

## What is an Expedition?

**Expeditions are in-depth studies of a single theme or topic.** They are very carefully planned to have a clear set of learning goals – goals consistent with school and school district standards. Big Ideas and Guiding Questions frame the inquiry of the class. They are open-ended, non-judgmental questions that motivate students to explore and discuss topics from multiple perspectives. Start a discussion with your student by asking them about their Expeditions “Big Ideas”.

As our crews start to dive deep into their expeditions we thought you might like to know who is focusing on what throughout our school. When you walk into any classroom, you will see on the walls, Big Ideas, Guiding Questions and Targets. These will give you a basic idea of the current Expedition. Click on the links below to gain a deeper understanding of the curriculum behind each Expedition.

### ECE:

**Case Study 1**-Healthy Habits *September 8- October 27*

**Case Study 2**-Healthy Eating and Food Traditions *October 31- February 27*

**Case Study 3**- Exercise and the Body *March 1- June 9*

### Kindergarten:

**Toys and Play:** Students build their literacy and citizenship skills as they engage in a study of toys and play. In Unit 1, students consider norms and behaviors for sharing toys and interacting with peers through structured conversations, learning experiences such as role-play and guided discovery of toys, and an analysis of the text *Llama Llama Time to Share* by Anna Dewdney.

**Water Wonders:** Students build their literacy and science skills as they engage in a study of the weather. Students study the science of weather through various informational texts. They create a class weather journal and track their individual learning in a meteorologist’s notebook.

### Tress

### 1st Grade:

**Tools and Work:** Students build their literacy and citizenship skills, first by learning about how tools help to do a job. They then extend their understanding of what it takes to do a job when they learn how the “habits of character” of initiative, collaboration, perseverance, and responsibility help them do work.

**What’s Up in the Sky: The Sun, Moon and Stars:** Students build their literacy and science skills as they engage in a study of the sun, moon, and stars, science concepts of observable patterns, and how they inspire authors.

### Birds

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

**Schools and Community:** students build their literacy and citizenship skills as they engage in a study of schools, learn about schools around the world and the challenges some communities face in sending their students to school and how they solve these challenges.

**Fossils and the Changing Earth:** Students build their literacy and science skills as they engage in a study of fossils exploring the guiding questions: “What do paleontologists do?” and “How do characters respond to major events?”

## Gardens

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

**The Power of Reading, My Librarian is a Camel-** uses literature and informational text such as *My Librarian Is a Camel* to introduce students to the power of literacy and how people around the world access books. This module is intentionally designed to encourage students to embrace a love of literacy and reading.

<http://commoncoresuccess.elschools.org/curriculum/ela/grade-3/module-1>

**Adaptations and the Wide World of Frogs-** In this module, students will use literacy skills to become experts—people who use reading, writing, listening, and speaking to build and share deep knowledge about a topic. (This focus on research intentionally builds on Module 1, in which students explored the superpowers of reading.) The module will begin with a class study of the bullfrog, an example of a “true frog,” that exhibits quintessentially froggy characteristics.

### **Analyzing Narrative and Supporting Opinions: A Study of Peter Pan**

This module focuses on a deep study of the classic tale *Peter Pan*. Students will consider the guiding question: How do writers capture a reader’s imagination?

<http://commoncoresuccess.elschools.org/curriculum/ela/grade-3/module-3A>

**Gathering Evidence and Speaking to Others: The Role of Freshwater around the World-** This module focuses on the importance of clean freshwater around the world. Using the children’s book *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth* as an anchor text, this unit helps them deepen their understanding of their overall dependence on earth’s limited water supply.

<http://commoncoresuccess.elschools.org/curriculum/ela/grade-3/module-4>

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

**Reading Closely and Writing to Learn: Poetry, Poets, and Becoming Writers-** In this eight-week module, students will learn about poetry and poets through close reading and writing to learn. Throughout the module, they will determine the characteristics of poetry and consider what inspires writers and poets

<http://commoncoresuccess.elschools.org/curriculum/ela/grade-4/module-1B>

**Animal Defense Mechanisms-** In this eight-week module, students explore animal defense mechanisms. They build proficiency in writing an informative piece, examining the defense mechanisms of one specific animal about which they build expertise. Students also build proficiency in writing a narrative piece about this animal.

<http://commoncoresuccess.ededucation.org/curriculum/ela/grade-4/module-2B>

**Gathering Evidence and Speaking to Others: Suffrage and the Leadership of Susan B. Anthony-** In this module, students will read, write, and speak about the topic of voting rights and responsibilities. Students will connect the ideas of “leaders of change” and “making a difference” to their own lives.

<http://commoncoresuccess.elschools.org/curriculum/ela/grade-4/module-4>

## 5th Grade:

**Becoming a Close Reader and Writing to Learn: Stories of Human Rights-** What are human rights, and how do real people and fictional characters respond when those rights are challenged?

<http://commoncoresuccess.elschools.org/curriculum/ela/grade-5/module-1>

**Considering Perspectives and Supporting Opinions: Sports and Athletes’ Impact on Culture-** a brief study of the importance of sports in American culture over time. Students will write arguments based on multiple sources, focusing on crafting clear opinions and providing sufficient reasons and evidence.

<http://commoncoresuccess.elschools.org/curriculum/ela/grade-5/module-3A>

**Gathering Evidence and Speaking to Others: Natural Disasters in the Western Hemisphere-** engages students in a high-interest topic—natural disasters—with a literacy focus on point of view in literature, research, opinion writing, and public speaking. The module integrates science content (about extreme natural events) with a Social Studies focus on the Western Hemisphere and the role of multinational organizations.

<http://commoncoresuccess.elschools.org/curriculum/ela/grade-5/module-4>