



NYS Social Studies Framework!



Grade 5 Social Studies is an inquiry-based model focused on the history and geography of the Western Hemisphere, including the development of cultures, civilizations, and empires; interaction between societies; and the comparison of the government and economic systems of modern nations. It also incorporates elements of archaeology. The course is divided into seven Key Ideas that cover a time span from prehistory into modern times and each unit begins with an *essential question*.

★ Geography in the Western Hemisphere

- Geographic characteristics of the Western Hemisphere - *Does geography determine history?*

★ A New World Rising

- Early Inhabitants - *What makes people similar, yet unique?*

★ European Exploration and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

- Interactions between Europeans and Native Americans - *Do interactions between people always lead to positive results?*

★ Government in the Western Hemisphere

- Forms of government in the Western Hemisphere - *Does government impact the lives of people in the same way?*

★ Economics in the Western Hemisphere

- Different economic systems in the Western Hemisphere - *What are the needs and wants of the people in the Western Hemisphere and does their economic system meet those needs?*