

Fifth Grade Curriculum Guide for Parents Social Studies

The grade 5 program stresses geographic, economic and social/cultural understandings related to 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.

The following concepts will be applied to the study of the United States, Canada and Latin America.

I. Exploration and Encounter

- A. Geography: regions, landforms, physical setting, natural resources, map skills, natural boundaries/challenges
- B. Migration
- C. Explorers: (ex. Lewis and Clark, Hudson, Cortez, Pizarro)
- D. Indigenous People: customs, ideas, beliefs, languages, own point of view/perspectives, traditions (ex. Native Americans)
- E. Effects of Mix: (ex. Enslavement of Native Americans by colonists, conflict between French and English, class system created separating Spanish/Mestizos/Native Americans)

II. Developing Country

- A. Key turning points: (ex. Westward Expansion, conflicts with European control)
- B. Historical figures/groups: (ex. Harriet Tubman, English monarchy, Santa Ana)
- C. Cultural Exchange: immigration, segregation, prejudice, multicultural people
- D. Government: (ex. Revolutionary War, British North American Act).
- E. Economics: Natural resources, importing/exporting, production, distribution, exchange, consumption, labor, exchange of technology/science

III. Civics of Today

- A. Patriotic Celebrations: (ex. Martin Luther King Day, Victoria Day, Cinco de Mayo)

B. International Organizations: promotion of peace, economic development, cultural understanding (ex. United Nations)