



SOCIAL STUDIES

5

FOR FAMILIES

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 about learning in the classroom and how to support that learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age are becoming more independent learners. They are able to come up with questions to guide their learning and can understand different perspectives and how issues are connected. Fifth-graders will study the history of the United States, beginning with the settlement of Virginia at Jamestown in 1607 and concluding with the ratification of the Constitution of the United States.

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

- Examine the reasons and motivations for English exploration and settlement in Jamestown, Va., and Plymouth, Mass., and later in other colonies.
- Compare the three colonial regions and how members of different social classes experienced daily life.
- Examine the cause and effect of significant events leading 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 the contributions of key individuals and groups.
- Examine the issues and events the young nation encountered that led to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787.
- Determine the main purposes of the U.S. government in the Preamble and the Constitution of the United States and summarize the liberties protected in the Bill of Rights.

What to do at home:

- Compare exploration in the past with exploration today. What and where do we explore today?
- Describe the concept of revolution. What revolutionized communication, transportation, industry, etc.?
- Ask your child to write a personal declaration of independence from something relevant in real life using Thomas Jefferson's format.
- Listen to and watch songs and videos that help explain our system of government.
- Read the Bill of Rights and look for these liberties in current events.



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to spark curiosity, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding 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 have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

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

- What do you think we should have for breakfast tomorrow?
- What goals can you set to make tomorrow better than today?
- What was your favorite part of the week 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 reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help fifth-graders 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

- Give a summary of the book in 10 words.
- What problem did the main character face? What was the solution to that problem?
- What message is the author sending to the reader? Why do you think that?

Join the conversation!

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