

Academic Content

Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool (IMET) for Alignment in Social Studies Grades K-12 Full Curriculum

Strong social studies instruction requires that students:

- Coherently build knowledge about social studies content — including important historical facts, civic principles, geographic characteristics, and economic concepts so that they can assess conflicting interpretations and evaluate the evidence for various claims.
- Develop the disciplinary skills and practices key to success in social studies, including the ability to analyze cause and effect relationships, evaluate a source's credibility, and express reasonable claims supported by well-chosen evidence.
- Engage regularly with authentic primary sources and a variety of secondary sources that reflect a range of perspectives and experiences.



SET THE CONTEXT

Introduce key terms,
make connections
with previous
learning, provide
necessary context



EXPLORE SOURCES

Read and examine
sources to build
content knowledge
and skills



DEVELOP CLAIMS

Evaluate evidence,
make connections,
compare and
contrast sources



EXPRESS CLAIMS

Through speaking
and/or writing,
express informed
claims supported with
evidence

Title: Core Knowledge Bayou Bridges: Powered by Kiddom

Grade/Course: K

Publisher: Kiddom

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Overall Rating: Tier 1, Exemplifies quality

Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 Elements of this review:

STRONG	WEAK
1. Alignment and Sequence (Non-Negotiable)	
2. Disciplinary Skills and Practice (Non-Negotiable)	
3. Quality of Sources (Non-Negotiable)	
4. Scaffolding and Support	
5. Usability	
6. Assessment	

To evaluate instructional materials for alignment with the standards and determine tiered rating, begin with **Section I: Non-Negotiable Criteria**.

- Review the **required**¹ Indicators of Superior Quality for each **Non-Negotiable** criterion.
- If there is a “Yes” for all **required** Indicators of Superior Quality, materials receive a “Yes” for that **Non-Negotiable** criterion.
- If there is a “No” for any of the **required** Indicators of Superior Quality, materials receive a “No” for that **Non-Negotiable** criterion.
- Materials must meet **Non-Negotiable** Criteria 1 for the review to continue to **Non-Negotiable** Criteria 2 and 3. Materials must meet all of the **Non-Negotiable** Criteria 1-3 in order for the review to continue to Section II.
- If materials receive a “No” for any **Non-Negotiable** criterion, a rating of Tier 3 is assigned, and the review does not continue.

If all Non-Negotiable Criteria are met, then continue to **Section II: Additional Criteria of Superior Quality**.

- Review the **required** Indicators of Superior Quality for each criterion.
- If there is a “Yes” for all **required** Indicators of Superior Quality, then the materials receive a “Yes” for the additional criteria.
- If there is a “No” for any **required** Indicator of Superior Quality, then the materials receive a “No” for the additional criteria.

Tier 1 ratings receive a “Yes” for all Non-Negotiable Criteria and a “Yes” for each of the Additional Criteria of Superior Quality.

Tier 2 ratings receive a “Yes” for all Non-Negotiable Criteria, but at least one “No” for the Additional Criteria of Superior Quality.

Tier 3 ratings receive a “No” for at least one of the Non-Negotiable Criteria.

¹ **Required Indicators of Superior Quality** are labeled “Required” and shaded light orange. Remaining indicators that are shaded white are included to provide additional information to aid in material selection and do not affect tiered rating.

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
<p>SECTION I: NON-NEGOTIABLE CRITERIA OF SUPERIOR QUALITY Materials must meet Non-Negotiable Criterion 1 for the review to continue to Non-Negotiable Criteria 2 and 3. Materials must meet all of the Non-Negotiable Criteria 1-3 for the review to continue to Section II.</p>			
<p>Non-Negotiable 1. ALIGNMENT AND SEQUENCE:</p> <p>Materials adequately address the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Required 1a) Materials incorporate a large majority of the content standards in the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies for the identified grade-level/course and require students to engage in thinking at the full depth and rigor of the standards.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Materials incorporate a large majority of the content standards in the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies (LSSSS) for Grade K and require students to engage in thinking, practices, and skills at the full depth and rigor of the standards and are developmentally appropriate. Each unit and chapter includes lessons, readings, and activities that align with the standards. For example, in Unit 1, Chapter 2, Core Lesson students use maps to answer questions, such as: “What state does the map on this page show?” “Which ocean is to the left of the United States on a map?” “What symbol represents a forest?” Students point to the tree on the map, find Louisiana on the map, and determine if the forest is close to or far away from Louisiana. Additionally, students use a globe and answer the following questions while pointing out the relative location using the terms right/left, up/down, in/out, and above/below: “Is the Pacific Ocean to the right or left of the United States?” “Is the Atlantic Ocean to the right or left of the United States?” “Are the forty-eight contiguous states inside or outside of North America?” “Is Hawaii to the right or left of the forty-eight contiguous states?” and “Is the Gulf of Mexico above or below</p>

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			<p>Louisiana?” (LSSSS K.18, Use maps and models to describe relative location. For example: locating objects and places to the right or left, up or down, in or out, above or below). Similarly, throughout the materials, student tasks and activities prompt students to use evidence from a variety of sources to support their answers to various questions in alignment with LSSSS K.3 (Select and use appropriate evidence from primary and secondary sources to support claims). For example, Unit 2, Chapter 2 includes a picture of a log cabin and information about Abraham Lincoln’s childhood. Students refer to the image as they make inferences about Lincoln’s experiences growing up. In Unit 1, Chapter 3, students observe various images showing landforms and climates and explain how different environments affect the way people in different areas live. Finally, in Unit 4, Chapter 1, students use an image of a cityscape with a traffic light to support their answer to why people need rules. These examples and several others throughout the materials support Skill/Practice Standard K.3. Further, Framing Standard K.5 requires students to identify examples of different cultures and traditions in Louisiana, including: a. Music: Cajun, jazz, zydeco; b. Traditions: king cake, red beans and rice on Mondays; and c. Cuisine: jambalaya, gumbo, etouffee, bread pudding, meat pies, tamales. The materials address these</p>

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			<p>aspects of culture and tradition throughout various chapters and units, such as Unit 2, Chapter 4, Core Lesson, where students learn about types of music and instruments, as well as cultural background for zydeco, jazz music, and Cajun culture/presence in Louisiana. Further, Chapter 5 discusses music types as representative of Louisiana. Additionally, Chapter 4 discusses the king cake, as well as red beans on Mondays, and includes an explanation of local recipes and ingredients for jambalaya, gumbo, bread pudding, meat pies, and tamales. Chapter 5 explains Mardi Gras traditions, such as the symbolism of purple, green, gold. Extra resources include links to related videos and additional content. Chapter 5 discusses gumbo, etouffee, and regional/cultural representations.</p>
	<p>Required *Indicator for grades 3-8 only 1b) Materials present a clear path for teachers to address content in a coherent and chronological manner that reasonably aligns to the sequence in the 2022 Louisiana Social Studies Course Frameworks.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Materials present a clear path for teachers to address content in a coherent and chronological manner that aligns to the sequence in the 2022 Louisiana Social Studies Course Frameworks. The materials are organized in a coherent system of units and chapters connected by common topics and ideas that flow in a logical format. For example, Units 1, 2, 3, and 4 have the same titles and supporting questions as the Grade K Frameworks, including the following: Exploring Our World, Understanding the Past, Understanding Wants and Needs, and Being a Part of a Community. This</p>

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			<p>organization of units moves from understanding their place in the world and working through the past to their role in their specific community. Further, Unit 3, Understanding Wants and Needs is divided into three chapters, each addressing topics related to economics. For example, Chapter 1: Wants and Needs, includes materials and content explaining the drivers of economic decision-making, including how people decide how to allocate finite resources. Chapter 2: Jobs, teaches students about different occupations in a community and also explains how people gain income to support their wants and needs. Finally, Chapter 3: Spending and Saving, returns to some of the concepts of wants and needs and combines that information with the realities of income limitations in Chapter 2 to help students understand the concept of scarcity. These examples represent an organizational structure that is connected and logical and helps students build on prior learning and concepts. Finally, Unit 1, Exploring Our World, is structured around the big idea that “Our country is a big place with varied geography.” The unit includes three chapters. In Chapter 1, students develop the following skills: “Identify and characterize different types of landforms” (LSSSS K.19), “Describe ways people interact with their environment, specifically how they utilize natural resources and modify their surroundings to create</p>

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			shelters” (LSSSS K.20), “Contrast rural, suburban, and urban areas based on their unique characteristics” (LSSSS K.21), and “Analyze the impact of weather on daily life and choices in various regions” (LSSSS K.22). Each chapter includes a Core Lesson and Additional Activities. In Unit 1, Chapter 1, Core Lesson, students build knowledge about different places where people live. Additional Activities in this chapter focus on students understanding where they live, differentiating different bodies of water, as well as rural and urban areas. Similar organizational formats exist in units and chapters throughout the materials.
	<p>Required 1c) In any one grade or course, instructional materials spend minimal time on content outside of the course, grade, or grade-band.</p>	Yes	<p>In any one grade, instructional materials spend minimal time on content outside of the grade. The materials adhere closely to the LSSSS and do not include additional materials that detract from the Grade K LSSSS. For example, in Unit 2, Understanding the Past, teacher guidance highlights the alignment to essential standards and includes the following outline: 1. Chronology: using schedules, calendars, and timelines to order events; 2. Why we study history; 3. Identifying and using primary and secondary sources; 4. State and federal holidays: New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Inauguration Day, Washington’s Birthday, Mardi Gras, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans</p>

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			<p>Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day; 5. Historical figures: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; 6. Symbols and customs of Louisiana and the United States: United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance; 7. Cultures and traditions of Louisiana: music including Cajun, jazz, zydeco, traditions including king cake, and red beans and rice on Mondays, cuisine including jambalaya, gumbo, bread pudding, meat pies, and tamales. Units 1, 3, and 4 similarly include structures and organization in alignment with the Grade K LSSSS, with unit guidance clearly identifying the specific content and order in which it appears with minimal superfluous or off-topic content. For example, in Unit 3, Chapter 1, students develop the following skills aligned with the indicated standards: “Identify examples of goods and services” (LSSSS K.13), “Differentiate between wants and needs” (LSSSS K.15), and “Describe the concept of scarcity” (LSSSS K.17). In Unit 3, Chapter 2, students learn how to “Identify jobs and industries within a school and community” (LSSSS K.16), “Understand how jobs are related to goods and services” (LSSSS K.13), and “Explain the importance of certain jobs within a community” (LSSSS K.16). In Unit 3, Chapter 3, students “Explain the difference between spending and saving” (LSSSS K.14), “Describe why people spend and save money” (LSSSS K.14), and “Compare reasons to spend and save</p>

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			money” (LSSSS K.14), all of which align directly to the standards.
<p>Non-Negotiable 2. DISCIPLINARY SKILLS AND PRACTICES:</p> <p>Materials provide opportunities for students to build knowledge and disciplinary literacy² through an integrated approach that is grounded in social studies content and supports development of disciplinary skills and practices.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Required 2a) Materials are structured around engaging questions and big ideas relevant to the grade-level/course’s academic content.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Units are structured around big ideas, with each unit containing several chapters that feature a framing question to encourage critical thinking about the big idea and several supporting questions that break down the Framing Question and the Big Idea into manageable parts. These questions are grade-level appropriate, engaging, and easy for students to understand, and prompt them to explore specific aspects, building a comprehensive understanding, and ultimately supporting their understanding of the Big Idea. Units are structured around a common shared Big Idea presented in the Unit Introduction. Then, each chapter is organized around a Framing Question that helps students better understand the unit’s Big Idea. For example, the Big Idea of Unit 3, Understanding Wants and Needs. is “People make decisions based on their wants and needs.” Chapter 1 is organized around the Framing Question, “What’s the difference between wants and needs?” Chapter 2 is organized around the Framing Question, “Why do people have jobs?” Chapter 3 is organized around the Framing Question, “Why do people spend and save money?” Each question helps students understand</p>

² Shanaha, T., & Shanahan, C. (2012) What is disciplinary literacy and why does it matter? Topics in Language Disorders, 32 (1) 7-18

Note* Disciplinary literacy refers to the skills that are needed to understand, create and communicate academic knowledge in the four core disciplines of social studies - history, civics, economics and geography.

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			<p>the decisions that people need to make based on the resources they have. Unit 1, Chapter 1, Where People Live, is anchored around the Big Idea, “Our country is a big place with varied geography” and is aligned with LSSSS K.19 (Identify basic landforms and bodies of water in a variety of visual representations, including mountains, hills, coasts, islands, lakes, and rivers), LSSSS K.20 (Identify ways people interact with their environment, including using natural resources, modifying their environment to create shelter), LSSSS K.21 (Identify rural, suburban, and urban areas), LSSSS K.22 (Explain how weather impacts daily life and choices), and LSSSS K.23 (Explain why people may move from place to place). Similarly, in Unit 4, which contains five chapters, students explore what it means to be part of a community, including topics on local government and symbols of the United States and Louisiana. This is aligned with the Big Idea, “Rules and laws help us be responsible members of the community. Symbols represent the ideas and cultures of our state and country,” and LSSSS K.2, K.3, K.4, K.5, K.6, K.7, K.8, K.9, K.10, K.11, and K.12. Chapter 2’s Framing Question, “How does a community work together to make rules?” is supported by several Literal, Inferential, and Evaluative supporting questions listed in the Core Lesson section for teachers to ask students, such as: “Who makes the rules for the classroom?” (a Literal question aligned</p>

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			<p>with LSSSS K.9), “How do teachers decide what rules are needed?” (an Evaluative question aligned with LSSSS K.8, K.9, and K.10), and “What might happen if you do not follow classroom rules?” (an Inferential question aligned with LSSSS K.8 and K.10). In the chapter, students differentiate between primary and secondary sources and select and use appropriate evidence from these sources to support their answers to many of the questions. At the end of the lesson, teachers check students’ understanding by having them Turn and Talk about “How does a community work together to make rules?” The questions listed in the Core Lesson guide students to make appropriate claims about rules and laws, which help them understand how to be responsible members of the community.</p>
	<p>Required 2b) Materials require students to engage in the various types of disciplinary thinking that are explicit and embedded in the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Materials require students to engage in the various types of disciplinary thinking that are explicit and embedded in the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies. The materials require students to engage in a range of disciplinary thinking, including cause/effect analysis, contextualization of past/present, and sourcing activities that are appropriate to the grade level and aligned with the Grade K LSSSS. Throughout the materials, students differentiate between primary and secondary sources, use appropriate evidence from both to support claims,</p>

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			<p>describe causes and effects of events, observe basic characteristics of people, places, and objects, and identify similarities and differences among places and people. For example, Unit 1, Chapter 1, Where People Live, includes images of children fishing in a lake after a discussion of water features such as lakes, rivers, and oceans. As students observe the image, the materials provide the following guidance: “SUPPORT – Ask students to point to the top image. Explain that the girl in the image is fishing. She is using a fishing pole to catch fish that live in the water. Ask students if they have ever been fishing. If they have, ask them to share their experience. Direct students to the bottom image. Ask: What is happening in this image?” The sample student response states, “A boy is traveling by boat on water.” The teacher then asks an Evaluative question, “Why do people live near lakes and rivers?” (LSSSS K.3, K.20.a) with the following sample student response, “People live near lakes and rivers because they provide fresh water for drinking and fish for food. People can also use lakes and rivers to travel by boat.” Prompting students to think about this connection is reflective of cause/effect disciplinary thinking at the depth and rigor suggested by the LSSSS. Additionally, in Unit 2, Chapter 3, students differentiate between primary and secondary sources by answering “How are</p>

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			<p>letters and textbooks different?” and “How are letters and speeches alike?” as required by LSSSS K.2.a and K.2.b. Students then examine two sources as the teacher explains that “these images show students learning in the past and in the present.” Students compare the images and answer the questions, “What is similar and different in the images?” and “What parts of the photos tell you that the students are interested in what they are learning?” as required by LSSSS K.2 and K.3. In Unit 2, Chapter 3, students observe an image of King George III as the teacher reads aloud. Students answer the following question, “Does this image show someone from the past, the present, or the future? How do you know?” a required skill and practice outlined in LSSSS K.3. Moreover, the Cause and Effect Additional Activity, aligned LSSSS K.6, provides students with an opportunity to describe the cause of effects of events, developments, and ideas. The teacher introduces the activity by “reminding students that things that happened in the past impact how we live today,” and students create “their own cause-and-effect statements about something in their school, neighborhood, or parish using the sentence frame ___ because ___.” In Unit 4, Chapter 3: Local Government introduces students to various elected representatives. The chapter also includes an activity in which students describe the roles of mayors and</p>

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			<p>parish councils, and includes the following teacher support suggestions: “Explain that parishes divide Louisiana into smaller areas. Each parish has its own government. The parish system started hundreds of years ago. Review what students learned in Unit 2, Understanding the Past, about how we learn about the past.” The teacher then asks, “What sources from the past could tell you about how the parish system started?” with a possible student response, “newspapers, letters, and diaries.” This question is followed by, “What source from the present could tell you about how the parish system started?” with the possible student response, “textbooks written by people who study history for their job” (LSSSS K.2, K.2.a, K.2.b). Asking students to consider where they might find information is aligned with the disciplinary thinking requirement of sourcing at a level appropriate for the grade-level.</p>
	<p>Required 2c) Materials provide regular and varied opportunities for students to engage in disciplinary writing that emphasizes the use of accurate information from social studies knowledge, relevant evidence from sources, and strong reasoning to support and develop claims or arguments.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Materials provide regular and varied opportunities for students to engage in disciplinary writing that emphasizes the use of accurate information from social studies knowledge, relevant evidence from sources, and strong reasoning to support and develop claims or arguments. Throughout the materials, students engage in grade-appropriate disciplinary writing using drawing, dictating, or writing to support and develop claims or arguments with accurate</p>

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			<p>information, evidence, and reasoning. The materials include written activities that are appropriate to this level and require students to engage in connecting what they have learned with their own ideas on paper-based assignments. Each unit includes at least two informal writing opportunities in which students apply social studies knowledge. For example, in Unit 1, Chapter 2, Additional Activity, A Map of my House, students create a map key with adult assistance. Students draw the symbols, and an adult writes the labels. In another Additional Activity, Let’s Take a Trip, students take an imaginary trip and work with their families to decide where they want to travel to, fill in the airplane ticket, pack their suitcases with the correct type of clothing, and write a postcard to the class about their trip. At the end of the unit, students complete Unit 1 Performance Task: Exploring Our World in which they draw an image on one side of a card and dictate a brief message for the other side. Additionally, Unit 2, Chapter 4: Culture, students engage in a writing activity in which they identify elements of their own culture and illustrate them. The teacher introduces the activity by “reviewing what students read about culture by showing the Sesame Street video ‘Culture with Jacob Batalon.’” After watching the video, the teacher asks students to think about their own culture and then guides a class</p>

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			<p>discussion with the following questions: “What languages do you and your family speak?” “What foods do you and your family eat?” “What traditions and celebrations do you and your family have?” and “What music is included in those traditions and celebrations?” Then, students complete My Culture (AP 4.2) by drawing a picture that represents their culture. This activity requires students to interpret what they have learned about culture in a drawn image representing those elements in their own lives, which is both developmentally appropriate and in a written expression of disciplinary thinking in alignment with the standards. Further, in Unit 4, Chapter 1, Additional Activity, Rules Posters, students work in groups to draw a poster that shows what it looks like when they follow their assigned rule. In another, in Additional Activity, Why do I have to be responsible? students draw a picture of themselves acting responsibly and share that picture with a partner as a requirement for completion of Supporting Question 1. Furthermore, as a requirement for the completion of Supporting Question 3, students explore the implications of not being responsible and create a two-panel comic depicting what would happen if they were not responsible at home or at school. On one side, students draw a problem and on the other, they draw the results of the problem if they do not act responsibly in</p>

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			that situation. In Unit 4 Performance Task: Being Part Of A Community, students draw images of being part of a community on one side of each card and dictate a brief message about its meaning for the other side.
	<p>Required 2d) Materials promote an emphasis on building content-specific and academic vocabulary in social studies.</p>	Yes	<p>Materials promote an emphasis on building content-specific and academic vocabulary in social studies. Materials include a list of key vocabulary and the introduction section of the Teacher’s Guide for each unit allow for embedded vocabulary instruction. As a broad overview, the Unit Introduction for each unit regarding Core Vocabulary instruction includes the following instructions for teachers: “Within each Read Aloud, Core Vocabulary words appear in boldface color (like this). You may sometimes wish to preview one or two of these vocabulary words before a segment of the Read Aloud. In most instances, however, it may be more effective to pause and explain the meanings of the words as they are encountered when reading aloud. It is important to note that students at this grade level are not expected to give definitions of the Core Vocabulary words. Rather, the intent is for the teacher to model the use of Core Vocabulary in the Read Aloud and in discussions about the Read Aloud to expose students to challenging, domain-specific vocabulary. If students hear these words used in context by the teacher</p>

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			<p>over the entire unit, they will gain an increasingly nuanced understanding of these words. With support and encouragement from the teacher, students may even begin to use these same words in their own oral discussions of the unit.” This guidance illustrates the emphasis on vocabulary throughout the materials. On the Unit 1 Introduction page, along with the Framing Questions, the Core Vocabulary that correlates to each Framing Question is listed in the column next to its question. For example, the Core Vocabulary words for Unit 1, Chapter 1, Where People Live, include farm, city, town, river, neighborhood, state, and country. The Core Vocabulary is introduced in teacher-lead reading. Guidance suggests that the teacher introduces and defines the word then follows with support questions that are also found in the presentation slides. Students point to pictures on slides 15 and 29 to identify rivers and hills. Similarly, in Unit 2, Chapter 4, the teacher explains the meaning of the Core Vocabulary, fast, recipes, ingredients, and seafood, throughout the lesson. A list of these vocabulary words is included at the beginning of the chapter and is embedded into student reader content. The Chapter 4 Assessment provides students the opportunity to demonstrate student understanding as they point to each picture on the answer sheet while the teacher reads the choices aloud.</p>

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	<p>2e) Materials provide frequent opportunities for evidence-based student discourse and meaningful classroom discussions.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Materials provide frequent opportunities for evidence-based student discourse and meaningful classroom discussions. Materials include many opportunities throughout units and chapters to discuss questions in both a whole-class context, as well as in peer-to-peer situations, while using evidence from the materials to support their discussions. For example, in Unit 1, Chapter 2, students discuss their understanding of the topic with a classmate through a Turn and Talk activity, where they discuss the question, “Why are maps helpful?” At the end of each Core Lesson, students Turn and Talk to review and discuss the Framing Question of each chapter. The Introduction section of the teacher’s edition provides the teacher with the following directions about the Turn and Talk activity: “Teachers should direct students to turn and talk to a partner to discuss specific things. These types of discussion opportunities will allow students to more fully engage with the content and will bring to life the topics and events being discussed.” Similarly, Unit 4, Chapter 2: Making Rules includes a series of activities in which students engage in discourse based on a picture shared in the student reader. Students look at the image, and the teacher points out how the children line up and keep their hands to themselves. The teacher then asks, “What other rule do you think the students in this picture are</p>

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			<p>following? How do you know?” Sample student responses include, “The students are waiting quietly for directions. They are facing forward and looking at the teacher.” (LSSSS K.3). The teacher invites students to share examples of rules that keep them safe at school. Sample student responses include, “Walk in the classroom and hallways. Listen quietly when someone else is speaking. Be careful with scissors and other sharp objects.” (LSSSS K.8). The teacher then asks the Literal question, “Who makes the rules for the classroom?” (LSSSS K.9), the Evaluative question, “How do teachers decide what rules are needed?” (LSSSS K.8, K.9, K.10), and the Inferential question, “What might happen if you do not follow classroom rules?” (LSSSS K.8.b, LSSSS K.10). Each question includes sample student responses. After this activity and several others related to different rules and community occupations that support rulemaking and rule following, the students respond to the following Turn and Talk prompt: “How does a community work together to make rules?” Sample student responses include, “Communities work together to make rules by deciding how to keep people safe. Adults help make rules at school, at home, in our town or city, and in our parish. They also help us follow the rules.” This discussion format allows students to engage with content in a peer-to-peer setting while allowing teachers to</p>

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			<p>evaluate understanding and to provide support at the end of the discussion in a format that is appropriate for the grade-level while addressing several content and skills standards. Finally, at the end of lessons, students Turn and Talk. Each Turn and Talk is focused on a question that requires students to use their learning from the lessons and activities in the chapter. For example, in Unit 4, Chapter 1, the Turn and Talk question is “Why do we have rules and laws?” which is also the Framing Question for the unit.</p>
<p>Non-Negotiable 3. QUALITY OF SOURCES: The sources students engage with are authentic and meaningful and in line with the kinds of knowledge and skills required by the standards.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Required 3a) Materials provide many opportunities for students to build and deepen knowledge through a coherent selection of strategically-sequenced, high-quality sources, including written texts that are appropriately <u>complex</u>.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Materials provide many opportunities for students to build and deepen knowledge through a coherent selection of strategically-sequenced, high-quality sources, including written texts that are appropriately complex. The materials include a wide range of sources that are grade-level appropriate and information that supports student understanding of the sources at an appropriate level. The topics of study provide a variety of sources, both primary and secondary, that allow for authentic engagement during learning. The sources correlate with the instruction of the unit and are sequenced in a way that helps students build and deepen their knowledge. For example, Unit 2, Chapter 1: Learning about the Past contains many photographs and charts to explain vocabulary and concepts, such as how we measure the</p>

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			<p>passage of time which includes calendars, schedules, and timelines, and how we learn about people which includes biographies, autobiographies, and history books. The chapter ends with a Then and Now activity where students compare and contrast two photographs of a classroom, one in the past and one in the present. The teacher guide provides three Evaluative questions to ask students as they analyze the two photographs. Unit 3, Chapter 2: Jobs also has two sets of Then and Now photographs for students to use when learning about jobs and how they have changed over time. Additionally, in Unit 3, Chapter 3, students examine the Declaration of Independence image as the teacher reads aloud. Students then answer the text-dependent question, "Why do we celebrate Independence Day on July 4?" In Unit 4, Chapter 4: Symbols of the United States includes a series of photographs depicting symbols of the United States, including several flags representing the United States, Louisiana, Juneteenth, and Veterans' and Memorial Day, in addition to appropriately complex text explanations suitable to be read aloud to Grade K students. The materials also include sources that refer back to previous learning and remind students that certain individuals can also serve as symbols for the country. For example, the teacher guides students in a sequence of activities in connection with an image of the Lincoln</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>Memorial. First, students call their previous learning about Abraham Lincoln from Unit 2 and share what they remember, such as his childhood in a log cabin and his honesty. Then, the lesson goes on to explain how Lincoln is celebrated as a symbol of freedom and honor on President’s Day and by his presence on the \$5 bill. The lesson concludes as students view images of the Lincoln Memorial and think about what it might represent for the United States. This set of sources allows students to connect to prior learning and source material and is developmentally appropriate.</p>
	<p>Required 3b) Available sources are representative of multiple viewpoints or accounts on the issue, event, or topic being examined.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>When applicable, available, and appropriate, sources are representative of multiple viewpoints or accounts on the issue, event, or topic being examined. To the extent possible, materials include multiple viewpoints relating to cultural and historical topics and events addressed throughout the content. For example, in Unit 1, Chapter 3: Exploring the United States includes images and information on many different regions and groups of people in the United States. Later lessons include images of Southwestern Deserts, including Monument Valley. The materials also include information about the Navajo, including a brief explanation describing Native Nations and connecting the Navajo people and culture with this particular environment and region of the United States. This chapter</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>also includes images of multiple regions in the U.S. and information and questions relating to how the environments of those areas affect their citizens' lifestyles. Further, in Unit 2, Chapter 3, students analyze events of the past and contributions of various groups, including women, Native Americans, and enslaved people. Students learn about Women's History Month, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. They answer text-dependent questions and explain why people celebrate these holidays. Additionally, Unit 3, Chapter 2: Jobs presents information on various occupations and the different ways they impact the community. For example, materials highlight the role of doctors in keeping communities safe and healthy; they follow this information with further details about firefighters, who also work to keep communities safe and healthy, and police officers, who do the same, though each in a slightly different way. Finally, in Unit 4, Chapter 5, students examine Louisiana's rich and diverse history, which has contributed significantly to its culture. They answer text-dependent questions that help students understand that Louisiana's culture is a blend of Native American, European, and African influences. For example, students answer questions about Louisiana's food and music, such as: "What is the state food of Louisiana?" "Which</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>culture did tamales originate from?” “What kind of music is a symbol of New Orleans?” and “What other types of music represent Louisiana?” Guidance suggests that teachers remind students about what they learned regarding jazz, Cajun, and zydeco music in Unit 2, Understanding the Past. For example, they discuss: “Jazz music was first created by African American musicians in New Orleans and incorporates many different styles. Cajun music was brought to Louisiana by the Acadian people and features fiddles and accordions. Zydeco music shares some sounds with Cajun music and includes styles from African American and Creole cultures.”</p>
	<p>Required 3c) Sources present the achievements and contributions, strengths, skills, and knowledge of a wide range of individuals and groups throughout the units.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Sources present the achievements and contributions, strengths, skills, and knowledge of the wide range of individuals and groups throughout the units. The materials address all the contributions, strengths, skills, and knowledge of all individuals included in the Grade K LSSSS and include additional information about other various community members and the roles they play. For example, LSSSS K.4c lists the following individuals as part of students learning: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Both Unit 2, Chapter 2: Important People of the Past and Unit 4, Chapter 4: Symbols of the United States include multiple pages of text, pictures, paintings, and/or</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>photographs to describe the achievements, contributions, strengths, and skills of these historical figures. The Additional Activity, Honoring Dr. King provides digital sources for students to use when learning about his achievements and contributions. Subsequently, Unit 2, Chapter 3: Remembering Events of the Past includes a lesson on Women’s History Month, which includes images of female STEM leaders Katherin Johnson, Sally Ride, and Mae Jemison. The lesson outlines their contributions to NASA and their accomplishments as leaders in math, engineering, and astronautics fields, as well as the importance of celebrating women in history. Unit 4, Chapter 3: Local Government outlines the different roles in local government, such as parish president, mayor, and legislator, and provides information on the roles of each public servant. Finally, in Unit 4, Chapter 5, students answer the question, “What kind of music is a symbol of New Orleans?” and “What other types of music represent Louisiana?”</p>
SECTION II: ADDITIONAL CRITERIA OF SUPERIOR QUALITY			
<p>4. SCAFFOLDING AND SUPPORT:</p> <p>Materials provide teachers with guidance to build their own knowledge and to give</p>	<p>Required</p> <p>4a) Materials provide appropriate scaffolding that will allow all students to productively engage with content.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Materials provide appropriate scaffolding that will allow all students to productively engage with content. The materials acknowledge the developmental needs and range of abilities of Grade K students and provide resources and opportunities within</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
<p>all students extensive opportunities and support to explore key concepts using multiple instructional approaches and strategies.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>			<p>the materials for students to access and understand the content. The materials are organized in a way to scaffold skills and gradually increase in complexity of topics over time. The units contain pacing, visual aids, and suggestions for supporting texts. The materials contain extension activities with suggestions for more advanced texts, alternate approaches, or suggestions for addressing common student difficulties. The materials employ the use of timeline cards and presentations for each chapter. For example, in Unit 1, Chapter 1: Where People Live, the included presentation has pictures and graphics to help explain vocabulary words like farm, city, town, river, and other geographic features. The teacher's Core Lesson materials include graphic organizers to help students organize their thoughts. For example, in Unit 1, Chapter 1, the Activity 1.2 graphic organizer includes a box for students to draw a picture to demonstrate understanding. Progressing to Unit 3, Chapter 2, the Activity 2.1 graphic organizer includes a box for students to draw a picture and a sentence starter that states, "I am a _____." Later, Unit 3, Chapter 3: Spending and Saving includes Additional Activities to support student understanding of core content. These include the following: a Curious George Saves His Pennies read aloud with a Q&A process; a Counting with Common Cents lesson plan developed by the Federal Reserve Banks of St. Louis and</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>Philadelphia, which includes a different read-aloud, as well as an interactive cross-curricular math component; and a Three Jars activity for students to imagine dividing their own resources into categories for “saving, spending, and sharing,” as well as a Sesame Street video clip reiterating the concepts of the lesson. In addition to the appropriately scaffolded core content and instructional practice suggestions, the additional resources provide teachers with many opportunities to help students access the content in different ways. For example, Unit 4, Chapter 2: Making Rules includes a series of large, high-resolution images depicting the rule-making processes and impacts described in the words of the student reader. The materials include suggestions that the teacher read aloud the words with an acknowledgment in the introduction of each unit since Grade K students are at the very beginning phases of decoding and reading instruction and are unlikely to be able to access the written components independently. The oral questions are categorized at a range of levels, including Literal, Evaluative, and Inferential, requiring students to engage in different thought processes as they learn different concepts. For example, the materials present an image of students lining up with a corresponding written explanation of what rules are and what is happening in the picture. The Literal</p>

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			<p>question posed to students is “Who makes the rules for the classroom?” (LSSSS K.9); the Evaluative question is “How do teachers decide what rules are needed?” (LSSSS K.8, K.9, K.10); and, finally, the Inferential question is “What might happen if you do not follow classroom rules?” (LSSSS K.8.b, K.10). This sequence of instruction is scaffolded to lead students to deeper thinking while still remaining appropriate to the skills and abilities of Grade K students.</p>
	<p>Required 4b) Teacher support materials include support for building social studies content knowledge and explanations of the instructional approaches that are used.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Teacher support materials include support for building social studies content knowledge and explanations of the instructional approaches that are used. The materials outline the cognitive and developmental research behind the structure, content, and activities included to support teachers in executing the instructional approaches effectively. For example, the Unit 1 Introduction in the teacher materials includes the following explanation of the format of the teacher and student materials, as well as the expectation that the materials should be read aloud to students: “The intent of the Grades K–2 Bayou Bridges units is to build students’ understanding and knowledge of social studies. It is for this very reason that, in Bayou Bridges Grades K–2, the content knowledge of each lesson is delivered to students using a teacher Read Aloud, accompanied by detailed images. Cognitive</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>science research has clearly documented the fact that students’ listening comprehension far surpasses their reading comprehension well into the late elementary and early middle school grades. In other words, students are able to understand and grasp far more complex ideas and texts by hearing them read aloud than they would ever be able to comprehend by reading to themselves.” This information provides teachers with both the research and the associated best practices to be implemented. Further, the Unit 2 Introduction in the teacher materials includes explanations for key instructional approaches: Reading Aloud, Picture This, Turn and Talk, and, Framing Questions and Core Vocabulary. Each instructional approach includes a detailed explanation of what the process for using it should look and sound like in a classroom, as well as the rationale and research supporting that practice. These resources are also repeated throughout the materials in each unit introduction to bring their process and purpose to the front of mind as teachers begin new and/or different content instruction. Additionally, all chapters in the materials have a What Teachers Need to Know section, a multiparagraph resource divided into the topics that students will learn about in that chapter. Information found in these sections supports teachers to deepen their understanding of a topic to</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			better address students' questions as they progress through the chapter.
<p>5. USABILITY:</p> <p>Materials are easily accessible, and are viable for implementation given the length of a school year.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Required</p> <p>5a) The total amount of content is viable for a school year and the pacing of content allows for maximum student understanding. The materials provide guidance about the amount of time a task might reasonably take.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The total amount of content is viable for a school year and the pacing of content allows for maximum student understanding. The materials provide guidance about the amount of time a task might reasonably take. The materials include detailed pacing information and include four units intended to coordinate with the four quarters of a traditional school year. The materials present a Pacing Guide for each unit. The Pacing Guide for Unit 1 includes a lesson topic and specific resources including page numbers, topics, and additional resources to be used daily over the course of 8 weeks. The materials also include a blank pacing guide for teachers to customize their plans. The Pacing Guide also refers to specific resources in the Teacher's Guide, Student Book, and Activity Pages using noted abbreviations TG, SB, and AP. Further, several activities include specific instructions for pacing within a given activity. For example, the Pacing Guide for Unit 4, Chapter 1: Rules and Laws lists five additional activities. The Additional Activity, Rules at the Skate Park, takes thirty minutes to complete the activity. It also provides the length of the video that is included in the activity, which states, "Show the PBS LearningMedia video 'Rules at the Skate Park' (02:59)." Additionally, in Unit 3,</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>Chapter 2: Jobs, in the Additional Activities section of the chapter, materials include additional resources and activity pages to enhance student learning. One of these activities, My Job, includes detailed instructions and materials for teachers, as well as a suggested time frame of thirty minutes to further guide teacher pacing. Finally, the content students are expected to learn does not exceed what is reasonable in a school year. All four units take 155 days to complete using the Pacing Guides provided for each unit. Units 1, 2, and 4 take forty days to complete, while Unit 3 takes thirty-five days. This pacing allows for one unit to be completed each nine weeks with some days left over for teachers to use for re-teaching content. A blank pacing guide is included for teachers to make their own pacing, but specific instructions for shortening or extending lessons to allow time for re-teaching content or skills if necessary are not included.</p>
	<p>5b) Materials provide support for communicating with parents, community members, and other stakeholders about how they can support student learning.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Materials provide support for communicating with parents, community members, and other stakeholders about how they can support student learning. The materials include accessible resources and letters for parents, offering examples of student learning outcomes for each unit and guidance for supporting learning at home. For example, Unit 2, Chapter 1: Learning About the Past includes a set of activity</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>pages ordered chronologically for teacher ease of use. The first activity page (AP 1.1) is a letter to families describing the goals of the unit as well as key topics of study. The letter ends with the following statement: “Sometimes students have questions regarding how the information they are learning relates to themselves and their own experiences. In such instances, we will encourage each student to discuss such topics with you. We recognize that the best place to find answers to those types of questions is with your family and the adults at home.” This establishes the importance of family involvement in communicating with their students about various social studies topics. Similarly, Unit 2, Chapter 1: Learning about the Past provides a letter to the family, (AP. 1.1). This letter is similar to the one found in Unit 1 but is more specific about the content that students will learn, and it provides a statement to further explain what aspect of the different people, holidays, and cultures that students will learn. It states in the third paragraph, “This information is presented in a factual, age-appropriate way rather than in a manner that suggests the value or correctness of any particular culture or group. The goal is to foster understanding of and respect for people and communities that may be different from those with which students are familiar.” Finally, Unit 4, Chapter 1 includes a family letter that outlines the</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>content taught in the unit, its connection to the student's life experiences, and ways families can support their child's learning. The letter informs families that, over the next few weeks, students will learn about the importance of rules and laws, local government leaders, and how symbols represent the culture and ideas of Louisiana and the United States. Additionally, the letter informs families that they will also explore the consequences of breaking rules and laws, presented in an age-appropriate, factual manner to foster respect for diverse communities. The letter emphasizes that students are encouraged to discuss personal connections to the material with their families, who are best equipped to address such questions.</p>
	<p>5c) Student and teacher materials are easy to use and well organized.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Student and teacher materials are easy to use and are well organized. The teacher and student materials are concise, easy to navigate, and include clear connections between them. Website navigation is straightforward. The left-hand navigation panel allows teachers to use drop-down menus to navigate within units, with subheadings included for overarching unit information, including Introductions, Pacing Guides, and Student Reader sections for that unit, as well as subheadings for each chapter within that unit. For example, Unit 1, Chapter 1: Where People Live illustrates how each chapter is organized first into four key</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>sections: Core Vocabulary, The Core Lesson, What Teachers Need to Know, and Additional Activities. Each of these subheadings links to a page including the specific information teachers need for each of those topics. Then, subheadings include relevant activity pages, labeled and placed in order of suggested use in alignment with the Pacing Guide. For example, Chapter 1, Activity Page 1.1: Letter to Family is the first page recommended by the materials as the first step in the first chapter of a new unit. Finally, the chapter includes a Chapter Assessment as its final subheading. Each unit and set of chapters is organized the same way, with all resources available presented in an accessible and clearly labeled format. Similarly, Unit 2 begins with an Introduction, followed by a Pacing Guide and chapters, and concludes with a Performance Task and Culminating Activity. The Student Reader is also included and can be bookmarked on the platform. Unit 2, Chapter 4 starts with Primary Focus Objectives, essential teacher knowledge, required materials (with hyperlinks), Core Lesson Vocabulary, the Core Lesson, Additional Activities with included links, a Chapter Assessment, a Performance Task, a Culminating Activity, and a customizable slide presentation. The teacher materials clearly connect to the Student Reader by posing questions and offering support related to the sources in the Student</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			Reader. For example, the teacher instructs students to turn to page 33 of the Student Book and examine the images while reading aloud. The teacher then asks questions aligned with the standards, text, and images in the Student Reader, such as: “How long have people lived in Louisiana? (LSSSS K.5),” “Who were the first people in Louisiana? (LSSSS K.5),” and “What did people from other places bring to Louisiana? (LSSSS K.5).”
<p>6. ASSESSMENT:</p> <p>Materials offer assessment opportunities that genuinely measure progress and elicit evidence of the degree to which students can independently demonstrate the assessed standards.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Required</p> <p>6a) Materials encompass a balanced system of assessments that includes a variety of formative, performance, and traditional summative assessments.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Materials encompass a balanced system of assessments that includes a variety of formative, performance, and traditional summative assessments. Materials include a variety of assessments for each unit including formative, performance, and traditional summative assessments at a level that is appropriate for Grade K students. For example, Unit 3 includes multiple forms of assessment. First, the materials provide formative assessments in the form of student discussion questions presented throughout the chapters. Chapter 2, The Core Lesson includes 15 Literal questions, 16 Evaluative, and 1 Inferential question to track student understanding. The materials also provide summative assessments in multiple formats. For example, Chapters 1-3 each include a summative assessment specific to the content and learning of that unit in a traditional multiple-choice format. Teachers</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>read questions aloud to students multiple times, and answer choices are presented as images, which is appropriate for the skill level of emerging readers. Performance: Unit 3 Performance Task: Understanding Wants and Needs includes instructions for teachers on expected pacing (two class periods), and assessment collection details (a rubric and suggested student conferencing format based on their task completion). Culminating Activity: Understanding Wants and Needs includes a whole-class collage activity, a performance-based assessment, based on student understanding of wants and needs. This set of assessments includes a variety of formats, as well as the look-for responses to help guide teachers in understanding student progress towards mastery of content. Other examples of formative assessments can be found throughout the materials, as in the following activity: Unit 1, Chapter 1, Additional Activity, Where Do I Live? in which teachers “Briefly review what students learned in Chapter 1, ‘Where People Live,’ by again posing the Framing Question: ‘Where do people live?’ and then prompting “students to repeat the same points noted in the Check for Understanding.” Next, the teacher asks the students, “Where do you live?” and prompts students to use the sentence frame “I live in (name of town or city), in the state of Louisiana, in the country of the United</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>States.” The teacher then calls on several students to respond independently to the same question and directs students to think about where they live and draw a picture of it using Where Do I Live? (LSSSS SP 1.2). This series of questions is connected to the Framing Question and assesses students’ progress in being able to answer the question. This activity takes place on Days 2 and 3 of the Pacing Guide following the introduction of new learning from Day 1. Additionally, each of the four units contains a Performance Task and a Culminating Activity. The tasks prompt students to draw or color an image and then explain their learning to the class. The Unit 3 Performance Task: Understanding Wants and Needs states, “Have students draw images of needs and wants, jobs, or money on one side of each card and dictate a brief message about understanding needs and wants for the other side.” Then students talk about their drawing. The teacher records what the student says and uses the included rubric to grade the student’s performance. Finally, each chapter in the materials contains a traditional multiple choice assessment with five to eight questions. For these assessments, teacher guidance states, “Read each sentence or question aloud with the answer choices. Instruct students to point to each picture on the answer sheet as you read the choice aloud. Reread the question or sentence and answer</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
	<p>Required 6b) Assessments are high quality, with questions that are standards-aligned, represent a range of disciplinary thinking, and require students to use their content knowledge, skills, practices, and/or provided sources.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>choices aloud a second time, and tell students to circle the picture that shows the correct answer.”</p> <p>Assessments are high quality, with questions that are standards-aligned, represent a range of disciplinary thinking, and require students to use their content knowledge, skills, practices, and/or provided sources. In addition to including multiple types of assessment in each unit and chapter, the assessments are standards-aligned and represent the depth and rigor of both the Framing and the Skills and Practice standards at a level appropriate for Grade K students. For example, Unit 1, Chapter 1: Where People Live includes a Chapter Assessment with eight questions. The assessment includes instructions for administration by teachers, including modeling how students should point to images during the read-aloud process and then circle the correct image. This assessment format is appropriate to the grade-level and clarifies for teachers how to administer the assessment in a manner in which data collected will be as reliable as possible for Grade K students. Each item in the assessment is labeled with the LSSSS it assesses. For example, questions 1 and 2 each address LSSSS Skills and Practice Standard K.18 (Use maps and models to describe relative location. For example: locating objects and places to the right or</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>left, up or down, in or out, above or below). On question 1 “What state do you live in?” students circle the map with the correct state identified. This question requires students to know the name of their own state, to have familiarity with the shape of the state, and to have familiarity with where Louisiana fits relative to the other states in the United States. Next, on question 2 “What country do you live in?” students select the correct country in North America. These questions address the full depth and rigor of the standard while using age-appropriate image-based sources. Other chapter-based summative assessments similarly follow this format. Additionally, the assessments in the materials require students to apply content knowledge and skills representative of the field of social studies. The performative and cumulative activity tasks included at the end of each unit require students to apply content knowledge and skills; whereas, the chapter assessments are primarily recall questions. The Unit 1, Chapter 3: Exploring the United States, Chapter Assessment includes where, what, and which questions. The Unit 2, Chapter 2: Important People of the Past, Chapter Assessment includes which and what questions. The Unit 3: Understanding Wants and Needs, Performative Task prompts students “to imagine they are hosting a class about needs and wants” and to “share the things people need to know</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>about needs and wants, jobs, and money with the people they are inviting to the class by creating four different postcards on 5” x 8” index cards.” which requires students to apply their content knowledge to a real world setting. Assessments do not include primary sources, but provide secondary sources to help students demonstrate their learning.</p>
	<p>Required 6c) Materials provide guidance and support to help teachers collect, interpret, and act on data about student progress toward the standards.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Materials provide guidance and support to help teachers collect, interpret, and act on data about student progress toward the standards. The Performance Tasks include student exemplars along with clear rubrics and assessment guidance with examples of what students’ responses need to include to score above average, average, adequate, or inadequate. The Teacher Guide includes questions with anticipated student responses or specific look-fors in student work. The example student responses assist with collecting and interpreting data. The Teacher Guide provides suggestions on how to adjust instruction based on student performance and assessment results as well as scaffolded approaches and support for struggling students. Instructional guidance for each chapter includes SUPPORT notes, a Check for Understanding, and, when applicable, Additional Activities, such as virtual field trips, short film clips, literature activities, and art activities, that can be used to reinforce students’ understanding of</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>the content. The Additional Activities provide choices for teachers and can be used selectively. For example, in the Unit 1 Performance Task: Exploring Our World, students draw an image of “the most important aspects of the United States that they have learned about that make it an exciting place to visit and think about” on one side of each card and dictate a brief message for the other side. A note to the teacher states that “Students should be evaluated on the basis of their postcard drawings, along with what they say that they have drawn and why, using the rubric.”</p> <p>In the Unit 3 Performative Task: Understanding the Past, the Above Average section states, “Response is accurate and detailed. Student demonstrates strong understanding of how we understand the past, identifying four of the following details in drawing and/or dictation.” The rubric then lists seven student indicators for teachers to look for in student answers. Unit 2, Chapter 4: Culture includes twenty-four Literal and three Evaluative questions relating directly to the student activity pages and content. Each of these twenty-seven questions includes a look-for statement from students. For example, the Student Reader states, “People have lived in Louisiana for thousands of years. Native Americans lived in Louisiana first. Then, people came to Louisiana from lots of other places.” Following the teacher read-aloud of</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>this section, students respond to the question, “How long have people lived in Louisiana?” The sample student response states, “People have lived in Louisiana for thousands of years.” This format is repeated for every question included in the materials throughout all units and chapters. Within the Read Aloud segments, the Teacher Guide directs teachers to pause occasionally to ask questions about what students have heard, such as in the Unit 3 Introduction. Teachers use this scaffolded approach to reading aloud and discussing portions of the content to observe and ensure that all students understand the content before proceeding to the next section of the Read Aloud. Within the same unit, during Picture This, guidance suggests that teachers formally assess students during the activity and adjust instruction as students need more support. For example, guidance states, “During the reading of each chapter, pause periodically to check student comprehension. One quick and easy way to do this is to have students describe what they see in their minds as you read a particular paragraph. Students who struggle to identify images may need more support.” Read Aloud Challenges provide the teachers the opportunity to “teach up” based on formative assessment and student needs. Guidance is embedded throughout the lessons that call the teacher’s attention to Core Vocabulary and idiomatic or</p>

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			<p>figurative language that may be confusing for students and may require further explanation. Additional supports direct the teacher to call attention to specific aspects of an image in the Student Reader. In some instances, a Challenge, usually a more demanding task or question, may be included for the teacher’s optional use. For example, in Unit 1, Chapter 2, the Challenge provides the opportunity for the teacher to challenge student thinking based on informal data by calling students’ attention to states that are next to or near Louisiana, telling them the names of these other states, writing their abbreviations on the board, and then challenging students to find these other states on the map of the United States.</p>

FINAL EVALUATION
Tier 1 ratings receive a “Yes” for all Non-Negotiable Criteria and a “Yes” for each of the Additional Criteria of Superior Quality.
Tier 2 ratings receive a “Yes” for all Non-Negotiable Criteria, but at least one “No” for the Additional Criteria of Superior Quality.
Tier 3 ratings receive a “No” for at least one of the Non-Negotiable Criteria.

Compile the results for Sections I and II to make a final decision for the material under review.

Section	Criteria	Yes/No	Final Justification/Comments
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CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
I: Non-Negotiable Criteria of Superior Quality³	1. Alignment and Sequence	Yes	Materials incorporate a majority of the content standards in the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies for the identified grade level and require students to engage in thinking at the full depth and rigor of the standards. Materials present a clear path for teachers to address content in a coherent and chronological manner that aligns with the sequence in the 2022 Louisiana Social Studies Course Frameworks. Materials spend minimal time on content outside of the course, grade, or grade band.
	2. Disciplinary Skills and Practices	Yes	Units are structured around engaging questions and big ideas relevant to the grade level’s academic content. Materials require students to engage in the various types of disciplinary thinking that are explicit and embedded in the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies. Materials provide regular and varied opportunities for students to engage in disciplinary writing that emphasizes the use of accurate information from social studies knowledge, relevant evidence from sources, and strong reasoning to support and develop claims or arguments. Materials promote an emphasis on building content-specific and academic vocabulary in social studies. Materials provide frequent opportunities for evidence-based student

³ Must score a “Yes” for all Non-Negotiable Criteria to receive a Tier 1 or Tier 2 rating.

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			discourse and meaningful classroom discussions.
	3. Quality of Sources	Yes	Materials provide many opportunities for students to build and deepen knowledge about content and concepts through analysis of a coherent selection of strategically-sequenced, high-quality primary and secondary sources, including written texts that are appropriately complex. Available sources are representative of multiple viewpoints or accounts on the issue, event, or topic being examined. Sources present the achievements and contributions, strengths, skills, and knowledge of a wide range of individuals and groups throughout the units.
II: Additional Criteria of Superior Quality⁴	4. Scaffolding and Support	Yes	Materials provide appropriate scaffolding that will allow all students to productively engage with content. Teacher support materials include support for building social studies content knowledge and explanations of the instructional approaches that are used.
	5. Usability	Yes	The total amount of content is viable for a school year and the pacing of content allows for maximum student understanding. The materials provide guidance about the amount of time a task might reasonably take. Materials provide support for communicating with parents, community

⁴ Must score a “Yes” for all Additional Criteria of Superior Quality to receive a Tier 1 rating.

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
			members, and other stakeholders about how they can support student learning. Student and teacher materials are easy to use and are well organized.
	6. Assessment	Yes	Materials encompass a balanced system of assessments that includes a variety of formative, performance, and traditional summative assessments. Assessments are high quality, with questions that are standards-aligned, represent a range of disciplinary thinking, and require students to use their content knowledge, skills, practices, and/or provided sources. Materials provide guidance and support to help teachers collect, interpret, and act on data about student progress toward the standards.
FINAL DECISION FOR THIS MATERIAL: Tier 1, Exemplifies quality			

Reviewer Information

Instructional Materials Review

Instructional materials are one of the most important tools educators use in the classroom to enhance student learning. It is critical that they fully align to state standards – what students are expected to learn and be able to do at the end of each grade level or course – and are high quality if they are to provide meaningful instructional support.

The Louisiana Department of Education is committed to ensuring that every student has access to high-quality instructional materials. In Louisiana, all districts are able to purchase instructional materials that are best for their local communities since those closest to students are best positioned to decide which instructional materials are appropriate for their district and classrooms. To support local school districts in making their own local, high-quality decisions, the Louisiana Department of Education leads online reviews of instructional materials.

Instructional materials are reviewed by a committee of Louisiana educators. Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs) are a group of exceptional educators from across Louisiana who play an influential role in raising expectations for students and supporting the success of teachers. Teacher Leader Advisors use their robust knowledge of teaching and learning to review instructional materials.

The [2023-2024 Teacher Leader Advisors](#) are selected from across the state and represent the following parishes and school systems: Allen, Ascension, Bienville, Caddo, Calcasieu, Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge -REACH Department, CSAL, D'Arbonne Woods Charter School, East Baton Rouge, Hynes Charter School Corporation, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Lincoln, LSU Laboratory School, Madison, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, University View Academy, Vermillion, Webster, West Feliciana, and Zachary Community Schools. This review represents the work of current classroom teachers with experience in grades K-8.

Appendix I.

Publisher Response



The publisher had no response.

Appendix II.

Public Comments



There were no public comments submitted.