

SOCIAL STUDIES GRADE FIVE

The primary focus of the fifth grade social studies curriculum is an introduction to ancient civilizations. World Studies The Ancient Past (Pearson Prentice Hall), Civilizations of the Past (Modern Curriculum Press), Growth of Civilizations (Prentice Hall), Individual Atlases and Independent Study Packets by Zephyr Press are used as the basic resources to develop skills in reading for content, note taking, test taking, and as a starting point for each culture studied. Supplemental enrichment materials include: the classroom collection of related books the school library collection, computer software, maps and globes.

Additional activities include whole class, small group and individual project work related to each culture as well as field trips to museums and plays about Greece and Rome. Differentiated assessments are used at the end of each unit of study. They include written exams, research essays, and group and individual presentations.

The cultures include those found in Europe, Africa and Asia. Use of the *Big6* research method continues to be implemented and supported by technology to enhance the writing program.

The major themes and concepts emphasized are as follows:

1. The sense of history and chronology--a feeling for the sweep of history through time, for the changing phases of culture and civilization, and for the interaction and diffusion of cultures, ideas and technologies with a focus on cycles and patterns of development(s), the rises and declines of the cultures and periods studied as well as their legacies to us
2. The nature of cultures, societies and civilization
3. The importance of value and religion
4. The importance of technology and economic organization
5. Basic concepts of political science
6. Reinforcement of geographic knowledge

These ideas and concepts are explored through the following units:

- A. Civilization: the concept
- B. Mesopotamia
- C. Ancient Egypt
- D. Ancient Greece
- E. Ancient Rome
- F. The Middle Ages

Field Trips support the curriculum.

- MET in New York
- Yale University Museums
- Nature's Classroom