



Core Knowledge and Civitas Announce U.K. Partnership

August 5, 2011 – The Core Knowledge Foundation is pleased to announce its partnership with Civitas, a British based nonprofit, to make the Core Knowledge educational program available to schools in the United Kingdom.

The first product of the newly formed partnership is *What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know*. The volume is the British equivalent of *What Your Kindergartener Needs to Know*, which was first published in the U.S. in 1997. The book features stories, fables and poems, as well as essential age-appropriate content in history and geography; the visual arts and music; science and mathematics that comprise essential shared knowledge all children must have to understand the world around them, and to read, write, speak and listen with comprehension. Writers and editors from Civitas have adapted content from the American volume to meet the needs of children growing up in the United Kingdom.

E.D. Hirsch, the founder of the Core Knowledge Foundation and editor of the American series of books, commented, "Nearly all of our most cherished ideals for education— from reading comprehension and problem solving to critical thinking and creativity— rest on a foundation of knowledge. With *What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know*, Civitas places itself firmly among those who understand the need for knowledge as a non-negotiable, primary purpose of effective schooling. They stand in heroic opposition to those who would weaken our schools and our children's future."

"Our two organizations are complimentary in terms of their vision and ideals," observed Linda Bevilacqua, the President of Core Knowledge. "We are very excited to be working with such a complementary British organization and one whose mission parallels our own."

Founded in 1986, the Charlottesville, Virginia based Core Knowledge Foundation publishes and distributes a wide variety of education books and materials, including the [Core Knowledge Sequence](#), a detailed outline of recommended curricular content to be taught in language arts, history and geography, mathematics, science, music, and the visual arts from preschool to grade eight. The Foundation also supports a growing nationwide network of [Core Knowledge schools](#) through [instructional materials](#) and [professional development](#) workshops, and it is developing the [Core Knowledge Language Arts Program](#), an ambitious effort to systematically teach and support the language skills and content knowledge children need to build reading comprehension. The program is currently being field tested in 17 cities, including a major pilot program in 10 low-income New York City public schools.

"The concerns which led E.D. Hirsch, Jr. to establish the Core Knowledge Foundation are shared by many in Britain, where the school curriculum has become less knowledge-based and more focused on attaining 'skills' as if the two things can be separated," noted David Green, Director of Civitas. "We are honoured and delighted to be entrusted by the Core Knowledge

Foundation with the task of adapting their U.S. books for teachers, parents and pupils in the U.K.+he added.

About Civitas

Civitas is an independent think tank that seeks to deepen public understanding of the legal, institutional and moral framework that makes a free and democratic society possible. In addition to its work on Core Knowledge it operates twenty supplementary schools: eleven in London, with the others in Yorkshire, the North East, Birmingham and Norfolk. The schools provide additional English and maths lessons for over 500 disadvantaged primary-aged children each week.

About the Core Knowledge Foundation

The Core Knowledge Foundation is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1986 by [E. D. Hirsch, Jr.](#), professor emeritus at the University of Virginia and author of many acclaimed books on education including [Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know](#), [The Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them](#), [The Knowledge Deficit](#), and [The Making of Americans](#). Based in Charlottesville, Virginia, the Foundation develops curricula, publishes educational books and materials, provides [professional development](#) for educators, and supports a growing network of [Core Knowledge schools](#).

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