



every child
is capable
of greatness

Approach Great Minds teacher-writers built *Wit & Wisdom*™ on a foundation of knowledge. The heart of each module is a carefully curated set of texts. Each text is intentionally chosen, speaks to the other texts in the set, and contributes to an overall, coherent experience. In the earliest grades, our emerging readers also access knowledge aligned to their phonics scope and sequence, so that they are continually learning as they learn to read with *Geodes*™.

Response The Knowledge Maps™ are among many Johns Hopkins University efforts designed to advocate for effective implementation of knowledge-rich, high-quality content. Like our trusted colleagues at JHU, we educate decision-makers, teachers, and communities about the critical relationship between coherent curriculum, student engagement, educator effectiveness, and student success.

The Knowledge Maps highlight the fact that curriculum developers must choose particular topics of study in order for students to build background knowledge through deep study. An English curriculum cannot cover *all* important topics at the expense of depth. Instead, educators must consider the relationship of texts to a topic. Our texts, for example, are chosen with attention to craft and quality, then mined for the knowledge and skills that learners must uncover to deeply understand a topic.

The Knowledge Map’s coherency scores are based on the number of shared topics within the texts of a module. Using this metric, we agree that all evaluated grades are above the “threshold for a high-quality curriculum.” We particularly appreciate the insight that even our lowest-rated units still meet this threshold and “demonstrate a high level of instruction across a grade’s curriculum.”

Impact Insights from the Knowledge Maps currently inform our ongoing efforts to continually improve the curriculum. Specifically, we now use the knowledge domains as a new metric as we consider our texts and topic choice. They help us to remain focused on our mission: *every child is capable of greatness*. Knowledge-rich, equitable curricula is the first step on that path toward every child knowing and doing wonderful things.

Rachel Stack, *Chief Academic Officer, Humanities*

Great Minds PBC
840 Hermitage Rd.
Richmond VA 23220
804.867.5309

greatminds.org

