Core Knowledge Sequence

Content and Skill Guidelines for Grades K–8



Core Knowledge®

Grade K



Overview of Topics

Kindergarten

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. Phonological and Phonemic Awareness
  - C. Phonics: Decoding and Encoding
  - D. Oral Reading and Fluency
  - E. Reading Comprehension—All Texts
- III. Writing
- IV. Language Conventions
  - A. Handwriting and Spelling
  - B. Parts of Speech and Sentence Structure
  - C. Capitalization and Punctuation
- V. Poetry
  - A. Mother Goose and Other Traditional Poems
  - B. Other Poems, Old and New
- VI. Fiction
  - A. Stories
  - B. Aesop's Fables
  - C. American Folk Heroes and Tall Tales
  - D. Literary Terms
- VII. Sayings and Phrases

History and Geography

World:
- I. Geography: Spatial Sense
- II. An Overview of the Seven Continents

American:
- I. Geography
- II. Native American Peoples, Past and Present
- III. Early Exploration and Settlement
  - A. The Voyage of Columbus in 1492
  - B. The Pilgrims
  - C. July 4, "Independence Day"
- IV. Presidents, Past and Present
- V. Symbols and Figures

Visual Arts
- I. Elements of Art
  - A. Color
  - B. Line
- II. Sculpture
- III. Looking at and Talking about Works of Art

Music
- I. Elements of Music
- II. Listening and Understanding
- III. Songs

Mathematics
- I. Patterns and Classification
- II. Numbers and Number Sense
- III. Money
- IV. Computation
- V. Measurement
- VI. Geometry

Science
- I. Plants and Plant Growth
- II. Animals and Their Needs
- III. The Human Body
- IV. Introduction to Magnetism
- V. Seasons and Weather
- VI. Taking Care of the Earth
- VII. Science Biographies



Music: Kindergarten

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 some basic elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre, etc.).
  - Recognize a steady beat; begin to play a steady beat.
  - Recognize that some beats have accents (stress).
  - 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.
  - Recognize that some phrases are the same, some different.
  - Sing unaccompanied, accompanied, and in unison.

II. Listening and Understanding

Teachers: To encourage listening skills and the beginnings of understanding, play various kinds of music often and repeatedly. In the kindergarten classroom, music can be played for enjoyment, to accompany activities, to inspire creative movement, etc. Expose children to a wide range of music, including children's music, popular instrumental music, and music from various cultures.

- Recognize the following instruments by sight and sound: guitar, piano, trumpet, flute, violin, drum.
- Become familiar with the following works:
  - Edvard Grieg, "Morning" and "In the Hall of the Mountain King" from *Peer Gynt*
  - Victor Herbert, "March of the Toys" from *Babes in Toyland*
  - Richard Rodgers, "March of the Siamese Children" from *The King and I*
  - Camille Saint-Saëns, *Carnival of the Animals*

Note: Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" is a good work to illustrate dynamics (loud and quiet), as well as tempo (slow and fast).

III. Songs

Teachers: See also Language Arts, Mother Goose poems. A number of the poems may be sung to familiar melodies.

The Bear Went Over the Mountain
Bingo
The Farmer in the Dell
Go In and Out the Window
Go Tell Aunt Rhody
Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush
The Hokey Pokey
Hush Little Baby
If You're Happy and You Know It
Jingle Bells

John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt
Kumbaya (also Kum Ba Ya)
London Bridge
Old MacDonald Had a Farm
Row, Row, Row Your Boat
This Old Man
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
The Wheels on the Bus

Teachers: You may wish to supplement the songs listed above with songs from the *Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence*, as follows:

A Tisket, A Tasket
Are You Sleeping?
Blue-Tail Fly (Jimmie Crack Corn)
Do Your Ears Hang Low?
Did You Ever See a Lassie?
Eensy, Weensy Spider
Five Little Ducks That I Once Knew
Five Little Monkeys Jumping On the Bed
Happy Birthday to You
Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes
Here is the Beehive
I Know an Old Lady
I'm a Little Teapot
Kookaburra
Lazy Mary
Looby Loo
Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow
Oh, Do You Know the Muffin Man?
Oh Where, Oh Where, Has My Little Dog Gone?
One Potato, Two Potato
Open, Shut Them
Pop Goes the Weasel
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around
Teddy Bears Picnic
Where is Thumbkin?
Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?
You Are My Sunshine

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