

SOCIAL STUDIES

Fifth Grade



Fifth Grade Social Studies Curriculum Overview

The [Indiana Academic Standards](#) define what students should know, understand, and be able to do at grade level beginning in kindergarten and progressing through grade twelve. These standards serve as the foundation to our curriculum in Noblesville Schools but are not a curriculum on their own. The Indiana Academic Standards are supported through grade-level curriculum maps and a selection of curriculum materials to support these maps. These curriculum maps and materials are aligned to the Indiana Academic standards while also meeting the needs of all learners. Therefore, the Noblesville Schools' curriculum is constantly undergoing periodic and systematic analysis and revision.

Students in Grade 5 study the United States, focusing on the influence of physical and cultural characteristics on national origins, growth, and development up to 1800 through a formal exploration of United States history, geography, economics, government, current events, and cultural heritage. Emphasis should be placed upon study of Native American Indian cultures, European exploration, colonization, settlement, revolution against British rule, the founding of the Republic and the beginnings of the United States. Students also learn to describe the major components of our national government and to demonstrate responsible citizenship in the classroom and school setting.

In activities, emphasis is placed on the problem-solving skills of questioning, examining fact and opinion, analyzing and evaluating sources of information, contrasting and comparing using primary and secondary sources, and conducting research using a variety of resources, including technology and electronic and print media. Additional skills to be taught include: (1) analyzing maps, globes, and graphic organizers; (2) creating and interpreting charts and graphs; (3) Identifying relationships; (4) debating issues; (5) posing alternative actions; and (6) developing thinking and independent study skills.

Indiana academic standards for social studies are organized around four content areas. The content area standards and the types of learning experiences they provide to students in fifth grade are described below. Skills for thinking, inquiry and participation are integrated throughout.

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The [Grade 5 Indiana Academic Standards for Social Studies](#) serve as the foundation to our curriculum for social studies instruction in Noblesville Schools. These standards are supported through grade-level curriculum maps and materials for all learners.

Units of Study

Table 1: Fifth Grade Social Studies Units of Study

Social Studies Units of Study	Learning Outcomes Learners will...	Reflective Questions that may be included within the unit:
Unit 1: Early Native Americans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and describe how Native American groups lived differently depending on their environment (Arctic, Pacific Northwest, Southwest, Plains, Woodlands). Analyze how Native Americans developed societies/cultures before contact with Europeans. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In what ways does geography impact the way that certain cultures adapt and change over time in their environment? How do people adapt to their environments? How does where you live affect how you live?
Unit 2: European Explorers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast reasons for exploration. Explore and describe the impact of European exploration on the world. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What drives and motivates exploration and settlement? What happens when cultures collide?
Unit 3: Colonial America	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the political, social, and economic similarities and differences of each colonial region (New England, Middle, Southern). Compare and contrast the reasons people began to settle in the colonies. Identify examples of conflicts and cooperation between Native Americans and colonists. Evaluate key colonial era documents to explain ideas about limited government. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why do people move? What causes variations in ways of life amongst the colonies (i.e., New England, Middle, and Southern)? How did the colonies establish an economy?



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Social Studies Units of Study	Learning Outcomes Learners will...	Reflective Questions that may be included within the unit:
Unit 4: American Revolution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the reasons colonists were upset with the British and their role in the revolution. 2. Compare and contrast reasons for and against the revolution. 3. Explain consequences of the American Revolution. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is worth fighting for? 2. Is war (conflict) necessary? 3. How do different perspectives among leadership and citizens influence conflict?
Unit 5: Today's Nation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the three branches of government and the roles and responsibilities of each branch of government. 2. Explain the checks and balances built into the U.S. Constitution. 3. Analyze situations and determine whether they are protected under the Bill of Rights. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the purpose of having a Constitution? 2. What is the balance between rights and responsibilities? 3. Why are laws needed?