

# **Social Studies (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

## **Academic Content & Skills Summary**

### **Peru Elementary School District 124**

In an effort to communicate clear academic expectations to students, parents and the local community, Peru Elementary School District 124 provides Academic Content and Skills Summaries from preschool through eighth grade in the areas of mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, technology, art, music and physical education.

Following is a simple summary of what our children should know and be able to do at each grade level in the area of Social Studies. All children can learn, even if not at the same pace or in the same way, and ultimately these general skills and content items are what we will strive to accomplish with the assistance of our parents at home.

#### **5th Grade (US History: Exploration - Civil War) students will:**

- Learn the basic skills needed to understand the geography of the United States by determining location with latitude and longitude and identifying physical features.
- Identify the European explorers and their motives for traveling to the New World.
- Explain key challenges and successes of the early English settlements of Roanoke, Jamestown, and Plymouth.
- Examine slavery in the Americas and life in colonial Williamsburg.
- Interpret the causes and outcomes of the American Revolution.
- Be able to discuss key powers held by each branch of government and understand how the system of checks and balances in the Constitution works.
- Identify key events that led to the Civil War, and describe living conditions and important battles of the Civil War.
- Evaluate the influence of the events in American history upon the present-day US.

#### **6th Grade (World Geography) students will:**

- Learn cartography, map types, and map interpretation skills
- Understand the Earth in space, the Sun, and its effect on our seasons
- Discover how humans affect their environment and vice versa
- Look at information from multiple, differing perspectives
- Analyze how population density and weather patterns affect people's lives
- The effects of globalization on people and places

#### **7th Grade (Ancient Civilizations) students will:**

Use the GRAPES structure for studying civilizations. By the end of each unit, students will be able to tell how each of these components affects the civilization.

G - Geography

R - Religion

A - Achievements

P - Political Systems

E - Economy

S - Social Structure

**7th Grade students will (continued):**

- Know the basic structure and function of the Illinois government.
- Understand how events of the past created the world that we live in, and know history can help us make decisions about the future.
- Interpret how geography impacts where people settle and the ways of life of the group of people settled there.
- Evaluate how the values of a civilization are reflected in their religion.
- Represent the social structure that the people in the civilization are affected by.
- Understand how ancient civilizations gave us the basis of many things that are still used today.
- Tell how political leaders of the civilization affected how the civilization changed.
- Tell the effect of trade and conquest on the wealth of a civilization.

**8th Grade (US History: Colonial America - Present Day) students will:**

- Interpret maps for various time periods throughout US History
- Be able to sequence and put events in chronological order for various events in US History
- Examine the Cause & Effects (and long term consequences) of wars throughout US History
- Discover the Advantages & Disadvantages of the US & its enemies in wars throughout US History
- Be introduced to people's motivations and perspectives (along with their impact or influence) for various time periods throughout US History
- Examine the Social, Political & Economic effects/impacts/differences on/of the US
- Examine primary sources (Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, speeches, etc. using the actual documents)
- Analyze and examine the actual US Constitution
- Discover connections with themselves & people throughout US History
- Develop research projects and presentation skills for various time periods throughout US History
- Be introduced to Contemporary topics of US History (Civil Rights Movement, Women's Rights Movement, Current Events, etc.)