

Galway Social Studies Curriculum Guide **5th Grade**

Grade Five: The United States, Canada, and Latin America

The grade 5 social studies program stresses geographic, economic, and social/cultural understandings related to the United States, Canada, and nations in Latin America today. These perspectives build on and reinforce historic and political content about the United States included in the grade 4 social studies program. When appropriate, the grade 5 program should use contemporary examples of case studies to help students understand the content understandings that follow. The content understandings were developed to assist in selecting specific factual information and case studies. For additional guidance in selecting content, case studies, activities, evaluation questions, and resources, consult *Social Studies Program: Grade 5* (New York State Education Department, 1987).

History of the United States, Canada, and Latin America

- Different ethnic, national, and religious groups, including Native American Indians, have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas, and languages.
- Different people living in the Western Hemisphere may view the same event or issue from different perspectives.
- The migration of groups of people in the United States, Canada, and Latin America has led to cultural diffusion because people carry their ideas and ways of life with them when they move from place to place.
- Connections and exchanges exist between and among the peoples of Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States. These connections and exchanges include social/cultural, migration/immigration, and scientific/technological.
- Key turning points and events in the histories of Canada, Latin America, and the United States can be organized into different historical time periods. For example, key turning points might include: 18th-century exploration and encounter; 19th-century westward migration and expansion, 20th-century population movement from rural to suburban areas.
- Important historic figures and groups have made significant contributions to the development of Canada, Latin America, and the United States.
- Industrial growth and development and urbanization have had important impacts on Canada, Latin America, and the United States.

Geography of the United States, Canada, and Latin America

- Maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies such as aerial and other photographs, satellite-produced images, and computer models can be used to gather, process, and report information about the United States, Canada, and Latin America today.
- Political boundaries change over time and place.
- Different geological processes shaped the physical environments of the United States, Canada, and Latin America.
- The nations and regions of the Western Hemisphere can be analyzed in terms of spatial organization, places, regions, physical settings (including natural resources), human systems, and environment and society. A region is an area that is tied together for some identifiable reason, such as physical, political, economic, or cultural features.
- The physical and human characteristics of places in the United States, Canada, and Latin America today
- Culture and experiences influence people's perceptions of places and regions in the United States, Canada, and Latin America today.
- The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of cultures found in the United States, Canada, and Latin America
- Human actions modify the physical environments of the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

The economies of the United States, Canada, and Latin American nations

- Concepts such as scarcity, supply and demand, markets, opportunity costs, resources, productivity, economic growth, and systems can be used to study the economies and economic systems of the United States, Canada, and Latin America.
- Individuals and groups in the United States, Canada, and Latin America attempt to satisfy their basic needs and wants by utilizing scarce capital, natural, and human resources.
- Types and availability of resources are important to economic development in the United States, Canada, and Latin America today.
- The nations of North, Central, and South America depend on one another for various resources and products they need.
- Production, distribution, exchange, and consumption of goods and services are economic decisions which the nations of North and South America must make.
- Science and technology have influenced the standard of living in nations in North, Central, and South America.
- Exchanges of technologies, plants, animals, and diseases between and among nations of the Americas and Europe and sub-Saharan Africa have changed life in these regions.

Based on NYS Social Studies Core Curriculum Content Understandings. Prepared spring 2008.

- Nations in North, Central, and South America form organizations and make agreements to promote economic growth and development.
- As the economic systems of the global community have become more interdependent, decisions made in one nation or region in the Western Hemisphere have implications for all nations or regions.

The governments of the United States, Canada, and Latin American nations

- Across time and place, the people of the Western Hemisphere have held differing assumptions regarding power, authority, governance, and law.
- Basic civic values such as justice, due process, equality, and majority rule with respect for minority rights are expressed in the constitutions and laws of the United States, Canada, and nations of Latin America.
- Constitutions, rules, and laws are developed in democratic societies in order to maintain order, provide security, and protect individual rights.
- The rights of citizens in the United States are similar to and different from the rights of citizens in other nations of the Western Hemisphere.
- The roles of citizenship are defined by different constitutions in the Western Hemisphere.
- Governmental structures vary from place to place, as do the structure and functions of governments in the United States, Canada, and Latin American countries today.
- Concepts such as civic life, politics, and government can be used to answer questions about what governments can and should do, how people should live their lives together, and how citizens can support the proper use of authority or combat the abuse of political power. (Adapted from: *Civics Framework for the 1998 NAEP*, p. 19)
- Legal, political, and historic documents define the values, beliefs, and principles of constitutional democracy. In the United States these documents include the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. In Canada these documents include the British North America Act and the Canadian Bill of Rights.
- Citizenship in the United States, Canada, and nations of Latin America includes an awareness of the patriotic celebrations of those nations. In the United States these celebrations include: Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Independence Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Election Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, and Conservation Day.
- International organizations were formed to promote peace, economic development, and cultural understanding. The United Nations was created to prevent war and to fight hunger, disease, and ignorance.