

# USING MISSIONS TO GUIDE YOUR STUDENTS

## 5 SIMPLE STEPS

### Step 1: Select a mission for your class

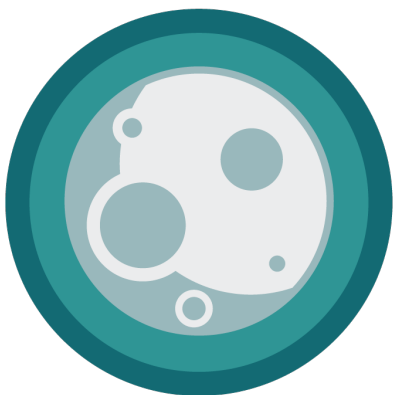
Find the appropriate class on your coach homepage and click “Manage Class.” Then click the mission icon and choose the appropriate mission. Any students already in the class will get a message that notifies them of this mission request.

The screenshot shows the Khan Academy interface for managing a class. The top navigation bar includes 'Subjects', 'Coach', a search bar, and user information. The main content area is titled 'Manage Students' and shows a grid of mission options for a class. The '5th grade (U.S.)' mission is selected, highlighted in dark blue. Other missions include Early math, 3rd grade (U.S.), 4th grade (U.S.), 6th grade (U.S.), 7th grade (U.S.), 8th grade (U.S.), Arithmetic, Pre-algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry, Probability and statistics, Precalculus, and Differential calculus. A green 'Select' button is visible over the Algebra I mission.

When you choose a mission for a specific class, your reports will default to looking at student progress within that mission!

### Step 2: Create a culture around missions

Make sure your students understand how exciting it is to take on a mission and how rewarding it is to finish one. Explain that a mission is a big, inspiring challenge that you tackle a little bit at a time. With each step you take on this adventure, you get closer to your goal. And since it's a big goal, you'll feel a big sense of accomplishment when you achieve it!



**CONSIDER:** Have a conversation with your students about how President JFK challenged the US to put a human on the moon in 1961. In 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon. Ask your students...

- Was it easy for NASA to complete this mission?
- How long did it take?
- Why was it important?
- How do you think the NASA team felt afterwards?

Relate this conversation back to your class and the missions they'll be working on in Khan Academy.

## Step 3: Set a big goal

Students are motivated by feeling like they're part of a community working towards a big goal. Take this opportunity to set class goals that are measurable, ambitious, and realistic.

*Ex. All students will complete their 6<sup>th</sup> grade mission by the end of the school year*



Set up rewards and incentives to keep students motivated along the way.

### **CONSIDER:**

- Keep a poster in your room that celebrates students who have completed 10%, 20%, 30%, etc. Use your Student Progress report to help students visualize where they are.
- Throw a pizza party when everyone has reached 50% completion.
- Create a healthy competition between classes by seeing which class has made the most mission progress as a group.
- Give out certificates to students at an end-of-year celebration that recognizes students who completed their missions.

## Step 4: GET GOING!

There are 2 main ways you can implement missions. You can always switch between these 2 ways of using missions or use them together depending on which skills align nicely with your lessons.

### 1) Use missions alongside a curriculum

Start the school year by having your students work through their mission foundations. Investing this time will set them up for a great school year. Then, use coach recommendations to assign students specific skills that align to lessons they're learning in class. Students can use Khan Academy to get more practice during class, during out-of-school-time programs, or as homework.



When will students have access to technology and time to work on missions?

### 2) Use missions to supplement your class

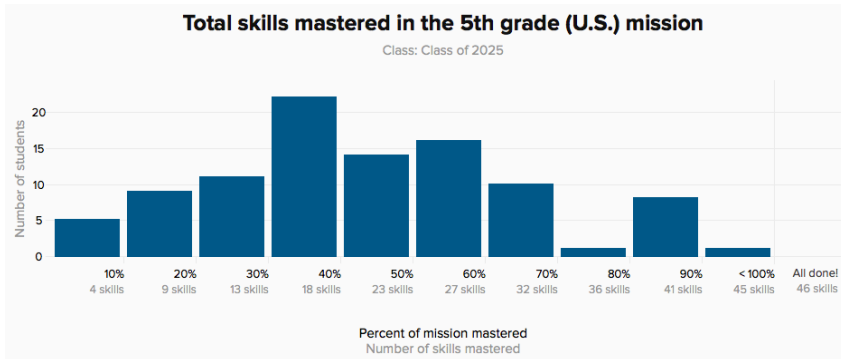
Have your students work on their missions outside of your class, dedicating time on a regular basis to making progress at home or at a computer lab. Make sure you check in with them and monitor their progress regularly.

## Step 5: Monitor student progress

We encourage you to regularly look at student progress so that you can continue to motivate your classes while tailoring your instruction or support to the needs of your students.

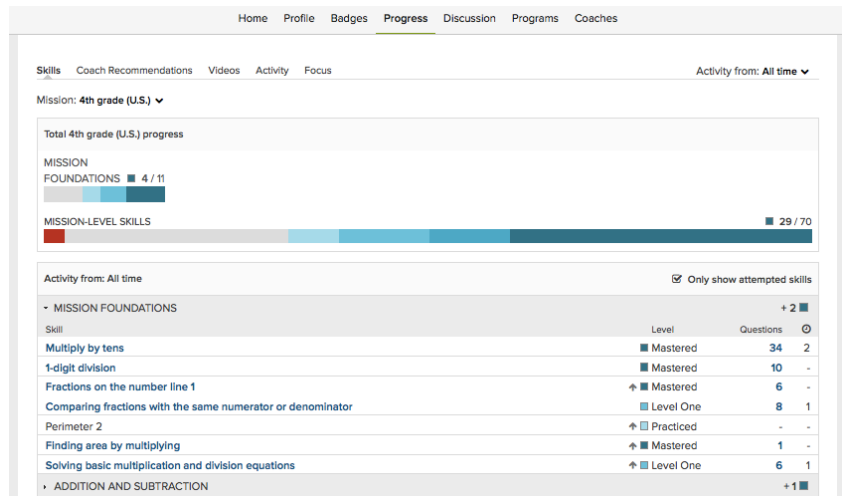
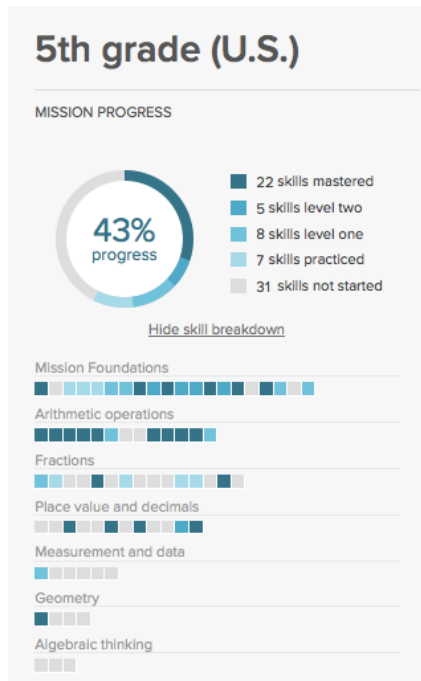
### Teacher view:

All reports can be filtered by missions. To see a summary of class progress as well as detailed info for each student, use your **Student Progress** report.



**Mission foundations** are core prerequisite skills, and **mission-level skills** cover grade-level standards. **Both types of skills count towards mission completion.**

### Student view:



Students can also see a more detailed view of their activity by going to their learning home and clicking “Progress.”

Students can always see their mission progress on the left side of their learning dashboard.

# MISSION FAQs

## How long does it take to complete a mission?

Just like putting a man on the moon, missions are big challenges, and completing one should be considered a big accomplishment. Missions are designed to take 20-40 hours to complete on average. With that said, the amount of time and effort it takes to complete a mission will depend on who the student is, where they start, and how fast they go.

## I have students who are below grade level. Which mission should they be working on?

Most of our missions include missions foundations, which provide a quick review of prerequisites and check learners' preparedness for grade- or subject-level material. Mission foundations are a great place for students to start—especially if they're behind grade level. If students have gaps in their math knowledge that span multiple grade levels, they can use a subject mission for remediation and review. The Early math mission covers kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, while the Arithmetic and Pre-algebra missions cover grades 3-8.

## What happens when my student completes a mission?

We'd hate to spoil the surprise, but let's just say that your student will have a party on their learning dashboard. The student will also get a coveted mission badge, plus the feeling of great accomplishment. Once a mission is complete, your student can move on to the next one!



You can [learn more about missions here.](#)