

English Language Arts Curriculum
Grade 4

| Unit 1: Big Idea: Think it Through How can a challenge bring out our best? | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| Where do good ideas come from? | Character, Plot, Sequence Phonics/Spelling: Short Vowels Structural Analysis: Inflectional endings | Trait: Descriptive Details Grammar Skills: Sentences Mechanics: Sentence Punctuation | Brainstorm, Flattened, Frantically, Gracious, Muttered, Official, Original, Stale Collaborate, Topic | Context clues: Synonyms | Narrative Text Friendly Letter, Personal Narrative |
| How do your actions affect others? | Character, Plot, Setting: Problem and Solution Phonics/spelling: Long a Structural Analysis: Inflectional endings | Trait: Focus on and Event Grammar Skills: Subjects and Predicates Mechanics: Punctuate Compound Subjects and Predicates | Accountable, Advise, Desperately, Hesitated, Humiliated, Inspiration, Self-esteem, Uncomfortably Dialogue, Focus | Figurative Language: Idioms | Narrative Text Friendly Letter, Personal Narrative |

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| How do people respond to natural disasters? | Text Structure: Compare and Contrast Phonics/Spelling: Long e Structural Analysis: Plurals | Trait: Ideas: Supporting Details Grammar Skills: Compound Sentences Mechanics: Punctuating Compound Sentences | Alter, Collapse, Crisis, Destruction, Hazard, Severe, Substantial, Unpredictable | Context clues: Multiple-meaning Words | Narrative Text Friendly Letter, Personal Narrative |
| How can science help you understand how things work? | Text Structure and Cause and Effect Phonics/Spelling: Long i Structural Analysis: Inflectional Endings | Trait: Organization: Sequence Grammar Skills: Clauses and Complex Sentences Mechanics: Punctuate Complex Sentences | Accelerate, Advantage, Capabilities, Friction, Gravity, Identity, Inquiry, Thrilling, Level, Warp Restatements, Transitions | Context clues: Definitions and Restatements | Narrative Text Friendly Letter, Personal Narrative |

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| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| How can starting a business help others? | Main Idea and Key Details Phonics/Spelling: Long o Structural Analysis: Compound Words | Trait: Sentence Fluency: Sentence Length Grammar Skills: Run-on Sentences Mechanics: Correcting Fragments and Run-ons | Compassionate, Enterprise, Exceptional, Funds, Innovative, Process, Routine, Undertaking Entrepreneur Print sources, Digital sources | Suffixes | Narrative Text Friendly Letter, Personal Narrative |

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| Unit 2: Big Idea: Amazing Animals What can animals teach us? | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|----------------------------|--|
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Words Strategy | Writing |
| What are some messages in animal stories? | Theme Phonics/Spelling: Prefixes Structural Analysis: Inflectional endings | Trait: Organization: Strong Openings Grammar Skills: Common and Proper Nouns Mechanics: Capitalizing Proper Nouns | Attracted, Dazzling, Fabric, Greed, Honest, Requested, Soared, Trudged Symbolism, Outline | Root Words | Informative Text Explanatory Essay: How-To Reliable sources |
| How do animal characters change familiar stories? | Theme Phonics/Spelling: Digraphs Structural Analysis: Possessives | Trait: Voice; Informal Voice Grammar Skills: Singular and Plural Nouns Mechanics: Commas in a Series | Annoyed, Attitude, Commotion, Cranky, Familiar, Frustrated, Selfish, Specialty | Context clues: Antonyms | Informative Text Explanatory Essay: How-To Reliable Sources |

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| Unit 2: Big Idea: Amazing Animals | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| What can animals teach us? | | | | | |
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Words Strategy | Writing |
| How are all living things connected? | Main Idea and Key Details Phonics/Spelling: Three-letter Blends Structural Analysis: Words ending in -er and -est | Trait: Ideas: Supporting Details Grammar Skills: Irregular Plural Nouns Mechanics: Correct Plural Forms | Crumbled, Droughts, Ecosystem, Extinct, Flourished, Fragile, Imbalance, Ripples | Context clues: Sentence clues | Informative Text Explanatory Essay: How-To Reliable Sources |
| What helps an animal survive? | Main Idea and Key Details Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowels ar and or Structural Analysis: Suffixes -ful and -less | Trait: Organization: Logical Order Grammar Skills: Possessive Nouns Mechanics: Apostrophes | Camouflaged, Dribbles, Extraordinary, Poisonous, Pounce, Predator, Prey, Vibrations Spinnerets, Pedipalps Captions Analyze | Prefixes | Informative Text Explanatory Essay: How-To Reliable Sources |

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| Unit 2: Big Idea: Amazing Animals What can animals teach us? | | | | | |
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| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Words Strategy | Writing |
| How are writers inspired by animals? | Point of View Phonics/Spelling: Suffixes Structural Analysis: Contractions | Trait: Word Choice: Precise Language Grammar Skills: Combining Sentences Mechanics: Phrases and Interjections | Brittle, Creative, Descriptive, Outstretched Metaphor, Meter, Rhyme, Simile Plagiarism Presentation | Figurative Language: Similes and Metaphors | Informative Text Explanatory Essay: How-To Reliable Sources |

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| Unit 3: Big Idea: That's the Spirit! | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| How can you show your community spirit? | | | | | |
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| How can you make new friends feel welcome? | Point of View Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowels er, ir, and ur Structural Analysis: Closed syllables | Trait: Sentence Fluency: Transition Grammar Skills: Action Verbs Mechanics: Titles | Acquaintance, Cautiously, Complementary, Jumble, Logical, Scornfully, Scrounging, Trustworthy Primary source Secondary source | Context clues: Paragraph clues | Opinion Writing Book Review Opinion Essay Gathering Information |
| In what ways can you help your community? | Point of View Phonics/Spelling: Words with silent letters Structural Analysis: Open syllables | Trait: Word Choice: Strong Words Grammar Skills: Verb Tenses Mechanics: Subject-verb Agreement | Assigned, Generosity, Gingerly, Mature, Organizations, Residents, Scattered, Selective Flashback Opinion | Context clues: Definitions and Restatements | Opinion Writing Book Review Opinion Essay Gathering Information |

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| Unit 3: Big Idea: That's the Spirit! | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| How can you show your community spirit? | | | | | |
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| How can one person make a difference? | Author's Point of View Phonics/Spelling: Soft c and g Structural Analysis: Final e syllables | Trait: Ideas: Relevant Evidence Grammar Skills: Helping Verbs Mechanics: Punctuation in Contractions | Boycott, Encouragement, Fulfill, Injustice, Mistreated, Protest, Qualified, Registered Sit-in, civil rights Time line Evidence | Synonyms and Antonyms | Opinion Writing Book Review Opinion Essay Gathering Information |
| How can words lead to change? | Author's Point of View Phonics/Spelling: Plurals Structural Analysis: Suffixes – ment, -ness, -age, -ance, -ence | Trait: Organization: Strong Conclusions Grammar Skills: Linking Verbs Mechanics: Subject-verb Agreement | Address, Divided, Haste, Opposed, Perish, Proclamation, Shattered, Tension Office, Inaugural, Federal, Union Evaluate Paraphrase | Latin and Greek Suffixes | Opinion Writing Book Review Opinion Essay Gathering Information |

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| Unit 3: Big Idea: That's the Spirit! | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------|--|
| How can you show your community spirit? | | | | | |
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| In what ways can advances in science be helpful or harmful? | Author's Point of View Phonics/Spelling: Compound Words Structural Analysis: Roots and Related Words | Trait: Voice: Audience and Purpose Grammar Skills: Irregular Verbs Mechanics: Correct Verb Usage | Advancements, Agriculture, Characteristics, Concerns, Disagreed, Inherit, Prevalent, Resistance | Greek Roots | Opinion Writing Book Review Opinion Essay Gathering Information |

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| Unit 4: Big Idea: Fact or Fiction? How do different writers treat the same topic? | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| Why do we need government? | Text Structure and Cause and Effect Phonics/Spelling: Inflectional endings Structural Analysis: Vowel Team syllables | Trait: Organization: Strong Paragraphs Grammar Skills: Pronouns and Antecedents Mechanics: Pronoun Capitalization and Clarity | Amendments, Commitment, Compromise, Democracy, Eventually, Legislation, Privilege, Version Ballots, Tallies Signal words Narrative nonfiction | Latin Roots | Narrative Text/Poetry Friendly Letter Relevant Facts |
| Why do people run for public office? | Point of View Phonics/Spelling: Inflectional endings: Changing y to i Structural Analysis: r-controlled vowel syllables | Trait: Ideas: Develop Character Grammar Skills: Types of Pronouns Mechanics: Subject and Object Pronouns | Accompanies, Campaign, Governor, Intend, Opponent, Overwhelming, Tolerate, Weary Political, Persuasive, Techniques | Figurative Language: Idioms | Narrative Text/Poetry Friendly Letter Relevant Facts |

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| Unit 4: Big Idea: Fact or Fiction? How do different writers treat the same topic? | | | | | |
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| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| How do inventions and technology affect your life? | Point of View Phonics/Spelling: Words with u Structural Analysis: Consonant + le syllables | Trait: Ideas: Develop Plot Grammar Skills: Pronoun-Verb Agreement Mechanics: Punctuation in Dialogue | Decade, Directing, Engineering, Gleaming, Scouted, Squirmed, Technology, Tinkering Launch, Ignitions sequence, Liftoff Formal language Third person | Context clues: Synonyms | Narrative Text/Poetry Friendly Letter Relevant Facts |
| How do you explain what you see in the sky? | Text Structure: Cause and Effect Phonics/Spelling: Diphthongs oi and ou Structural Analysis: Greek and Latin Roots | Trait: Word Choice: Figurative Language Grammar Skills: Possessive Pronouns Mechanics: Possessive Nouns and Pronouns | Astronomer, Crescent, Phases, Rotates, Series, Sliver, Specific, Telescope Asteroid Dwarf planet Comet Simile Personification | Context clues: Paragraph clues | Narrative Text/Poetry Friendly Letter Relevant Facts |

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| Unit 4: Big Idea: Fact or Fiction? | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------|---|
| How do different writers treat the same topic? | | | | | |
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| How do writers look at success in different ways? | Theme Phonics/Spelling: Variant vowel o Structural Analysis: Frequently Confused Words | Trait: Word Choice: Sensory Language Grammar Skills: Pronouns and Homophones Mechanics: Contractions and Possessives | Attain, Danglin, Hovering, Triumph Connotation, Denotation, Repetition, Stanza Sensory, Analysis | Connotation and Denotation | Narrative Text/Poetry Friendly Letter Relevant Facts |

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| Unit 5: Big Idea: Figure it Out | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| What helps you understand the world around you? | | | | | |
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| In what ways do people show they care about each other? | Character, Setting, Plot: Problem and Solution Phonics/Spelling: Closed syllables Structural Analysis: Latin Prefixes | Trait; Organization: Strong Openings Grammar Skills: Adjectives Mechanics: Punctuation | Bouquet, Emotion, Encircle, Express, Fussy, Portraits, Sparkles, Whirl Foreshadowing Metaphor | Figurative Language: Similes and Metaphors | Informative Text Expository Letter Research Report Citing Sources |
| What are some reasons people moved West? | Character, Setting, Plot: Cause and Effect Phonics/Spelling: Open syllables Structural Analysis: Irregular Plurals | Trait: Sentence Fluency: Vary Sentence Types Grammar Skills: Articles Mechanics: Articles and Demonstrative Adjectives | Plunging, Prospector, Scoffed, Settlement, Shrivel, Territories, Topple, Withered Hyperbole Appositive | Homographs | Informative Text Expository Letter Research Report Citing Sources |

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| Unit 5: Big Idea: Figure it Out | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| What helps you understand the world around you? | | | | | |
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| How can inventions solve problems? | Text Structure: Problem and Solution Phonics/Spelling: Vowel Teams Structural Analysis: Greek and Latin Roots | Trait: Sentence Fluency: Transitions Grammar Skills: Adjectives that Compare Mechanics: Punctuation in Letters | Dizzy, Experiment, Genuine, Hilarious, Mischief, Nowadays, Politician, Procedure Polymer, Charted, Gulf Stream Sources Transition | Greek Roots | Informative Text Expository Letter Research Report Citing Sources |
| What can you discover when you look closely at something? | Text Structure: Sequence Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowel syllables Structural Analysis: Frequently Misspelled Words | Trait; Voice: Formal Voice Grammar Skills: Comparing MORE and MOST Mechanics: Combining Sentences | Cling, Dissolves, Gritty, Humid, Magnify, Microscope, Mingle, Typical Micrograph, Molecules, Particle, Pollen, Soot, Rods, Vapor Rate Purpose Expository | Context Clues: Antonyms | Informative Text Expository Letter Research Report Citing Sources |

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| Unit 5: Big Idea: Figure it Out What helps you understand the world around you? | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| How can learning about the past help you understand the future? | Text Structure: Sequence Phonics/Spelling: Consonant + le syllables Structural Analysis: Latin Suffixes | Trait: Organization: Strong Conclusions Grammar Skills: Comparing with GOOD and BAD Mechanics: Combining Sentences | Archaeology, Document, Era, Evidence, Expedition, Permanent, Tremendous, Uncover Excavating Sidebar, Listening skills | Figurative Language: Proverbs and Adages | Informative Text Expository Letter Research Report Citing Sources |

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| Unit 6: Big Idea: Past, Present, and Future How can you build on what came before? | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| How do traditions connect people? | Theme Phonics/Spelling: Words with en Structural Analysis: Number Prefixes | Trait: Word Choice: Strong Words Grammar Skills: Adverbs Mechanics: GOOD vs. WELL | Ancestors, Despised, Endurance, Forfeit, Honor, Intensity, Irritating, Retreated Denotation Connotation | Connotation and Denotation | Opinion Writing Book Review Opinion Essay Presenting |
| Why is it important to keep a record of the past? | Theme Phonics/Spelling: Homophones Structural Analysis: Latin Suffixes | Trait: Organization: Sequence Grammar Skills: Comparing with Adverbs Mechanics: Review Punctuation and Capitalization | Depicts, Detested, Discarded, Eldest, Ignored, Obedience, Refuge, Treacherous Diary Intonation | Homophones | Opinion Writing Book Review Opinion Essay Presenting |
| How have our energy resources changed over the years? | Main Idea and Key Details Phonics/Spelling: | Trait: Word Choice: Transition Words | Coincidence, Consequences, Consume, Converted, | Latin and Greek Prefixes | Opinion Writing Book Review Opinion Essay |

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| | Prefixes Structural Analysis: Words from Mythology | Grammar Skills: Negatives Mechanics: Correcting Double Negatives | Efficient, Incredible, Installed, Renewable Resource Venn diagram Transition words | | Presenting |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unit 6: Big Idea: Past, Present, and Future How can you build on what came before? | | | | | |
| Essential Question | Skills / Competencies - Reading | Skills/ Competencies - Writing | Vocabulary Words - Academic | Vocabulary Strategy | Writing |
| What has been the role of money over time? | Main Idea and Key Details Phonics/Spelling: Suffixes Structural Analysis: Greek and Latin Roots | Trait: Word Choice: Content Words Grammar Skills: Prepositions Mechanics: Review Using Quotations | Currency, Economics, Entrepreneur, Global, Invest, Marketplace, Merchandise, Transaction Scarcity, Opportunity cost Scanning Skimming | Figurative Language: Proverbs and Adages | Opinion Writing Book Review Opinion Essay Presenting |
| What shapes a person's identity? | Main Idea and Key Details | Trait: Ideas: Supporting Details | Gobble, Individuality, Mist, Roots, | Figurative Language: Metaphors | Opinion Writing Book Review Opinion Essay |

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| | Phonics/Spelling: Suffixes Structural Analysis: Greek and Latin Roots | Grammar Skills: Using Prepositions Mechanics: Using Commas with Phrases | Free verse, Imagery, Metaphor, Personification Meter Supporting | | Presenting |
|--|---|---|--|--|------------|