

GRADE 5 SOCIAL STUDIES

Essential Skills

The priority standards consist of the following skills:

- Geographic Literacy: Demonstrate spatial and landscape understanding using globes, maps, and photographs.
- Historical Thinking: Demonstrate historical thinking practices including change and continuity over time, cause and effect relationships, interpretation of primary and secondary sources, and significance of historical events and figures.
- Civic Mindedness: Demonstrate understanding of civic roles, rights, and responsibilities at various levels: the individual, group, government, and global.
- Economic Understanding: Demonstrate knowledge of economic concepts and elements of financial literacy.

Content

The essential skills are taught, practiced, developed, and assessed through study of the United States as outlined below.

Precolumbian Period

- Geography of the United States
- Native American communities
- European arrival and exploration
- Colonial settlement and international conflicts in North America

Revolutionary Period

- British colonial policies leading to the Revolution
- Key individuals, their actions and their influence during the Revolution
- Events leading to success of the independence movement
- The Declaration of Independence

US Government

- The Constitution, three branches, and separation of powers
- Bill of Rights and Amendments
- Patriotic traditions and civic duties members of American society

19th Century America

- Westward expansion and effects on Native American peoples
- The Industrial Revolution and migration
- Cultural and economic differences leading to the Civil War
- The Civil War and reconciliation

20th Century

- The US in wars of the 20th Century
- Expansion in the Pacific, Latin America, and elsewhere; effects on those areas
- Social movements (e.g., women's movement, labor unions, Civil Rights movement, child labor reforms)
- Significant events of the 20th Century (e.g., Stock Market crash, Great Depression, moon landing, 9/11)
- Accomplishments and contributions of a minority community in the U.S. today



Current Issues

- Current pressing issues facing the United States and potential solutions that students can support
- Individuals and/or groups making positive changes in the United States today

