

Curriculum for: **Social Studies**

GRADE 5

The grade 5 social studies program stresses geographic, economic, and cultural understandings related to the United States, Canada, and nations in Latin America today. These perspectives build on and reinforce historic and political content about the United States included in the grade 4 social studies program.

Topics at the fifth grade level include:

- History of the United States, Canada and Latin America
- The contribution of the different ethnic, national and religious groups
- Key turning points and events in the histories of Canada, Latin America and the United States
- Industrial growth, urbanization and development in the Western Hemisphere
- Geography of the United States, Canada and Latin America
- Maps and other geographic representations
- How political boundaries change over time
- Human actions and their affect on geography
- The economies of the United States, Canada and Latin America
- Concepts such as scarcity, supply and demand, markets, resources, productivity and opportunity costs
- The interdependence of North, Central and South America, as well as the global community
- How technology has influenced the standard of living in the Western Hemisphere
- The governments of the United States, Canada and Latin America
- How constitutions, rules, and laws are developed in democratic societies
- How legal, political and historic documents define the values, beliefs and principles of constitutional democracy
- How the roles of citizenship are defined by different constitutions in the Western Hemisphere

GRADE 6

The grade 6 social studies program emphasizes the interdependence of all people, keying on the Eastern Hemisphere. The grade 6 program focuses on a social science perspective emphasizing the interaction of geography and economics. The core disciplines of geography and economics are used to develop and draw relationships and understanding about social, political and historic aspects of life in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Topics at the sixth grade level include:

- History of the Eastern Hemisphere nations
- The Neolithic Revolution and its impact on human development
- Religions and other belief systems
- The river valley civilizations
- The contributions of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance
- Geography of Eastern Hemisphere nations
- Geographic features and climatic conditions in the Eastern Hemisphere influence land use
- The migration of people has led to cultural diffusion
- The environment is affected by people as they interact with it
- Economies of Eastern Hemisphere nations
- The way resources are used impact the economic, political and historic aspects of life
- Different economic systems have evolved to deal with economic decision making
- The decision making process in market and command economies
- Governments of Eastern Hemisphere nations
- Governments change over time and place

GRADE 7

Social Studies in grade 7 focuses on a chronological study of the history of the United States and New York State's role within it. The seventh grade course traces United States history, including the political, geographic, economic and social trends

from the early Native Americans to the Civil War.

Topics at the seventh grade level include:

- The Iroquois nations of New York State
- European exploration and settlement of North America
- Social history of colonial America
- The causes of the American Revolution
- The articles of Confederation
- The constitution of the United States and the Constitution of New York State
- The new government and the new nation
- The presidency of Andrew Jackson
- The division of the United States and the causes of the Civil War

GRADE 8

Social studies in grade 8 continues the chronological study of the history of the United States that was begun in grade 7. The eighth grade course traces United States history, including the political, geographic, economic and social trends, from the Civil War to the present.

Beginning in June of 2001, all eighth graders in the State of New York will be taking the new state Social Studies Exam. This test will evaluate the students' performance at the seventh and eighth grade levels in social studies, as well as predict future performance on state Regents exams in high school.

Basic knowledge of the history of the United States and New York State will be tested and students will be asked to apply and interpret this knowledge. In addition to multiple choice questions, students will be asked to interpret, in writing: historical quotes, maps, charts, etc. They will also be expected to use and analyze historical primary source documents.

Topics at the eighth grade level include:

- Results of the Civil War
- Industrialization
- The Progressive Movement
- The United States Expansionism
- World War I, Roaring 20's
- Great Depression, World War II
- United States in the Cold War
- The United States in the 20th Century