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