
WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY KINDERGARTEN STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 1?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: The Five Senses

Module 2: Once Upon a Farm

Module 3: America Then and Now

Module 4: The Continents

In this first module, we will study the five senses. Studying the five senses lays a foundation for knowledge of human biology. We will learn how we see, hear, taste, touch, and smell as we ask the question: *How do our senses help us to learn?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Picture Books (Informational)

- *My Five Senses*, Aliko
- *My Five Senses*, Margaret Miller
- *Rap a Tap Tap*, Leo and Diane Dillon

Picture Books (Literary)

- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault; illustrations, Lois Ehlert
- *Last Stop on Market Street*, Matt de la Pena; illustrations, Christian Robinson

Articles

- "Great Depression," Children's Encyclopedia
- "The Harlem Renaissance," Brian Brown

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- “Bojangles Step Dance”
- “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom”
- “Eight-Year-Old Tap Prodigy Little Luke”

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *Flower Day*, Diego Rivera
- *Le Gourmet*, Pablo Picasso

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What are our five senses?
- How do people use their senses to learn about the world?
- How does CJ use his senses to learn about the world in *Last Stop on Market Street*?
- How do our senses help us learn from *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*?
- How do our senses help us learn from *Rap a Tap Tap*?
- How do our senses help us learn?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As you read with your Kindergarten student, ask:

- *What do you notice and wonder?*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Geraldine, the Music Mouse*, Leo Lionni
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* Eric Carle
- *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* Bill Martin Jr.
- *The Listening Walk*, Paul Showers
- *Drum Dream Girl*, Margarita Engle
- *Hello Ocean*, Pam Munoz Ryan
- *Rain*, Manya Stojic
- *Owl Moon*, Jane Yolen
- *Snowy Day*, Ezra Jack Keats

- *The Fur Family*, Margaret Wise Brown
- *Every Second Something Happens: Poems for the Mind and the Senses*, Christine San Jose

PLACES YOU CAN VISIT TO TALK ABOUT THE FIVE SENSES:

Visit an art museum or art exhibit together. Take time to look at the art and ask:

- *What are you wondering about the five senses after looking at this art?*
- *What do you notice?*
- *What's happening in this work of art?*
- *How do people use their senses to learn about the world?*

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WHAT IS MY KINDERGARTEN STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 2?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: The Five Senses

Module 2: Once Upon a Farm

Module 3: America, Then and Now

Module 4: The Continents

In this second module, *Once Upon a Farm*, we will study life on the farm. As we explore the familiar and vibrant farm, we ask the question: *What makes a great story?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Picture Books (Informational)

- *The Year at Maple Hill Farm*, Alice and Martin Provensen
- *Farm Animals*, Wade Cooper

Picture Books (Literary)

- *The Little Red Hen*, Jerry Pinkney
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, Paul Galdone
- *Three Little Pigs*, Raina Moore; Illustrations, Thea Kliros

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *American Gothic*, Grant Wood
- *The Cornell Farm*, Edward Hicks

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What is true about real farm animals?
- How do authors create settings?
- How do authors create characters?
- How do authors create problems and resolutions?
- How do authors sequence events?
- What makes a good story?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As you read with your Kindergarten student, ask:

- *What's happening?*
- *What does a closer look at words and illustrations reveal about this text's deeper meaning?*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *On the Farm*, David Elliott
- *Giggle Giggle, Quack*, Doreen Cronin
- *The Little Red Hen*, Paul Galdone
- *The Three Little Pigs*, John Marshall
- *Farm*, Elisha Cooper
- *The Little Red Hen*, Diane Muldrow
- *Color Farm*, Lois Ehlert
- *Fantastic Farm Machines*, Cris Peterson
- *Big Red Barn*, Margaret Wise Brown
- *Seed, Soil, Sun: Earth's Recipe for Food*, Cris Peterson

PLACES YOU CAN VISIT TO TALK ABOUT THE FARM:

Visit a zoo or local farm together. Ask:

- *What do you notice and wonder about the animals?*
- *How is life on this farm different from or similar to our lives?*
- *Why do you think so many people tell stories set on the farm?*

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WHAT IS MY KINDERGARTEN STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 3?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: The Five Senses

Module 2: Once Upon a Farm

Module 3: America, Then and Now

Module 4: The Continents

In this third module, *America, Then and Now*, we will study how certain aspects of American life have changed over time. As we explore the past and the present, we ask the question: How has life in America changed over time?

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Picture Books (Informational)

- *When I Was Young in the Mountains*, Cynthia Rylant
- *Home Then and Now*, Robin Nelson
- *School Then and Now*, Robin Nelson
- *Transportation Then and Now*, Robin Nelson
- *Communication Then and Now*, Robin Nelson
- *Now & Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin*, Gene Baretta

Picture Books (Literary)

- *The Little House*, Virginia Lee Burton

Poem

- "Now We Are Six," A.A. Milne

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS PAINTING:

- *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, Emanuel Leutze

OUR CLASS WILL LISTEN TO THESE SONGS :

- “Engine on the Track,” *Gayle’s Preschool Rainbow*
- “You’re a Grand Old Flag,” George M. Cohan
- “This Land Is Your Land,” Woody Guthrie

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THIS VIDEO:

- “Sounds of a Glass Armonica,” *Toronto Star*

OUR CLASS WILL VIEW THIS WEBSITE:

- “Betsy Ross and the American Flag: Flag Picture Gallery,” Independence Hall Association

OUR CLASS WILL VIEW THESE PHOTOGRAPHS :

- *Old Hand Water Pump*, Judson McCranie
- Photographs from the article “Then & Now: The Stunning Speed of Urban Development,” S.A. Rogers

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How was Cynthia Rylant’s life different from your life?
- How has life at home and at school changed in America?
- What changes does the Little House see in her neighborhood?
- How have communication and transportation changed in America?
- How did Benjamin Franklin’s inventions make life in America easier?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As you read with your Kindergarten student, ask

- *What is the essential meaning of, or most important message in, this book?*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *The White House*, Lisa M. Herrington
- *The American Flag*, Lisa M. Herrington
- *The Secret Subway*, Shana Corey
- *Mr. Ferris and His Wheel*, Kathryn Gibbs Davis
- *Maybelle: The Cable Car*, Virginia Lee Burton
- *This Is New York*, Miroslav Sasek
- *This Is Washington, D.C.*, Miroslav Sasek
- *Brick by Brick*, Charles M. Smith
- *I Have a Dream*, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Kadir Nelson
- *Here Come the Girl Scouts!: The Amazing All-True Story of Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low and Her Great Adventure*, Shana Corey
- *Katy and the Big Snow*, Virginia Lee Burton
- *Benjamin Franklin*, Wil Mara
- *Electric Ben: Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*, Robert Byrd
- *If You Lived in Colonial Times*, Ann McGovern
- *The House That George Built*, Suzanne Slade and Rebecca Bond

PLACES YOU CAN VISIT TO TALK ABOUT AMERICA, PAST AND PRESENT:

Visit a larger city or historic site together. Ask:

- *What do you notice and wonder about the buildings and setting?*
- *How is life in this city different from or similar to our lives?*
- *Imagine visiting this place long ago. What might look different in the past? What has changed over time? What has stayed the same?*

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WHAT IS MY KINDERGARTEN STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 4?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: The Five Senses

Module 2: Once Upon a Farm

Module 3: America, Then and Now

Module 4: The Continents

In the fourth module, *The Continents*, we will study characteristics of the seven continents to learn more about the world and understand the similarities and differences amongst the continents. As we explore each continent, we ask the question: *What makes the world fascinating?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Picture Books (Informational)

- *Africa*, Rebecca Hirsch
- *Antarctica*, Rebecca Hirsch
- *Asia*, Rebecca Hirsch
- *Australia*, Rebecca Hirsch
- *Europe*, Rebecca Hirsch
- *Introducing North America*, Chris Oxlade
- *South America*, Rebecca Hirsch
- *World Atlas*, Nick Crane

Picture Books (Literary)

- *Moon Rope*, Lois Ehlert
- *The Story of Ferdinand*, Munro Leaf
- *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale*, Verna Aardema

OUR CLASS WILL READ THIS ARTICLE:

- “5 Reasons Why Animal Moms Are Awesome,” April Capochino Myers

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS PAINTING:

- *Carta Marina*, Olaus Magnus

OUR CLASS WILL VISIT THIS WEB PAGE:

- “Americas–Fact Files,” *Go Wild*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THIS POEM:

- “Lions Roar,” *CanTeach*

OUR CLASS WILL LISTEN TO THESE SONGS

- “Penguin Song,” *Preschool Education*
- “Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?” from Smithsonian Folkways” Smithsonian Folkways

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- “Antarctic Sights and Sounds,” James Napoli
- “Burkina Faso: Music,” *Our Africa*
- “Explore Views of the Burj Khalifa with Google Maps,” Google Maps
- “The Seven Continents Song,” Silly School Songs
- “Storm-Proofing the World’s Biggest Mud Building,” BBC Earth
- “Traditional Chinese Dance–‘Flowers Contend in Beauty’ by Li Qian, Lin Chen...”

OUR CLASS WILL VIEW THESE PHOTOGRAPHS

- *Earth from Space*, Stöckli, Reto, et al.
- “Patterns of Chinchero,” *Descendants of the Incas*

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What interesting things can people do in Europe and Asia?
- What interesting natural features can people see in Africa and Antarctica?
- How can a story transport you to a different place?
- What amazing animals can people see in South America and Australia?
- Why might people want to visit North America?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As you read with your Kindergarten student, ask:

- How does this text build your knowledge of the continents? Share what you know about the continents.

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Koala Lou*, Mem Fox
- *Ganesha's Sweet Tooth*, Emily Haynes
- *Life Story*, Virginia Lee Burton
- *Animal Architects: Amazing Animals Who Build Their Homes*, Daniel Nasser
- *Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus*, Peter Sís
- *Tikki Tikki Tembo*, Arlene Mosel
- *The Barefoot Book of Animal Tales*, Naomi Adler
- *Introducing Antarctica*, Anita Ganeri
- *Introducing Asia*, Anita Ganeri
- *Introducing Australia*, Anita Ganeri
- *Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah*, Laurie Ann Thompson
- *Wee Gillis*, Munro Leaf
- *Charles Darwin's Around the World Adventure*, Jennifer Thermes

PLACES YOU CAN VISIT TO TALK ABOUT THE WORLD:

Visit a natural history museum and circulate through aspects of different cultures and continents. Ask:

- What do you notice and wonder about the animals, art, and artifacts of this continent?
- How does life in this place seem similar to and different from your life?
- Imagine visiting this place in person. What might you do if you went there? What things would you like to see? What animals would you like to see? What questions do you have about this place?