Elementary Social Studies
5th Grade Public Overview

5th Grade Social Studies
1st 9 Weeks
Assessments MAP Growth Math 9/3/26 MAP Growth Reading 9/10/26 MAP Growth Science 9/16/26

What are we learning? How can I help at home?
Unit 1: U.S. Geography **Essential Question:** • What defines a region? • What influences where people live? • Do the benefits of human modification outweigh the costs? **Timeline:** 8/11 – 9/4 **Priority Standards:** 5.6A, 5.6B, 5.6C, 5.6D, 5.7B, 5.8A, 5.8B, 5.12A, 5.16D Link to TEKS Content Unit Overview: This unit is important because it incorporates knowledge and skills that are essential to being a productive citizen. In the 1st concept, students will learn about the 50 States and the regions. As part of the focus on this knowledge, students will explore why it is important to have knowledge of places in our country. In the 2nd concept, students will learn about geographic factors that influence settlement and population distribution. In the 3rd concept, students will learn how people have adapted to and modified the environment. Throughout this unit, students will apply map skills such as using a compass rose, scale, and legend. This unit will help prepare students for 6th grade where they apply their geography knowledge and skills to a world focus. At-Home Connection: • Pick a state on a map and name its region together. • Talk about why people might have chosen to live in your town (water, land, jobs). • Point out one way people adapt to the environment (like using AC) or change it (like building roads). • Have your child use a map to show north, read a symbol, or estimate a distance.
Unit 2: European Colonization of North America (includes Celebrate Freedom Week) **Essential Questions:** • How do different groups experience the same event? • How do you establish a new community?

- How does the geographic region you live in affect your life?

Timeline: 9/8 – 10/8
Priority Standards: 5.1A, 5.1B, 5.6A, 5.7B, 5.9A, 5.9B, 5.10A, 5.12A, 5.12B, 5.13A, 5.13B
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit is important because students will learn about early American history through the study of explorers, settlements, and colonies. First, students will learn about important explorers of North America with a particular emphasis on why Europeans were searching the continent. This concept will focus on the Spanish in North America, and students will learn about St. Augustine. From there, they will learn about other countries who created settlements in America. Leaders and the system of government in Jamestown and Plymouth will be a focus in this concept. Lastly, students will learn about how America grew to become 13 Colonies. In this concept, students will compare and contrast the various colonial regions. This unit will form a strong foundation in early American history, which is crucial to understanding the next unit on the American Revolution.

At-Home Connection:

- Ask your child why Europeans explored North America and have them name one explorer they learned about.
- Look up a quick picture of St. Augustine and talk about why the Spanish built a settlement there.
- Ask your child to explain one difference between Jamestown and Plymouth and to name a leader from each settlement.
- Pick two colonial regions (New England, Middle, Southern) and have your child share one way they were different.

2nd 9 Weeks

Assessments

Social Studies DLA 1 (12/7 – 12/11)

Unit 3: Creation of the United States

Essential Questions:

- What causes change?
- How can a small army defeat a mighty army?
- What are the outcomes of war?

Timeline: 10/19 – 11/13
Priority Standards: 5.2A, 5.2B, 5.2C, 5.14A, 5.20A, 5.20B
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit is important because students will learn about how America changed from colonies to an independent country. In the 1st concept, students will learn about the causes of the American Revolution with a focus on the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party. In the 2nd concept, they will focus on

important events during the war such as the winter at Valley Forge. In the last concept, students will learn about the Treaty of Paris as well as complete a culminating activity where they create a timeline of the American Revolution. This unit sets the stage for the next two units. First, it leads nicely into the fact that after a society creates their country, then they must create a government to manage their independent country. It also leads to the unit on Westward Expansion as this unit ends with America growing to the Mississippi River.

At-Home Connection:

- Ask your child to explain why the colonists were upset, using the Boston Massacre or Boston Tea Party as an example.
- Look at a quick picture of Valley Forge and talk about what made the winter there so difficult for soldiers.
- Ask your child what the Treaty of Paris did and how it changed America's boundaries.
- Have your child name three major events from the American Revolution in the order they happened

Unit 4: Building the Government of the United States

Essential Questions:

- What should be the goal of government?
- What is the duty of individuals in a democracy?
- What helps governments endure?

Timeline: 11/16 – 12/18
Priority Standards: 5.3, 5.14B, 5.14C, 5.15A, 5.15B, 5.15C, 5.16A, 5.16D, 5.17A, 5.17C, 5.17B, 5.18A, 5.18B, 5.19
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This is an important unit because students should be taught at an early age to be an engaged citizen, and in order to do that, they need to be aware of the basic history and structure of our government. Students will first learn about the failures of the Articles of Confederation and the creation of the Constitution that came as a result. This will lead to a study of the purpose of the Constitution which is outlined in the Preamble. As part of the study of the Constitution, students will learn about the three branches of government and the relationship between national and state governments. The last part of this unit will focus on amendments to the Constitution, namely the Bill of Rights and how those rights still affect our lives today. This unit will help students in other units as government is a theme throughout the year, and it will also help in 8th grade where knowledge of the Constitution and our government are important.

At-Home Connection:

- Ask your child why the Articles of Confederation didn't work well for the new nation.
- Read the first line of the Preamble together and talk about what the Constitution is meant to do.
- Have your child explain one job of each branch of government or how state and national governments share responsibilities.

- Pick one right from the Bill of Rights and talk about how people still use that right in everyday life.

3rd 9 weeks

Assessments

NWEA MAP Growth Math MOY (1/21)
NWEA MAP Growth Reading MOY (1/28)
NWEA MAP Growth Science MOY (2/3)

Unit 5: Expanding the United States

Essential Questions:

- What impact does exploration have on a society?
- What do works of art have to do with the past?
- How do different groups experience the same event?

Timeline: 1/6 – 1/29
Priority Standards: 5.4A, 5.4C, 5.4F, 5.8A, 5.12C, 5.20A, 5.20B, 5.22B
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

In this unit, students will first learn about key events in Westward Expansion such as the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Students will also learn about reasons why people moved west as well as challenges, opportunities, and contributions of various American Indian and immigrant groups. In addition, students will learn about the War of 1812 and the Star-Spangled Banner as that happened during this time period. This unit will help students to better understand the causes to the Civil War as at the same time our country was expanding it was also becoming more divided.

At-Home Connection:

- Ask your child why the Louisiana Purchase was important and how it changed the size of the United States.
- Look at a map of the Lewis and Clark route and talk about what they were trying to discover.
- Ask why people moved west and have your child share one challenge or contribution of American Indian or immigrant groups.
- Listen to or look at the Star-Spangled Banner and talk about how the War of 1812 fits into the story of America growing and changing.

Unit 6: A Divided United States

Essential Questions:

- Why do conflicts develop?
- How does war affect society?
- What are the outcomes of war?

Timeline: 2/1 – 2/26
Priority Standards: 5.4B, 5.4D, 5.7B, 5.11B, 5.12A, 5.12B, 5.18B, 5.22A, 5.22C
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit is important because the Civil War and its effects shape the country we live in today. Students will start this unit by analyzing the sequence of events that led to the Civil War. Students will then learn about the war itself where they will read various primary sources such as the Gettysburg Address. The last part of the unit will focus on reconstruction with an emphasis on the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. In the last concept, students will learn about the convict leasing system here in Fort Bend County and about the Sugar Land 95. This unit will form a strong foundation for when students learn about the Civil War again in 8th grade.

At-Home Connection:

- Ask your child to name one or two events that increased tensions between the North and South before the Civil War.
- Read a short excerpt from the Gettysburg Address together and discuss what Lincoln was trying to remind the nation of.
- Have your child explain what the 13th, 14th, or 15th Amendments did and why they were important after the war.
- Talk about one way the Civil War or Reconstruction still affects life in the United States now.

Unit 7: Growth and Change in the United States

Essential Questions:

- What causes growth and change?
- How does immigration shape our country?
- What impact does economic growth have?

Timeline: 3/1 – 4/2 (4 days in GP3 and 14 days in GP4)
Priority Standards: 5.4F, 5.10B, 5.10C, 5.11A, 5.11B, 5.12D, 5.16A, 5.22A, 5.22C
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit picks up with the changes that were emerging as part of the Industrial Revolution before the Civil War. After the Civil War, changes that resulted from the industrial revolution intensified. In the 1st concept, students will learn about important inventors, inventions, and big business. The focus will be on the impact of the various technological innovation. Next, the focus will be on immigration where students will learn about the immigrant experiences from five different places. In the last concept, students will learn about the frontier with an emphasis on the settlement in those states during this time and the impact it had on American Indians. Students will be able to build on the knowledge and skills they learn in this unit when they are in 6th grade and the focus is on World Cultures.

At-Home Connection:

- Ask your child to share one invention from this time period and how it changed everyday life.
- Have your child explain why people came to the United States and describe one challenge immigrants faced.
- Look at a map of western states and talk about why people settled there during this period.
- Ask your child to describe one way westward settlement affected American Indian communities.

4th 9 Weeks

Assessments

STAAR RLA (4/12 – 4/14)
STAAR Science (4/19 - 4/20)
STAAR Math (4/26-4/28)
MAP Growth Math EOY (5/6)
MAP Growth Reading EOY (5/13)
MAP Growth Science EOY (5/20)
Social Studies DLA 2 (5/10 – 5/21)

Unit 8: Challenges at Home and Abroad for the United States

Essential Questions:

- What causes change?
- What impact does an economic crisis have?
- Can one event change things forever?

Timeline: 4/5 – 5/3
Priority Standards: 5.5A, 5.5C, 5.12D
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit is important because it gives students an overview of the first half of the 20th Century and how those events shaped the country we live in today. This unit starts off by learning about the significance of WWI and about the contributions of women in creating the 19th Amendment. From there, students will learn about how American life was affected by the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. In the last concept, students will learn about the significance of WWII and important individuals and groups during the war. The content covered in this unit will form the foundation for students' understanding of the previous century in American history, which won't be studied again until high school.

At-Home Connection:

- Look at a photo of WWI soldiers or equipment and talk about how this war changed life in America.
- Point out something in daily life (voting signs, news stories, leaders) and discuss how the 19th Amendment made it possible for women to participate fully in democracy.
- Compare a modern grocery store or job to what life was like during the Great Depression or Dust Bowl.
- Choose one WWII figure or group your child learned about and talk together about how they helped shape the outcome of the war.

Unit 9: Post WWII to Today in the United States

Essential Questions:

- What are effective methods for creating social change?
- Why do conflicts develop between nations?
- What determines the lasting impact of events?

Timeline: 5/4 – 5/27
Priority Standards: 5.5A, 5.5B, 5.5C, 5.10B, 5.10C, 5.11A, 5.12D, 5.22A, 5.22B, 5.22C
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit is important because it focuses on the most recent American history and goes right up until the present. Students will learn about two major events that came about following the end of WWII – the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War. For each of those concepts, students will explain the significance of each event and identify the accomplishments of key individuals such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ronald Reagan. In the last concept, students will learn and think about the lasting impact of significant events thus far in the 21st Century.

At-Home Connection:

- Look at a photo of a Civil Rights march or speech and talk about why people were demanding change.
- Choose a well-known figure like Martin Luther King Jr. or Ronald Reagan and discuss one accomplishment your child learned about.
- Point out something from everyday life (technology, space exploration, global news) and talk about how it connects back to the tensions of the Cold War era.
- Have your child share one major event from the 21st century and explain how it still affects life in America today.