



The social studies standards in the elementary years begin with individuals and families and move from there to explorations of neighborhoods, communities, the state of Colorado, and the United States. In each grade, students investigate historical events, examine geographic features and resources, consider economic decision-making processes, and define civic roles and responsibilities.

Expectations for 5th Grade Students:

- **History:** Use timelines, artifacts, and documents to understand the different people, diverse (cultural) perspectives, and important events that shaped the early history of the United States (exploration through the American Revolution).
- **Geography:** Use different kinds of maps, globes, graphs, and diagrams to ask and answer questions about the geography of the 13 Colonies and the United States.
- **Economics:** Explain how trade shaped the development of early America; understand how government actions connect with the economy (interest rates) at the local, state, and national level. **Personal Financial Literacy:** Identify different financial institutions (banks, credit unions) and the services they provide.
- **Civics:** Explain the foundations and structure (the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches) of the United States government; describe the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.

Throughout 5th Grade You May Find Students:

- Analyzing primary and secondary sources such as artifacts, documents, photos, and newspaper articles to examine and explain U.S. historical events; identifying multiple perspectives and diverse cultural groups that were important to events in early United States history; exploring the events that led up to the American Revolution and the lives of the people involved.
- Using map keys, symbols, and legends to locate and identify the types of natural resources found in the United States; describing the role that resources played in the development of the 13 Colonies and the United States.
- Defining the basic parts of the United States' capitalist economy; examining why people need banks and other financial institutions; identifying the products and services provided by financial institutions (banks, credit unions), such as checking and savings accounts and loans.
- Identifying and explaining the principles of democracy and how founding documents (Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Bill of Rights) reflect and preserve these principles; engaging in discussions about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.