

5th Grade Social Studies

United States History - The fifth grade Social Studies curriculum consists of the following content area strands: American History, Geography, Economics, and Civics. Fifth grade students will study the development of our nation with emphasis on the people, places and events up to approximately 1850. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the initial inhabitation, exploration, colonization, and early national periods of American History. So that students can see clearly the relationship between cause and effect in history, students should also have the opportunity to understand how individuals and events of this period influenced later events in the development of our nation.

Unit	Standard		Breakdown
Unit 1 - Geography	SS.5.G.1.1	Interpret current and historical information using a variety of geographic tools.	• Interpret information from maps based on historical events.
			• Explain geographic features on a physical map.
			• Describe information found on a political map.
			• Compare information on physical, political, and thematic maps.
	SS.5.G.1.2	Use latitude and longitude to locate places.	• Identify the lines of latitude and longitude.
			• Locate absolute locations using latitude and longitude.
			• Explain the purpose of latitude and longitude lines.
	SS.5.G.1.3	Identify major United States physical features on a map of North America.	• Explain geographic features found on a physical map of the North America.
			• Describe the key geographic features of North America, including, but not limited to, mountain ranges, rivers, and deserts.
	SS.5.G.1.4	Construct maps, charts, and graphs to display geographic information.	• Construct maps that feature physical geography.
			• Develop charts to display geographic information.
			• Create graphs to display physical characteristics (e.g., the height of mountains or the lengths of rivers).
	SS.5.G.1.5	Identify and locate the original thirteen colonies on a map of North America.	• Identify the original thirteen colonies on a labeled map of North America.

Unit 1 - Geography			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate and identify the original thirteen colonies on an unlabeled map.
	SS.5.G.1.6	Locate and identify states, capitals, and United States Territories on a map.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify each state's capital city from a list of state names as well as on a labeled map.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a state given the name of its capital.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate and identify states and United States territories on an unlabeled map.
	SS.5.G.4.1	Use geographic knowledge and skills when discussing current events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a location discussed during current events.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use geographic tools to identify places of importance in current events.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify how knowledge of geography is used in televised news reports, newspaper articles, and weather forecasts.
	SS.5.G.4.2	Use geography concepts and skills such as recognizing patterns, mapping, graphing to find solutions for local, state, or national problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify patterns of natural events on physical maps.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe solutions for avoiding or preparing for natural events.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use mapping skills to find solutions to such problems as finding detours during road construction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graph information from maps to identify and analyze patterns. 			
Unit 2 - Native Peoples of North America	SS.5.A.1.1	Use primary and secondary sources to understand history.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze primary and secondary sources.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw conclusions from primary and secondary sources.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use primary and secondary sources to interpret historical events.
	SS.5.A.1.2	Utilize timelines to identify and discuss American History time periods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify events or dates from a timeline.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order historical events using a historical timeline.
	SS.5.A.2.1	Compare cultural aspects of ancient American civilizations (Aztecs/Mayas; Mound Builders/Anasazi/Inuit).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the cultural aspects of various ancient American civilizations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify similarities and differences between two different civilizations. 			

Unit 2 - Native Peoples of North America			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use examples of ancient civilizations including, but not limited to, Aztecs, Mayas and Mound Builders, Anasazi, and Inuit.
	SS.5.A.2.2	Identify Native American tribes from different geographic regions of North America (cliff dwellers and Pueblo people of the desert Southwest, coastal tribes of the Pacific Northwest, nomadic nations of the Great Plains, woodland tribes east of the Mississippi River).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the four geographic regions that North American tribes primarily occupied.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe major characteristics of Native American tribes.
	SS.5.A.2.3	Compare cultural aspects of Native American tribes from different geographic regions of North America including but not limited to clothing, shelter, food, major beliefs and practices, music, art, and interactions with the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the cultural aspects of various Native American tribes.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate how geography contributed to cultural similarities and differences among Native American tribes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast the cultural aspects of two Native American tribes. 			
Unit 3 - Early Explorations of the Americas	SS.5.A.3.1	Describe technological developments that shaped European exploration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the European technological developments (e.g., mapmaking, navigation, shipbuilding) that occurred shortly before the European exploration of North America.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the significance of technology to European exploration.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how new technology led to world exploration.
	SS.5.A.3.2	Investigate (nationality, sponsoring country, motives, dates and routes of travel, accomplishments) the European explorers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify key information about European explorers, including their nationality, sponsoring country, motives, dates of travel, routes taken to North America, and major accomplishments. • Locate on a map routes taken by European explorers.

Unit 3 - Early Explorations of the Americas	SS.5.A.3.3	Describe interactions among Native Americans, Africans, English, French, Dutch, and Spanish for control of North America.	• Examine contact between Europeans and Native Americans and how they interacted.
			• Examine the enslavement of Native Americans by Europeans.
			• Examine the introduction of slaves from Africa.
			• Identify areas of North America occupied by various European countries.
Unit 4 - Colonization of North America	SS.5.A.4.1	Identify the economic, political and socio- cultural motivation for colonial settlement.	• Describe the economic and political reasons for colonial settlement.
			• Identify socio-cultural reasons for colonial settlement.
			• Identify religious reasons for colonial settlement.
	SS.5.A.4.2	Compare characteristics of New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.	• Describe the societal and cultural similarities and differences of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.
			• Describe and and/or analyze how geography and climate influenced the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.
			• Explain how natural resources influenced the occupations and economics of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.
			• Identify the colonies included in the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.
	SS.5.A.4.3	Identify significant individuals responsible for the development of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.	• Identify individuals responsible for the development of governments in the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.
			• Identify individuals who sought to educate and improve the conditions of others.
	SS.5.A.4.4	Demonstrate an understanding of political, economic, and social aspects of daily colonial life in the thirteen colonies.	• Describe the main industries and occupations of the thirteen colonies.

Unit 4 - Colonization of North America			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how governments developed in the thirteen colonies.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the role of religion in the thirteen colonies.
	SS.5.A.4.5	Explain the importance of Triangular Trade linking Africa, the West Indies, the British Colonies, and Europe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the imports and exports of Africa, the West Indies, the British Colonies, and Europe.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify on a map the primary locations of the Triangular Trade. • Explain the importance of the Triangular Trade.
Unit 5 - American Revolution & Birth of a New Nation	SS.5.A.5.1	Identify and explain significant events leading up to the American Revolution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the significance of the French and Indian War and its impact on England, the colonists, and Native Americans.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the primary conflicts American colonists had with England and analyze how these unresolved conflicts led to the American Revolution.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe why American colonists protested against England and the colonists' methods of protest.
	SS.5.A.5.2	Identify significant individuals and groups who played a role in the American Revolution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify political leaders of the American Revolution.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the impact that significant individuals and groups had on the American Revolution.
	SS.5.A.5.3	Explain the significance of historical documents including key political concepts, origins of these concepts, and their role in American independence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the purpose of the Mayflower Compact and Declaration of Independence.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the significance of the Declaration of Independence to both the colonists and England.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the motivation of Thomas Paine's pamphlet Common Sense.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the impact Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights, the Mayflower Compact, and Common Sense had in influencing the American independence.

Unit 5 - American Revolution & Birth of a New Nation	SS.5.A.5.4	Examine and explain the changing roles and impact of significant women during the American Revolution.	• Describe a woman's typical role during the American Revolution.
			• Identify women who fought on the battlefield alongside men during the American Revolution.
			• Explain the influences of Abigail Adams and Martha Washington during the American Revolution.
			• Identify women who made an impact in the American Revolution and explain their contributions to the war effort.
	SS.5.A.5.5	Examine and compare major battles and military campaigns of the American Revolution.	• Identify and describe the first battles of the American Revolution.
			• Identify and describe the effects of major battles of the American Revolution.
			• Explain why the Battle of Saratoga was a turning point in the American Revolution.
			• Explain the significance of the Battle of
	SS.5.A.5.6	Identify the contributions of foreign alliances and individuals to the outcome of the Revolution.	• Describe the contributions that France made to the outcome of the American Revolution.
			• Explain why foreign alliances were important to the outcome of the American Revolution.
			• Identify the contributions that individuals from other countries made to the American Revolution.
	SS.5.A.5.7	Explain economic, military, and political factors which led to the end of the Revolutionary War.	• Explain the British southern strategy and how its failure led to the end of the war.
• Explain the Treaty of Paris and what it meant for the colonists.			
• Explain the economics of the war for both England and the colonists.			
Unit 6 - Growth and Westward Expansion	SS.5.A.6.1	Describe the causes and effects of the Louisiana Purchase.	• Identify reasons why the United States was interested in North American territory controlled by France.

Unit 6 - Growth and Westward Expansion

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the key countries and individuals involved in the Louisiana Purchase.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the effects of the Louisiana Purchase on the United States.
SS.5.A.6.2	Identify roles and contributions of significant people during the period of westward expansion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the purpose and expectations for Lewis and Clark on their western expedition.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe Tecumseh's contributions to the Native American nations.
SS.5.A.6.3	Examine 19th century advancements (canals, roads, steamboats, flat boats, overland wagons, Pony Express, railroads) in transportation and communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify 19th-century advances in transportation and communication.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how 19th-century advancements contributed toward westward expansion.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the impact the steam-powered boat had on the economy of the United States.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the impact the railroads had on the economy of the United States.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the impact the Pony Express and the telegraph had on communication during the westward expansion.
SS.5.A.6.4	Explain the importance of the explorations west of the Mississippi River.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the purpose of Lewis and Clark's expedition to the west.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the importance explorations west of the Mississippi River had for the United States government.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the importance of finding water sources in areas west of the Mississippi River.
SS.5.A.6.5	Identify the causes and effects of the War of 1812.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the causes of the War of 1812.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the effects the War of 1812 had on the Native Americans, the United States, and England.
SS.5.A.6.6	Explain how westward expansion affected Native Americans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how westward expansion affected the lives of Native Americans.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the intent of the Indian Removal Act.

Unit 6 - Growth and Westward Expansion			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the consequences of the Indian Removal Act. • Explain the Trail of Tears and the meaning behind its name.
	SS.5.A.6.7	Discuss the concept of Manifest Destiny.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe Manifest Destiny and evaluate its impact on United States society. • Identify the ways that the United States spread across the entire North American continent from east to west. • Explain what events took place that allowed the United States to expand westward.
	SS.5.A.6.8	Describe the causes and effects of the Missouri Compromise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify causes for the Missouri Compromise. • Identify effects of the Missouri Compromise. • Identify the issues Congress debated when they created the Missouri Compromise.
	SS.5.A.6.9	Describe the hardships of settlers along the overland trails to the west.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the geographic features and hardships the settlers experienced as they traveled on the overland trails to the west. • Describe the lifestyle on the wagon trail including, but not limited to, how settlers traveled, modes of shelter, food preparation, and dangers.
Unit 7 - Civics & Government Part 1	SS.5.C.1.1	Explain how and why the United States government was created.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify economic problems the United States faced after the Revolutionary War. • Identify political problems the United States faced after the Revolutionary War. • Describe the powers the Articles of Confederation did and did not give Congress. • Explain the goals of the Constitutional Convention. • Describe the compromises made during the writing of the Constitution.
	SS.5.C.1.2	Define a constitution, and discuss its purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the term constitution. • Describe the purpose of a constitution and how it affects society in the United States.

Unit 7 - Civics & Government Part 1

SS.5.C.1.3	Explain the definition and origin of rights.	• Define the term natural rights, as outlined by John Locke.	
		• Identify John Locke and analyze how his philosophy influenced ideas of the Declaration of Independence.	
		• Describe the rights citizens are born with according to the Declaration of Independence.	
	SS.5.C.1.4	Identify the Declaration of Independence's grievances and Articles of Confederation's weaknesses.	• Describe the grievances against the English contained in the Declaration of Independence.
			• Analyze the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation, specifically noting its limits to federal authority.
• Identify powers the Articles of Confederation gave the state and the national governments.			
SS.5.C.1.5	Describe how concerns about individual rights led to the inclusion of the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution.	• Define the meaning and purpose of the Bill of Rights.	
		• Explain the philosophical and practical concerns that led individuals to support or oppose the addition of a Bill of Rights to the Constitution.	
SS.5.C.1.6	Compare Federalist and Anti-Federalist views of government.	• Identify the key components of the Anti-Federalist government that leaders set up under the Articles of Confederation.	
		• Identify the Anti-Federalists' views on the role of state and national government.	
		• Identify key components of a federal system of government as envisioned by the Federalists.	
		• Compare and contrast the Federalist and Anti-Federalist views of government.	
SS.5.C.2.1	Differentiate political ideas of Patriots, Loyalists, and "undecideds" during the American Revolution.	• Explain why many colonists would choose to side with the British during the American Revolution.	

Unit 7 - Civics & Government Part 1

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the political philosophy of American Patriots and why those ideas led them to declare independence from the British Empire. Examine the potential motivations behind the “undecided” decision to avoid taking a side during the American Revolution. Compare and contrast Patriots, Loyalists, and “undecideds” in terms of political philosophy.
SS.5.C.2.2	Compare forms of political participation in the colonial period to today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe forms of political participation in the colonial period. Identify ways citizens participate in the political process today. Compare forms of political participation during the colonial period to forms of political participation today, focusing on who participates and how they participate.
SS.5.C.2.3	Analyze how the Constitution has expanded voting rights from our nation's early history to today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how groups have gained the right to vote since the Bill of Rights. Analyze major events that contributed to changing attitudes regarding expanded suffrage (e.g., populism, the Civil War, women’s role during World War I, the civil rights movement).
SS.5.C.2.4	Evaluate the importance of civic responsibilities in American democracy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify responsibilities citizens are expected to fulfill. Evaluate the importance of civic responsibilities in American democracy.
SS.5.C.2.5	Identify ways good citizens go beyond basic civic and political responsibilities to improve government and society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the importance of going beyond civic and political responsibilities to improve government and society. Describe what could happen to a democracy if no one went beyond basic civic and political responsibilities.

Unit 7 - Civics & Government Part 2

SS.5.C.3.1	Describe the organizational structure (legislative, executive, judicial branches) and powers of the federal government as defined in Articles I, II, and III of the U.S. Constitution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify responsibilities of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the United States government as defined in Articles I, II, and III of the U.S. Constitution. • Explain why the Constitution divided the federal government into three branches.
SS.5.C.3.2	Explain how popular sovereignty, rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, and individual rights limit the powers of the federal government as expressed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the terms popular sovereignty, rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism. • Explain how popular sovereignty, rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, and individual rights limit the powers of the federal government as • Expressed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. • Describe why the Constitution and Bill of Rights were written to limit the powers of the federal government.
SS.5.C.3.3	Give examples of powers granted to the federal government and those reserved for the states.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify powers granted to federal and state governments. • Compare and contrast the powers granted to the federal government to the powers reserved for the state government.
SS.5.C.3.4	Describe the amendment process as defined in Article V of the Constitution and give examples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify examples of amendments that have been ratified and become part of the Constitution. • Explain why the writers of the Constitution included Article V into the
SS.5.C.3.5	Identify the fundamental rights of all citizens as enumerated in the Bill of Rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify rights granted citizens in the Bill of Rights. • Explain the importance of the Bill of Rights to United States citizens.

Unit 7 - Civics & Government Part 2	SS.5.C.3.6	Examine the foundations of the United States legal system by recognizing the role of the courts in interpreting law and settling conflicts.	• Identify the judicial branch of government as the branch that interprets law and settles conflict.
			• Identify the Supreme Court as the highest court in the United States.
			• Describe the role of the courts in the American legal system in settling conflicts.
			• Explain the importance of having a judicial branch in the national government.
Unit 8 - Economics	SS.5.E.1.1	Identify how trade promoted economic growth in North America from pre- Columbian times to 1850.	• Describe how Native Americans used trade during pre-Columbian times.
			• Explain the economic costs and benefits of the fur trade to Europeans and Native Americans.
			• Identify items the Native Americans and Europeans wanted for trade with each other.
			• Identify trades and industries that contributed to economic growth in North America from pre-Columbian times to 1850 and evaluate their importance.
	SS.5.E.1.2	Describe a market economy, and give examples of how the colonial and early American economy exhibited these characteristics.	• Identify items North America imported
			• Define “market economy.”
			• Identify examples of how the colonial and early American economy exhibited characteristics of a market economy.
			• Explain how supply and demand work in a market economy.