

# West Orange Public Schools

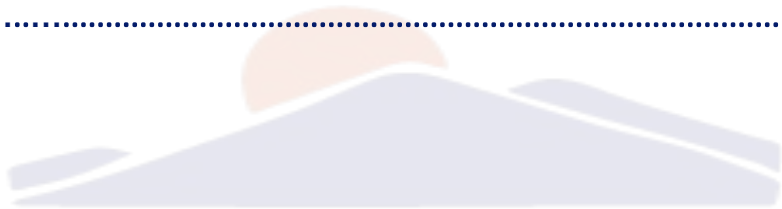


## Social Studies K-12 & the Amistad Commission

**Presented by:**  
**Mr. Michael Figueiredo, Dr. Keri Orange, Mr. Gregory Saul**  
**February 10, 2020**

**West Orange Board of Education**

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# The Philosophy of the Social Studies Department

*The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world.*

*The Social Studies Department in West Orange is dedicated to working collaboratively to engage our students in authentic learning experiences that will prepare them for the worlds of work, college, and civil life.*

*In this age of information, emphasis is placed not only on content, but on deep understanding of concepts that enable students to think critically, and to systematically make connections to real world experiences.*

*Further, literacy strategies and skills are applied as students acquire information and communicate their learning and understanding. Thus, a social studies education in West Orange will develop learners with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to become active, informed citizens and contributing members of local, state, national, and global communities in the digital age.*

# Goal of the Amistad Commission

The Amistad Bill (A1301), which became law in 2002, calls on New Jersey schools to incorporate African-American history into their social studies curriculum. This legislation also created the Amistad Commission, a 23-member body charged with ensuring that African-American history, contributions and experiences are adequately taught in the state's classrooms.

The Amistad Commission ensures that the Department of Education and public schools of New Jersey implement materials and texts which integrate the history and contributions of African-Americans and the descendants of the African Diaspora.

## ***Primary Goal:***

**To infuse the history of Africans and African-Americans into the social studies curriculum in order to provide an accurate, complete and inclusive history.**

# NJSLS Guide to our Curriculum

- January 2020: [Draft of the new standards were released](#)
- *Adoption* is scheduled for June of 2020
- *Implementation* is scheduled for September of 2022

*The study of social studies focuses on deep understanding of concepts that enable students to think critically and systematically about local, regional, national, and global issues. Authentic learning experiences that enable students to apply content knowledge, develop social studies skills, and collaborate with students from around the world prepare New Jersey students for **College, Careers, and Civic Life**.*

# West Orange Public Schools and Amistad

- All social studies teachers in grades 6-12 have an Amistad account which the teachers use to access the Amistad website.
- Teachers in grades K-5 have access to Amistad accounts and the website.
- Teachers have attended Amistad training at Kean University.
- Teachers have attended The Amistad's Summer Institute.
- Within each grade level curriculum, lessons from the Amistad are embedded and a list of support books from Amistad are provided.
- Alignment with Amistad is observed through lesson plans, teacher observations, walk-throughs, class activities, PBAs and out of district training.

# Amistad Curriculum Integration

## NJ Amistad Commission Curriculum Alignment for West Orange Public School District

Grade Level(s)	Content Integration	Alignment to the Amistad Curriculum
K-3	<p>The Elementary Social Studies Curriculum is designed to give students the opportunity to develop their sense of place in our community, state, nation, and global village. The curriculum will allow students to meet the highest levels dictated by New Jersey Student Learning for Social Studies. A West Orange elementary social studies student will examine the following concepts: democratic ideals, cultural diversity, economic development, global perspective, and participatory citizenship. A multicultural approach to teaching social studies is fostered in the curriculum as is the integration of literacy to promote a rich social studies experience. To provide continuity of concept development, four key strands are incorporated throughout the K-3 Social Studies curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History, Culture, and Perspectives</li> <li>Civics, Government and Human Rights</li> <li>Geography, People, and the Environment</li> <li>Economics, Innovation, and Technology</li> </ul> <p>The kindergarten social studies curriculum provides students with an understanding of themselves and their relationships to the family. The program emphasizes the uniqueness of the individual child and his/her interpersonal relationships with the home, school, and community. The program also introduces students to a world of diverse people and traditions. Through a study of people, natural events, and communities, the student will become aware of change as it affects him/her personally as well as the world around him/her.</p> <p>Unit 1: Me, My Class, and My Community  Unit 2: Culture and Traditions  Unit 3: Life Then and Now  Unit 4: Wants and Needs</p> <p>The first grade social studies curriculum provides students with an understanding of themselves and their relationships to the family, the community, country, and the world. The program emphasizes the structure, composition, roles, and responsibilities of the student in his/her home, school, and local and global environments. Students will gain an awareness of cultural diversity by recognizing similarities and differences among people and places.</p> <p>Unit 1: Our School, Our Community  Unit 2: Economics  Unit 3: Cultural Traditions  Unit 4: Past and Present</p>	<p><b>Unit 1—Social Studies Skills</b>  This unit will emphasize skill-based learning: reading and interpreting maps, census data, graphs, charts, timelines, primary and secondary sources, and points of view. Teachers will introduce the students to the historian's craft (interpretation and narration).</p> <p>In early elementary students develop the skills of working with maps, charts, graphs and timeline. This provides the foundation for students later on as they learn to understand how to utilize historical evidence and indicate bias, point of view and the reasons some historical sources were created. As students move to middle and high school, focus shifts to the deep analysis of historical sources to determine bias, point of view and historical context. Students chronicle the importance of evidence in understanding the past.</p>



# Amistad Commission: Online Resources



AMISTAD COMMISSION  
INTERACTIVE CURRICULUM

NEW JERSEY STUDENT LEARNING STANDARDS  
SOCIAL STUDIES

## UNIT OVERVIEW



### UNIT 5: ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW NATION & INDEPENDENCE TO REPUBLIC (1600 - 1800)

Establishment of a New Nation - Independence to Republic





# Amistad Commission: Online Resources

Unit 1: Social Studies Skills (K-3)

Unit 2: Indigenous Civilizations of the Americas 1000-1600 CE (4, 5, 8, 9)

Unit 3: Ancient Africa 3000 BCE-1492 CE (8, 9, 12)

Unit 4: The Emergent Atlantic World (Native Americans, Africans, Europeans) 1200-1700 CE (5, 8, 9, 10)

Unit 5: The Establishment of a New Nation and Independence to Republic 1600-1800 CE (6, 7, 10)

Unit 6: The Constitution and the Continental Congress 1775-1800 CE (3, 6, 10)

Unit 7: The Evolution of a New Nation State 1801-1860 CE (6, 10)

Unit 8: Civil War and Reconstruction 1861-1877 CE (6, 10)

Unit 9: Post Reconstruction and the Origins of the Progressive Era 1878-1900 CE (10, 11)

Unit 10: America Confronts the 20th century and Emergent Modern America 1901-1920 CE (11)

Unit 11: America in the 1920's and 30's: Cultural, Political and Intellectual Development and the New Deal, Industrialization and Global Conflict 1921-1945 CE (11, 12)

Unit 12: America in the Aftermath of Global Conflict: Domestic and Foreign Challenges, Implications and Consequences and the Era of Reform 1946-1970 (11, 12)

Unit 13: National and Global Debates , Conflicts and Developments and America Faces the 21st century (11, 12)



Yellow - Elementary



Blue - Middle School



Pink - High School

# Integration of African History in Social Studies

## Grade 11

# World War I

- Discuss what “fighting for democracy” meant to African Americans soldiers
- Study The Harlem Hellfighters and Black heroism in American military history



# Winter

- Explore the African American roots in both Jazz and Rock 'n' Roll
- Discuss non-recognition of African American musicians



***Fats Domino***

# Spring

- Excerpts from *The New Jim Crow*
- Analyze the War on Drugs' impact on communities of color from 1970s to present
- Evaluate whether current criminal justice policies have made America safer and more just

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

## The New Jim Crow



Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

MICHELLE ALEXANDER

WITH A NEW FOREWORD BY CORNEL WEST

# Integration of African History in Social Studies

Grades 4 and 5

# Unit 3: The American Revolution Grade 4

**GOAL:** Students will discuss and interpret the roles African Americans, enslaved and free, Americans played in the American Revolution.

- **Suggested Activity:** Create a Google Slide Show or develop a Google Site of famous African American Revolutionary War Figure.
  - [Crispus Attucks](#)
- **Suggested Activity:**
  - Students will conduct research and create a commemorative Stamp in their honor
  - [Sample](#)

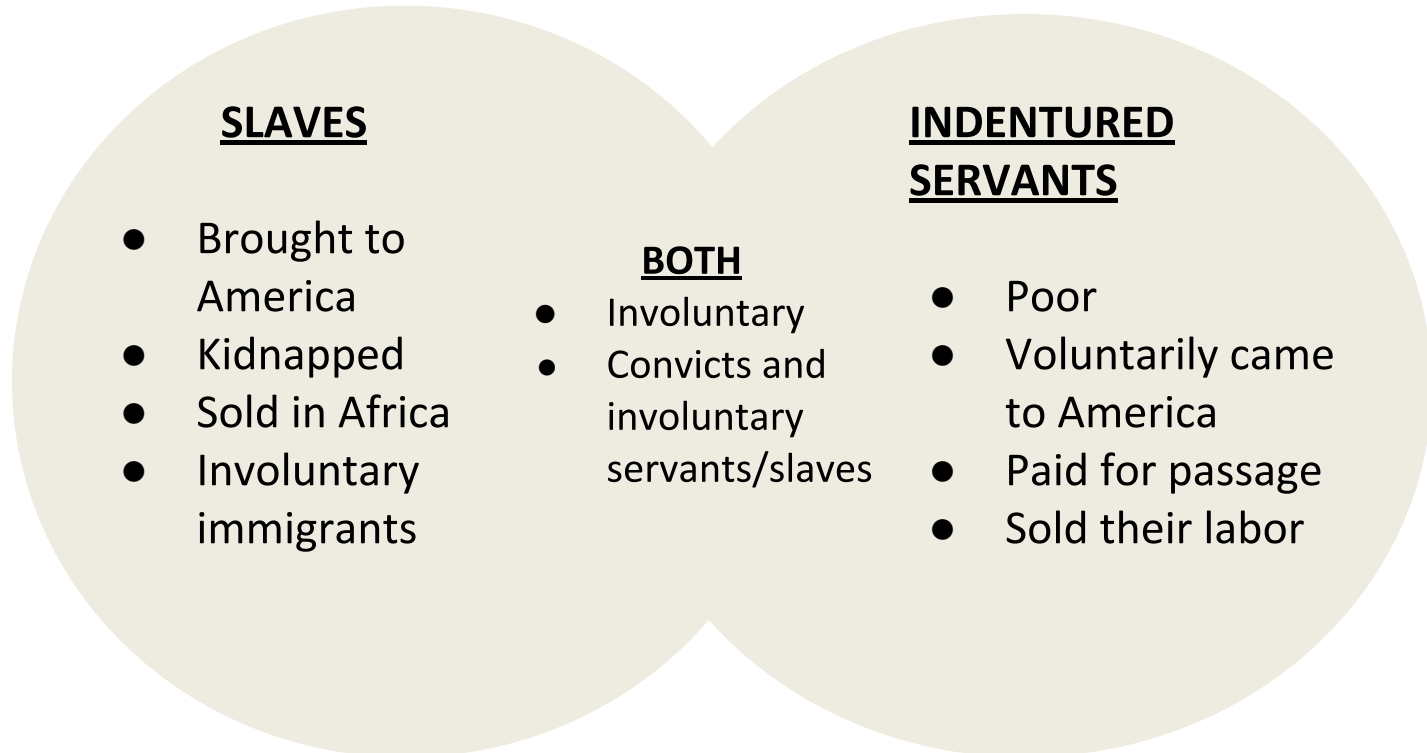


# Unit 4 : The Age of Exploration Grade 5

**GOAL:** Students will compare and contrast Slaves vs Indentured Servants

[Interactive Map of the Columbian Exchange](#)

[The Triangular Trade](#)



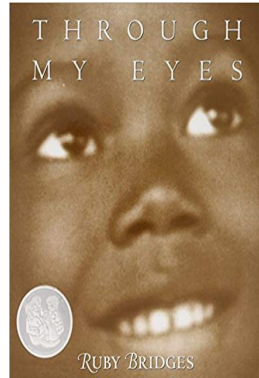
# English Language Arts and Social Studies Integration

There are opportunities to integrate units that incorporate ELA and Social Studies.

Here are examples of texts that could be read in ELA, focusing on African American history, that have a strong historical and social studies component, where integration would be possible.

## Ruby Bridges Through My Eyes

Jim Crow  
Segregationists  
Separate but Equal  
Separate But Equal Padlet  
Brown vs. the Board of Education  
The Little Rock Nine  
Civil Rights Movement



## A Long Walk to Water

Civil War in Southern Sudan  
Social Action  
Africa and African Americans in Non-Fiction  
Conflict over Religious Freedom

