

First Grade

Language Arts, Reading, Creativity, and Geography

(Recommended for ages 6 - 9, depending on child's reading level. Child should recognize all letters, know all basic letter sounds, and be familiar with basic consonant-vowel-consonant words like "cat" and "dot" before beginning this level.)

- Fairytales, nature stories, and folktales from around the world
- Practicing printing with copywork selections (optional)
- Letter blends (beginning and ending)
- Reviewing basic CVC word families (such as "-ad" and "-og")
- Phonograms ai, ee, oa, aw, ow (the long ō sound), ea
- Short words that end in "o" (such as "go" and "no")
- The sounds of "-itch" and "-ight"
- Basic silent e words (such as make, role, etc.)
- Recognizing and reading a variety of "sight words" (commonly-occurring words with rules we have not learned yet, making it easier to read from a variety of sources)
- Reading short sentences
- Reading simple poems
- Reading short passages
- Reading short books (optional)
- Narrating back simple story lines
- Exploring literature weekly through journaling and a variety of creative, hands-on activities
- Locating various countries of the world on a map (optional)
- Exploring a variety of countries of origin of world folktales (optional)

Science (appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- The formation of Earth and our solar system
- Layers of the Earth
- Plate tectonics
- Earthquakes and volcanoes
- Crystals
- Minerals
- The three rock types
- The rock cycle
- Weathering and erosion
- Identifying rocks and minerals
- Human uses for rocks and minerals
- Fossils
- Landforms and bodies of water
- Layers of the atmosphere
- Weather and climate
- Using science to predict weather
- Using nature's signs to predict weather
- Clouds
- The water cycle
- Weather: wind, rain, snow and ice, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes
- Rainbows

- Why we have seasons
- The spring equinox and the autumnal equinox
- The summer solstice and the winter solstice

Nature Study (appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- Making a calendar
- Observing and recording nature throughout the year
- Creating and displaying a rock, mineral, and fossil collection
- Making a salt-dough map of landforms and bodies of water around the child's home
- Keeping a weather log
- Building shelters
- Identifying feathers
- Tracing shadows
- Making an insect sanctuary
- Painting outdoors
- Making wind chimes
- And so much more!

History

- Beginning in first grade, we do not include a history curriculum with our elementary year packages.
- History curriculum for the elementary years is currently in development, and the first units will be available to purchase separately from each year's package beginning in late 2019 / early 2020.

Exploring the Math in Art (Elementary Arts Curriculum, appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- Exploring artistic expression through weekly art prompts, using a variety of materials
- Mindful attention when looking at works of art
- Discussing observations of works of art
- Exploring the following math concepts through a variety of works of art: shapes, whole / parts, patterns, balance, and symmetry
- Exploring a variety of art forms: painting, sculpture, architecture, wood carving, sand mandalas, etc.

Book List for First Grade

*Please note: the following list contains only the **required or highly recommended** books for our first grade curriculum. We include extensive lists of further recommended books in the curriculum, which a parent may choose to use or omit at their own discretion, according to their preferences.*

- *Among the Meadow People, Among the Pond People, and Among the Forest People* by Clara Dillingham Pierson
- *The Blue Fairy Book* by Andrew Lang, or the story version you prefer of the fairytales used in the curriculum (all can be easily found at your local library)

- The following stories by Hans Christian Andersen: “Thumbelina,” “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” and “The Snow Queen” (any version is fine)
- *Favorite Folktales from Around the World* edited by Jane Yolen
- *Fearless Girls, Wise Women, and Beloved Sisters: Heroines in Folktales From Around the World* by Kathleen Ragan
- *Smithsonian Super Earth Encyclopedia* by DK (not required, but highly recommended—used throughout the full year)
- *Nature Anatomy: The Curious Parts and Pieces of the Natural World* by Julia Rothman (not required, but highly recommended—used throughout the full year)

The following books are not required, but they are recommended, and are only used for approximately one week each. Therefore, they would be appropriate selections for library use.

- *Mary Anning and the Sea Dragon* by Jeannine Atkins
- *Air is All Around You* by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
- *Weather Words and What They Mean* by Gail Gibbons
- *What Will the Weather Be?* By Lynda DeWitt
- *Clouds* by Anne Rockwell
- *Feel the Wind* by Arthur Dorros
- *Down Comes the Rain* by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
- *Snow is Falling* by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
- *Flash, Crash, Rumble, and Roll* by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
- *Tornadoes* by Gail Gibbons
- *Hurricanes* by Gail Gibbons
- *The Reason for the Seasons* by Gail Gibbons
- *A New Beginning: Celebrating the Spring Equinox* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *The Longest Day: Celebrating the Summer Solstice* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *We Gather Together: Celebrating the Harvest Season* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *The Shortest Day: Celebrating the Winter Solstice* by Wendy Pfeffer