

What your child will learn in Grade 5 Social Studies

Time and Place

Your child will study ancient civilizations and think about why they still matter to us today. You might ask at dinner: "What was life like for people in ancient Egypt or Rome?" or "Do you think people back then faced problems like we do now?". [See the curriculum.](#)

Your child will also learn how the land and weather shaped where people chose to live and how they traded with each other. Mountains, rivers, deserts and coastlines made some places easier to settle than others. You can ask: "Why do you think cities grew up near rivers?" or "How would living in a desert be different from living near the ocean?". [See the curriculum.](#)

Systems

Your child will examine how ancient people bought, sold and exchanged goods, and how trade helped civilizations grow. This is the beginning of understanding money and business. At home, you might talk about why your family buys some things and grows or makes others. [See the curriculum.](#)

Your child will also study how ancient societies were organized, including who held power and how decisions were made. Governments and social structures determined whether people were free or enslaved, rich or poor, and what rights they had. You can ask: "Who made the rules in ancient Rome?" or "How was an ancient Egyptian village different from a modern town?". [See the curriculum.](#)

Citizenship

Your child will learn how to find reliable information about the world and how ordinary people can work together to make change happen. This means students investigate ways to learn about the world and take action for change. You can encourage this by asking: "How do you know that's true?" and "What would you do if you saw something unfair?". [See the curriculum.](#)

How to help at home

Time and Place

Ask your child to find an ancient civilization on a map and describe what the land looks like there. This builds the habit of connecting place to history. [See the curriculum.](#)

Watch a short video or read a picture book together about daily life in an ancient society, then talk about one way life was the same as today and one way it was different. This helps your child see that ancient people were real and their world still teaches us things. [See the curriculum.](#)

Systems

Play a simple trading game at home: give each family member a few items (buttons, crackers, toys) and let them trade with each other. Talk about what made a fair trade and why people want different things. This shows how economic practices developed in ancient civilizations. [See the curriculum.](#)

Ask your child to explain the rules of a game or sport your family enjoys, then talk about who decided those rules and what would happen if everyone ignored them. This connects to how societies organize themselves. [See the curriculum.](#)

Citizenship

When your child asks a question about something in the news or at school, help them find two different sources that answer it. Talk about which one seems more trustworthy and why. This teaches active, informed thinking. [See the curriculum](#).