

Social Studies Education



- New Jersey Student Learning Standards
- Through the lenses and tools of history, economics, civics and geography
- Prepare students for College, Career, and Civic Life

Social Studies in West Orange



- Emphasis on deep understanding of concepts
- Authentic learning experiences that will prepare them for the worlds of work, college, and civil life.
- Ensure that the history of ALL Americans is incorporated into daily instruction.

Social Studies in West Orange



- Engage students to develop their abilities to think, reason, conduct research.
- Utilize technology as a tool of engagement for student learning.
- Promote literacy skills through examination of informational text and evidence-based writing.



GRADE 6

United States History Through Reconstruction

Overview/Purpose: Grade 6

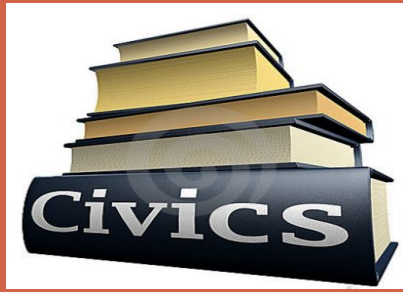


- Designed for students to explore U.S. History in greater detail than in previous years.
- The course of study is a continuation from grade 5 where students learn about early American history through the American Revolution.
- Students will explore the rich diversity and complexity of the evolution of the American Society prior to the 20th century.

Units of Study: Grade 6



- New Nation / Constitution
- The Early Republic
- A Growing Nation
- The Era of Reform
- The Road to the Civil War
- The Civil War & Reconstruction



GRADE 7

Civics and The American Economy

Overview/Purpose: Grade 7



- Builds upon the foundational knowledge and skills acquired in the 6th grade.
- Students will now apply what they have learned and understand how they fit into the American Political and Economic System.
- The rights and responsibilities of being an American citizen are spiraled throughout the course.

Units of Study: Grade 7



- We the People
- Foundations of Government
- The Constitution & The Bill of Rights
- The Executive Branch
- The Legislative Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- State & Local Government
- Economics



GRADE 8

Ancient Civilizations

Overview/Purpose: Grade 8



- Provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the ancient world beginning with the development of early human societies through the Renaissance.
- The contributions of diverse groups of people are examined.
- Builds upon the knowledge and skills acquired in earlier grades with a greater emphasis on reading and writing in preparation for high school.

Units of Study: Grade 8



- Early Human Societies
- Ancient Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent
- Ancient Hebrews and the Origins of Judaism
- Ancient Egypt
- Ancient India
- Ancient China
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Rome and the Rise and Spread of Christianity
- Roots of Islam and the Islamic Empire
- Early African Civilizations and Empires
- East Asian Religions/Philosophies
- Medieval Europe
- The Renaissance

Scope and Sequence



Grade 5: Pre-Colonial America/Early American History



Grade 6: US History Through Reconstruction

Grade 7: Civics and The American Economy

Grade 8: Ancient Civilizations Through Renaissance



Grade 9: Modern World History

What would I see my child doing during social studies class?



- Investigating content through an essential question or theme that is rigorous, complex, and deep.
 - What are the intended/unintended consequences of territorial expansion? (6)
 - Should Americans be Required to Vote? (7)
 - Hammurabi's Code- Was it Just? (8)
- Analyzing sources and evidence representing multiple perspectives to develop a complex and comprehensive understanding of the content/question/theme.
- Communicating their findings within the classroom through discussion, debate, writing, and multimedia or in the wide world via technology.

A West Orange Social Studies student will...



- Demonstrate the ability to solve problems, make decisions, and analyze issues from various viewpoints, as well as to read, write, listen, and communicate ideas to others.
- Consider multiple perspectives, value diversity, and promote cultural understanding.
- Develop 21st Century skills which enable them to function as lifelong learners and to examine and evaluate issues of importance to all Americans.
- Recognize the common human qualities that unite people, cultures, societies and economic systems that prevail in other parts of the world, and recognize the political and cultural barriers that impede dialogue.

