



SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age are becoming more independent learners who can come up with questions to guide their learning. They are able to understand different points of view on a given topic and how issues are connected. Fifth-graders will learn about the history of the United States, beginning with the settlement of Virginia at Jamestown in 1607 through the ratification of the Constitution of the United States in 1788. This information is a snapshot of learning in fifth-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Understand why the English made the decision to explore and settle in Jamestown, Virginia; Plymouth, Massachusetts and the other colonies.
- Compare the three colonial regions and how members of different social classes experienced daily life in each.
- Learn how and why significant events led to armed conflict between the colonies and Great Britain.
- Explain why the ideals of equality, inalienable rights and consent of the governed were established in the Declaration of Independence.
- Analyze the significant military and diplomatic events of the Revolutionary War and how key individuals and groups made contributions to them (for example, Benjamin Franklin convinced the French to support American independence).
- Examine the issues and events that led to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787.
- Determine the main purposes of the U.S. government in the Preamble and Constitution and understand the liberties protected in the Bill of Rights.

What to do at home:

- Ask your child to compare exploration of the past with exploration today. What and where do we explore today?
- Ask your child to write a personal declaration of independence from something in their life using Thomas Jefferson's format.
- Listen to songs and watch videos that help explain our system of government.
- Read the Bill of Rights together and look for examples of these protected liberties in current events.



OKLAHOMA
Education

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support social studies learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to develop curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- If you could change one rule or law, what would you change and why?
- If you could go back in time and interview someone, who would it be and what would you ask?
- What makes you feel brave?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What goals can you set to make tomorrow better than today?
- What activity or sport do you enjoy and why?
- How did you help someone in need today?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by letting your child see you reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help your child understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Is this the type of book you usually choose? Why or why not?
- By looking at the cover, what do you think the author's reason for writing the book might be?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- Will you read a short section to me with feeling in your voice?
- What do you do when you don't understand what you just read?
- What resources can you use to understand words you aren't familiar with?

AFTER READING

- How did the setting of the story affect the characters and plot?
- What was the theme of the book? What lesson do you think the author wanted the reader to learn?
- How would you rewrite the ending to the story? Why would you change it?

Join the conversation!

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