

Instructional Vocabulary

Grade 5 Social Studies

Unit 1: European Exploration and Colonization

- **Exploration** – to make a careful search *for* something by traveling to different places; the act of exploring something
- **Colonization** – the process by which one nation establishes its presence in another region of the world
- **Region** – area of the Earth’s surface with similar physical or human characteristics that are distinctive from the characteristics of neighboring areas
- **Geographic factors** – physical characteristics of a place such as landforms, bodies and sources of water, vegetation, climate and weather patterns, and animal life
- **Migration** – process of moving from one place to another place; social, economic, or environmental factions are involved

Unit 2: Colonial America

- **Barter** – to trade goods or services without the exchange of money
- **Economic system** – the way people use resources to meet their needs and wants. Economic systems are organized sets of procedures used within communities or between communities to govern the production and distribution of goods and services. There are three types of economic systems: traditional (where customs, habits, laws, and religious beliefs control decisions), command (where government regulates economic activity), and market (where individuals control production and distribution resources and make decisions based on the market in which they function).
- **Nomadic** – people who move from place to place and have no permanent home
- **Political system** – the way people are governed
- **Sedentary** – people who settle in one particular area

Unit 3: Celebrate Freedom Week

- **Constitution** – the basic principles and laws of a nation
- **Preamble** – an introductory statement, as in the Constitution
- **Unalienable rights** – fundamental rights or natural rights guaranteed to people naturally instead of by the law; the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are listed in the Declaration of Independence

Unit 4: Road to Revolution

- **Revolution** – a sudden, radical, or complete change; a fundamental change in political organization, especially the overthrow or renunciation of one government or ruler and the substitution of another by the governed
- **Patriot** – one who loves his or her country and supports its authority and interests
- **Primary Source** – evidence produced by someone who participated in an event or lived during the time being studied
- **Leader** – an individual/individuals who significantly affects the thoughts, feelings, and/or behaviors of a number of individuals

- **Democratic process** – process of government in a democratic society where the governed have a voice in the government, and the majority rules with consideration of minority viewpoints, and where equal opportunity for participants exist
- **Perspective** – a point of view regarding a situation or topic

Unit 5: Revolution and Its Effects

- **Revolution** – a fundamental change in political or socioeconomic situation; a fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualizing something. Examples include political revolutions such as the Texas or American revolutions, the Agricultural Revolution, the Industrial Revolution,
- **Independence** – freedom from control or influence of another or others
- **Leadership** – the power or ability to lead other people; the ability to motivate a group of people toward a common goal

Unit 6: A Nation is Born

- **Democracy** – government in which the power belongs to the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system
- **Citizenship** – the condition or status of being a citizen, with its rights and duties
- **Responsibility** – a duty or task that you are required or expected to do; something that you should do because it is morally right or legally required
- **Checks and Balances** – the U.S. Constitution authorizes the branches of government to share powers with other branches and thereby check their activities and power.
- **Constitutional republic** – a state where the head of state and other officials are representatives of the people and must govern according to existing constitutional law that limits the government's power over all of its citizens; in a constitutional republic, democratic processes are used to elect the representatives

Unit 7: American Identity

- **National Identity** – the depiction of a country as a whole, encompassing its beliefs, culture, traditions, language, and politics
- **Patriotism** – strong feelings of love or devotion to one's country and if necessary, one will fight to defend it

Unit 8: Westward Expansion

- **Manifest Destiny** – the belief common in America in the early 1800s that it was the destiny or fate of the U.S. to expand west to the Pacific Ocean
- **Region** – a large land area that has geographic, political, or cultural characteristics that distinguish it from others, whether existing within one country or extending over several

Unit 9: A Nation Divided

- **Sectionalism** – an excessive devotion to the interests of one particular section of a country or community
- **States' rights** – all rights not vested by the United States Constitution in the federal government nor forbidden by it to the separate states
- **Federalism** – a form of government that distributes the power between the national government and the states

- **Civil war** – a war between factions or regions of the same country.

Unit 10: Post-Civil War America (Reconstruction)

- **Amendment** – a change or [addition](#) to a [legal document](#) which, when properly signed, has the same legal [power](#) as the [original document](#).
- **Reconstruction** – The period after the American Civil War when the southern states were reorganized and reintegrated into the Union; 1865-1877.
- **Right** – an abstract idea of that which is due to a person or governmental body by law or tradition or nature.
- **Industrialization** – to build and operate factories and businesses in a city, region, country, etc.
- **Assimilation** – when immigrant groups adopt all of the characteristics of the dominant culture, give up their first culture, and become totally integrated into the “receiving” society.

Unit 11: Progress: A Bumpy Road

- **Free enterprise** – an economic system characterized by private ownership of property and productive resources, the profit motive to stimulate production, competition to ensure efficiency, and the forces of supply and demand to direct the production and distribution of goods and services.

Unit 12: Conflict Abroad and at Home

- **Suffrage** – the right or privilege of voting
- **Ratification** – to make an agreement official by signing it or voting for it
- **Era** – a period of time characterized by particular circumstances, events, or individuals

Unit 13: The United States Today

- **Equality** – the quality of being the same in quantity or measure or value or status
- **Civil rights** – the rights that go with citizenship, which one acquires simply by being a citizen.