

## Grade 5 Social Studies Achievement Level Descriptors

The Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) describe the knowledge, skills, and cognitive processes that students should exhibit with relative consistency and accuracy in a variety of contexts.  
Some deviations or exceptions may be observed.

	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<b>General Social Studies Descriptors</b>	Students at the Approaching Basic level demonstrate a <b>limited</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts of the Americas from the Age of Exploration to 1763.	Students at the Basic level demonstrate a <b>general</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts of the Americas from the Age of Exploration to 1763.	Students at the Mastery level demonstrate a <b>strong</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts of the Americas from the Age of Exploration to 1763.	Students at the Advanced level demonstrate a <b>thorough</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts of the Americas from the Age of Exploration to 1763.
<b>Category</b>	<b>Approaching Basic</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>Mastery</b>	<b>Advanced</b>
<b>Claims and Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and express <b>flawed</b> claims that provide <b>vague</b> explanations of connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and/or place.</li> <li>Use <b>little or no</b> evidence from the sources and <b>limited</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>Rely on either knowledge from the course <b>or</b> information provided in the sources to make <b>vague or incomplete</b> connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and express <b>reasonable</b> claims, but provide <b>inconsistent or incomplete</b> explanations of connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and/or place.</li> <li>Use <b>disconnected</b> evidence from the sources and <b>general</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li><b>Use</b> knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make <b>obvious</b> connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and clearly express <b>logical</b> claims that provide <b>consistent and complete</b> explanations of the connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and/or place.</li> <li>Use <b>appropriate</b> evidence from the sources and <b>strong</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li><b>Integrate</b> knowledge from the course with information provided in the sources to make <b>reasoned and informed</b> connections that show the relationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and effectively express <b>valid</b> claims that provide <b>cohesive and in-depth</b> explanations of the connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and/or place.</li> <li>Use <b>well-chosen</b> evidence from the sources and <b>thorough</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li><b>Synthesize</b> knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make <b>sophisticated</b> connections that show the interrelationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>

Sample Content Connections	Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motivations of European people and nations influenced the colonization of North America and the physical environment.</li> <li>• Trade shaped the economic and political relationship among Europe, the Colonies, and West Africa.</li> <li>• Geography influenced the economies of the New England colonies, the Middle colonies, and the Southern colonies.</li> <li>• Colonial governments took a variety of forms based on the goals of their colonial founders.</li> <li>• European rivalries and British economic policy led to conflict and war in Colonial North America.</li> </ul>	<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a timeline of key events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a timeline of key events in early American history from pre-Columbian civilizations through 1763.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a timeline of key events in early American history from pre-Columbian civilizations through 1763.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify indigenous cultures that existed in the Americas prior to European exploration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the origins and characteristics of indigenous cultures and groups that existed in the Americas prior to exploration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the origins, characteristics, and expansion of indigenous cultures and groups that existed in the Americas prior to exploration.</li> </ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how individuals and groups can have different points of view.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the points of view of key individuals and groups in early colonial American history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare and contrast points of view of key individuals and groups in early colonial American history.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify explorers in the Age of Exploration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize the motivations, challenges, and achievements of early European explorers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify early explorers and their motivations, challenges, and achievements.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the Spanish conquests in the Americas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the consequences of the Spanish conquests in the Americas including the impact on the Aztecs, Incas, and other indigenous peoples.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the Spanish conquests in the Americas and the course and consequences of the Columbian Exchange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the Spanish conquests in the Americas and the course and consequences of the Columbian Exchange.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify goods traded within the Columbian Exchange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the economic course and consequence of the Columbian Exchange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the course and consequence of the Columbian Exchange, including its cultural and economic impact of the Americas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the course and consequences of the Columbian Exchange, including its cultural, ecological, economic and political impact on Europe, the Americas, and West Africa.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe trade in the Western Hemisphere after 1492.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify trade, cultural diffusion, and innovation in the Western Hemisphere after 1492.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the convergence of trade, cultural diffusion, and innovation in the Western Hemisphere after 1492.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare and contrast the convergence of trade, cultural diffusion, and innovation in the Western Hemisphere after 1492.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify examples of cooperation between Native Americans and Europeans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify examples of cooperation and conflict between Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the cooperation and conflict between Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify major European powers that colonized North America.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the goals, challenges, and achievements of the major European powers that colonized North America.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the goals, challenges, and achievements of the major European powers that colonized North America.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the major European powers that colonized North America and explain the goals, challenges, and achievements of the major European powers that colonized North America.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify different religious groups that settled colonial America.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the role of religion in the colonies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare and contrast religious groups that settled colonial America.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare and contrast religious groups that settled colonial America and explain (examine) the role of religion in the colonies.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the motives that led to the establishment of the thirteen colonies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the motives that led to the establishment of the thirteen colonies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the motives that led to the establishment of the thirteen colonies</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans adapted to living in the colonies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans adapted to living in the colonies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain and give examples of how Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans adapted to living in the colonies.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key people and events that led up to the French and Indian War.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the people, ideas, and events that led to the French and Indian War.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the impact of key people, ideas, and events that led to the French and Indian War.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify characteristics of various types of maps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiate between various types of maps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiate between various types of maps using characteristics, functions, and applications.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify various types of maps from the Age of Exploration to 1763.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use maps from the Age of Exploration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze maps from the Age of Exploration.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify ways humans can impact the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the impact of human action on the physical environment.</li> </ul>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the natural resources of colonial America.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe ways in which location and environment influence settlements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe ways in which location, environment, and natural resources influence settlements and land use.</li> </ul>	
<b>Civics</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the different types of government in colonial America.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the different types of government in colonial America.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how the different types of government in colonial America influenced the development of democracy in the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare and contrast the different types of government in colonial America that influenced the development of democracy in the United States.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe basic rights and responsibilities of citizens in present-day government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain basic rights and responsibilities of citizens in present-day government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate basic rights and responsibilities of citizens in present-day government.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe key ideas in colonial governments.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the key ideas that influenced the development of colonial governments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summarize the key ideas that influenced the development of colonial governments and their influence on the growth of democracy.</li> </ul>
<b>Economics</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the economic motivations for European exploration and settlement in the Americas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the economic motivations for European exploration and settlement in the Americas, using concepts of scarcity and supply and demand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the economic motivations for European exploration and settlement in Americas, using concepts of scarcity and supply and demand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cite evidence of the economic motivations for European exploration and settlement in Americas, using concepts of scarcity and supply and demand.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify items traded between the Americas and Western Europe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe trade between the Americas, Western Europe, and Western Africa during the colonial period.</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the differences in the economies of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the differences in the economies of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the differences in the economies of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the differences in the economies of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify events leading up to the French and Indian War.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the causes of the French and Indian War.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the reasons for the French and Indian War.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the reasons for the French and Indian War and the economic effects of British policy on colonial America.</li> </ul>