



Content Area: English Language Arts

Grade Level: 3

Course Name: Grade 3 ELA

Course Description: Grounded in the science of reading, Amplify CKLA for grades 3–5 integrates foundational skills students have learned in grades K–2 while continuing to build rich content knowledge. Students move fluidly between reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language activities, with increasingly complex texts, close reading, and a greater writing emphasis. In Grades 3–5, lessons combine skills and knowledge with increasingly complex texts, close reading, and a greater emphasis on writing. Students start to use their skills to go on their own independent reading adventures, further opening up their worlds.

Units # of Lessons	Description
Unit 1: Classic Tales 15 Lessons	Unit Overview: This unit will expose students to classic children’s stories that use rich language and introduce students to a variety of vocabulary words. Students will be enchanted by descriptive paragraphs and memorable characters as they explore interesting themes and discuss character traits. As they go on adventures with these characters, instruction will reinforce understanding of the elements of fictional narratives, including dialogue, narration, characters, plot, and setting. Students will also discuss the literary tools of personification, perspective, and point-of-view, as well as the themes of friendship, loyalty, hospitality, responsibility, and irresponsibility.
Unit 2: Animal Classification 15 Lessons	Unit Overview: This unit introduces students to the science of classification. Students will learn about five groups of vertebrates, why scientists classify animals into groups, and the characteristics by which they make these determinations. The ability to classify information is an essential skill of organizing, analyzing, and understanding data. Students will develop scientific skills as they observe and practice identifying important characteristics of organisms and objects. In this unit, students will be asked to engage in structured inquiry

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	discussions and exercises. During these activities, students will be asked to respond based on their observations and thinking. By asking questions such as “How do you know?” and “Why do you think so?” the teacher will guide students in making reasonable statements based on what students already know and the evidence they can observe.
Unit 3: The Human Body: Systems and Senses	Unit Overview: This unit reviews what students have already learned about the human body and some of its systems. Two systems students have previously learned about in greater depth are the excretory and digestive systems in Grade 2, so these are briefly reviewed here. In this unit, students will focus in greater detail on the skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems and the fact that they are closely interconnected with all the human body systems. Furthermore, students will learn details about the senses of sight and hearing and how the eyes and ears work. Students will also learn the idiom “a clean bill of health” and will discover ways they can keep their bodies active and healthy.
Unit 4: The Ancient Roman Civilization 15 Lessons	Unit Overview: This unit will introduce your students to an ancient civilization whose contributions can be seen in many areas of our lives today. Students will be introduced to the culture of ancient Rome, including religion, food, education, legends, social class structure, and entertainment. They will learn about Roman geography and history, government, major leaders, monumental battles, and the rise and decline of the Roman Empire. Students will also learn about ancient Rome’s influence and contributions to our society today.
Unit 5: Light and Sound 17 Lessons	Unit Overview: This unit will build upon what students have already learned about the five senses and the human body, focusing on the senses of seeing and hearing. Through reading and listening to read-alouds, Students will learn about the properties of light and sound, how light and sound travel in waves, and how light and sound can be manipulated by various instruments, such as magnifying glasses, microscopes, and telescopes. The content students learn in this grade will serve as the basis in later grades for more in-depth study of the human body and the properties of light and sound.
Unit 6: The Viking Age 11 Lessons	Unit Overview: This unit will build upon what students have already learned about ancient civilizations. Students will be introduced to the people of the Viking Age: the men, women, and children who spoke the Old Norse language and lived in an area of northern Europe called Scandinavia, the countries we now call Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Students will learn about the culture, region, and everyday life of the Norse people, who made a living through farming, fishing, and trading. Students will also learn about the Viking explorers who traveled across the ocean to settle in new lands, including Greenland, Iceland, and Newfoundland.
Unit 7: Astronomy: Our Solar System and Beyond	Unit Overview: This unit will build upon what students have already learned about astronomy and introduces them to new information about this science. Through reading and listening to Read-Alouds, students will learn more about our solar system, our galaxy, other galaxies,

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20 Lessons	and the universe. Students will be introduced to the concept of gravity and its effects on Earth and in other places in space. A foundation of knowledge will be laid for more in-depth study in later grades of topics such as matter, light-years, and black holes. Students will learn about the difference between a hypothesis and a theory, and dive into the Big Bang theory of how the universe may have originated. Students will also hear about key people and events involved in the study and exploration of outer space. Students will be introduced to this content through an informational text that takes the students on a journey through the universe, beginning with our own planet, Earth. The journey continues to the sun, the inner and outer planets, and then to other objects that exist in our solar system. From there, the trip takes us to our galaxy, other galaxies, and billions and billions of stars in the universe. They'll find out why the planets stay in orbit and why we don't go flying off the earth into space!
Unit 8: Native Americans: Regions and Culture 13 Lessons	Unit Overview: This unit reviews what students have already learned in previous grades about the first known inhabitants of North America. Students will learn more in-depth information about how some Native Americans first migrated from Asia to North America, how many scientists think they spread throughout the continents of North America and South America, and how their ways of obtaining food changed over the years. Furthermore, students will learn details about how people adapted to the environment of the region in which they settled and how that adaptation shaped their cultural identity. Students will also learn the idiom “cold shoulder,” and that this custom of some Native Americans was used as a form of punishment.
Unit 9: Early Explorations of North America 14 Lessons	Unit Overview: This unit reviews what students have already learned about the early European exploration of North America. Students will learn more in-depth information about the motivations behind European exploration, how those motivations changed over time, and how the European explorers and settlers interacted with the Native Americans already inhabiting the continent. Furthermore, students will learn details about the voyages of Christopher Columbus; the conquistadors Juan Ponce de León, Hernando de Soto, and Francisco Vasquez de Coronado; and the explorers John Cabot, Henry Hudson, and Samuel de Champlain. Students will also learn the idioms “last straw” and “touch and go.” The content students learn in this grade will serve as the basis for more in-depth study in the later grades of European exploration and settlement of North America.
Unit 10: Colonial America 16 Lessons	Unit Overview: This unit builds upon what students have learned about the exploration and settlement of North America by Native Americans and Europeans, and reviews what students may have already learned about the English colonies in North America. Students will learn more about the way in which the English colonies were established and how each developed a unique culture. Furthermore, students will learn details about the way in which the climate, geography, and motivations of the settlers influenced life in each of the thirteen colonies. Finally, students will hear a brief overview of the events leading to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Revolutionary War, and the establishment of the United States as its own nation.

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Unit 11: Ecology 12 Lessons	<p>Unit Overview:</p> <p>In this unit, students will focus on two academic vocabulary terms: <i>decide</i> and <i>recommend</i>. By academic vocabulary, we mean words that support reading comprehension and may appear across a variety of materials in language arts and in content areas. These words can be found in textbooks, assignment directions, and assessments. Understanding academic vocabulary may contribute to improved performance on assignments and assessments, as these words appear often in directions to students. These words may appear on end-of-year assessments that third graders may take. Where applicable, we use the words throughout the unit, not just as they might refer to reading selections but also with regard to spelling, grammar, morphology, and comprehension. They may also appear in directions, assessments, spelling lists, and discussion questions, among other places.</p>

NYS Standard	Links
Grade 3 ELA Standards	New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards