

Blossom and Root Curriculum: Scope and Sequence

Fifth Grade / Level 5

Language Arts, Reading, Writing, Creativity, and Literature-Inspired Social Studies

(Recommended for ages 10 - 13, depending on child’s reading level. Please refer to our first - fourth grade scope and sequences to see what was covered in prior years. You can always mix and match more than one level of our language arts curriculum to accommodate your child’s reading level. However, please keep in mind that some literature selections in this level contain distressing or violent content and may not be ideal for younger students.)

- Continue exploring character, setting, plot, and point of view through a variety of engaging literature selections and hands-on activities
- Continue identifying the stages of a standard plot (introduced in Level 4): exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
- Exploring the different kinds of conflict, the different kinds of characters, and how characters are formed through inner thoughts, spoken words, actions and body language, etc.
- Beginning to explore symbolism, foreshadowing, flashback, and theme
- Reading and exploring different literary genres and styles
- Exploring the stories we carry with us and how we carry them (language, storytelling, recipes, knowledge, connections to land, connections in our communities, music, film, poetry, art, movement, etc.)
- Using historical fiction to peek into the past, and as a springboard for learning more about a specific time in history
- Using non-fiction, including biography, to learn and listen
- Exploring an epistolary novel
- Exploring a novel in verse
- Reading and writing poetry
- Comparing and contrasting characters, settings, plots, etc.
- Exploring literature weekly through a variety of creative activities and journaling prompts
- Experimenting with different forms of storytelling and finding the writer’s voice
- Beginning to explore etymology
- Exploring and using new vocabulary words
- Reviewing spelling rules regarding prefixes and suffixes (from years 3 and 4)
- Breaking down and reading longer, more complex multisyllabic words
- Reviewing how to read and understand unfamiliar words (context clues, dictionary usage, etc.) and practicing these skills with practice passages
- Parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, adjectives and articles, verbs, adverbs, interjections, conjunctions, and prepositions
- Subject pronouns vs. object pronouns
- Reviewing the subject / verb agreement
- Phrases: prepositional phrases, appositive phrases, gerunds, infinitives, participle phrases
- Parts of a sentence: subject, predicate, action verbs, direct objects and indirect objects, linking verbs, subject complements
- Clauses, simple and compound sentences, and complex sentences
- Reading independently from chapter books
- Exploring optional social studies topics introduced in the literature selections. Topics include: language origins, immigration, the concept of assimilation (introduced), the concept of community (explored), the concept of gentrification (introduced), the history of migrant farm

workers in California, the history of the residential school program in the U.S. and Canada (introduced), wildlife crossings, making a map inspired by a literature selection, exploring Korean mythology, cave systems of the world, borders, refugees, the push and pull factors of human migration, and more.

- Optional weekly geography prompt to explore and learn the U.S. states and capitals.
- **The Super Secret Notebook Guide takes the place of the Creative Extensions Guide for Levels 4 and 5. In Level 5, your student will use this project to dive deeper into original writing. Your child will explore sentences, paragraphs, short narrative works, procedural writing, opinion / persuasive writing, research and informative writing, letters, fiction, poetry, the revision and editing process, and more!*

Science (appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- **Introduction to Oceanography (24 Wonders plus additional rabbit trails)**
- Reviewing the scientific method (introduced in Level 4)
- The four spheres of the Earth: lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere
- The properties of water
- Saltwater vs. freshwater on Earth
- Reviewing the water cycle (introduced in Level 1)
- Reviewing plate tectonics (introduced in Level 1)
- How the ocean formed
- The features of the ocean floor
- Ocean currents
- Atmospheric circulation
- Ocean storms
- Waves
- Tides
- Coasts and coastal erosion
- The zones of the ocean
- The intertidal zone
- Food webs and trophic levels
- Rock pools and sandy shores
- Estuaries, salt marshes, and mangrove forests
- Kelp forests, sea grass meadows, and coral reefs
- Shipwrecks and artificial reefs
- Life in the open ocean
- Hydrothermal vents
- Polar oceans
- In-depth exploration of several important organisms such as kelp, coral and zooxanthellae, seagrass, mangrove trees, etc.
- Resources from the ocean / benefits to human life
- Pollution, climate change, and other threats to the ocean
- Ocean exploration (history and technology)
- Opportunities to deep-dive into the many organisms that live in and around the ocean
- Optional weekly profiles to learn about different scientists and activists and their contributions

Looking for a curriculum that focuses exclusively on zoology? Check out our Level 3 curriculum: *Wonders of the Animal Kingdom!* Want to explore the evolution of animal life, specifically? Check out the Level 3 extension *Wonders of the Prehistoric World*.

- **Introduction to Astronomy (12 wonders plus additional rabbit trails)**

- The sun
- The birth of our solar system
- The inner planets (and their moons)
- The outer planets (and their moons)
- The minor bodies of our solar system
- The Kuiper Belt and Oort Cloud
- Early astronomers
- Distances in space
- Black holes
- Stars, constellations, and nebulas
- Galaxies
- The universe and the Big Bang
- Space exploration (history and technology)
- Observing our universe
- Optional weekly profiles to learn about different scientists and inventors and their contributions

Nature Study (appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- This year's nature study focuses on regular observation and recording of the living and non-living components of your child's local environment. There is an emphasis on keeping a private nature journal, using a mix of sketches, paintings, photographs, notes, and charts. The primary goal is to make a habit of paying close attention to the "macro and micro details" of the world around us, using multiple senses.
- Prompts fall into three main themes: Water, Weather and Seasons, and the Celestial Sphere. Some prompts are short and require a single session. Other prompts require a longer commitment, over weeks or months. These three themes are mixed together and organized into four seasonal sections. You can begin in any season, skip any season, and adapt or skip any prompt as needed.
- The "Water" theme includes prompts that explore local ground and surface waters, organisms that live in and around local water sources, evaporation and condensation, plant and animal adaptations specific to your local water conditions, riparian and wetland habitats, and more.
- The "Weather and Seasons" unit includes prompts that explore different forms of precipitation, different kinds of fog and frost, how to identify and "read" the clouds, wind direction, weather patterns, barometric pressure, local flora and fauna in different seasons, migratory birds, day length, observing animal and plant behavior in different kinds of weather, and more.
- The "Celestial Sphere" unit includes prompts that explore the phases of the moon, observing constellations and planets in the night sky, the zodiac constellations and the ecliptic, observing the sun, observing shadows, and more.
- Also addresses different techniques for capturing information in our nature journal (sketching, watercoloring, photography, notes, charts, etc.)

Nine Profiles in Art, Vol. 2 (Elementary Arts Curriculum, appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- Exploring art and artists 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 lives, times, and works of nine different artists
- Exploring a variety of art forms and techniques
- Featured artists: Mark Rothko, Hung Liu, Yinka Shonibare, Beatrix Potter, Guan Daosheng, Mary Edmonia Lewis, Charles Demuth, Romare Bearden, Rania Matar, and a bonus mini-unit on Augusta Savage

History

- Beginning in first grade, we do not include a history curriculum with our elementary year packages.
- US history curriculum for the elementary and middle grades is currently in development. *A River of Voices* Vol. 1 was released in January 2020. Vol. 2 is anticipated for release in late 2021. Vol. 3 (the final one) is anticipated for release in late 2022.
- For world history, Curiosity Chronicles is an excellent secular option to consider.

Book List for Level 5

*Please note: the lists on the following pages contain only the **required or highly recommended** books for our level 5 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.*

Independent Reading

- We also recommend daily independent reading from level-appropriate books for at least 30 minutes on most days. We *highly recommend* letting them choose their own independent reading books from the library or used book stores (encourage a variety of picture books, chapter books, fiction and non-fiction, and graphic novels.)

Blossom & Root Year 5 Language Arts Literature List

Tackling Important Questions Through Literature | Narrative Voice and Characterization | Exploring Fiction and Non-Fiction

Required Selections (Please note that the order in which the books are covered in the curriculum is subject to change at this point.)

- *Frindle* by Andrew Clements
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang
- *Fatty Legs* by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret-Olemaun Pokiak-Fenton
- *A Wolf Called Wander* by Rosanne Parry
- *Take Back the Block* by Chrystal D. Giles
- *When You Trap a Tiger* by Tae Keller
- *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat
- *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani
- *When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed (or another graphic novel of your choosing, though we highly recommend this selection in particular)
- *Show Me a Sign* by Ann Clare LeZotte
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* by Janae Marks

Optional Additional Selections

These books are optional, and are accounted for in the curriculum guide if you choose to add them, with recommended sections or poems to read each week:

- *Once Upon a Word: A Word-Origin Dictionary for Kids—Building Vocabulary Through Etymology, Definitions & Stories* by Jess Zafarris (this book is used for the Super Secret Notebook all year--a regular dictionary would also suffice)
- *Poetry for Young People: Maya Angelou* edited by Edwin Graves Wilson, PhD
- *Poetry for Kids: Robert Frost* edited by Jay Parini
- *Everything Comes Next: Collected and New Poems* by Naomi Shihab Nye



Book List: Spines (Oceanography)

Required Books:

There are no required books for this curriculum. Theoretically, you could complete this curriculum without using any books at all, simply by using our "big picture" messages listed in each unit and our suggested video links. However, we do have several books that are highly recommended (see below) to help truly bring each topic to life in a visual way for your child. Further in this guide, you will find many pages of optional supplemental books to consider as well.

Highly Recommended Books:

Wonder # Book

Most 1 - 24 **Recommended Spine:** *DK Smithsonian Ocean!*

ISBN 978-1465491473

This is the recommended primary spine for part one: oceanography (Wonders 1 - 24.)

Most 1 - 24 **(Optional) Recommended Secondary Spine:** *Ocean Animals and Their Ecosystems: A Nature Reference Book for Kids* by Dr. Erica Colón

ISBN 978-1646116409

This is a recommended (but optional) secondary spine for part one: oceanography (Wonders 1 - 24.) We recommend it be used in addition to *DK Smithsonian Ocean!*, not as an alternative to it. It has a lot of great information on marine ecosystems and communities.

Most 1 - 24 **Alternative Spine Option:** *DK Smithsonian Ocean: A Visual Encyclopedia*

ISBN 978-1465436641

This is a good alternative spine for the oceanography portion (Wonders 1 - 24.) It's not as new as the recommended spine, but it has a lot of the same information in it.

Most 1 - 24 **Alternative Spine Option:** *Professor Astro Cat's Deep-Sea Voyage* by Dr. Dominic Walliman and Ben Newman

ISBN 978-1912497898

If you're working with a younger learner, this would be a good alternative spine for the oceanography portion. It does not contain as much information as the DK books.

Most 1 - 24 **(Optional) Complimentary Spine Option:** *DK Smithsonian Oceanology: The Secrets of the Seas Revealed*

ISBN 978-0744020502

This would make a lovely (though optional) complimentary spine in addition to the recommended spine for the oceanography portion (Wonders 1 - 24.) If you really want to dive deep into the oceanography portion, this one includes a lot of gorgeous photography, information, and rabbit trails. It does not work well as a primary spine, though.

Most 1 - 24 **(Optional) Complimentary Spine Option:** *Ocean Anatomy: The Curious Parts & Pieces of the World under the Sea* by Julia Rothman

ISBN 978-1635861600

This is a nice, optional, complimentary spine to use in addition to the primary recommended spine. If your child prefers information in smaller, tidier bites, and illustrations over photographs, this may work well for them as a complimentary spine for the oceanography portion (Wonders 1 - 24.) We do not recommend it as a primary spine for 3rd grade and up.

Astronomy:

A sample for the astronomy portion, including a book list of spines, will be posted closer to its release date but the recommended primary spine for astronomy is **DK Smithsonian Space!** (ISBN 978-1465438065.)