

Welcome to EMS Elementary Social Studies!

Throughout the school year, students will explore the history of the United States from early exploration and colonization through the growth and development of our nation. Through reading, discussion, inquiry, and the analysis of maps, primary sources, and historical events, students will develop an understanding of how the actions and decisions of the past continue to shape America today.

General Ways to Reinforce Learning outside the Classroom		
What Will My Child Learn?	Conversation Starters	Learning Support Ideas
• Develop skills for reading and analyzing maps, graphs, photographs, and primary sources. • Explore how geography, history, economics, government, and culture shape communities and societies. • Practice critical thinking by asking questions, gathering evidence, and drawing conclusions. • Make connections between historical events and the world today. • Build civic responsibility by examining the roles and responsibilities of citizens.	• What did you investigate in social studies today? • What new map, source, or historical artifact did you examine? • How does what you learned connect to the world today? • What surprised you most about today's lesson? • What questions do you still have about the topic?	• Discuss local, state, national, and world events. • Encourage your child to explain what they learned using evidence from class. • Explore maps, atlases, and geography tools together. • Visit museums, historic sites, parks, or cultural events when possible. • Read informational articles and books related to topics studied in class.

The Grade 5 social studies curriculum is organized around major events, people, and ideas that influenced the development of the United States. Students will explore exploration and colonization, the American Revolution, the formation of the federal government, and the challenges and opportunities that accompanied the nation's growth. The information below provides an overview of the topics students will study throughout the year, along with questions and activities families can use to support learning at home.

Unit 1: Exploration and Colonization		
What Will My Child Learn?	Conversation Starters	Learning Support Ideas
Students will: • Examine the reasons Europeans explored and settled North America. • Compare the experiences of different colonial regions. • Investigate interactions among Native Americans, settlers, and explorers. • Explore how geography influenced settlement patterns.	• Why did explorers come to North America? • What challenges did early settlers face? • How did geography influence where colonies developed? • How did interactions between settlers and Native Americans affect history? • How were the colonies similar and different?	• Explore maps of the original thirteen colonies. • Discuss reasons people move to new places. • Read historical fiction or informational texts about colonial life. • Compare daily life in colonial America to life today. • Encourage your child to explain how geography influenced settlement.

Unit 2: American Revolution		
What Will My Child Learn?	Conversation Starters	Learning Support Ideas
Students will: - Analyze the causes of the American Revolution. - Examine important events and turning points of the war. - Learn about leaders who influenced the fight for independence. - Explore the principles of freedom and self-government.	- Why did some colonists want independence from Great Britain? - What events led to the American Revolution? - Who were some important leaders during the Revolution? - What sacrifices did people make during the fight for independence? - Why is the Declaration of Independence important?	- Discuss the meaning of freedom and individual rights. - Explore famous people and events from the Revolutionary era. - Create a simple timeline of important events. - Visit historical websites or museums related to the Revolution. - Encourage your child to explain the causes and effects of key events.
Unit 3: Constitution and the New Nation		
What Will My Child Learn?	Conversation Starters	Learning Support Ideas
Students will: - Investigate how the United States government was created. - Explore the Constitution and its importance today. - Learn about the three branches of government. - Examine how citizens participate in a democracy.	- Why was the Constitution created? - What are the three branches of government? - How does the government help protect citizens' rights? - Why is civic participation important? - How does the Constitution affect us today?	- Discuss family rules and why rules are important. - Follow a current event involving government decisions. - Identify examples of civic responsibility in everyday life. - Explore national symbols and their meanings. - Encourage your child to explain how the branches of government work together.
Unit 4: Expansion, Conflict and Change		
What Will My Child Learn?	Conversation Starters	Learning Support Ideas
Students Will: - Explore westward expansion and its effects on the nation. - Investigate how geography influenced growth and settlement. - Examine major challenges and changing perspectives in U.S. history. - Analyze how historical events continue to shape America today.	- Why did people move west? - How did westward expansion affect different groups of people? - What challenges did the growing nation face? - How did geography influence the growth of the United States? - How have historical events shaped America today?	- Examine maps showing the growth of the United States over time. - Discuss how transportation and technology have changed. - Visit museums, historic sites, or national parks when possible. - Read biographies of influential Americans. - Encourage your child to connect historical events to the world today.