

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 the 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?](#)

