

5th Grade American Online School

SOCIAL SCIENCES CURRICULUM

Exploring Ancient Civilizations, Geography, and Global Cultures

Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of Social Sciences Education in 5th Grade

The 5th Grade Social Studies curriculum provides a rich journey through time and space. Students investigate the daily life, achievements, and values of ancient civilizations while building foundational skills in geography, map-reading, and cultural comparison. Through inquiry, storytelling, and project-based learning, students gain a global perspective and appreciation for the complexity of past and present societies.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Understand the political, social, and cultural structures of Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome.
- ✓ Use maps and geographic tools to explore global locations and physical features.
- ✓ Compare modern-day regions such as Europe and Australia through historical and cultural lenses.
- ✓ Analyze sources, artifacts, and legends to understand civilizations.
- ✓ Demonstrate understanding through writing, presentations, and creative projects.

2. Core Competence Areas

SoSCI.1 Ancient Egypt: Life Along the Nile

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Describe how geography influenced Ancient Egyptian life.
- ✓ Understand the roles of pharaohs, pyramids, religion, and writing.
- ✓ Compare daily life of farmers, scribes, and royalty.

Competencies

SoSCI.1.A.1 – Exploring Egyptian civilization and culture.

- Analyze how the Nile shaped farming and trade.
- Identify key achievements: hieroglyphics, mummification, architecture.

SoSCI.1.A.2 – Understanding government, belief, and society.

- Discuss the role of gods and pharaohs. Create a journal entry from the perspective of an Ancient Egyptian.

SoSCI.2 Greek Life: Democracy, Myth, and Achievement

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Compare city-states like Athens and Sparta.
- ✓ Explore early democracy and civic life.
- ✓ Investigate mythology, Olympics, and contributions to arts and science.

Competencies

SoSCI.2.A.1 – Learning about Greek society and values.

- Read myths and analyze their meanings.
- Debate Athenian democracy vs. Spartan military life.

SoSCI.2.A.2 – Connecting Greece to modern life.

- Compare ancient and modern governments, sports, and language roots.
 - Create a Greek myth retelling or Olympic poster.
-

SoSCI.3 Roman Life: Republic to Empire

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Trace the transition from Republic to Empire.
- ✓ Understand daily life, laws, and innovations.
- ✓ Explore Roman architecture, engineering, and citizenship.

Competencies

SoSCI.3.A.1 – Studying Roman achievements and legacy.

- Map Roman road networks and aqueduct systems.
- Compare Roman legal ideas to today's systems

SoSCI.3.A.2 – Experiencing Roman life through roleplay.

- Simulate a Roman Senate debate.
 - Design a Roman villa using blueprints and artifact sketches.
-

SoSCI.4 Geography Skills and Global Mapping

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Read and interpret various types of maps.
- ✓ Identify continents, oceans, and major world regions.
- ✓ Analyze how geography influences human activities.

Competencies

SoSCI.4.A.1 – Developing geographic literacy.

- Use latitude, longitude, and compass directions.
- Practice map scale, legend reading, and coordinates.

SoSCI.4.A.2 – Connecting people and place.

- Describe how landforms, climate, and water affect lifestyle.
 - Compare urban and rural geography across regions.
-

SoSCI.5 Exploring Europe: Cultures and Connections

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Identify major countries and cultural regions of Europe.
- ✓ Understand historical and modern contributions from Europe.
- ✓ Compare traditions, food, landmarks, and daily life.

Competencies

SoSCI.5.A.1 – Investigating European heritage and diversity.

- Study languages, holidays, and key cities.
- Explore connections between U.S. and European history.

SoSCI.5.A.2 – Building a European travel guide.

- Choose a country and design a digital or print tour guide.
 - Include flag, famous places, foods, and a short cultural diary.
-

SoSCI.6 Exploring Australia: Land, People, and Culture

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Describe Australia's environment, Indigenous cultures, and government.**
- ✓ **Compare Australia's geography to the United States.**
- ✓ **Recognize modern Australian customs and values.**

Competencies

SoSCI.5.A.1 – Understanding geography and environment.

- Identify key features: Great Barrier Reef, Outback, coasts.
- Explore climate, wildlife, and land use.

SoSCI.5.A.2 – Learning from Aboriginal art and stories.

- Listen to Dreamtime stories and create art inspired by them.
- Discuss Indigenous contributions and respect for land.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Ongoing Understanding

- ✓ **Map reading check-ins and exit slips.**
- ✓ **Interactive notebook responses.**
- ✓ **Discussion prompts and vocabulary checklists.**

Summative Assessments – Project-Based Mastery

- ✓ **Civilization brochures and travel guides.**
- ✓ **Timeline posters and annotated maps.**
- ✓ **Comparative essays and final quizzes.**

Performance-Based Assessments – Roleplay and Presentation

- ✓ **Senate or town hall debates.**
- ✓ **Cultural artifact replicas and journals.**

4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Narrative and Inquiry-Based Approach

- ✓ Use storytelling, simulations, and primary source exploration.
- ✓ Anchor learning in questions and curiosity.

Hands-On and Digital Learning

- ✓ Use online map tools, Google Earth, and time-lapse visualizations.
- ✓ Encourage digital storytelling and visual research projects.

Inclusive and Culturally Responsive

- ✓ Celebrate classroom heritage and connect to student backgrounds.
- ✓ Use global music, art, and games for engagement.

Learning Culture

- ✓ Foster respect for other times and places.
- ✓ Encourage thoughtful dialogue and curiosity.
- ✓ Help students find themselves as historians and explorers.