

A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for Fifth Grade Social Studies. This guide offers some learning experiences students may engage in during this school year, experiences that may also be supported at home.

Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas – emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

Social Studies for Elementary Schools (k-5)

The social studies standards in the elementary years begin with individuals and families and move from there to explorations of neighborhoods, communities, the state of Colorado, and the United States. In each grade students investigate historical events, examine geographic features and resources, consider economic decision-making processes, and define civic roles and responsibilities.

Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Stephanie Hartman, Social Studies Content Specialist at 720-498-2084, Hartman_s@cde.state.co.us



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At the end of
Fifth Grade,
students can...



Social Studies Learning Expectations for Fifth Grade

History

Use timelines, artifacts, and documents to understand the different people, diverse (cultural) perspectives, and important events that shaped the early history of the United States (exploration through the American Revolution).

Geography

Use different kinds of maps, globes, graphs, and diagrams to ask and answer questions about the geography of the 13 Colonies and the United States.

Economics

Identify different financial institutions (banks, credit unions) and the services they provide; understand how government actions connects with the economy (interest rates) at the local, state, and national level.

Civics

Explain the foundations and structure (the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches) of the United States government; describe the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.

Throughout the Fifth Grade, you may find students...

- Analyzing primary and secondary sources such as artifacts, documents, photos, and newspaper articles to examine and explain U.S. historical events; identifying multiple perspectives and diverse cultural groups that were important to events in early United States history; exploring the events that led up to the American Revolution and the lives of the people involved.
- Using map keys, symbols, and legends to locate and identify the types of natural resources found in the United States; describing the role that resources played in the development of the 13 colonies and the United States.
- Defining the basic parts of the United States' capitalist economy; examining why people need banks and other financial institutions; identifying the products and services provided by financial institutions (banks, credit unions), such as checking and savings accounts, loans.
- Identifying and explaining the principles of democracy and how founding documents (Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Bill of Rights) reflect and preserve these principles; engaging in discussions about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.