

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTION FIFTH GRADE – U.S. HISTORY

In grade five social studies, students learn about the history of the United States from its early beginnings to the present with a focus on colonial times through the 20th century. Students recite and explain the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. Students examine the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society and identify important leaders in the national government. Students examine fundamental rights guaranteed in the *Bill of Rights*. Students use critical-thinking skills, including sequencing, categorizing, and summarizing information and drawing inferences and conclusions.

Of special importance: In order to better facilitate 8th grade preparation, the following TEKS will be emphasized: 5.32 Geography, 5.31 Colonial Economics, 5.30 Colonial Regions and 5.37 the Plantation System, terms, vocabulary and regions.

- 5.45 - Early American Representative Government such as the Mayflower Compact
- 5.5 – Results of American Revolution
- 5.48 – Government – 3 branches of Government
- 5.49 – Checks and balances as outlined in the U.S. Constitution
- 5.50 – National and State Government
- Chronology of the following documents: Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

To support the teaching of essential knowledge and skills, the use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as biographies; novels; speeches and letters; and poetry, songs, and artworks is encouraged. Selections may include *Yankee Doodle*. Motivating resources are also available from museums, historical sites, presidential libraries, and local and state preservation societies.

The eight strands of the essential knowledge and skills for social studies are intended to be integrated for instructional purposes with the history and geography strands establishing a sense of time and a sense of place. Skills listed in the geography and social studies skills strands in subsection (b) of this section should be incorporated into the teaching of all essential knowledge and skills for social studies. A greater depth of understanding of complex content material can be attained when integrated social studies content from the various disciplines and critical-thinking skills are taught together.

Throughout social studies in Kindergarten-Grade 12 , students build a foundation in history; geography; economics; government; citizenship; culture; science, technology, and society; and social studies skills. The content, as appropriate for the grade level or course, enables students to understand the importance of patriotism, function in a free enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation as referenced in the Texas Education Code, 28.002 (h).