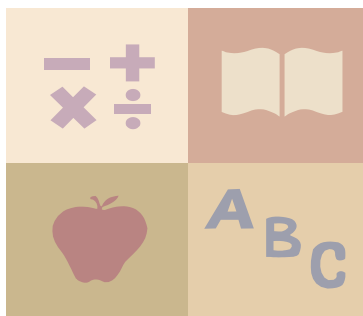


Harford County Public Schools

Meeting the Maryland State Department Voluntary State Curriculum Standards for Fifth Grade Social Studies



Fifth Grade

The social studies is an exciting field of study comprising many social science subjects, including: History, Political Science, Geography, and Economics. The Voluntary State Curriculum also provides information on skill development and multicultural education associated with the social studies. In fifth grade, students learn about the historical foundations of government in the United States, the culture of colonial societies, the similarities and differences of the regions of Colonial America, and the economic controversies that led to American independence.

Jacqueline C. Haas, Ed.D.,
Superintendent

Fifth Grade

Political Science

To understand the historical development and current status of the democratic principles and development of skills and attitudes necessary to become a responsible citizen, students will:

- examine the early foundations, functions, and purposes of government
- analyze the historic events, documents, and practices that are the foundations of our political systems
- analyze the roles of colonial government regarding public policy and issues
- analyze how individuals' roles and perspectives shape the American political system
- analyze the importance of civic participation as a citizen of the United States
- describe individual rights and responsibilities in the United States
- evaluate how the United States government protects the rights of individuals and groups
- examine the principle of due process



Peoples of the Nations and World

To understand the diversity and commonality, human interdependence, and global cooperation of the people of Maryland, the United States, and the World through a multicultural and a historic perspective, students will:

- describe the various cultures of colonial societies and how the environment influenced them
- analyze how native societies were influenced by the diverse cultures of the explorers and settlers
- analyze how increased diversity in the colonies resulted from immigration, settlement patterns, and economic



Geography

To understand geographic concepts and processes to examine the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location and distribution of human activities and spatial connections throughout time, students will:

- use geographic tools to locate places and describe human physical characteristics in Colonial America
- examine the similarities and differences of regions in Colonial America
- describe and analyze population growth, migration, and settlement patterns in Colonial America
- explain why and how people adapt to and modify the natural environment and identify the impact of those modifications

Economics

To understand the development of economic reasoning and the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world, students will:

- explain that people made choices because resources were limited relative to economic wants for goods and services in Colonial America
- analyze how limited economic resources were used to satisfy economic wants in Colonial America
- analyze how technological changes affected production and consumption in Colonial America
- analyze the consequences of specialized work on interdependence, trade, and economic growth
- describe the types of economic systems in Colonial America
- describe the role of British government on the colonial economy
- describe the role of money and barter in the colonial trade

History

To understand significant ideas, beliefs, and themes; to organize patterns and events; and analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time in Maryland and the United States, students will:

- analyze the chronology and significance of key historical events during the age of European exploration
- analyze the chronology and the significance of key historical events leading to early settlements in Colonial America
- analyze the growth and development of Colonial America

Social Studies Skills

To understand reading, writing, and thinking processes and skills; to gain knowledge and understanding of political, historical, and current events using chronological and spatial thinking, economic reasoning, and historical interpretation; and to frame and evaluate questions from primary and secondary sources, students will:

- use appropriate strategies and opportunities to increase understandings of social studies vocabulary
- use strategies to prepare for reading (before reading)
- use strategies to monitor understanding and derive meaning from text and portions of text (during reading)
- use strategies to demonstrate understanding of the text (after reading)
- use informal writing strategies, such as journal writing, note taking, quick writes, and graphic organizers to clarify, organize, remember, and/or express new understandings
- use formal writing, such as multi-paragraph essays, historical investigations, research reports, letters and summaries to inform
- use formal writing, such as multi-paragraph essays, historical investigations, editorials, and letters to persuade
- use timed, on-demand writing to demonstrate understanding on assessments (Constructed Responses)
- identify a topic/situation/problem that requires further study
- identify primary and secondary sources of information that relate to the topic/situation/problem being studied
- engage in field work that relates to the topic/situation/problem being studied
- organize information from print and non-print sources
- interpret and evaluate information from primary and secondary sources
- synthesize information from a variety of sources
- describe how the country has changed over time and how people have contributed to its change, drawing from maps, photographs, newspapers, and other sources
- use historic contexts to answer questions
- use current events/issues to answer questions

