



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Chad Colby: chad.colby@greatminds.org (202) 297-9437

Great Minds® Unveils *Geodes*™, Groundbreaking Books for Emerging Readers

Monday, February 4, 2019—[Great Minds](#), developer of highly rated grades PK–12 curricula, today unveiled *Geodes*™, a groundbreaking new category of accessible, knowledge-building books for new and emerging readers.

Developed in collaboration with [Wilson Language Training](#)®, publisher of the evidence-based foundational reading and spelling program Foundations® for students in grades K–3, *Geodes* combine carefully selected language with highly engaging content and illustrations from top artists. These books build students’ confidence in their ability to read and inspire curiosity with knowledge-building topics.

“Each *Geodes* book is a gem. Students learn about topics as far-flung and fascinating as Icelandic winters, the origins of the Bolshoi ballet, the Badlands, and how to measure the strength of the wind—all while practicing their phonics. These books are so compelling, kids will not notice what sound-spelling pattern they are practicing,” said Lynne Munson, founder and CEO of Great Minds. “*Geodes* are an entirely new experience. Gone are the days of tedious, repetitive texts with minimal line drawings. New readers deserve better—they deserve *Geodes*.”

Barbara A. Wilson, the president and cofounder of Wilson Language Training, said, “All too often, books for emerging readers fail to provide the practice needed, while also lacking interest, complexity, beauty, and other qualities likely to compel readers of any age. We wanted to provide students the opportunity for a rich and rewarding reading experience while practicing the very decoding skills they are learning in the classroom. We tapped into our two organizations’ core strengths to do just that. Wilson Language Training’s expertise in foundational reading skills instruction and Great Minds’ experience at building students’ knowledge is a strong combination. We could not be prouder of the result.”

Geodes are named for modest-looking rock formations that contain countless crystals inside. Each Great Minds’ *Geodes* book holds a surprising amount of knowledge in a slim volume. A *Geodes* library comes with a natural geode for teachers and students to examine together, as

they build excitement for their reading experience. A video capturing students' delight in unboxing a *Geodes* library collection for the first time is available [here](#).

With *Geodes*, Great Minds introduces a new type of book—Readables™—into the marketplace. Unlike traditional decodables, which focus solely on the application of sound-spelling patterns, Readables give students opportunities to practice language while building and extending knowledge, vocabulary, and more. As a result, budding readers enjoy wonderfully accessible yet rich books.

Geodes align with the module topics in Great Minds' grades K–8 English language arts curriculum, [Wit & Wisdom](#)®. They also align with the scope and sequence of Wilson [Foundations](#)®, a structured literacy program for grades K–3 that is supplemental to the core and provides a systematic approach to comprehensively address foundational skills as well as spelling and handwriting. Schools may use *Geodes* with any systematic, research-based phonics instruction program.

Geodes for Level 1 are available now. *Geodes* for Level 2 will be available in fall 2019. *Geodes* for Level K will be available in fall 2020.

Geodes join *Wit & Wisdom*, [Eureka Math](#)™, and [PhD Science](#)™ in the growing portfolio of offerings from Great Minds.

Learn more about *Geodes* and see a book preview [here](#).

###

About Great Minds: The organization recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, evolving from a startup to a provider of the highest quality materials to schools nationwide. A group of educators founded Great Minds to define and encourage knowledge-rich, comprehensive education for all students. *Eureka Math* and *Wit & Wisdom* both earned near-perfect scores from independent nonprofit reviewer [EdReports.org](#). Great Minds is the only curriculum developer to have [earned](#) three Tier 1 ratings, the highest possible, for *Wit & Wisdom*, *Eureka Math*, and *PhD Science*, from the Louisiana Department of Education, which is widely respected for its curricula leadership. A RAND Corporation [survey](#) of teachers found *Eureka Math* is the most widely used math curriculum in the nation. Learn more at [greatminds.org](#).

About Wilson Language Training: For over 30 years, Wilson Language Training (WLT) has been dedicated to “Literacy for All.” Wilson is a provider of multisensory, research-based reading and spelling programs addressing three tiers of instruction: *Foundations*®, a prevention and early intervention program for grades K–3; *Just Words*®, an intervention program for grades 4–12; *Wilson Reading System*®, an intensive program for grade 2 through adult; and *Wilson Fluency*®/Basic, a supplemental fluency and comprehension program. Wilson Language Training empowers individual educators, schools, and districts to achieve literacy with all students in their care through its many quality professional learning offerings, working collaboratively with school districts to develop teacher-leaders and achieve sustainability plans. This work is in keeping with

WLT's goal to provide educators with the support they need to help all students become independent readers.