Course Overview

Middle School | 5 | Social Studies - *Last Updated on October 28, 2024*

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement

- Social Studies prepares the nation's young people for college, careers, and civic life.
- Inquiry is at the heart of social studies instruction which involves interdisciplinary applications, deep understandings, concepts, and skills from the disciplines.
- Young people require analytic, strategic, chronological, and critical thinking skills to prepare for participating in democratic decision-making.
- Social studies instruction directly and explicitly connects to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

Course Description

In fifth-grade Social Studies, students journey through time and space, exploring the diverse landscapes of our world and the dynamic interactions of its inhabitants. Through engaging lessons and activities, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of key concepts and events that have shaped human history and geography. The course begins with an exploration of cartography, where students will learn about the parts of a map and develop skills in map reading and interpretation. They identify of continents and understand the significance of absolute and relative location, including the functions of the prime meridian and the equator in determining coordinates on the globe. Next, students will investigate the rich tapestry of Native American cultures that thrived in North America prior to European arrival. Through studying migration patterns, lifestyles, and societal structures, students will gain insights into the diverse ways indigenous peoples adapted to and interacted with their environments. Special focus will be given to comparing and contrasting the Pueblo, Iroquois, and Plains Native American tribes, examining their unique customs, traditions, and contributions to American history.

Moving forward, students will explore the global interconnectedness facilitated by historical trade routes such as the Silk Road. They will uncover the significance of this ancient network in facilitating cultural exchange, economic prosperity, and technological innovation across continents. As the course progresses, students will delve into the Age of Exploration, examining the motivations driving European expeditions from the 1400s through the 1600s. They will study prominent explorers such as Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Ferdinand Magellan, analyzing their voyages and the ways in which they claimed land for their respective countries. The focus then shifts to European settlements established in North America by Spain, France, England, and the Netherlands. Through case studies of colonial ventures, students will explore the diverse political, economic, and cultural dynamics that shaped early American society. In the final segments of the course, students will zoom in on the development of specific colonial regions, including the New England colonies and the southern and middle colonies in the 1600s. They will analyze factors driving settlement patterns, economic activities, and social structures in each region, gaining an understanding of the complexities of colonial life.

STANDARDS

Course Overview

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Pennsylvania - Grade 5 - Geography

7.1.5.A | 7 | 7.2.5.B | 7.3.5.A | 7.2.5.A | 7.1.5.B | 7.4.5.A | 7.4.5.B

Pennsylvania - Grade 5 - History

8.3.5.A | 8.3.5.B | 8.4.5.A | 8.1.5.B | 8.3.5.D | 8.4.5.B

Pennsylvania - Grade 5 - Civics and Government

5.1 | 5.1.5.B | 5.1.5.C | 5.2.5.A | 5.2.5.B | 5.3.5.F

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives for this course are aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Common Core Standards for Social Studies outlined in the Scope and Sequence for Grade 5 Social Studies.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Below is a list of suggested strategies for high-quality instruction in Mathematics:

- Instructional components outlined in the Framework for Teaching by Charlotte Danielson
- Interactive Lectures
- Hands-on Activities
- Technology Integration
- Cooperative Learning
- Inquiry-Based Learning
- Differentiated Instruction

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RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
		Nearpod EdPuzzle Newsela