

## Grade 5

**Grade 5 Social Studies** is based on the history and geography of the Western Hemisphere, including the development of cultures, civilizations, and empires, interaction between societies, and the comparison of the government and economic systems of modern nations. It also incorporates elements of some of the social sciences. The course is divided into eight Key Ideas that cover a time span from prehistory into modern times.

### ***GEOGRAPHY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE:***

5.1 The diverse geography of the Western Hemisphere has influenced human culture and settlement in distinct ways. Human communities in the Western Hemisphere have modified the physical environment.

5.1a Physical maps reflect the varied climate zones, landforms, bodies of water, and natural resources of the Western Hemisphere.

5.1b The Western Hemisphere can be divided into regions. Regions are areas that share common identifiable characteristics such as physical, political, economic, or cultural features. Regions within the Western Hemisphere include:

§ North America (Canada and the United States)

§ Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America)

§ Caribbean

§ South America

5.1c The physical environment influences human population distribution, land use, and other forms of economic activity.

### ***EARLY PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS***

5.2 The first humans in the Western Hemisphere modified their physical environment as well as adapted to their environment. Their interactions with their environment led to various innovations and to the development of unique cultures.

5.2a Various forms of scientific evidence suggest that humans came to North America approximately 25,000 to 14,000 years ago and spread southward to South America.

### ***COMPLEX SOCIETIES AND CIVILIZATIONS***

5.3 Between 1100 BCE and 1500 CE, complex societies and civilizations developed in the Western Hemisphere. Although these complex societies and civilizations have certain defining characteristics in common, each is also known for unique cultural achievements and contributions.

5.3a Civilizations share certain common characteristics of religion, job specialization, cities, government, language and writing systems, technology, and social hierarchy.

5.3b Complex societies and civilizations adapted to and modified their environment to meet the needs of their people.

5.3c Political states can take different forms such as city-states and empires. A city-state is comprised of a city with a government that controls the surrounding territory, while an empire is a political organization developed when a single supreme authority takes control over other geographic and/or cultural regions beyond its initial settlements.

## **EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND ITS EFFECTS**

5.4 Various European powers explored and eventually colonized the Western Hemisphere. This had a profound impact on Native Americans and led to the transatlantic slave trade.

5.4a Europeans traveled to the Americas in search of new trade routes, including a northwest passage, and resources. They hoped to gain wealth, power, and glory.

5.4b Europeans encountered and interacted with Native Americans in a variety of ways.

5.4c The transatlantic trade of goods, movement of people, and spread of ideas and diseases resulted in cultural diffusion. This cultural diffusion became known as the Columbian Exchange and reshaped the lives and beliefs of people.

5.4d Africans were captured, brought to the Americas, and sold as slaves because laborers were needed. Their transport across the Atlantic was known as the Middle Passage.

## **INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS:**

5.5 Beginning in the late 18th century, independence movements took place in the Western Hemisphere for a variety of reasons. These independence movements and their outcomes varied by location.

5.5a In some areas of the Western Hemisphere the desire for independence led to political revolutions.

## **GOVERNMENT**

5.6 The political systems of the Western Hemisphere vary in structure and organization across time and place.

5.6a Government structures vary from place to place, as do the structure and functions of governments in the countries of the Western Hemisphere today.

5.6b Legal, political, and historic documents define the values, beliefs, and principles of constitutional democracy.

5.6c Across time and place, different groups of people have struggled and fought for equality and civil rights using different means, and the sources of power and authority in Western Hemisphere nations have responded to issues of justice and inequality with different approaches.

## ECONOMICS

5.7 The people of the Western Hemisphere have developed various ways to meet their needs and wants. Many of the countries of the Western Hemisphere trade with each other as well as with other countries around the world.

5.7a Peoples of the Western Hemisphere have engaged in a variety of economic activities to meet their needs and wants.

5.7b Countries trade with other countries to meet economic needs and wants. They are interdependent.

5.7c Different types of economic systems have developed across time and place within the Western Hemisphere. These economic systems include traditional, market, and command which address the three economic questions: what will be produced, how it will be produced, and who will get what is produced?

## COMPARATIVE CULTURES

5.8 The populations of the countries of the Western Hemisphere are diverse and the cultures of these countries are rich and varied. The nations of the Western Hemisphere have been participated in and benefited from international organizations that promote cultural understanding, peace and cooperation.

5.8a The populations of the countries of the Western Hemisphere are diverse and varied.

5.8b The countries of the Western Hemisphere have unique characteristics and achievements that distinguish them from other countries.

5.8c Multinational organizations and non-governmental organizations in the Western Hemisphere seek to activity encourage cooperation between nations, protect human rights, support economic development and provide assistance in challenging situations.