

Grade 5 : THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Unifying Theme: Early Peoples of The Americas (5.1)

The first humans in the Western Hemisphere modified their physical environment as well as adapted to their environment. Their interactions with their environment led to various innovations and to the development of unique cultures.

5.1a Various forms of scientific evidence suggest that humans came to North America approximately 25,000 to 14,000 years ago and spread southward to South America.

5.1b Human populations that settled along rivers, in rainforests, along oceans, in deserts, on plains, in mountains, and in cold climates adapted to and made use of the resources and environment around them in developing distinct ways of life.

5.1c Early peoples living together in settlements developed shared cultures with customs, beliefs, values, and languages that give identity to the group. These early peoples also developed patterns of organization and governance to manage their societies.

Unifying Theme: Complex Societies and Civilizations (5.2)

Between 1100 B.C.E. and 1500 C.E, complex societies and civilizations developed in the Western Hemisphere. Although these complex societies and civilizations have certain defining characteristics in common, each is also known for unique cultural achievements and contributions.

5.2a Civilizations share certain common characteristics of religion, job specialization, cities, government, language and writing systems, technology, and social hierarchy.

5.2b Complex societies and civilizations adapted to and modified their environment to meet the needs of their people.

5.2c Political states can take different forms, such as city-states and empires. A city-state is comprised of a city with a government that controls the surrounding territory, while an empire is a political organization developed when a single, supreme authority conquers other geographic and/or cultural regions beyond its initial settlements.

Unifying Theme: European Exploration and Its Effects (5.3)

Various European powers explored and eventually colonized the Western Hemisphere. This had a profound effect on Native Americans and led to the transatlantic slave trade.

5.3a Europeans traveled to the Americas in search of new trade routes, including a northwest passage, and resources. They hoped to gain wealth, power, and glory.

5.3b Europeans encountered and interacted with Native Americans in a variety of ways.

5.3c The transatlantic trade of goods, movement of people, and spread of ideas and diseases resulted in cultural diffusion. This cultural diffusion became known as the Columbian Exchange which reshaped the lives and influenced the beliefs of people.

5.3d Africans were captured, brought to the Americas, and sold as slaves. Their transport across the Atlantic was known as the Middle Passage.

Unifying Theme: Geography in The Western Hemisphere (5.4)

The diverse geography of the Western Hemisphere has influenced human culture and settlement in distinct ways. Human communities in the Western Hemisphere have modified the physical environment.

5.4a Physical maps reflect the varied climate zones, landforms, bodies of water, and natural resources of the Western Hemisphere.

5.4b The Western Hemisphere can be divided into regions. Regions are areas that share common, identifiable characteristics such as physical, political, economic, or cultural features. Regions within the Western Hemisphere include: North America (Canada and the United States) Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America), Caribbean, and South America.

5.4c The physical environment influences human population distribution, land use, and other forms of economic activity.

Unifying Theme: Comparative Cultures (5.5)

The countries of the Western Hemisphere are diverse and the cultures of these countries are rich and varied. Due to their proximity to each other, the countries of the Western Hemisphere share some of the same concerns and issues.

5.5a The countries of the Western Hemisphere have varied characteristics and contributions that distinguish them from other countries.

5.5b. Countries in the Western Hemisphere face a variety of concerns and issues specific to the region.

Unifying Theme: Government (5.6)

The political systems of the Western Hemisphere vary in structure and organization across time and place.

5.6a Government structures, functions, and founding documents vary from place to place in the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

5.6b Legal, political, and historic documents define the values, beliefs, and principles of constitutional democracy.

5.6c Across time and place, different groups of people in the Western Hemisphere have struggled and fought for equality and civil rights or sovereignty.

5.6d Multinational organizations and nongovernmental organizations in the Western Hemisphere seek to encourage cooperation between nations, protect human rights, support economic development, and provide assistance in challenging situations.

Unifying Theme: Economics (5.7)

The peoples of the Western Hemisphere have developed various ways to meet their needs and wants. Many of the countries of the Western Hemisphere trade with each other, as well as with other countries around the world.

5.7a Different types of economic systems have developed across time and place within the Western Hemisphere. These economic systems, including traditional, market, and command, address the three economic questions: what will be produced, how it will be produced, and who will get what is produced?

5.7b Peoples of the Western Hemisphere have engaged in a variety of economic activities to meet their needs and wants.

5.7c Countries trade with other countries to meet economic needs and wants. They are interdependent.