

Fifth Grade Social Studies Overview
“Expanding Horizons: Exploration, Ideals & Colonization”

Overarching Objective: In fifth grade, students will understand the ways in which exploration, colonization, and the quest for “independence” have shaped the United States and the modern world.

By the end of fifth grade, students should know the answers to the following overarching questions:

Essential Questions:

1. Why do individuals, governments, and nations explore new ideas and new territories?
2. Why was the experience of American colonial life and culture unique? How did colonization, slavery, and regionalism shape the current U.S.?
3. Was the American Revolution a justified war for freedom or was it an act of heresy and treason? Why?
4. In what ways does the Constitution reflect American ideals and values? In what way is the Constitution a “bundle of compromises?”
5. What are our duties as American citizens?
6. What have been the effects of “Manifest Destiny” upon the United States?

Unit	Explorers (September- October)	Colonization (November)	Revolution, Independence, & the New Nation (December- February)	American Constitution (March-Mid- May)	Westward Movement (Mid-May- June)
<p>Core Activities</p> <p><i>(use of webquests is encouraged when available)</i></p>	<p>Use primary & secondary sources to acquire, synthesize, analyze information about explorers and exploration</p> <p>Use a map to show different exploratory routes</p> <p>Create timelines</p> <p>Research and write a report on an aspect of exploration</p> <p>Use graphic organizers to compare and contrast information on exploration</p> <p>Read & write</p>	<p>Use primary & secondary sources to acquire, synthesize, analyze information about colonization</p> <p>Use and interpret maps to identify colonies and the colonial regions</p> <p>Read biographies, journals, autobiographies of historical figures during the colonial era</p> <p>Graphic organizers to compare and contrast colonial governments</p>	<p>Use primary & secondary sources to acquire, synthesize, analyze information about the Revolution and the new nation</p> <p>Discuss/write about evolving political, economic, social contexts for Revolution</p> <p>Presentation on important events that led up to the Revolution (Stamp Act, taxes, Boston Tea Party)</p> <p>Convene as the classroom Continental Congress</p>	<p>Use primary & secondary sources, to acquire, synthesize, analyze information about the American Constitution</p> <p>Use graphic organizers to deconstruct Mayflower Compact, Articles of Confederation and the Constitution</p> <p>Read biographies of framers of the Constitution (Franklin, Adams)</p> <p>Read, discuss, & write about Constitution</p>	<p>Use primary & secondary sources to acquire, synthesize, & analyze information about westward expansion</p> <p>Use and interpret maps to show land acquisitions by the U.S. Government (Louisiana Purchase etc.) to achieve Manifest Destiny and reach the Pacific Coast</p> <p>Retell the story of Sacagawea and Lewis and Clark or write a narrative from their</p>

	about effects of colonization on Native peoples	<p>Model colonial life through hands-on activities such as a colonial craft day, model of Jamestown or Plymouth</p> <p>Invite a colonial reenactment specialist OR reenact colonial figures or events in the classroom</p>	<p>Conduct a debate between “Patriots” and “Tories” about the pros and cons of separating from England</p> <p>Class writes its own Declaration of Independence</p>	<p>Break class into the three branches of government to research, investigate, and present how each branch functions</p>	<p>points of view</p> <p>Read & respond to literature pr true stories written about the period (Little House on the Prairie, Sarah Plain and Tall, Abraham Lincoln biography, etc.)</p>
<p>District Unit Assessment Every 5th grade student will complete a writing portfolio that includes all writing assessments; used for final grade & examination of student work</p>	Essay on ways in which age of exploration changed the world	Journal entries from perspective of colonial figure, child at the time, etc.	Position essay (revolutionary ideas/colonial allegiances)	In small groups, write & present on how life would be different without Constitutional amendments	Document-based essay on Manifest Destiny
<p>Core Assessments</p>	Debate or essay on whether Columbus was a hero.	Essay on effects of colonization		Essay on branches of government	Create newspaper to match historical facts about westward expansion
<p>Suggested Field Trips</p>		<p>Philipsburg Manor, New Canaan Historical Society, Norwalk Historical Society, Old Sturbridge Village, Plimoth Plantation,</p>	Connecticut Historical Society		<p>Maritime Aquarium to view Lewis and Clark IMAX to engage and educate students about the expedition and native American contributions (Sacagawea)</p>

(see K-5 curriculum guide for specific lessons, activities, resources)