

Social Studies

Grade 5 Social Studies is based on the history and geography of the Western Hemisphere, including the development of cultures, civilizations and empires; interactions between societies, and the comparison of the government and economic systems of modern nations. The course is divided into seven Key Ideas that cover a time span from prehistory into modern times. Each unit begins with an *essential question* that students work to answer throughout the unit.

★ 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

The impact of European exploration and settlement viewed through multiple perspectives

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?

