



## 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 Really Great Reading®, *Geodes*®, and *Wit & Wisdom*®, educators have the essential instructional materials they need to accelerate learning with a system rooted in the science of reading.

Really Great Reading provides explicit, systematic, multi-sensory instruction to help students acquire a strong foundation for decoding and ultimately become confident and independent readers.

By pairing Really Great Reading with our robust collection of *Geodes* books, students can put their phonemic awareness and decoding skills into practice as they build enduring 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.

**See how Really Great Reading aligns with the phonics practice provided through *Geodes*.**

# Kindergarten: Countdown + Geodes

## Geodes Level K Modules 1 & 2

This alignment provides a clear picture of how decodable each Geodes book is when paired with Really Great Reading. In Units 1–14 of *Countdown*, students learn about concepts of print as well as the sounds letters make and how to use that letter-sound knowledge to read and spell simple words. Modules 1 and 2 of Geodes Level K include Wordless Picture Books to boost students' knowledge of story structure and vocabulary and Sound Search Books to grow students' letter-sound awareness. The Geodes books support the learning taking place in their *Countdown* lessons. However, since students are not yet decoding words in the Geodes books, the alignment is not included below.

**GRADE:**  
Kindergarten

**REALLY GREAT READING PROGRAM:**  
Countdown

**GEODES BOOK SET:** Level K, Module 3: America, Then and Now

**PHONICS CONCEPTS:**  
**Countdown Units 15–21:**

- VC and CVC words
- Consonant digraphs: sh, th

	<b>Geodes Title</b>	<b>Student Text Decodability</b>	<b>Whole Text Decodability</b>
<b>SET 1</b>	Build a Log Cabin	98%	93%
	Three Sisters	95%	85%
	Bath Night	96%	93%
	Ice Harvest	90%	87%
<b>SET 2</b>	Call a Cab	95%	83%
	The First Car to Get That Far	98%	89%
	The Golden Gate	96%	82%
<b>SET 3</b>	Fly, Amelia, Fly	96%	84%
	Lightening Ben	93%	84%
	Frank's Ice Pops	93%	89%
	Ella Sang Back	97%	85%
	Scraping the Sky	96%	82%
<b>SET 4</b>	The Flag is Up	97%	91%
	Statue of Liberty	97%	90%
	Sea to Shining Sea	93%	85%
	Washington Crossing the Delaware	96%	78%

**GRADE:**  
Kindergarten

**REALLY GREAT READING PROGRAM:**  
Countdown

**GEODES BOOK SET:** Level K, Module 4: The Continents

**PHONICS CONCEPTS:**  
**Countdown Units 22–28:**

- Consonant digraphs: (review th and sh), ch, wh, ck
- Chunk -all
- Two-sound consonant blends
- Two-syllable words with Closed Syllables

	<b>Geodes Title</b>	<b>Student Text Decodability</b>	<b>Whole Text Decodability</b>
<b>SET 1</b>	Land of Wonder	83%	78%
	Jack, Jill, and Joey	99%	96%
	The Great Reef	98%	92%
	Hop Around Sydney	96%	88%
<b>SET 2</b>	Is That a Cat?	100%	97%
	Ladi's Pots	94%	85%
	Made of Mud	100%	89%
<b>SET 3</b>	Anansi and His Legs	98%	96%
	One-Dot	93%	90%
	Brush & Ink	98%	92%
	Floating Market	97%	91%
	Night Climb	98%	92%
<b>SET 4</b>	Map to the Past	89%	82%
	Sit and Paint	91%	87%
	Tap-Tap to Tuk-Tuk	97%	90%
	Sky Laps	94%	90%

# Grade 1: Blast Foundations + Geodes

## GRADE:

1<sup>st</sup>

## RGR PROGRAM:

Blast Foundations

## GEODES BOOK SET:

Level 1, Module 1:

A World of Books

## PHONICS CONCEPTS:

### Blast Units 1–10:

- VC & CVC words
- Digraphs (sh, th, ch, wh, ck)
- Trigraphs -tch & -dge
- Bonus letters (ff, ll, ss)\* Not including chunk -all
- Two-sound consonant blends\*

*\*Not specifically taught, but within the realm of decodability*

## Geodes Title

## Decodability

SET 1

Anansi and the Pot of Beans 88%

The Story in the Cave 86%

The Magical Stack 93%

The Brothers Grimm 87%

Library Cat 84%

SET 2

The Story Ship 84%

A Library of Our Own 87%

The Library of Fez 73%

Just in Time 80%

SET 3

Fed by Art: The Work of Leo Lionni 83%

Jerry Draws 78%

An Illustrator at Work 84%

How to Make Paper 81%

SET 4

The Printing Press 81%

The Story of Louis Braille 78%

A Library to Go 74%

## GRADE:

1<sup>st</sup>

## REALLY GREAT READING PROGRAM:

Blast Foundations

## GEODES BOOK SET:

Level 1, Module 2:

Creature Features

## PHONICS CONCEPTS:

### Blast Units 11–13:

- Chunk -all
- Bonus letters/Double Trouble (ff, ll, ss)
- Two-sound consonant blends

## Geodes Title

## Decodability

SET 1

Vervet Monkey Alarm 74%

Smells Tell 82%

Bee Waggle 74%

Elephant Talk 77%

Super Spiny Mouse 80%

SET 2

Thorny Devil 79%

The Crab and the Urchin 81%

Stick with Us 79%

SET 3

Small Wonders 74%

A Wish to Fly 75%

One Look 74%

Slug Study 81%

Rabbit or Hare? 71%

SET 4

Draw a Rabbit 76%

The Hares and the Frogs 83%

Young Hare 65%

# Grade 1: Blast Foundations + Geodes

**GRADE:**

1<sup>st</sup>

**REALLY GREAT READING**

**PROGRAM:**

Blast Foundations

**GEODES BOOK SET:**

Level 1, Module 3:

Powerful Forces

**PHONICS CONCEPTS:**

**Blast Units 14–19:**

- Closed Syllable two-syllable words
- Open Syllable one-syllable words
- Two-syllable words (Open and Closed Syllables)
- Chunk -ing
- Schwa
- VCe Syllable one-syllable words
- Suffix -ed (/ed/)

	<b>Geodes Title</b>	<b>Decodability</b>
<b>SET 1</b>	Seed Scatter	95%
	In Motion	84%
	Crafted by the Wind	85%
	A Growing Wind	83%
<b>SET 2</b>	Soaring	87%
	Kite Messengers	84%
	Full Sail Ahead: A Viking Story	85%
<b>SET 3</b>	The Wright Brothers	82%
	Wind Giants	83%
	Towers of Nashtifan	82%
	Fire at the Mill	76%
<b>SET 4</b>	Mondrian	70%
	Measure the Wind	81%
	The Great Storm of Galveston	84%
	The Dust Bowl	80%
	Ride the Storm	80%

**GRADE:**

1<sup>st</sup>

**REALLY GREAT READING**

**PROGRAM:**

Blast Foundations

**GEODES BOOK SET:**

Level 1, Module 4:

Cinderella Stories

**PHONICS CONCEPTS:**

**Blast Units 20–25:**

- Two-syllable words with VCe
- Vowel Teams: ai, ay, ee, ea, oa, igh
- Long e spelled y
- Suffix -ed (/d/, /t/, /ed/), -er, -es, -ing, -s

	<b>Geodes Title</b>	<b>Decodability</b>
<b>SET 1</b>	Cinderella	86%
	Old Tale, New Twist	85%
	World Traveler: Eiffel Tower	89%
	First Steps	88%
<b>SET 2</b>	The King and the Sandal	93%
	One Sign at a Time	95%
	World Traveler: The Sphinx	90%
<b>SET 3</b>	Shoes Tell a Tale	89%
	Billy Beg and His Bull	92%
	Book of Kells	88%
	World Traveler: Hook Lighthouse	91%
<b>SET 4</b>	Castles	89%
	Cinderella on Stage	86%
	A Musical Life: The Work of Sergei Prokofiev	87%
	World Traveler: St. Basil's Cathedral	87%
	All the World's a Stage	87%

# Grade 2: HD Word + Geodes

## GRADE:

2<sup>nd</sup>

## REALLY GREAT READING

### PROGRAM:

HD Word

### GEODES BOOK SET:

Level 2, Module 1:  
A Season of Change

### PHONICS CONCEPTS:

#### HD Word Units 1–9:

- Two-syllable, three-syllable, and four-syllable words with Closed, Open, VCe Syllables
- Digraphs & Trigraphs
- Suffix -ed (/ed/), -es
- Schwa
- VCe Syllables with schwa (-ate, -ive, -age, -ace)
- -y spelling long e and long i
- Vowel Teams: ay, ai, ee, ea, igh, oa, ow
- three-sound consonant blends & digraph blends

	Geodes Title	Decodability
SET 1	Seed Stash	93%
	Cranberry Crop	84%
	Leaves	88%
SET 2	Born to Fly	88%
	Winters USA	84%
	Arctic Caterpillar	83%
SET 3	The Evergreen Tale	86%
	Daytime Darkness	88%
	Spring Fever	86%
SET 4	Sap to Syrup	85%
	Finch Study	90%
	Blossom	84%
SET 4	Road Trip	84%
	Bathers	78%
	Nature's Thermometer	82%
	Summer Snow	78%

## GRADE:

2<sup>nd</sup>

## REALLY GREAT READING

### PROGRAM:

HD Word

### GEODES BOOK SET:

Level 2, Module 2:  
The American West

### PHONICS CONCEPTS:

#### HD Word Units 10–17:

- Vowel Teams: ie, ey
- R- Controlled Syllables:
  - /ar/ spelled ar
  - /or/ spelled or, our, ore, oor, oar
  - /er/ spelled er, ir, ur, ear, ar, or
  - /âr/ spelled ar, are, air, ear
- Spellings of /oo/ as in ooze (oo, u, u\_e, ew)
- Spellings of /oi/ as in oink (oi, oy)
- Spellings of /ou/ as in ouch (ou, ow)

	Geodes Title	Decodability
SET 1	The West Is...	89%
	The Lakota and the Buffalo	86%
	Mesa Village	82%
	Nez Percè: The People	85%
SET 2	Wagon Tracks	80%
	Pony Express	81%
	East Meets West	87%
SET 3	We Must Try	93%
	Eagle Eye	93%
	Among the Sierra Nevada	88%
SET 4	More than Gold	91%
	The Legend of El Capitan: A Miwok Story	84%
	Wagons and Yokes	83%
	Horizons	85%
SET 4	Esther Hobart Morris	84%
	Walking with the President	81%

# Grade 2: HD Word + Geodes

**GRADE:**

2<sup>nd</sup>

**REALLY GREAT READING**

**PROGRAM:**

HD Word

**GEODES BOOK SET:**

Level 2, Module 3:

Civil Rights Heroes

**PHONICS CONCEPTS:**

**HD Word Units 18–24:**

- Spellings of /ōō/ as in book (oo, u)
- Spellings of /aw/ as in awesome (au, aw)
- Chunks: ang, ing, ong, ung, ank, ink, onk, unk
- Consonant -le Syllables
- Latin Chunks: -tion, -sion, -ture
- Soft c and g

**Geodes Title**

**Decodability**

SET 1

Brown v. Board of Education	88%
And the Winner Is...	88%
Bring a Chair	83%
Free to Move	87%

SET 2

Sampson's Disguise	89%
Robinson and Rickey	94%
Zaha Hadid	86%
Stop. Wait. Start.	90%

SET 3

Just Like Jane	87%
Gordon Parks	90%
We Will Ride	87%
The Paralympics	92%

SET 4

A Vote is a Voice	95%
Expanding the Right to Vote	86%
Susan Adds Her Name	90%
My Freedom Story	88%

**GRADE:**

2<sup>nd</sup>

**REALLY GREAT READING**

**PROGRAM:**

HD Word

**GEODES BOOK SET:**

Level 2, Module 4:

Good Eating

**PHONICS CONCEPTS:**

**HD Word Units 25–33:**

- Suffixes: -s, -less, -ness, -ment, -ful, -ly, -es, -ing, -er, -est, -ous, -y, -able, -ible, -ed (3 sounds)
- Prefixes: dis-, con-, un-, im-, in-, re-, pre-, pro-
- Closed Syllable Exceptions: old, olt, ost, ild, ind
- Two-syllable, three-syllable, and four-syllable with split vowels

**Geodes Title**

**Decodability**

SET 1

The Inside Scoop	94%
Stomach vs. Tongue	96%
How Do You Chew?	97%
Body of Water	97%

SET 2

Sick at Sea	97%
Bone Builder	97%
Space Menu	95%
Please Pass the Bugs	94%

SET 3

Garden Study	96%
Milk to Mozzarella	93%
Thank You, Mr. Peanut Man	96%
Rice Staircase	97%

SET 4

Mooncakes	95%
Lā'au	93%
Matzo Meal	94%
Cakes	95%



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