



Core Knowledge UK for Home Educators

Core Knowledge UK provides a solution for homeschooling families looking for a springboard that provides direction for their child's education.

The [Core Knowledge Sequence UK](#) informs a coherent, cumulative and content-rich curriculum of the essential content and skills to cover in the arts, humanities and sciences in Years 1 to 6. It provides you with clear aims to work towards by describing what your child should learn in each school year, and it helps your child create connections and see the rich and varied perspectives provided by each discipline.

The Core Knowledge UK curriculum can be used as the sole backbone of your home education curriculum or used to complement the National Curriculum. The Core Knowledge UK curriculum is not prescriptive in implementation, so you can tailor it to the specific needs of your child. It offers specific guidelines that can reasonably be expected to make up about half of your child's curriculum, leaving ample room for you to cater your teaching to your child's interests and to explore additional subject matter.

The *Sequence UK* is designed to offer a solid, coherent foundation of learning that encourages steady academic growth as your child constructs their knowledge, develops their [cultural literacy](#) and deepens their critical thinking skills year after year. When you use the *Sequence UK*, the core of your curriculum is coherent within and across your child's learning each year. For example, a topic on the geography of the Mediterranean in Year 2 is taught alongside a literature topic on the mythology of Ancient Greece. Cumulatively these form a foundation for another topic on Athens and the beginnings of democracy.

A series of resource books supplements the *Sequence UK*. [What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know](#), for 5- to 6-year-olds, is the first of six books for parents of primary school-aged children. This beautifully illustrated and engaging resource book provides an introduction to the essential skills and content to learn in English language and literature, maths, science, history, geography, visual arts and music. *What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know* is filled with age-appropriate reading, suggested activities and questions that stimulate thinking.

You can find out more about the [What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know](#) resource book and [purchase it](#). You can also [register for our newsletter](#) to receive updates on the publication of subsequent volumes and new Core Knowledge UK activities.

Benefits for Home Educators

A Core Knowledge UK curriculum:

- Provides the foundation and direction of a coherent, cumulative and content-rich curriculum.
- Is comprehensive in breadth and depth, providing your child with a rich vocabulary necessary to achieve academic success.
- Helps you access a well-rounded education for your child.
- Flexibly accommodates the specific interests and needs of your child.
- Enables your child to engage with learning at home and in your local community.
- Opens new opportunities for your child by providing you with ideas for exploring a wide range of activities.
- Creates a common ground for communication and promotes social cohesion by enabling your child to share a core foundation of knowledge with their peers and with us all.
- Promotes discipline and respect within communities.

The *Core Knowledge Sequence UK*

The *Core Knowledge Sequence UK* is a year-by-year outline of the specific and shared content and skills to be taught in Years 1 to 6. This springboard for learning provides the foundation for a sound, well-rounded education in the arts, humanities and sciences.

Current events and technology are constantly changing, but there remains a significant body of enduring knowledge and skills that form the foundation of a strong curriculum.

All children should be able to unlock the library of the world's literature; to comprehend the world around them; to understand where they stand (literally) on the globe, and to realise the heritage that the history of their country has bestowed on them. In order to achieve this, it is important for every child to learn the fundamentals of mathematics; basic principles of science; theories and structures of government; significant events and themes from history; masterpieces of art, music and literature from around the world; and stories and poems that have been passed down through the generations.

By explicitly identifying what children should learn in each academic year, it is possible to ensure a coherent approach to developing cumulative knowledge across all school years, providing the most efficient, effective and rich education for your child.

Over the past 20 years, the Core Knowledge Foundation has developed and refined the American *Core Knowledge Sequence* in partnership with schools implementing the curriculum. Our 2011 edition of the anglicised *Core Knowledge Sequence UK* reflects these practical insights gained by British educators.

For details on the *Core Knowledge Sequence UK*, please visit the [interactive website page](#) where you can download the *Sequence UK* PDF (150 pages).

Resource Book



How do you know who this is?

Make sure your child is familiar with our patron saint of England by reading the story of St. George and the Dragon and looking at colourful and widely acknowledged masterpieces depicting this tall tale. Talk to your child about flags from across the world, in particular how the Union Jack unites England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Find these countries on a map and enjoy travelling back in time to learn about the people and events that influenced the world as we know it today.

The *Core Knowledge Sequence UK* is a year-by-year outline of the skills and content to cover in the arts, humanities and sciences in Years 1 to 6. *What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know* fleshes out the *Core Knowledge Sequence UK* and brings the curriculum into your home. It will provide you with materials and resources that you can use in relation to the lessons and activities that you plan for your child. *What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know* is the first in a series of six books—one for each school year—for home educators, family members and children to enjoy.

[Purchase](#) *What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know*.

Filled with age-appropriate questions that stimulate thinking, *What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know* includes:

- Language and literature - favourite poems; traditional fables and stories; familiar sayings and phrases that impart traditional wisdom; and multicultural folktales from African, Indian and Irish traditions - all beautifully illustrated
- History and geography - a friendly introduction to our world, complete with colourful maps and simple questions
- Visual arts - painting, drawing, cutting and pasting go hand-in-hand with learning about colour and helping your child look at and talk about art
- Music - many musical experiences for parents and children to participate in, along with dozens of songs to sing and dance to
- Mathematics - work with your child on engaging activities on patterns, classifications, numbers, computation, measurement and more
- Science - activities that let your child observe, learn about scientists, experience and get their hands dirty while exploring the wonders of nature

Testimonies

Reviews of the Resource Book [What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know](#)

An excellent read which finds the middle ground in the English Education system between fact-based learning and critical thinking-skills. Once started you never want to put it down and may be tempted to take it wherever you go with your child! It is full of activities which complement what the child learns at school in year 1 and require few or no resources—except the book! Fabulous pictures, stories, poems and information texts to look at with your child; easy to find something which fits in with the busy before-and-after school schedule or can even be done in the car, and most activities can be also enjoyed by older and younger children too. A great resource for a busy parent who wants to help their child progress at school but is not sure where to start. Also ideal for a teacher just starting with a year 1 class or a nanny or would be especially good for home-schoolers.

—Primary Teacher and Parent, Hertfordshire, UK

As a parent, I was always interested to know what my child had been learning at school. As a teacher, I was able to share my knowledge to the children in my class. The ideas and information provided in What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know do both. With clear explanations, examples and illustrations, this book can help any parent with their child's education. This book has helped me ensure that the children in my year 1 class have access to old and new ideas, stories and philosophies. I look forward to introducing it further to the pupils at my school and their parents.

—Primary Teacher and Parent, Greater London, UK

What I did like, a lot, were the stories, poems and literary resources that take up a lot of the book. There are lots of familiar classics, with the proper drawings, and it's a great resource of the type of thing that is good for children around this age. Readalouds and so on, great things for sharing. ...[I]t certainly would give the unsure parent something to base their own ideas around, and fill the days when inspiration doesn't strike. ...As a starting point for what to consider as base knowledge, it's pretty comprehensive, and definitely worth the £12 or so that's being charged for it.

—Home Educator, Suffolk, UK

This book is an extremely useful resource for parents who are interested in encouraging their child's learning. It covers a very broad curriculum of subjects—English, History, Geography, Art, Music, Maths and Science... The sections on Maths and Science in particular include some brilliant ideas for activities to do, which are simple and easy enough to do at home. Additionally, the book is written so that no prior knowledge by the parent is required, so for example sections such as Music or History, can be used without the parent needing to be an expert in that area. All in all, for a parent who is enthusiastic about enriching their child's education, this thoroughly does the job.

—Parent, London, UK

Effectiveness of Core Knowledge

Importance of Core Knowledge UK

Read a press release about Core Knowledge UK:

[Core Knowledge and Civitas Announce U.K. Partnership](#) (Aug., 2011)

Read a piece by David Green, the director of Civitas, published by *The Sun*:

[Our Kids Need Learning Not League Tables](#) (Oct., 2011)

Read an article published by Parenting.co.uk:

[What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know: How do you know what this is?](#) (Aug., 2011)

Research showing the effectiveness of Core Knowledge in the US

We are currently pioneering Core Knowledge in the UK, and it has already proven to be effective in the US. The quotations below are from published research highlighting students' gains using Core Knowledge in the US.

[US] Schools that implemented the Core Knowledge curriculum consistently exceeded the national averages across six content areas, regardless of the ethnic profile, economic profile, or school size. Not only is there a performance gap favoring Core Knowledge schools over their national counterparts, the gap widens over time suggesting the performance gains may be long-term and sustainable provided the schools continue to implement the Core Knowledge curriculum.

From the [Core Knowledge Curriculum and School Performance: A National Study](#) (Sept., 2004)

According to the report, implementing Core Knowledge "consistently contributed to making instruction more interesting and content rich for students, provided coherence to the curriculum, and contributed to increased teacher collaboration and professionalism. Core Knowledge was also associated with more hands-on, activity-based instruction, and... was associated with greater academic engaged time in schools."

From the [Three-Year National Study Confirms Effectiveness of Core Knowledge Sequence](#) (Winter, 1999)

The analyses showed that Core Knowledge [US] schools excelled the other schools in achievement progress in eight of ten comparisons of reading and mathematics in the five grade levels available for analysis.

From the [Walberg study: The Effects of Core Knowledge on State Test Achievement in North Carolina](#) (April 2004)