



Content Area: English Language Arts

Grade Level: 2

Course Name: Grade 2 ELA

**Course Description:** The Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts curriculum is modeled after proven research in early literacy that supports a two-strand approach to literacy instruction in the early years. With this approach, students in Grades K–2 complete one full lesson per day that builds foundational reading skills in the Skills Strand, as well as one full lesson that builds background knowledge in the Knowledge Strand. The deep content knowledge is sequenced together with research-based foundational skills in Grades K–2 so that students develop the early literacy skills necessary to help them become confident readers, as well as build the context to understand what they’re reading.

Units Length of Time	Description
<p><b>Knowledge 1: Fairy Tales &amp; Tall Tales Skills 1</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain will introduce students to classic fairy tales and tall tales and the well-known lessons they teach. This domain will also lay the foundation for understanding stories in future grades. The second half of the domain focuses on tall tales and the elements of that genre. Students will be introduced to the tall tales “Paul Bunyan,” “Pecos Bill,” “John Henry,” and “Casey Jones.” Learning about tall tales will introduce students to the setting of the American frontier and some of the occupations settlers had there.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Unit 1 will be a review for students who completed the Grade 1 CKLA program. In Unit 1, students will review: (1) a number of spellings from Grade 1 with an emphasis on consonant sounds; (2) one and two-syllable words; and (3) a number of high-frequency Tricky Words. They will also read new decodable stories from the Unit 1 Reader, The Cat Bandit.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge 2: Early Asian Civilizations Skills 1 &amp; 2</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain will introduce students to the continent of Asia and its two most populous countries, India and China. Students will learn about the early civilizations in India and China and how they were both able to form because of mighty rivers. Students will once again hear about the important features of early civilizations, to which they were introduced in the Grade 1 Early World Civilizations domain. These features include the advent of farming, establishment of cities and government, and other practices such as writing and religion.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Unit 1 will be a review for students who completed the Grade 1 CKLA program. In Unit 1, students will review: (1) a number of spellings from Grade 1 with an emphasis on consonant sounds; (2) one and two-syllable words; and (3) a number of high-frequency Tricky Words. They will also read</p>

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	<p>new decodable stories from the Unit 1 Reader, The Cat Bandit. Unit 2 is the second of two units that should be largely review for students.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge 3: The Ancient Greek Civilization</b></p> <p><b>Skills 2</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain will introduce students to an ancient civilization whose contributions can be seen in many areas of our lives today. Students will learn about the gods and goddesses of the ancient Greeks, the city-states of Sparta and Athens, and the philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. They will learn about the first Olympic Games held in honor of Zeus, the significance of the battles of Marathon and Thermopylae, and the conquests of Alexander the Great. Students will also learn about the Greek contribution of democracy and how its ideals are used today in many governments, including our own. This domain will lay the foundation for review and further study of ancient Greece in later grades, and will help students better understand world history and American history in later years.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Unit 2 is the second of two units that should be largely review for students. In this unit, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review a number of spellings they learned in Grade 1, with an emphasis on spellings for vowel sounds</li> <li>• read one- and two-syllable words</li> <li>• read contractions and provide their noncontracted equivalents</li> <li>• practice recognizing a number of high-frequency Tricky Words</li> <li>• read decodable stories in the Unit 2 Reader, Bedtime Tales</li> <li>• learn the use of quotation marks</li> <li>• begin instruction in the writing process, with a focus on writing narratives</li> </ul>
<p><b>Knowledge 4: Greek Myths</b></p> <p><b>Skills 3</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain builds on The Ancient Greek Civilizations domain and will introduce students to several well-known Greek myths and many well-known mythical characters. Students will learn that the ancient Greeks worshiped many gods and goddesses, and that the twelve they believed lived on Mount Olympus, the home of the gods, were the most powerful. Students will learn the definition of a myth: a fictional story, once thought to be true, that tries to explain mysteries of nature and humankind. They will also learn about myths that include supernatural beings or events, and that myths give insight into the ancient Greek culture. Students will hear about Prometheus and Pandora, Demeter and Persephone, Arachne the Weaver, the Sphinx, and Hercules, among others.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> This unit is devoted to introducing spelling alternatives for vowel sounds. Vowel sounds and their spellings are the most challenging part of the English writing system. There are only two vowel sounds that are almost always spelled one way. One is /a/, which is almost always spelled ‘a’ as in at. The other is /ar/, which is almost always spelled ‘ar’ as in car. The other sixteen vowel sounds have at least one significant spelling alternative. Several of them have many spelling alternatives</p>
<p><b>Knowledge 5: The War of 1812</b></p> <p><b>Skills 3</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain will introduce students to an important period in the history of the United States—the time during the War of 1812. The War of 1812 is, perhaps, best remembered as the war that gave birth to “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Students will also learn why the War of 1812 is often called America’s second war for independence. Students will learn how the United States was affected by the Napoleonic Wars between France and Great Britain. They will learn about James and Dolley Madison, and their direct connection to the War of 1812. Students will learn about Great Britain’s three-part plan to win back the United States.</p>

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<p><b>Knowledge 6: Cycles in Nature Skills 4</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain will introduce your students to the many natural cycles that make life on Earth possible. Your students will increase their knowledge of cycles in nature by learning more about seasonal cycles, and by beginning their study of flowering plants and trees, animal life cycles, and the importance of the water cycle. Students will also learn about the effect seasonal changes have on plants and animals. As students learn that all organisms experience the developmental stages of the life cycle, they will also learn how their growth and development relates to Earth’s seasonal cycles and begin to understand how all organisms depend on Earth’s limited water supply.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Unit 4 is devoted to introducing more spelling alternatives for vowel sounds and three tricky spellings. Remember vowel sounds and their spellings are the most challenging part of the English writing system. Only two vowel sounds are almost always spelled just one way (/a/ and /ar/). The other seventeen vowel sounds have at least one significant spelling alternative. Several of them have many spelling alternatives.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge 7: Westward Expansion Skills 4</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain will introduce students to an important period in the history of the United States—the time of westward expansion during the 1800s. Students will learn why pioneers were willing and eager to endure hardships to move westward. Your class will learn about important innovations in both transportation and communication during that period, which greatly increased the movement of people westward. More specifically, students will learn about Fulton’s steamboat, the Erie Canal, the transcontinental railroad, and the Pony Express. Students will also come to understand the hardships and tragedies that Native Americans endured because of westward expansion.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Unit 4 is devoted to introducing more spelling alternatives for vowel sounds and three tricky spellings. Remember vowel sounds and their spellings are the most challenging part of the English writing system. Only two vowel sounds are almost always spelled just one way (/a/ and /ar/). The other seventeen vowel sounds have at least one significant spelling alternative. Several of them have many spelling alternatives.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge 8: Insects Skills 4</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain will introduce students to the largest group of animals on Earth. Students will learn the characteristics of insects, the life cycles of insects, how insects can be categorized as solitary or social, and how insects are viewed as both helpful and harmful. For example, students will learn how insects are important to the process of pollination and in the production of honey, some cosmetics, and even medicines. This domain will lay the foundation for review and further study of the life cycles, habitats, and classifications of insects and other animals.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Unit 4 is devoted to introducing more spelling alternatives for vowel sounds and three tricky spellings. Remember vowel sounds and their spellings are the most challenging part of the English writing system. Only two vowel sounds are almost always spelled just one way (/a/ and /ar/). The other seventeen vowel sounds have at least one significant spelling alternative. Several of them have many spelling alternatives.</p>

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<b>Knowledge 9: The US Civil War</b> <b>Skills 5</b>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain will introduce students to an important period in the history of the United States. Students will learn about the controversy over slavery between the North and the South, which eventually led to the U.S. Civil War. They will learn about this war and how the end of the war also meant the end of slavery. “Enslaved Africans” is the term used to describe Africans and the descendants of those Africans taken from Africa against their will and forced into slavery in the United States through the conclusion of the Civil War. The communities of people enslaved in the South established a new culture that combined the homeland of their ancestors and the Americas. Although slave trade was abolished in the United States in January 1808, and at the time of the Civil War very few enslaved Africans had actually been born in Africa, the term “enslaved Africans” is used in place of “slaves” to honor the history of the enslaved people.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> This unit is devoted to introducing spelling alternatives for vowel sounds. Vowel sounds and their spellings are the most challenging part of the English writing system. There are only two vowel sounds that are almost always spelled just one way (/a/ and /ar/). The other sixteen vowel sounds have at least one significant spelling alternative.</p>
<b>Knowledge 10: The Human Body</b> <b>Skills 5</b>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain covers a number of topics regarding the human body. This domain first covers concepts regarding cells and how cells form the building blocks of life on Earth. Students are then taught how collections of cells form tissues, and tissues form organs. Students will then hear about the digestive and excretory systems. They will learn the fundamental parts and functions of these two body systems. The remainder of this domain focuses on the importance of good nutrition and how to make good choices in order to eat a well-balanced diet.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Skills: This unit is devoted to introducing spelling alternatives for vowel sounds. Vowel sounds and their spellings are the most challenging part of the English writing system. There are only two vowel sounds that are almost always spelled just one way (/a/ and /ar/). The other sixteen vowel sounds have at least one significant spelling alternative.</p>
<b>Knowledge 11: Immigration</b> <b>Skills 6</b>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain will introduce students to the concept of immigration in the United States, an especially important topic because the United States is often referred to as a country of immigrants. Students will learn about the biggest wave of immigration to the United States, which occurred between 1880 and 1920. They will discover why people immigrated, what factors pushed them from their homelands and pulled them to the United States, and why many immigrants settled in particular cities or regions upon their arrival.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> This unit is devoted to introducing several new spelling alternatives for vowel and consonant sounds.</p>
<b>Knowledge 12: Fighting For A Cause</b> <b>Knowledge 12: Fighting For A Cause</b> <b>Skills 6</b>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> This domain will introduce students to several ordinary people who stood up for what they believed in and who fought for a cause, even when faced with immeasurable odds. Students will learn how members of very powerful groups have often excluded members of other groups from exercising certain rights. They will learn about some key historical figures who fought for various causes such as the abolition of slavery, the right for women to vote, and the welfare of migrant workers. Each of these individuals struggled for a cause, their struggles later helped change many laws, and they all practiced nonviolence. These historical figures also had an impact on the ability of others in our nation to exercise their individual rights. Students will understand the connection between ideas</p>

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	<p>and actions, and how ordinary people can do extraordinary things, changing people’s awareness throughout an entire country. Students will also learn the terms civil rights and human rights, and what these terms mean.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Skills: This unit is devoted to introducing several new spelling alternatives for vowel and consonant sounds.</p>

NYS Standard	Links
<p>Next Generation ELA Learning Standards</p>	<p><a href="#">New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards</a></p>