

GRADE 5 SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 5 social studies is a continuation of the chronological study of American history from fourth grade. Students learn about the American Revolution, the development of the Constitution, and important turning points in American history. Students also study the disciplines of geography, civics, culture, and economics in relation to historical eras and today's events.

Unit One Citizens in Action: The Colonies Revolt

Chronology: 1763-1783 and Today

Major knowledge, skills, and concepts:

- Individual responsibilities and rights, and the importance of civic participation
- The functions of the three branches and three levels of government
- Timeline of turning points of great change in United States history
- British government actions that caused colonists to protest and the variety of viewpoints taken concerning the British actions
- The meaning of symbols and slogans created by colonists in favor of developing an independent nation
- The significance and key points of the Declaration of Independence as well as the people and events associated with the writing of this important document
- Significant leaders and the role of individuals in the Revolution
- Differences between the British and colonial armies and strategies and turning points of the war
- Obstacles and challenges colonists faced as they worked for independence

Unit Two: Economics: Creating a New Nation

Chronology: 1783-1800 and Today

Major knowledge, skills, and concepts:

- The fundamentals of economics and the role of the economy in supporting a successful, democratic government
- The weakness of the Articles of Confederation in organizing a new government and maintaining the gains of the Revolution
- The significance and key points of The United States Constitution, including The Bill of Rights, as well as the people and events associated with the writing and adoption of the present form of government in the United States
- Tests of the stability and flexibility of the United States Constitution in the Washington administration

Unit Three: The Evolving Country and Constitution

Chronology: Overview 1800 – Present

Major knowledge, skills, and concepts:

- Geography review of Maryland and the United States
- Investigation of the remaining regional/geographic cultures of the United States

- The historic chronology of settling the nation and redefining “The West”
- Transportation systems’ impact on settlement patterns in the United States
- Political, economic, and social movements that developed with the growing nation
- The historic chronology of changes in the Constitution