

K- 5 Overview

K-5 Grade-Specific Contexts		
Kindergarten	Myself and Others	Using a familiar context for five and six year olds, kindergartners learn about the social studies disciplines (history, geography, civics and government, and economics) through the lens of “Myself and Others.” Accordingly, each discipline focuses on developing rudimentary understandings through an integrated approach to the field.
First	Families and Schools	In first grade, students continue to explore the social studies disciplines of history, geography, civics and government, and economics through an integrated approach using the context of school and families. This is the students’ first introduction to social institutions as they draw upon knowledge learned in kindergarten to develop more sophisticated understandings of each discipline.
Second	The Local Community	In second grade, students continue the integrative approach to social studies through the context of the local community. This the first time students are introduced to a social environment larger than their immediate surroundings and they draw upon knowledge learned in previous grades to develop more sophisticated understandings to explore the social studies disciplines of history, geography, civics and government, and economics.
Third	Michigan Studies	Third grade students explore the social studies disciplines of history, geography, civics and government, and economics through the context of Michigan studies. Building on prior social studies knowledge and applying new concepts of each social studies discipline to the increasingly complex social environment of their state, the third grade content expectations help prepare students for more sophisticated studies of their country and world in later grades.
Fourth	United States Studies	Using the context of the United States, fourth grade students learn significant social studies concepts within an increasingly complex social environment. They examine fundamental concepts in geography, civics and government, and economics through the lens of Michigan history and the United States.
Fifth	Integrated American History	The fifth grade social studies content expectations mark a departure from the social studies approach taken in previous grades. Building upon the geography, civics and government, and economics concepts of the United States mastered in fourth grade and historical inquiry from earlier grades, the fifth grade expectations begin a more disciplinary-centered approach concentrating on the early history of the United States. Students begin their study of American history with American Indian peoples before the arrival of European explorers and conclude with the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1791. Although the content expectations are organized by historical era, they build upon students’ understandings of the other social studies disciplines from earlier grades and require students to apply these concepts within the context of American history.

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K-5 Social Studies Overview Chart

History	Geography	Civics and Government	Economics	Public Discourse, Decision Making, and Citizen Involvement
<p>Living and Working Together Use historical thinking to understand the past in the local community.</p> <p>Michigan History Use historical thinking to understand the past in Michigan.</p> <p>United States History Use historical thinking to understand the history of the United States in the following eras:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginnings to 1620 • Colonization and Settlement • Revolution and the New Nation to 1791 	<p>The World in Spatial Terms Use geographic representations to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.</p> <p>Places and Regions Understand how regions are created from common physical and human characteristics.</p> <p>Human Systems Understand how human activities help shape the Earth's surface.</p> <p>Environment and Society Understand the effects of human-environment interactions.</p>	<p>Purposes of Government Explain why people create governments.</p> <p>Values and Principles of American Democracy Understand values and principles of American constitutional democracy.</p> <p>Structure and Function of Government Describe the structure of government in the United States and how it functions to serve citizens.</p> <p>Role of the Citizen in American Democracy Explain important rights and how, when, and where American citizens demonstrate their responsibilities by participating in government.</p>	<p>Market Economy Use fundamental principles and concepts of economics to understand economic activity in a market economy.</p> <p>National Economy Use fundamental principles and concepts of economics to understand economic activity in the United States.</p> <p>International Economy Use fundamental principles and concepts of economics to understand economic activity in the global economy.</p>	<p>Identifying and Analyzing Public Issues Clearly state a problem as a public policy issue, analyze various perspectives, and generate and evaluate possible alternative resolutions.</p> <p>Persuasive Communication Communicate a reasoned position on a public issue.</p> <p>Citizen Involvement Act constructively to further the public good.</p>