

Kindergarten — CKLA Knowledge Strand

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Scope & Sequence, organized by quarter

Quarter	Unit	Topic	Focus / Big Idea
Quarter 1	1	Star Light, Star Bright: Nursery Rhymes and Fables	Mother Goose nursery rhymes and Aesop’s fables; character and simple moral lessons.
	2	See, Hear, Smell, Taste, Touch: The Five Senses	The five senses, plus the inspiring stories of Ray Charles and Helen Keller.
Quarter 2	3	Underdogs and Heroes: Stories	Classic stories, trickster tales, and folktales (The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks).
	4	See How They Grow: Plants	Plant parts, the plant life cycle, and pollination; Johnny Appleseed and George Washington Carver.
Quarter 3	5	Moo, Cluck, Oink: Farms	Farm animals, crops, and the farming seasons; “The Little Red Hen.”
	6	Deep Roots: Introduction to Native American Cultures	The Lakota, Wampanoag, and Lenape peoples and how geography shaped their ways of life.
Quarter 4	7	All Around the World: Geography	Maps, globes, continents, and oceans.
	8	Royal Tales: Monarchs	Classic royalty tales — Cinderella, Snow White, King Midas.
	8	National Icons: Presidents and American Symbols	U.S. presidents and national symbols (flag, Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore).
	9	Our Planet: Taking Care of the Earth	Reduce, reuse, recycle, and pollution.
	9	Rain and Rainbows: Seasons and Weather	The four seasons, weather safety, and meteorology.
	10	Shaped by Nature: Art and the World Around Us	Artists inspired by nature; a class research project.

Grade 1 — CKLA Knowledge Strand

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Scope & Sequence, organized by quarter

Quarter	Unit	Topic	Focus / Big Idea
Quarter 1	1	The Moral of the Story: Fables and Tales	Classic fables (“The Boy Who Cried Wolf,” “The Fox and the Grapes”) and folktales that teach a lesson.
	2	How Your Body Works	The body’s systems (skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory, nervous) and staying healthy.
Quarter 2	3	Common Threads: Different Lands, Similar Stories	Cinderella and “tiny hero” tales from many cultures around the world.
	4	Reach for the Stars: Astronomy	The sun, Earth, moon, stars, constellations, and early space exploration.
Quarter 3	5	Charting the World: Geography	Maps, globes, atlases, cardinal directions, and types of communities.
	6	A World of Homes: Animals and Habitats	Arctic, desert, grassland, forest, and water habitats and how animals adapt.
Quarter 4	7	A New Nation: American Independence	The 13 colonies, the Revolution, key founders, and U.S. symbols.
	8	Once Upon a Time: Fairy Tales	Classic fairy tales such as “Sleeping Beauty” and “Jack and the Beanstalk.”
	8	Our Planet: The History of the Earth	Earth’s layers, rocks, minerals, and fossils.
	9	From Babylon to the Nile: Early World Civilizations	Mesopotamia and Egypt.
	9	Early Americas: Maya, Aztec, and Inca	Early American civilizations.
	10	Adventure Stories: Tales from the Edge	Real explorers (ocean, sky, and space) and the value of perseverance.

Grade 2 — CKLA Knowledge Strand

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Scope & Sequence, organized by quarter

Quarter	Unit	Topic	Focus / Big Idea
Quarter 1	1	Fortunes and Feats: Fairy Tales and Tall Tales	Classic fairy tales plus American tall tales (Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, John Henry).
	2	The Birthplace of Democracy: Ancient Greece	Early Greek civilization, government, and daily life.
Quarter 2	3	Legends and Heroes: Greek Myths	Well-known Greek myths and their lessons about human nature.
	4	Our Planet: Cycles in Nature	Seasons, weather, and natural cycles.
Quarter 3	5	Butterflies, Bees, and Beetles: Insects	Insect life cycles, characteristics, and roles in nature.
	6	A House Divided: The American Civil War	Causes, key figures, and effects of the Civil War.
Quarter 4	7	Sounds and Stanzas: Poetry	Rhyme, rhythm, and figurative language in poetry.
	8	Making a Difference: Creating Change	How individuals create positive change.
	8	Journeys to America: Immigration	The history of immigration to the U.S.
	9	Building Blocks: All About Nutrition	Healthy eating and nutrition.
	9	Early Asian Civilizations: India and China	Ancient India and China.
	10	Taking Flight: The Age of Aviation	The history of flight, from early inventors to modern aviation.

Grade 3 — CKLA Knowledge Strand

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Scope & Sequence, organized by quarter

Quarter	Unit	Topic	Focus / Big Idea
Quarter 1	1	Timeless Tales: Classic Stories	“The Wind in the Willows,” “Alice in Wonderland,” and “Mulan” — character, theme, point of view.
	2	Fur, Fins, and Feathers: Animal Classification	How scientists classify vertebrates and invertebrates.
Quarter 2	3	Rhythm and Rhyme: Poetry	Poetic devices, structure, and writing original poems.
	4	Rise and Fall: Ancient Rome	Founding, growth, and decline of the Roman Empire; Julius & Augustus Caesar.
Quarter 3	5	Our Solar System and Beyond: Astronomy	The sun, planets, moon, galaxies, gravity, and space exploration.
	6	Regions and Cultures: Native Americans	Native American peoples across U.S. regions and their ways of life.
Quarter 4	7	Novel Study: Charlotte’s Web	Character, plot, and theme in a full-length novel.
	7	Novel Study: Stella Díaz Has Something to Say	Character, plot, and theme (alternate title).
	8	Systems and Senses: The Human Body	Skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems; sight and hearing.
	8	From Glow to Echo: Light and Sound	Light, shadows, reflection, sound; inventors Bell & Edison.
	9	From Blues to Bebop: All That Jazz	The history of jazz and influential musicians.

Grade 4 — CKLA Knowledge Strand

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Scope & Sequence, organized by quarter

Quarter	Unit	Topic	Focus / Big Idea
Quarter 1	1	My Story, My Voice: Personal Narratives	Elements of first-person narrative writing.
	2	Knights and Castles: Europe's Middle Ages	Feudal society, the Church, knights, and the Magna Carta.
Quarter 2	3	Meaning and Metaphor: Poetry	Reading and writing poems using figurative language and structure.
	4	Eureka! Student Inventor	Famous inventors and the invention process; students design their own invention.
Quarter 3	5	Our Planet: Geology	Plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, rocks, and the rock cycle.
	6	Road to Independence: The American Revolution	Causes, key events, and figures of the American Revolution.
Quarter 4	7	Novel Study: Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler	Character, plot, and narrative craft in a full-length novel.
	7	Novel Study: The Season of Styx Malone	Character, plot, and narrative craft (alternate title).
	8	Adventure on the High Seas: Treasure Island	Adventure-story elements from a classic sea tale.
	8	Crafting Stories: A World of Tales	Traditional tales from around the world.
	9	Inspiration and Ingenuity: American Innovation	Lesser-known American inventors and the cycle of innovation.

Grade 5 — CKLA Knowledge Strand

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Scope & Sequence, organized by quarter

Quarter	Unit	Topic	Focus / Big Idea
Quarter 1	1	In My Own Words: Personal Narratives	Crafting narratives with dialogue, sensory detail, and figurative language.
	2	Early Americas: Maya, Aztec, and Inca	Geography, achievements, and decline of three early American empires.
Quarter 2	3	Visions in Verse: Poetry	Reading and writing formal and free-verse poems.
	4	A Knight's Tale: Don Quixote	Character and theme in an adapted classic novel; opinion essay writing.
Quarter 3	5	The Deep Blue World: Oceans	Ocean ecosystems, marine life, and marine biologists.
	6	Cultures and Histories: Native Americans	Native American life, culture, and history through the 1800s to today.
Quarter 4	7	Novel Study: The Phantom Tollbooth	Character, setting, and theme in a full-length novel.
	7	Novel Study: The Science of Breakable Things	Character, setting, and theme (alternate title).
	8	Arts and Culture: The Renaissance	Renaissance art and thinkers.
	8	Through the Forest: A Midsummer Night's Dream	A Shakespeare comedy performance unit.
	9	Building Up the World: Global Architecture	Notable architects and structures around the world; research project.