

5th Grade Social Studies Instructional Focus

In Grade 5, students learn about the history of the United States from its early beginnings to the present with a focus on colonial times through the 20th century. Historical content includes the colonial and revolutionary periods, the establishment of the United States, and issues that led to the Civil War.

The five units for the year are based on the broad concepts of relationships, movement, change, systems, and conflict. The subject-specific concepts addressed at Grade 5 include: location and geographical characteristics; relationships among regions of the United States; benefits of the free enterprise system as well as governmental and economic systems; and, identifying the roots of representative government of the U.S. including the important ideas in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. In addition, students examine the importance of effective leadership of a democratic society, appreciate fundamental rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, and describe customs of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups.

The overall emphasis of Grade 5 is to develop a conceptual understanding of the growth and development of the United States as it relates to our position as a world leader today.