

# Fifth Grade United States Studies: Beginnings to 1900

**HISTORY: 4 Basic Understanding Questions  
6 Thinking Skills Questions**

**GEOGRAPHY: 5 Basic Understanding Questions  
5 Thinking Skills Questions**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE: 5 Basic Understanding Questions  
5 Thinking Skills Questions**

**ECONOMICS: 6 Basic Understanding Questions  
4 Thinking Skills Questions**

In the Fifth Grade, students gain an understanding of the foundations of the United States from prehistoric times through the nineteenth century. This chronological treatment takes students from earliest settlements through the forming and growth of our nation to the brink of the twentieth century. Special emphasis is placed on the study of the founding documents and the development of American democracy; similarities, differences, and contributions of various cultural groups; and the emergence of a unique American culture.

THE FIRST THREE CONTENT STANDARDS ARE APPLIED THROUGHOUT THE COURSE.

## Map and Globe Skills

Students will

1. Extend the development of map and globe skills.
  - Features: Locate major geographic features associated with the study of America's history. *Stanford 10 (Geography)*  
Examples: ocean currents, prevailing winds, large forests, major rivers, significant mountain ranges
  - Relative Location: Use cardinal and intermediate directions to describe the relative location of selected places in North America.  
*Stanford 10 (Geography)*  
Examples: Maine in the northeastern United States, Mexico to the south of the United States, the Atlantic Ocean on the eastern border of Georgia
  - Absolute Location: Use a grid system to describe the absolute location of selected places encountered during the study of America's history.  
*Stanford 10 (Geography)*
    - Latitude and longitude  
Example: comparing climates of places in America with countries of the origin of early settlers

- Equator
- Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn
- Arctic and Antarctic Circles
- Prime Meridian, International Date Line relative to North America and the world
- Directions: Extend orientation skills by following and giving specific cardinal directions and verbal instructions.  
Example: describing proposed trade and exploration routes through the eyes of the explorers
- Scale: Compare differences found on a variety of scales. **Stanford 10(Geography)**  
Example: comparing a local area map with a map of a larger area such as Jamestown with the 13 colonies or with the North American continent

### **Information Literacy**

2. Read, interpret, and organize information using a variety of sources and tools.
  - Charts **Stanford 10(Geography)**
  - Globes
  - Graphs **Stanford 10(Economics)**
  - Illustrations
  - Maps **Stanford 10(Geography)**
  - Time lines **Stanford 10(History)**
  - Tables
3. Apply reference skills in independent investigations of selected topics.
  - Atlases
  - Electronic resources  
Example: accessing information on the Internet
  - Dictionaries
  - Reference books
  - Media centers
  - Newspapers
  - Databases

### **Beginnings: Prehistoric Settlements and Native American Life**

4. Describe the natural environment of North America.
  - River systems
  - Physical geography
    - Land forms
    - Natural regions
    - Native wildlife and vegetation
  - Natural resources

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5. Explain the causes and effects of migration and settlement in prehistoric America.  
**Stanford 10(History)**  
Examples: land bridge, diffusion of Indian culture
6. Discuss the progression of culture of the early American people.
  - Big game hunters
  - Hunters - Gatherers
  - Farmers
7. Analyze the different cultures of Native American groups by geographic regions.
  - Impact of the environment **Stanford 10(Geography)**  
Examples: natural resources, society
  - Conflict and cooperation **Stanford 10(Geography)**  
Examples: cultural differences, hunting rights, *Women in American Indian Society* by Rayna Green
  - Government **Stanford 10(Political Science)**  
Examples: intra-tribal, inter-tribal, *The Native Americans - An Illustrated History* by Michael Regan
  - Economy **Stanford 10(Economics)**  
Examples: occupations, trading patterns, tools, weapons
  - Religion  
Examples: legends, *The Women Who Fell From the Sky: The Iroquois' Story* by John Bierhorst

### European Exploration and Early Settlement: 1400s - 1600s

8. Assess the impact of the Age of Discovery upon European society.  
**Stanford 10(History)**
  - European exploration  
Examples: Marco Polo, Prince Henry, *Prince Henry the Navigator* by Leonard Fischer, Bartolomew Dias, Vasco da Gama
  - Earliest explorers of North America  
Examples: Leif Ericson - "Leif the Lucky", *Leif Ericson and the Vikings* by Charnan Simon, Christopher Columbus, *Where Are You Going Christopher Columbus?* by Jean Fritz, *The Discovery of the Americas* by Maestro
  - Spanish exploration and settlement of North America  
Examples: Balboa, Magellan, Ponce de Leon, de Soto, Coronado, Cortés, Pizarro, Father Serra and the California Missions
  - French exploration and settlement of North America  
Examples: Cartier, Champlain, Marquette, Joliet, LaSalle, fur trading posts
9. Describe the impact of the early European exploration and settlement on Native American cultures. **Stanford 10(History)**

- Cultural significance  
Examples: new foods, religion, breakup of families, languages, diseases, medicines, clothing
- Conflict and cooperation  
Examples: weapons, trade items, shelters, “Columbian Exchange”

10. Analyze the English settlement of North America.

- Reasons **Stanford 10(History, Economics)**  
Examples: religious freedom, trade and profit, adventure
- Success of settlements **Stanford 10(Economics, Political Science)**  
Examples: economic, political, social
- Interaction with native Americans **Stanford 10 (Economics)**  
Examples: crops, trade, land use
- Interaction among colonies  
Examples: religion, land, trade, boundaries
- Interaction with other nations  
Examples: land, hunting rights

### **English Colonization: 1600s-1763**

11. Explain the significance of Jamestown as the first permanent settlement.

- Leadership  
Examples: John Smith, John Rolfe, Lord De La Ware
- Native American relationships  
Examples: Powhatan, Pocahontas
- Economics **Stanford 10 (Economics)**  
Examples: cash crop (tobacco), plantation system, indentured servants, African slaves
- Government **Stanford 10(Political Science)**  
Example: House of Burgesses
- Society  
Examples: “starving time,” families, *A Lion to Guard Us* by Clyde Robert Bulla

12. Explain the causes and effects of the French and Indian War.

- Geographic
- Political **Stanford 10(Political Science)**
- Cultural

13. Describe the location and natural environment of the three primary groups—Northern, Middle, Southern—of English colonies.

- Climate  
Examples: crops, health, housing styles
- Land  
Example: mountain ranges as barrier to migration
- River systems

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Examples: fall line, development of cities

- Forests

Examples: shipbuilding, housing

14. Demonstrate an understanding of representative government in Colonial America. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**

Example: Massachusetts town meetings

15. Explore the social changes that led to the Protestant Reformation. **Stanford 10(History)**

Examples: ethical values, laws, “established church” (Church of England)

16. Investigate the role of law in Colonial America by translating and interpreting primary and secondary sources. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**

Examples: The Mayflower Compact, *The Mayflower Compact: Documents of Freedom* by Fran L. Dorovan, English common law

17. Discuss colonial trade routes and their impact on society. **Stanford 10(Economics)**

- Triangular Trade (slave trade)

Example: *The First Passage: Blacks in the Americas 1502 - 1617* by Colin Palmer

- Cotton/indigo trade in the southern colonies

18. Discuss the emergence of the American culture during colonization. **Stanford 10(History)**

- Daily life

Examples: Noah Webster and the English language, types of work, use of land, leisure activities, *Race, Class, and Politics: Essays on American Colonial and Revolutionary Society* by Gary Nash, *Colonial Life* by Bobbie Kalmah

- Religious influences

Examples: Protestants, Puritans, Quakers, Anglicans, Catholics, *The Great Awakening* by George Whitefield, “Peaceable Kingdom” by Edward Hicks, Jonathan Edwards’s sermon “Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God”

19. Describe the culture of the African slaves in Colonial America. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**

Examples: food, clothing, shelter, roles as workers, recreation, education, *Ancient Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade: Voices in African American History*, Modern Curriculum Press, *The Kidnapped Prince: The Life of Olaudah Equiano* by Ann Cameron

## Gaining Independence: 1763-1783


20. Explore the social factors and events leading up to the American Revolution **Stanford 10(History)**
- French and Indian War  
Examples: land, taxation, relationship with Indians, relationship with France
  - British actions  
Examples: Stamp Act, Quartering Act, Writs of Assistance, Intolerable Acts
  - Colonial reactions  
Examples: Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, boycotts, smuggling
21. Describe efforts of groups in the American colonies to mobilize support for independence from England. **Stanford 10(History)**
- Examples: Minutemen, Committee of Correspondence, Sons of Liberty, First Continental Congress, “The Ride of Paul Revere” by Henry W. Longfellow
22. Describe the political and social differences among colonists in America. **Stanford 10(Political Science, History)**
- Patriots
  - Loyalists
23. Summarize major points in the Declaration of Independence. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**
- Purpose
  - Explanation
  - Grievances against King George III
24. Analyze the importance of selected writings related to American independence. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**
- Examples: *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry’s “The Call to Arms” (Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death speech)
25. Explain the important people and events of the American Revolution.
- Battles
    - Lexington-Concord
    - Bunker Hill/Breed’s Hill  
Example: music - “Yankee Doodle”
    - Saratoga
    - Yorktown
  - Issues
  - Results
  - Personalities
    - John Paul Jones
    - Nathan Hale
    - George Washington  
Example: art - “Washington Crossing the Delaware” by Gilbert Stuart
    - Benedict Arnold

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- Francis Marion “Swamp Fox”
- Cornwallis
- Home front
  - Women
    - Examples: Molly Pitcher, Sybil Ludington, Deborah Sampson, Betsy Ross
  - Blacks
    - Examples: Crispus Attucks, Salem Poor, Peter Salem

### **The Forming and Growth of a Nation: 1776-1859**

26. Summarize the contributions of significant individuals to the establishment of the United States of America.
  - Examples: Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton
27. Identify the reasons for the failure of the Articles of Confederation. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**
  - Examples: individual currencies, unwillingness to help the Continental Army, inability to tax
28. Discuss the major aspects of the Constitutional Convention. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**
  - Major personalities and their roles
    - Examples: James Madison, Ben Franklin, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton
  - Key issues
    - Examples: Great Compromise, Three-Fifths Compromise
  - Results
29. Explain major concepts of the United States Constitution. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**
  - Three branches of government
  - Relationship between government and people
    - Examples: voting, taxes, government services
  - Separation of powers
    - Example: function and levels of government
  - Democratic republic
  - Checks and balances
    - Example: *We the People* by Center for Civic Education
30. Distinguish among local, state, and national governments and identify representative leaders at these levels. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**
  - Mayor
  - Governor
  - President

31. Relate the significance of personal freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights to the daily lives of citizens. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**  
 Examples: religious freedom, free speech, right to due process, trial by jury
32. Explain the impact of the War of 1812 on American culture. **Stanford 10(History)**
- Burning of Washington, D.C.  
 Examples: Dolly Madison, Jefferson's contribution to the Library of Congress
  - "War Hawks"
  - "Star Spangled Banner"  
 Example: *Star Spangled Banner: Our Nation and Its Flag* by Margaret Jeden
  - Battle of Horseshoe Bend 
  - Battle of New Orleans  
 Example: "Battle of New Orleans" by Johnny Horton
33. Understand the importance of the Monroe Doctrine. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**
34. Describe the exploration of the frontier from the 1750s through the early 1800s. **Stanford 10(History)**
- Daniel Boone
  - Lewis and Clark
  - Zebulon Pike
35. Identify geographic changes and acquisitions of the United States. **Stanford 10 (History, Geography)**
- Louisiana Purchase
  - New states
  - The Mason-Dixon Line
36. Discuss migration and trade patterns of Westward Expansion before the Civil War. **Stanford 10(Political Science, History)**
- Santa Fe Trail
  - Oregon Trail
  - Mormon Trail
  - California Trail
  - Gold Rush
37. Analyze the impact of technological changes on life in America from 1800 to 1860. **Stanford 10(History)**  
 Examples: interchangeable parts, cotton gin, steam engine, water-powered turbine engine, Erie Canal, The National Road
38. Analyze sectionalism in America during the first half of the nineteenth century. **Stanford 10(Political Science, Economics, Geography)**
- Slavery

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Examples: *Memoir and Poems* and *A Native African and A Slave* by Phillis Wheatley

- States' rights
- Personalities

Examples: John C. Calhoun, Robert Brooks, John Brown

- Economic differences

Examples: King Cotton versus factories

- Geographic influences

Examples: rural, industrial, plantations

39. Examine major struggles within the nation and the resulting compromises. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**

- Texas statehood (Alamo)
- Compromise of 1850
- Fugitive Slave Act
- "Bleeding Kansas"
- Nebraska Act
- Dred Scott Decision

### **Civil War and Reconstruction: 1860-1877**

40. Identify and discuss some American activists before the Civil War.

Examples: *The Liberator* by William Lloyd Garrison, Elizabeth Caty Stanton, Harriet Tubman, Harriet B. Stowe, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Sojourner Truth, Horace Mann, Dorthea Dix

41. Discuss how the campaign issues and results of the election of 1860 affected American society. **Stanford 10(Political Science,History)**

- Lincoln-Douglas Debates
- Slavery
- States' rights
- Lincoln's Inaugural Address

42. Explain the causes of the Civil War. **Stanford 10(Political Science ,Economic, History, )**

- Northern view
- Southern view

Examples: political, social, economic, *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt

43. Examine the Anaconda Plan and its social and economic implications on the South. **Stanford 10 (Economics)**

44. Assess significant features of the Civil War. **Stanford 10(Political Science, History)**

- Battles and their social impact

Example: Civil War photographs by Matthew Brady

- Fort Sumpter
- Bull Run
- Antietam Creek
- Vicksburg
- Gettysburg
- Mobile Bay
- Sherman's March
- Richmond
- Appomattox

- Leaders
  - Robert E. Lee
  - Ulysses S. Grant
- Gettysburg Address
- Emancipation Proclamation
- Home front

Examples: bread riots, hospitals, Clara Barton, spies

45. Analyze the social, political, and economic aspects of Reconstruction. **Stanford 10(Political Science,Economics)**

- Lincoln's assassination
  - Example: "Oh Captain! My Captain" by Walt Whitman
- Political and social rights for ex-slaves
  - Examples: Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments
- Carpetbaggers and scalawags
- Election of Ulysses S. Grant
- Rising anti-Black sentiment

Example: emergence of white resistance groups, sharecroppers, tenant farmers

46. Explore the lasting cultural influences of the Civil War and Reconstruction. **Stanford 10(Political Science)**

- Literature
- Architecture
- Songs
- Food
- Social structure

### **Western Expansion/Transition: 1900**

47. Explain the impetus for movement to the frontier during the nineteenth century.

- Economic **Stanford 10(Economics)**
  - Examples: fur trade, China trade, silver
- Geographic **Stanford 10(Geography)**
  - Examples: rich land, fisheries, minerals
- Political **Stanford 10(Political Science)**

Examples: slavery, Manifest Destiny, Homestead Act

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- Social/Cultural **Stanford 10(History)**

Examples: adventure, misplaced soldiers, displaced Blacks

48. Explain the interaction of man with the natural environment that occurred during the exploration and settlement of the frontier in America. **Stanford 10(Geography)**

- Hazards

Examples: storms, droughts, floods

- Methods of travel

Examples: wagon, boat, railroad

49. Describe the major groups and selected individuals involved in westward expansion. **Stanford 10(History)**

- Settlers

Examples: Donner family, Brigham Young, the Whitmans

- Native Americans

Example: the art of Frederick Remington

- Ranchers

- Miners

Examples: in California, in Nevada, in Alaska

- Explorers

Example: John C. Fremont

50. Analyze the conflicts and cooperation between groups of people in the western U.S. in the mid-to-late 1800s.

Examples: miners, cattle ranchers, sheep herders, immigrants working on railroads, soldiers, outlaws

51. Discuss the impact of the railroads on the development of the West.

- Political **Stanford 10(Political Science)**

Examples: tycoons, loss of Indian lands

- Economic **Stanford 10(Political Science)**

Examples: monopolies, trade with the East, labor

- Social/Cultural

Examples: buffalo annihilation, transportation

52. Discuss the impact of closing the frontier on Native American culture.

- Changed way of life **Stanford 10(History)**

- Armed conflicts

Examples: Wounded Knee, Custer's Last Stand, Geronimo, "I Will Fight No More Forever" by Chief Joseph

53. Describe features of the Spanish-American War. **Stanford 10(History)**

- Causes

Examples: "Remember the Maine," yellow journalism, desire for global influence

- Heroes

Examples: Teddy Roosevelt, Fighting Joe Wheeler, Jack Pershing, Admiral Dewey, 9th and 10th Cavalry

- Consequences

Examples: territorial acquisition, emergence of U.S. as major world power

54. Describe major changes in America from 1870 to 1900.

- Industrialization ***Stanford 10(Economics)***

Examples: labor, railroads, monopolies and mergers, “robber barons”, Horatio Alger, Rockefeller, Carnegie

- Urbanization ***Stanford 10(History)***

Examples: immigration, “The Melting Pot,” *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis, Jane Addams

- Cultural changes ***Stanford 10(History)***

Examples: women’s suffrage movement, expanding educational system, emerging writers and artists, establishment of unions, Tuskegee Institute and Booker T. Washington

- Communication and technology ***Stanford 10(History)***

Examples: Pony Express, Samuel F. B. Morse, Bell and the telephone, Trans-Atlantic cable

*Stanford Achievement, Tenth Edition* Intermediate 2 objectives not included in this course:

HISTORY – Recognize ways historians learn about the past

GEOGRAPHY – Evaluate global cooperation

- Evaluate the consequences of recycling

ECONOMICS – Recognize public and private property

- Understand the concept of wages

- Distinguish fact from opinion