

Core Knowledge History and Geography

K-8 *The Core Knowledge Sequence*

The Core Knowledge Sequence is a detailed outline of specific content and skills to be taught in language arts, history, geography, mathematics, science, and the fine arts. As the core of a school's curriculum, it is intended to provide a coherent, content specific foundation of learning, while allowing flexibility to meet local needs.

Grade K

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

Grade 1

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

Grade 2

World:

- I. Geography
 - A. Spatial Sense
 - B. Geographical Terms and Features
- II. Early Asian Civilizations
 - A. Geography of Asia
 - B. India
 - C. China
- III. Modern Japanese Civilization
 - A. Geography
 - B. Culture
- IV. The Ancient Greek Civilization

American:

- I. American Government: The Constitution
- II. The War of 1812
- III. Westward Expansion
 - A. Pioneers Head West
 - B. Native Americans
- IV. The Civil War
- V. Immigration and Citizenship
- VI. Fighting for a Cause
- VII. Geography of the Americas
 - A. North America
 - B. South America
- VIII. Symbols and Figures

Grade 3

World:

- I. World Geography
 - A. Spatial Sense
 - B. Geographical Terms and Features
 - C. Canada
 - D. Important Rivers of the World
- II. The Ancient Roman Civilization
 - A. Geography of the Mediterranean Region
 - B. Background
 - C. The Empire
 - D. The “Decline and Fall” of Rome
 - E. The Eastern Roman Empire: Byzantine Civilization
- III. The Vikings

American:

- I. The Earliest Americans
 - A. Crossing from Asia to North America
 - B. Native Americans
- II. Early Exploration of North America
 - A. Early Spanish Exploration and Settlement
 - B. Exploration and Settlement of the American Southwest
 - C. The Search for the Northwest Passage
- III. The Thirteen Colonies: Life and Times Before the Revolution
 - A. Geography
 - B. Southern Colonies
 - C. New England Colonies
 - D. Middle Atlantic Colonies

Grade 4

World:

- I. World Geography
 - A. Spatial Sense
 - B. Mountains and Mountain Ranges
- II. Europe in the Middle Ages
 - A. Geography Related to the Development of Western Europe
 - B. Background
 - C. Developments in History of the Christian Church
 - D. Feudalism
 - E. The Norman Conquest
 - F. Growth of Towns
 - G. England in the Middle Ages
- III. The Spread of Islam and the “Holy Wars”
 - A. Islam
 - B. Development of Islamic Civilization
 - C. Wars Between Muslims and Christians
- IV. Early and Medieval African Kingdoms
 - A. Geography of Africa
 - B. Early African Kingdoms
 - C. Medieval Kingdoms of the Sudan
- V. China: Dynasties and Conquerors

American:

- I. The American Revolution
 - A. Background: The French and Indian War
 - B. Causes and Provocations
 - C. The Revolution
- II. Making a Constitutional Government
 - A. Main Ideas Behind the Declaration of Independence
 - B. Making a New Government: From the Declaration to the Constitution

- C. The Constitution of the United States
- D. Levels and Functions of Government (National, State, Local)
- III. Early Presidents and Politics
- IV. Reformers
- V. Symbols and Figures

Grade 5

World:

- I. World Geography
 - A. Spatial Sense
 - B. Great Lakes of the World
- II. Early American Civilizations
 - A. Geography
 - B. Maya, Aztec and Inca Civilizations
 - C. Spanish Conquerors
- III. European Exploration, Trade, and the Clash of Cultures
 - A. Background
 - B. European Exploration, Trade, and Colonization
 - C. Trade and Slavery
- IV. The Renaissance and the Reformation
 - A. The Renaissance
 - B. The Reformation
- V. England from the Golden Age to the Glorious Revolution
 - A. England in the Golden Age
 - B. From the English Revolution to the Glorious Revolution
- VI. Russia: Early Growth and Expansion
 - A. Geography
 - B. History and Culture
- VII. Feudal Japan
 - A. Geography
 - B. History and Culture

American:

- I. Westward Expansion
 - A. Westward Expansion before the Civil War
 - B. Westward Expansion after the Civil War
- II. The Civil War: Causes, Conflicts, Consequences
 - A. Toward the Civil War
 - B. The Civil War
 - C. Reconstruction
- III. Native Americans: Cultures and Conflicts
 - A. Culture and Life
 - B. American Government Policies
 - C. Conflicts

IV. U. S. Geography

Grade 6

World:

- I. World Geography
 - A. Spatial Sense
 - B. Great Deserts of the World
- II. Lasting Ideas from Ancient Civilizations
 - A. Judaism and Christianity
 - B. Ancient Greece
 - C. Ancient Rome
- III. The Enlightenment
- IV. The French Revolution
- V. Romanticism
- VI. Industrialism, Capitalism, and Socialism
 - A. The Industrial Revolution
 - B. Capitalism
 - C. Socialism
- VII. Latin American Independence Movements
 - A. History
 - B. Geography of Latin America

American:

- I. Immigration, Industrialization, and Urbanization
 - A. Immigration
 - B. Industrialization and Urbanization
- II. Reform

Grade 7

- I. America Becomes a World Power
- II. World War I: “The Great War,” 1914–1918
 - A. History
 - B. Geography of Western and Central Europe
- III. The Russian Revolution
 - A. History
 - B. Geography
- IV. America from the Twenties to the New Deal
 - A. America in the Twenties
 - B. The Great Depression
 - C. Roosevelt and the New Deal
- V. World War II
 - A. The Rise of Totalitarianism in Europe
 - B. World War II in Europe and at Home, 1939–45
 - C. World War II in the Pacific, and the End of the War

VI. Geography of the United States

Grade 8

- I. The Decline of European Colonialism
 - A. Breakup of the British Empire
 - B. Creation of the People’s Republic of China
- II. The Cold War
 - A. Origins of the Cold War
 - B. The Korean War
 - C. America in the Cold War
- III. The Civil Rights Movement
- IV. The Vietnam War and the Rise of Social Activism
 - A. The Vietnam War
 - B. Social and Environmental Activism
- V. The Middle East and Oil Politics
 - A. History
 - B. Geography of the Middle East
- VI. The End of the Cold War: The Expansion of Democracy and Continuing Challenges
 - A. The American Policy of Detente
 - B. Breakup of the USSR
 - C. China under Communism
 - D. Contemporary Europe
 - E. The End of Apartheid in South Africa
- VII. Civics: The Constitution—Principles and Structure of American Democracy
- VIII. Geography of Canada and Mexico