

Curriculum Parent Overview (Grade 5)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

UNIT #5: Fairness

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: What's fair?

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS:

- Fairness is a complex concept and doesn't always mean the same for all
- What's fair isn't always the same or equal
- Fairness is related to equality, equity, and justice
- There are multiple perspectives of what's fair
- It's important that we value, seek out, and learn from others' perspectives
- Our own perspectives of "what's fair" can evolve and change
- Laws, rights, and freedoms are meant to provide equitable opportunities and protect humans from discrimination
- Being mindful of the impact of our choices is a responsibility we have to ourselves and others around the world
- Learning and exploration (even with sensitive topics) can result in personal hope for now and the future
- When you have hope, you have the power to impact the future

ATTITUDES - STUDENTS WILL BE...

- collaborative through dialogue, partner/group discussions and activities
- curious about connected science and social science content
- willing to share their ideas and willing to accept and listen to others'
- open-minded about the possibility of developing new/ revised perspectives
- respectful- the idea that there are appropriate ways to agree, disagree, share ideas, and listen
- receptive to the idea of valuing the thoughts of their peers as a way to learn and grow
- hopeful- with new understandings, they develop hope and a sense of agency about their future

SKILLS - STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Use implicit and explicit evidence to draw conclusions
- Draw on previous background knowledge to connect and develop new ideas and knowledge
- Share and reshape their opinions
- Draw on contextual evidence to explain their reasoning
- Engage with content-specific language
- Compare and contrast multiple perspectives in order to learn from and generate their own ideas

KNOWLEDGE - STUDENTS WILL KNOW...

- fair(ness)
- equity
- justice
- enemy
- hope
- economy
- perspective
- wage
- inclusion/exclusion
- disability
- laws
- (human) rights
- natural resources

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

- For what are we hopeful? Today? Tomorrow? In the distant future?
- What do we mean when we say that something is fair/unfair?
 - For whom? Could there be another perspective?
- How are the concepts of equal, equality, and equity similar and different?
 - What does equality mean? What does equality mean? What does equity mean?
- What does it mean to be an American?
- Why are there laws in America?
 - Who do laws protect?
- What are civil rights and civil freedoms?
 - How do we “get” them? Can they be taken away?
- How are our civil rights and civil freedoms related to laws?
- How and why are our laws amended?
- What does it mean to have a disability?
 - What laws protect Americans with disabilities?
- Why are some historical (and some not) more commonly told than others?
- What is an enemy, and can enemies be friends?
- What is the economy, and how is it part of my life?
- What is fair trade?
 - Is there trade that isn't fair?