. Listening and Understanding (Orchestra; Composers) III. Songs
Mathematics	I. Patterns and Classification II. Geometry III. Measurement IV. Numbers and Number Sense V. Addition and Subtraction with Concrete Objects VI. Money	I. Patterns and Classification II. Numbers and Number Sense III. Money IV. Computation V. Measurement VI. Geometry	I. Patterns and Classification II. Numbers and Number Sense III. Money IV. Computation V. Measurement VI. Geometry	I. Numbers and Number Sense II. Fractions III. Money IV. Computation V. Measurement VI. Geometry	I. Numbers and Number Sense II. Fractions and Decimals III. Money IV. Computation V. Measurement
Science	I. Human Characteristics, Needs and Development II. Animal Characteristics, Needs and Development III. Plant Characteristics, Needs and Growth IV. Physical Elements (Water, Air, Light) V. Introduction to Magnetism VI. Seasons and Weather VII. Taking Care of the Earth VIII. Tools	I. Plants and Plant Growth II. Animals and Their Needs III. Human Body (Five Senses) IV. Introduction to Magnetism V. Seasons and Weather VI. Taking Care of the Earth VII. Science Biographies	I. Living Things and Their Environments II. Human Body (Body Systems) III. Matter IV. Properties of Matter: Measurement V. Introduction to Electricity VI. Astronomy VII. The Earth VIII. Science Biographies	I. Cycles in Nature (Seasonal Cycles; Life Cycles; Water Cycle) II. Insects III. Human Body (Cells; Digestive and Excretory Systems) IV. Magnetism V. Simple Machines VI. Science Biographies	I. Introduction to Classification of Animals II. Human Body (Muscular, Skeletal, and Nervous Systems; Vision and Hearing) III. Light and Optics IV. Sound V. Ecology VI. Astronomy VII. Science Biographies

	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade	Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
Language Arts/English	I. Writing, Grammar, and Usage II. Poetry III. Fiction IV. Speeches V. Sayings and Phrases	I. Writing, Grammar, and Usage II. Poetry III. Fiction and Drama IV. Speeches V. Sayings and Phrases	I. Writing, Grammar, and Usage II. Poetry III. Fiction and Drama IV. Sayings and Phrases	I. Writing, Grammar, and Usage II. Poetry III. Fiction, Nonfiction, and Drama IV. Foreign Phrases Commonly Used in English	I. Writing, Grammar, and Usage II. Poetry III. Fiction, Nonfiction, and Drama IV. Foreign Phrases Commonly Used in English
History and Geography	World: I. World Geography (Spatial Sense; Mountains) II. Europe in Middle Ages III. The Spread of Islam and the "Holy Wars" IV. Early and Medieval African Kingdoms V. China: Dynasties and Conquerors American I. The American Revolution II. Making a Constitutional Government III. Early Presidents and Politics IV. Reformers V. Symbols and Figures	World: I. World Geography (Spatial Sense; Lakes) II. Early American Civilizations III. European Exploration, Trade, and the Clash of Cultures IV. The Renaissance and the Reformation V. England from the Golden Age to the Glorious Revolution VI. Russia: Early Growth and Expansion VII. Feudal Japan American I. Westward Expansion II. The Civil War: Causes, Conflicts, Consequences III. Native Americans: Cultures and Conflicts IV. U.S. Geography	World: I. World Geography (Spatial Sense; Deserts) II. Lasting Ideas from Ancient Civilizations III. The Enlightenment IV. The French Revolution V. Romanticism VI. Industrialism, Capitalism, and Socialism VII. Latin American Independence Movements American I. Immigration, Industrialization, and Urbanization II. Reform	I. America Becomes a World Power II. World War I: "The Great War," 1914–1918 III. Russian Revolution IV. America from the Twenties to the New Deal V. World War II VI. Geography of United States	I. The Decline of European Colonialism II. The Cold War III. The Civil Rights Movement IV. The Vietnam War and the Rise of Social Activism V. The Middle East and Oil Politics VI. The End of the Cold War: The Expansion of Democracy and Continuing Challenges VII. Civics: The Constitution—Principles and Structure of American Democracy VIII. Geography of Canada and Mexico
Visual Arts	I. Art of the Middle Ages in Europe II. Islamic Art and Architecture III. Art of Africa IV. Art of China V. Art of a New Nation: The United States	I. Art of the Renaissance II. American Art: Nineteenth-Century United States III. Art of Japan	I. Art History: Periods and Schools (Classical; Gothic; Renaissance; Baroque; Rococo; Neoclassical; Romantic; Realistic)	I. Art History: Period and Schools (Impressionism; Post-Impressionism; Expressionism and Abstraction; Modern American Painting)	I. Art History: Periods and Schools (Painting Since World War II; Photography; 20th-Century Sculpture) II. Architecture Since the Industrial Revolution
Music	I. Elements of Music II. Listening and Understanding (Orchestra; Vocal Ranges; Composers) III. Songs	I. Elements of Music II. Listening and Understanding (Composers; Connections) III. American Musical Traditions (Spirituals) IV. Songs	I. Elements of Music II. Classical Music: From Baroque to Romantic (Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Schumann)	I. Elements of Music II. Classical Music: Romantics and Nationalists (Brahms, Berlioz, Liszt, Wagner, Dvorak, Grieg, Tchaikovsky) III. American Musical Traditions (Blues and Jazz)	I. Elements of Music II. Non-Western Music III. Classical Music: Nationalists and Moderns IV. Vocal Music (Opera; American Musical Theater)
Mathematics	I. Numbers and Number Sense II. Fractions and Decimals III. Money IV. Computation V. Measurement VI. Geometry	I. Numbers and Number Sense II. Ratio and Percent III. Fractions and Decimals IV. Computation V. Measurement VI. Geometry VII. Probability and Statistics VIII. Pre-Algebra	I. Numbers and Number Sense II. Ratio, Percent, and Proportion III. Computation IV. Measurement V. Geometry VI. Probability and Statistics VII. Pre-Algebra	I. Pre-Algebra (Properties of the Real Numbers; Polynomial Arithmetic; Equivalent Equations and Inequalities; Integer Exponents) II. Geometry (Three-Dimensional Objects; Angle Pairs; Triangles; Measurement) III. Probability and Statistics	I. Algebra (Properties of the Real Numbers; Relations, Functions, and Graphs; Linear Equations and Functions; Arithmetic of Rational Expression; Quadratic Equations and Functions) II. Geometry (Analytic Geometry; Introduction to Trigonometry; Triangles and proofs)
Science	I. Human Body (Circulatory and Respiratory Systems) II. Chemistry: Basic Terms and Concepts III. Electricity IV. Geology: The Earth and Its Changes V. Meteorology VI. Science Biographies	I. Classifying Living Things II. Cells: Structures and Processes III. Plant Structures and Processes IV. Life Cycles and Reproduction V. Human Body (Endocrine and Reproductive Systems) VI. Chemistry: Matter and Change VII. Science Biographies	I. Plate Tectonics II. Oceans III. Astronomy: Gravity, Stars, and Galaxies IV. Energy, Heat, and Energy Transfer V. The Human Body: Lymphatic and Immune Systems VI. Science Biographies	I. Atomic Structure II. Chemical Bonds and Reactions III. Cell Division and Genetics IV. History of the Earth and Life Forms V. Evolution VI. Science Biographies	I. Physics II. Electricity and Magnetism III. Electromagnetic Radiation and Light IV. Sound Waves V. Chemistry of Food and Respiration VI. Science Biographies