

Grade 5 Social Studies: Year at a Glance

Overview

Your child explores the dynamic relationships between people, place, and time. They explore how people, places and time connect, looking at ancient civilizations and asking what those long-ago societies still have to teach us today. They will also look at how geography, things like rivers, mountains and coastlines, shaped where ancient people settled and how they traded with one another. [See the curriculum.](#)

Alongside this, your child studies systems: how ancient civilizations organized their governments, their societies and their economies. They will compare how different ancient groups made decisions, structured their communities and exchanged goods. [See the curriculum.](#)

Understanding local, national, and global issues empowers individual and collective action toward an inclusive society. Your child will think about local, national and global issues, and about what it means to be an informed and active citizen, someone who learns about the world and takes real steps to help make it better. [See the curriculum.](#)

The year at a glance

Grade 5

Organizing idea	Guiding questions	Learning outcomes
Time and Place: Exploring the dynamic relationships between people, place, and time supports understanding of perspectives and events to make meaning of the world.	In what ways might the ancient world have relevance today?; How has geography contributed to the development of civilizations and empires?	Students examine ancient civilizations. (see the curriculum); Students examine how geographical features and environmental changes contributed to the settlement and trade of ancient civilizations. (see the curriculum)
Systems: Evaluating processes and structures of organizations builds understanding of decision making in the world.	How did economic practices contribute to civilizations and empires?; In what ways were societies organized throughout history?	Students examine the development of economic practices in ancient civilizations. (see the curriculum); Students examine government and social systems in ancient civilizations and empires. (see the curriculum)
Citizenship: Understanding local, national, and global issues empowers individual and collective action toward an inclusive society.	How can citizens become active and informed?	Students investigate ways to learn about the world and take action for change. (see the curriculum)

Across the year

- Ancient civilizations are the thread that ties the year together: your child studies their geography, economies, governments and social structures as different lenses on the same societies. [See the curriculum: 1, 2.](#)
- Geography and economics connect directly: where ancient people settled often shaped what they could grow, make and trade. [See the curriculum: 1, 2.](#)
- Learning about how ancient societies were governed and organized builds a foundation for later thinking about citizenship today. [See the curriculum: 1, 2.](#)

- The citizenship strand asks your child to link the past to the present, using what they learn about ancient civilizations to think about active, informed citizenship now. [See the curriculum: 1, 2.](#)

At home, you can ask your child to tell you one thing an ancient civilization did that still shows up in daily life today, whether that is a type of government, a road, a calendar or a way of trading goods. This kind of question helps your child practice connecting history to the world around them, using nothing more than a kitchen table conversation.