

Elementary

K - 5

K-5 Overview of Scope and Sequence

The k-5 Social Studies scope and sequence is intended to serve as a suggested guide for teachers, aligning with the 2024 adopted Alaska Social Studies Standards. Its purpose is to support instructional planning across grade levels while ensuring the development of essential knowledge and skills in history, government, geography, and culture. Additionally, the scope and sequence is designed to promote cross-curricular integration by offering opportunities to connect social studies content with other core subjects to strengthen student learning.

Kindergarten: Me and My World

Kindergarten learners will understand that the world is made up of diverse groups and places, which can change over time. They will recognize how individuals, including themselves and their classmates, can contribute positively as group members and citizens. Learners will engage in decision-making related to wants and needs and explore the importance of rules and appropriate behavior through discussion and practice.

First Grade: My Place in My World

First grade learners will explore families and schools from the past and present, gaining an understanding of how they have changed over time. They will compare their own experiences with those of earlier generations to build historical awareness. Through discussions of civic issues at school, students will learn about rules, fairness, and group decision-making. They will also develop basic geographic and historical skills by creating and using simple maps and timelines.

Second Grade: My Local Community

In second grade, students explore community through the lens of social studies. Their Fairbanks community will serve as a framework to introduce key domains: history, geography, civics, economics, and government. Students will investigate how people, places, geography, and historical events have shaped their local area, while also learning about local government and current issues.

Third Grade: Alaska's Past, Present, and Future

In third grade, students explore Alaska's past, present, and future. Students will learn about the state's diverse cultures, and regions through the study of its history, geography, civics, economics, and government. Learning will focus on Alaska's Indigenous cultures, understanding how people first came to Alaska, the U.S. purchase, and the journey to statehood. Students will analyze the historical and contemporary impact of natural resources on Alaska's people and economy.

Fourth Grade: U.S. Cultures and Regions

Fourth-grade students will build foundational knowledge in U.S. geography, including continents, oceans, and regional characteristics, while integrating Alaska Native perspectives. They will explore civic and financial responsibilities, examining how rules, decision-making, and economic choices impact communities. Through an inquiry-based approach, students will develop essential skills such as

questioning, using disciplinary tools, analyzing sources, and communicating informed conclusions, preparing them for active, responsible citizenship and continued social studies learning.

Fifth Grade: Foundations and History of the U.S.

Fifth grade learners will deepen their understanding of the United States' place in the world by exploring geography, government, history, civics, and economics. They will study continents and oceans using both relative and absolute location, gain new perspectives on the polar regions, and consider how geography shapes our global relationships. Students will examine the foundations of the U.S. government, including how it functions today and ways individuals can participate in civic life. They will also explore early U.S. history, focusing on European colonization, interactions with Indigenous peoples, and the development of democratic principles that continue to shape our nation. Additionally, learners will develop a foundational understanding of economics, including how money works and how economic systems connect with culture, society, and the environment. This broad overview prepares students for a more in-depth study of U.S. history in eighth grade.