Building a Strong Foundation:
A Science-Based Approach to Early Literacy

Every child is capable of greatness.

That firm belief drives everything we do at Great Minds® because we know that with high-quality instructional materials, students can achieve anything. From their first day of school, all students deserve access to instructional materials that align to a strong, research-based approach to building literacy skills and knowledge. These materials must include a foundational reading program that supports explicit phonics instruction, opportunities to apply and practice that learning, and an English language arts (ELA) program that helps students develop deep content knowledge in tandem with how to read texts, write, speak, and listen.

With SIPPS®, Geodes®, and Wit & Wisdom®, educators have the essential instructional materials they need to accelerate learning with a comprehensive literacy curriculum, building skills and knowledge for students in grades K-2.

Published by Collaborative Classroom, SIPPS is a research-based, systematic decoding program that helps readers efficiently develop the accuracy and automaticity needed for fluent, independent reading. Taught in differentiated small groups, SIPPS takes a structured literacy approach to foundational skills instruction through explicit routines focused on phonological/phonemic awareness, spelling-sound correspondences, and high-frequency words.

SIPPS Levels (Beginning, Extension, and Challenge) each correspond to a specific stage of reading development: simple alphabetic, spelling-pattern, and polysyllabic/morphemic. Beginning and Extension Levels include program-specific student decodable texts that provide practice with the skills and concepts taught in SIPPS. We know that additional fluency practice is essential for students to solidify their accuracy and automaticity, and Geodes provides valuable supportive texts while also building students’ knowledge of topics encompassing science, history, the arts, and more.

As students construct a strong foundation for reading fluency, Wit & Wisdom provides them with English language arts instruction that ties to the same information-rich content covered in their Geodes books, ensuring that students develop knowledge that will support their reading proficiency and strengthen their comprehension skills. Through explicit phonics instruction, decoding practice, and an ELA program that integrates building knowledge and literacy skills, educators can create a learning environment built on the foundation of the science of reading for their emerging and developing readers.

Learn how SIPPS and Geodes work together:
Kindergarten:

**Geodes Level K Modules 1 & 2; SIPPS Beginning Level**
The Geodes and SIPPS scope and sequences have been matched according to SIPPS lessons and Geodes modules. Students will be able to begin use of Sets 1-2 starting in SIPPS Beginning Level, Lesson 31.

**Level K Module 1:** The Five Senses

- **Geodes Explore South America**
  - Set 1: Pele
  - Set 2: Fabric of the Andes, Galápagos Adventures, A Day at the Market

- **Geodes Working the Land**
  - Set 1: Garden Party
  - Set 2: Farm Work, Farmer’s Market, Sheepdog

**Level K Module 2:** Once Upon a Farm

- **Geodes Experience Museums**
  - Set 1: Clay Army, Visit the Art Museum, Museum Cat, Treasures of King Tut
  - Set 2: American Gothic, Red Barn Farm, Peach Picking, Lei Harvest

- **Geodes A Day’s Work**
  - Set 1: Land of Wonder
  - Set 2: Jack, Jill, and Joey, The Great Reef, Hop Around Sydney

**Geodes Level K Modules 3 & 4; SIPPS Extension Level**
The Geodes and SIPPS scope and sequences have been matched according to SIPPS lessons and Geodes modules. Students will be able to begin use of Sets 3-4 starting in SIPPS Extension Level, Lesson R1.

**Level K Module 3:** America, Then and Now

- **Geodes Homelife**
  - Set 1: Build a Log Cabin, Three Sisters
  - Set 2: Bath Night, Ice Harvest

- **Geodes American Made**
  - Set 1: Lightning Ben, Frank’s Ice Pops
  - Set 2: Elia Sang Back, Scraping the Sky

- **Geodes National Symbols**
  - Set 1: The Flag is Up
  - Set 2: Statue of Liberty, Sea to Shining Sea, Washington Crossing the Delaware

**Level K Module 4:** The Continents

- **Geodes Australia**
  - Set 1: Land of Wonder
  - Set 2: Jack, Jill, and Joey, The Great Reef, Hop Around Sydney

- **Geodes Africa**
  - Set 1: Is That a Cat?
  - Set 2: Ladi’s Pots, Made of Mud, Anansi and His Legs

- **Geodes Asia**
  - Set 1: One-Dot
  - Set 2: Brush & Ink, Floating Market, Night Climb

- **Geodes Exploring**
  - Set 1: Map to the Past
  - Set 2: Sit and Pain, Tap-Tap to Tuk-Tuk, Sky Laps
Grade 1

**Geodes Level 1 Modules 1 - 3; SIPPS Extension Level**
The Geodes and SIPPS scope and sequences have been matched according to SIPPS lessons and Geodes modules. Students will be able to begin use of Sets 1-3 starting in SIPPS Extension Level, Lesson 5.

### Level 1 Module 1: A World of Books

- **Geodes Sharing Stories**
  - Just in Time
  - Fed by Art: The Work of Leo Lionni
  - Jerry Draws
  - An Illustrator at Work

- **Geodes Unusual Libraries**
  - Library Cat
  - The Story Ship
  - A Library of Our Own
  - A Library of Fez

- **Geodes Bringing Books to Life**
  - How to Make Paper
  - The Printing Press
  - The Story of Louis Braille
  - A Library to Go

- **Geodes Books for All**
  - The Brothers Grimm
  - The Magical Stack
  - The Brothers Grimm

### Level 1 Module 2: Creature Features

- **Geodes Creature Code**
  - Velvet Monkey Alarm
  - Smell Tells
  - Bee Waggle
  - Elephant Trunk

- **Geodes Curious Creatures**
  - Small Wonders
  - A Wish to Fly
  - One Look
  - Slug Study

- **Geodes Safety First**
  - Super Spiny Mouse
  - The Crab and the Urchin
  - Thorny Devil
  - Stick with Us

- **Geodes Rabbits and Hares, Oh My!**
  - Rabbit or Hare?
  - Draw a Rabbit
  - The Hares and the Frogs
  - Young Hare

### Level 1 Module 3: Powerful Forces

- **Geodes Wind and Earth**
  - Seed Scatter
  - In Motion
  - Crafted by the Wind
  - A Growing Wind

- **Geodes Catching the Wind**
  - Wind Giants
  - Towers of Nashtifan
  - Fire at the Mill
  - Mondrian

- **Geodes The Mighty Wind**
  - Measure the Wind
  - The Great Storm of Galveston
  - The Dust Bowl
  - Ride the Storm

### Level 1 Module 4: Cinderella Stories

- **Geodes France**
  - Cinderella
  - Old Tale, New Twist
  - World Traveler: Eiffel Tower
  - First Steps

- **Geodes Egypt**
  - The King and the Sandal
  - One Sign at a Time
  - World Traveler: The Sphinx
  - Shoes Tell a Tale

- **Geodes Ireland**
  - Billy Beg and His Bull
  - Book of Kells
  - World Traveler: Hook Lighthouse
  - Castles

- **Geodes Russia**
  - Cinderella on Stage
  - A Musical Life: The Work of Sergei Prokofiev
  - World Traveler: St. Basil’s Cathedral
  - All the World’s a Stage
The Geodes and SIPPS scope and sequences have been matched according to SIPPS lessons and Geodes modules. Students will be able to begin use of Sets 1-4 starting in SIPPS Extension Level, Lesson 24.

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**Level 2 Module 1: A Season of Change**

- **Geodes Looking West**
  - The West Is...
  - The Lakota and the Buffalo
  - Mesa Village
  - Nez Percé: The People

- **Geodes Winter's Chill**
  - Winters USA
  - Arctic Caterpillar
  - The Evergreen Tale
  - Daytime Darkness

- **Geodes Spring to Life**
  - Spring Fever
  - Sap to Syrup
  - Finch Study
  - Blossom

- **Geodes Summer Fun**
  - Road Trip
  - Bathers
  - Nature's Thermometer
  - Summer Snow

**Level 2 Module 2: The American West**

- **Geodes Go West!**
  - Wagon Tracks
  - Pony Express
  - East Meets West
  - We Must Try

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  - Wagon Tracks
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- **Geodes Mountains Majestic**
  - Eagle Eye
  - Among the Sierra Nevada
  - More Than Goal
  - The Legend of El Capitan: A Miwok Story

- **Geodes Mavericks of the West**
  - Wagons and Yokes
  - Horizons
  - Esther Hobart Morris
  - Walking with the President

**Level 2 Module 3: Civil Rights Heroes**

- **Geodes Right to Learn**
  - Brown v. Board of Education
  - And the Winner Is...
  - Bring a Chair
  - Free to Move

- **Geodes Uniting Communities**
  - Just Like Jane
  - Gordon Parks
  - We Will Ride
  - The Paralympics

- **Geodes Extraordinary**
  - Sampson's Disguise
  - Robinson and Rickey
  - Zaha Hadid
  - Stop. Wait. Start.

- **Geodes I Voted**
  - A Vote Is a Voice
  - Expanding the Right to Vote
  - Susan Adds Her Name
  - My Freedom Story

**Level 2 Module 4: Good Eating**

- **Geodes Food to Fuel**
  - The Inside Scoop
  - Stomach vs. Tongue
  - How Do You Chew?
  - Body of Water

- **Geodes Power Up**
  - Sick at Sea
  - Bone Builder
  - Space Menu
  - Please Pass the Bugs

- **Geodes Farm to Table**
  - Garden Study
  - Milk to Mozzarella
  - Thank You, Mr. Peanut Man
  - Rice Staircase

- **Geodes Celebrating with Food**
  - Mooncakes
  - Lu’au
  - Matzo Meal
  - Cakes

Geodes® are published by Great Minds PBC in association with Wilson Language Training, publisher of Fundations®. Texts are aligned with the Fundations® scope and sequence, however Geodes can be used with any high-quality reading foundations program.