Core Knowledge Helps Students Make Connections

The Core Knowledge Sequence provides guidelines for all core subjects, recommending what topics should be taught in each grade. Whenever appropriate, the same subject is covered in literature, history, science and art, so that students can create connections and see the rich and varied perspectives provided by each discipline.

Modern Day and Ancient Mexico (First Grade)

- American History
  - Maya, Inca and Aztec Civilizations
  - The Conquistadors

- World History
  - Mexico's Civilization and Culture
  - Indian and Spanish Heritage
  - Traditions and holidays: fiesta, piñata

- Language Arts
  - "Medio Pollito" (Hispanic folktale)

- Music
  - "La Cucaracha" (traditional Mexican song)

- Geography
  - North American continent
  - Central America, Yucatan Peninsula
  - Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Rio Grande
  - Mexico City

- Science
  - Living Things and Their Environments
  - Geographical Features of the Earth's Surface

- Visual Arts
  - Diego Rivera, Piñata
  - Diego Rivera, The History of Medicine in Mexico

The benefits of an integrated curriculum grow exponentially when the entire school community is involved in exploring a topic simultaneously. Subjects can be approached on a school-wide basis and across disciplines:

The Middle Ages

4th Grade

- Music
  - Perform Gregorian chants

- Art
  - Explore illuminated manuscripts, tapestries and Gothic architecture

- Physical Education
  - Organize a Medieval tournament

- ESOL
  - Create an illustrated Middle Ages glossary

- Social Studies
  - Learn about the history of the Middle Ages

- Special Education
  - Perform a play about Robin Hood

- Gifted
  - Create a multi-media presentation on an interesting aspect of the Middle Ages

- Parents
  - Plan a medieval feast

- Classroom Teacher
  - World History—Middle Ages
  - Language Arts—Read King Arthur and Robin Hood

- Media Specialist
  - Coordinate student research on Medieval topics

- Principal
  - Read St. George and the Dragon to each class

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