



Fifth Grade Instructional Plan for Social Studies: First Semester

Course Overview

In 5th grade Social Studies, students explore the geography, history, and foundational principles of the United States. We'll use maps, primary sources, historical documents, and engaging activities to bring the past to life and help students make connections to the present.

5th Grade Social Studies – Course Overview (Fall Semester)

Unit 1: Geography of the United States

- Learn about the major regions, landforms, and waterways of the United State
- Understand how geography influences settlement, culture, and economics
- Use maps, graphs, and tools to analyze physical and political features
- Practice reading latitude and longitude and interpreting map scales

Celebrate Freedom Week: September 15–19

- Explore the founding principles of American democracy
- Study the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution
- Engage with content from the *Lowman "American Identity"* unit to reflect on freedom, identity, and citizenship

Hispanic Heritage Month: Begins September 15- October 15

- Highlight contributions of Hispanic Americans in U.S. history and culture
- Recognize and celebrate the influence of Hispanic leaders in early American history

Unit 2: Colonial America

- Study the early colonies: reasons for settlement, daily life, and regional differences
- Learn about the interactions between Native Americans and European settlers
- Explore how geography, economy, and beliefs shaped the development of the colonies
- Connect colonial foundations to modern American society

Unit 3: American Revolution

- Learn about causes of the American Revolution, key battles, and important figures



Fifth Grade Instructional Plan for Social Studies: First Semester

- Analyze how the colonies moved from protest to independence
- Continue studying major events, people, and outcomes of the Revolutionary War
- Examine primary sources and the impact of the war on American society

Unit 4: Constitution and Government

- Understand the structure and principles of the U.S. Constitution
- Learn about the three branches of government and their responsibilities
- Discuss the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy
- Explore how the Constitution reflects the beliefs and goals of the Founding Fathers

Contact Information

Teacher Name: Brandi Madison

Email: Brandi.Madison@midlandisd.net

Phone: 432-240-7600

Classroom Expectations

Our classroom is a safe learning place, which encourages teamwork, positive feedback, and academic achievement. All students will be respectful to others. We will be good listeners to the teacher and to other's ideas. All students will be hard working contributors in the process of getting their education in order to be successful and reach their full potential.

Expectation 1: Be respectful

- Use appropriate voice level
- Raise your hand, and wait your turn to speak
- Listen to all instructions and directions
- Stay in your seat and wait for teacher permission

Expectation 2: Be responsible

- Complete all assigned tasks
- Be prepared: Have all necessary materials

Expectation 3: Be safe

- Always keep your hands and feet to self
- Walk at all times
- Report problems to an adult

Expectation 4: Be ready to learn and try your best every day

- Come to class on time
- Prioritize daily attendance

Positive reinforcement and clear routines will help students learn and meet these expectations. If expectations are not met, the teacher will first reteach and remind the student(s) of expectations. If a student continues to fail to meet expectations, they will be redirected, then



Fifth Grade Instructional Plan for Social Studies: First Semester

parents will be contacted. If a student is unable to meet expectations after these preventative measures, an office referral will be made.

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular attendance is vital to your child's academic development. Third grade is a pivotal year in reading - students move from learning to read to reading to learn. When students attend daily, they stay current with new skills, deepening their knowledge of the world, develop thinking skills, and practice important habits that support lifelong learning.

Please notify the school if your child will be absent. Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

Course Resources

- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD)
- Journals and writing utensils (part of the school supply list)

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

Teachers are expected to use a variety of types of student work performance to assess student achievement. The teacher should choose those which are most appropriate to the class, the students, and the TEKS/SEs under study.

Students will receive minor assignment feedback within three to five school days. Major assignments such as research projects, group projects, and research papers or other long-term projects shall receive a final cumulative grade within ten school days. However, the teacher shall award interim minor assessment grades for individual steps in the process.

Major assignments - 40% Minor assignments - 60% which may include homework; however, homework may not constitute more than one fourth of the minor assessment summative grade.

Class DoJo (School-wide System of Communication)

Our campus uses ClassDoJo to communicate with families. Please ensure you join our class for important updates.

Behavior Monitoring: PBIS App

In our class, we use the PBIS Rewards app to recognize positive behavior and academic effort. Students can earn points for meeting expectations such as being prepared, participating, showing respect, and working hard. Points can be redeemed for rewards and privileges. This system helps us build a positive classroom culture where everyone feels encouraged to do their best.



Fifth Grade Instructional Plan for Social Studies: First Semester

Major and minor office referrals for negative behavior will be documented through this app as well. Any communication about behavior issues will be communicated through class DoJo.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.

We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in Third Grade Reading Language Arts. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____