
Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
A Note to Teachers	xiii
General Introduction to the Core Knowledge Series	xxvii

I. Language and Literature

Reading, Writing, and Your Kindergartner	3
Acquiring the Skill of Reading	3
Reading Is Not a Skill	4
The Knowledge Connection	6
Kindergarten and Your Child	7
Listening and Learning	7
Common Core State Standards and Your Child	10
A Balance of Fiction and Nonfiction	10
Explore the World Through Reading and Listening	11
A Focus on Evidence	12
Academic Vocabulary	13
Coherence	14

Building Literacy at Home	16
Read to Your Kindergartner	16
Talk to Your Child	17
Limit TV Time	17
Choose Activities That Build Background Knowledge	18
Be a Reader, Raise a Reader	18
Want to Learn More?	20
Literature	22
Introduction: Worlds of Meaning	22
Familiar and Favorite Poems	29
Activities for Poetry	29
Time to Rise	31
Happy Thought	31
Hickory, Dickory, Dock	31
Early to Bed	32
Diddle, Diddle, Dumpling	32
A Diller, a Dollar	32
Hey, Diddle, Diddle	32
Little Bo Peep	33
Little Boy Blue	33
Baa, Baa, Black Sheep	33
One, Two, Buckle My Shoe	34
Rain, Rain, Go Away	34
It's Raining, It's Pouring	34
April Rain Song	35
The More It Snows	35

My Nose	36
Roses Are Red	36
Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary	36
Tommy	37
Jack and Jill	37
Jack Be Nimble	38
There Was a Little Girl	38
Little Miss Muffet	38
Georgie Porgie	38
Humpty Dumpty	39
Little Jack Horner	39
Mary Had a Little Lamb	40
Hot Cross Buns!	40
Simple Simon	41
Old Mother Hubbard	41
Old King Cole	41
Sing a Song of Sixpence	42
Ladybug, Ladybug	42
Three Blind Mice	43
Jack Sprat	43
See Saw, Margery Daw	43
Three Little Kittens	44
There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe	45
Star Light, Star Bright	45
Aesop's Fables	46
The Dog and His Shadow	47
The Lion and the Mouse	48
The Hare and the Tortoise	49
The Grasshopper and the Ants	50

Stories	52
The Three Little Pigs	52
Goldilocks and the Three Bears	55
The Three Billy Goats Gruff	58
Momotaro: Peach Boy	60
The Little Red Hen	64
Chicken Little	66
Little Red Riding Hood	68
The Story of Jumping Mouse	72
The Bremen Town Musicians	77
The Ugly Duckling	81
Tug-of-War	88
Cinderella	91
The Wolf and the Seven Little Kids	97
King Midas and the Golden Touch	101
Snow White	106
How Many Spots Does a Leopard Have?	115
In Which Pooh Goes Visiting and Gets into a Tight Place	120
The Velveteen Rabbit; or, How Toys Become Real	125
Two Tall Tales	133
Johnny Appleseed	133
Casey Jones	136
Sayings	140
April showers bring May flowers.	140
Better safe than sorry.	140
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.	141
A dog is man's best friend.	141
The early bird gets the worm.	141

Great oaks from little acorns grow.	142
Look before you leap.	142
A place for everything and everything in its place.	142
It's raining cats and dogs.	143
Practice makes perfect.	143
Where there's a will, there's a way.	143

II. History and Geography

Introduction	147
World History and Geography	148
Planet Earth	148
Oceans and Continents, Maps and Globes	149
Earth's Seven Continents	151
Which Way Are You Going?	152
The North and South Poles	154
The Seven Continents	154
Asia	156
Europe	158
Africa	160
North America	162
South America	165
Australia	167
Antarctica	169
American History and Geography	171
Your Country	171
The American Flag	172

Our Country Long Ago	173
Running Dog Joins the Hunt	176
The First Americans: Many Peoples and Many Places	178
Homes in the Desert, Homes by the Sea	179
Christopher Columbus	182
Sailing with Christopher Columbus	185
Reaching Land	188
Pilgrims in the New World	189
A Hard Journey	190
Meeting the Wampanoag	191
Happy Birthday, America!	194
Fun on the Fourth of July	195
Not Completely Free	198
Presidents of the United States	200
George Washington and the Cherry Tree	201
Thomas Jefferson: The Idea Man	202
Abraham Lincoln: Honest Abe	204
Theodore Roosevelt: The Teddy Bear President	205
Honoring Our Presidents	207
Choosing Our Presidents	208
Suggested Resources	208

III. Visual Arts

Introduction	213
What Do Artists Do?	213
Art in Color	215
Lines and Patterns	221
Statues, Monuments, and More	226
Mobiles	230

Let's Talk About Art	232
<i>Snap the Whip</i>	232
<i>Children's Games</i>	234
<i>Le Gourmet</i>	236
<i>The Banjo Lesson</i>	238
<i>The Bath</i>	239
Really Looking	240
Suggested Resources	240

IV. Music

Introduction	245
Making Music	245
Let's Listen to Music	248
Moving to Music	248
Follow the Beat	249
Make Up the Beat	252
Loud and Quiet	253
Loud Songs, Quiet Songs	254
Loud Drum, Quiet Drum	255
Fast and Slow	256
High and Low	257
Favorite Songs	258
Bingo	258
Go In and Out the Window	258
Hush, Little Baby	259
London Bridge Is Falling Down	260

Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush	261
My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean	261
Old MacDonald	262
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star	263
Pop! Goes the Weasel	264
Go Tell Aunt Rhody	264
The Bear Went over the Mountain	265
Jingle Bells	265
The Farmer in the Dell	266
The Hokey Pokey	267
If You're Happy and You Know It	267
Kookaburra	268
Kum Ba Yah	268
Row, Row, Row Your Boat	268
The Wheels on the Bus	269
This Old Man	270
Suggested Resources	271

V. Mathematics

Introduction	275
Patterns and Classifications	276
Activity 1: Collecting Things by Likeness	276
Activity 2: Sorting Everyday Objects	277
Activity 3: Alike and Different	278
Activity 4: Shape Sort	279
Activity 5: Shape Train	280
Activity 6: Potato Prints	282
Activity 7: More Play with Patterns	284

Numbers and Number Sense	286
Activity 1: Numbers from 1 to 10	288
Activity 2: Loading the Train: Counting Objects to 10	289
Activity 3: The Size of 10	290
Activity 4: Counting Game	291
Activity 5: How Many?	293
Activity 6: Number Match	294
Activity 7: One More, One Less	295
Activity 8: Most and Fewest	296
Activity 9: Counting More Than 10 Objects	297
Activity 10: Things That Come in Pairs	298
Activity 11: Counting by Twos	299
Activity 12: Counting by Fives and Tens	300
Activity 13: Half and Half	301
Activity 14: A Good-Job Graph	302
Activity 15: Block Train	304

Money	305
Activity 1: Identifying Money	305
Activity 2: Money Bingo	306

Computation	308
Activity 1: Addition: Finding Totals	308
Activity 2: Subtraction: The Take-Away Game	310
Activity 3: Addition and Subtraction Stories	311

Measurement	313
Activity 1: Measuring Tools	313
Activity 2: Measuring with Paper Clips	314
Activity 3: Measuring with Hands and Feet	316

Activity 4: Full, Half Full, and Empty	317
Activity 5: Heavy and Light	317
Activity 6: Long and Short Events	318
Activity 7: Before and After: Morning, Afternoon, and Evening	319
Activity 8: What Time Is It?	320
Activity 9: The Calendar	321
Geometry	323
Activity 1: What's That Shape?	323
Activity 2: Shape and Size	324
Activity 3: Where Is It? Using Words of Position and Direction	326
Activity 4: Simon Says	328
Suggested Resources	329

VI. Science

Introduction	333
Plants and Plant Growth	334
Plants Are All Around Us	334
Seeds Grow into Plants	337
Watch a Seed Grow in a “See-Through” Planter	338
What Plants Need to Grow	340
What Do Plants Need? An Experiment	341
Seeds to Eat	343
We Eat Many Plant Parts	344
Growing Food Plants	345
Seasons and Weather	347
The Four Seasons	347
Talking About the Weather	349

The Wind Blows in Many Directions	352
Rain and Snow	354
Make a Snowflake	357
Storms	358
Animals and Their Needs	359
Taking Care of Pets	360
Animals Care for Their Babies	361
The Human Body	362
Your Five Senses	362
Taking Care of Your Body	364
Taking Care of the Earth	365
The Forests and the Trees	365
Conservation: Saving and Protecting the Earth	366
It's Smart to Recycle	367
Keep Our Earth Clean	369
An Invisible Force: Magnetism	370
Can Magnetic Force Pass Through an Object?	371
What Do Magnets Attract?	372
Stories About Scientists	375
George Washington Carver	375
Jane Goodall	378
Wilbur and Orville Wright	379
Suggested Resources	381
Illustration and Photo Credits	383
Text Credits and Sources	389
Index	393