

Core Knowledge® Foundation

CKLA Grade 5 – Scope and Sequence



This CKLA planning tool offers an at-a-glance overview of the curriculum for this grade level. It highlights the key concepts, skills, and content to help teachers plan lessons confidently and support effective teaching and learning in the classroom.

Unit	Unit Title	Genre	Key Themes	Reading Skills	Writing Focus	Language Focus	Morphology / Spelling Focus
1	<i>They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems</i> Beginning of the Year Assessment	Contemporary Fiction	Identity, belonging, heritage, racism, coming of age, and the power of words	Drawing inferences, theme, summarizing, figurative language, and multiple-meaning words	Informational essay, sequencing plot events for a fictional narrative, and peer editing	Action verbs, punctuating dialogue, synonyms, and antonyms	Prefixes: <i>trans-</i>
2	<i>Early American Civilizations</i>	Informational Text	Complex civilizations of the Maya, Aztec and Inca, geography, and mythology	Compare and contrast, context clues, fluency, inferencing, evaluating, literary devices, close reading, reading maps, and domain-specific and academic vocabulary	Paraphrasing, taking notes, paragraph structure, research, and an original codex project	Fragments and run-on sentences, action and linking verbs, subjects and predicates	Greek / Latin roots: <i>tract</i> ; Prefixes: <i>il-</i> , <i>ir-</i> , <i>inter-</i> ; Content-related spelling
3	<i>Adventures of Don Quixote</i>	Classical Fiction	Idealism vs. reality, friendship, class vs. true worth, loyalty, and truth	Compare and contrast, opinion vs. fact, theme, summarizing, figurative language, plot structure, inferencing, characterization, fluency, and domain-specific and academic vocabulary	Persuasive essays, essay structure, writing a claim, and peer editing	Subject-action verbs, pronouns, commas, subject-verb agreement, and transition words	Greek / Latin roots: <i>vac</i> ; Suffix: <i>-ness</i> ; Content-related spelling
4	<i>The Renaissance</i>	Informational Text	History, art, literature, architecture, and humanism	Close reading, main idea and supporting details, literary devices, and domain-specific and academic vocabulary	Informational paragraphs, biography, research, taking notes, creating headings, and journaling	Linking verbs, verb tense, prepositions, prepositional phrases, and correlative conjunctions	Greek / Latin roots: <i>serv</i> ; Prefixes: <i>im-</i> , <i>in-</i> , <i>ex-</i> ; Content-related spelling

Unit	Unit Title	Genre	Key Themes	Reading Skills	Writing Focus	Language Focus	Morphology / Spelling Focus
5	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Drama	Love, order and disorder, dreams, magic, perception, and power	Characters, setting, theme, elements of plot, conflict, point of view, dialogue, fluency, multiple-meaning words, and domain-specific and academic vocabulary	Journaling, character development, sequencing plot events, writing dialogue, narrative writing, and paragraph structure	Subject-action verb, antonyms, similes, and quotation marks	Suffixes: <i>-tion</i>
6	<i>The Reformation</i>	Informational Text	History, religion, inventions, and scientific advancement	Academic vocabulary, close reading, literary devices, evaluating, inferencing, cause and effect, and domain-specific and academic vocabulary	Friendly letters, strong verbs, and slide presentations	Interjections, subject-linking verb agreement, prepositional phrases, and correlative conjunctions	Prefixes: <i>en-</i> ; Suffixes: <i>-ist</i> ; Content-related spelling
7	<i>Poetry</i>	Poetry	Voice, perspective, emotion, diversity, and belonging	Literary terms, figurative language, poetic structure and devices, poetry forms, interpretation, parallel structure, anaphora, compare and contrast, fluency, and domain-specific and academic vocabulary	Apostrophe poem, apology poem, writing with anaphora, rhyming poem, and advice poems	Apostrophes, descriptive language, similes, and metaphors	n/a
8	<i>Native Americans</i> End of the Year Assessment	Informational Text	History, cultural identity, and geography	Map skills, sayings and phrases, multiple-meaning words, compare and contrast, close reading, and domain-specific and academic vocabulary	Persuasive essay, writing process, and graphic organizers	Verb tense, comma usage, transitional words and phrases, writing titles	Greek / Latin roots: <i>mem</i> ; Prefixes: <i>fore-</i> ; Suffixes: <i>-tion</i> , <i>-sion</i> ; Morphology and content-related spelling words
9	<i>The Science of Breakable Things</i>	Contemporary Fiction (Novel Study)	Social-emotional learning, botany, physics, and health	This brief Amplify unit includes resources to conduct a novel study and does not follow the typical Core Knowledge curriculum structure. Pacing is flexible, allowing it to be used as a bonus unit or a summer project. There are no assessments, and academic objectives include reading comprehension, character analysis, reading fluency, and writing development.			n/a