

Grade Five History and Social Science Overview . . .

In this unit students in grade 5 study the history of the United States from its origin as colonies through the Civil War. History, geography, civics and economics are woven together in a study of the colonial period, the causes and course of the American Revolution, the growth of the new republic, the formation of a new government. We examine the issue of slavery, the causes, course, and impact of the Civil War and the fight for civil rights following the war.

Throughout the year, students will draw on a variety of resources including informational and fiction texts, primary sources, maps and available media to inform their understanding of the topics studied. They will apply and expand upon their reading and writing skills to access information and will demonstrate understanding through written work, projects, and hand-on and interactive activities.

Units of Study: In order to strengthen students' skills for informed citizenship and participation, history and literacy standards are woven together in each of the following units.

Early Colonization and The Growth of the Colonies: In this unit of study, students learn about the European founding of the colonies, and the geography and natural resources of the various colonial regions. Turning to the lives of the colonists, students learn about their daily lives, including their occupations and economic life, religious traditions, involvement in government and culture. We also examine the colonists' interactions with indigenous peoples and conflicts that arose between English settlers and settlers from other European countries.

Reasons for Revolution: The Revolution, the Revolutionary War and the Formation of Government: In this unit of study, students will study the growing tensions between the colonies and England, learning about the important people and events that led to war as well as the important figures in the Revolutionary War, and the major battles and turning points in the war. We focus on important documents such as Common Sense and the Declaration of Independence.

Principles of United States Government: In this unit of study, students will learn Civics. Students learn about the first colonial governments, and study the US Constitution extensively.

The Growth of the Republic: In this unit of study, students learn about the first three US Presidents and their significant accomplishments, including the Louisiana Purchase and the explorations of Lewis and Clark. They study the causes of the War of 1812 and analyze its impact on the new nation. Finally, students trace the development and growth of industry and trade in the US.

Slavery, the Legacy of the Civil War, and the Struggle for Civil Rights For All: In this unit of study, students also grapple with the issue of slavery. They learn about the conditions enslaved people lived under, and the work of Abolitionists to end the practice. We study how the question of slavery and states' rights led to the Civil War and study the important people on both sides of the battle, and significant events in the war. We conclude our year by learning about the conditions of formerly enslaved individuals after the Civil War, and the beginnings of the movement for equal rights for all.