# Fifth Grade Social Science – United States History

Teacher - Ms. Barbara Lewis, Room 232

## **Textbook / Materials**

**C:\Users\blewis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\1OCXHE3T\MC900161806[1].wmf**

*Horizons* United States History, Harcourt, 2005

*Junior Scholastic* Magazine

*Rand McNally Classroom Atlas*

## **Classroom Behavior and Expectations**

* Students should come to class with a good attitude and eagerness to learn. Always try to do your best. Attitude is everything!
* Students should come to class prepared. This includes bringing tablet, textbook, homework, and required supplies.
* Students should show respect. This includes showing respect to your teachers, your classmates, school property, and yourself.
* Students should behave as ladies and gentlemen, showing good manners and self-control.

## **Grading / Assessments**

Tests 40%

Quizzes, Special assignments, projects 35%

Pop quizzes, in-class work 15%

Homework 10%

**Assessments**

I will continually be assessing the students on a variety of skills in this course. We will have chapter tests, map tests, and occasionally a unit test over several chapters. We will have about four or five tests a semester. The students will have section/lesson quizzes almost weekly during class time. Some of these will be “pop quizzes” given to make sure that they are keeping up and not waiting to learn the material at the last minute. Formats for both of these assessments will vary and may include: multiple choice, fill in the blanks (with and without word banks), true false, short answers, analogies, and essays.

There will be a lot of memorization involved in this course, yet concepts and application of concepts will be stressed as well. The students will be exposed to essay type questions which will involve critical thinking skills, as well as comparative writing skills. They will also be required to compose well written paragraphs. The ability to express what we learn in written form is an important skill that we will work on throughout the year. I want them to grow and improve on their writing skills in history class. There will be modeling and editing to help them with these skills.

I do count off for common grammar errors. Spelling certain words correctly is important especially if they are common words that fifth graders should be spelling correctly, or if I have announced them as required spelling.

Vocabulary words that we have worked with in class should be spelled correctly. I often will not count “big” words when I am looking for content and organization. Our fifth grade has a spelling policy that we adhere to; you will receive this policy in English.

Students will also have homework, map work, textbook assignments, atlas activities and some group assignments. We will work on both individual and group projects. I grade almost everything and we stay very busy. Tests and quizzes will not have to go home and be signed this year. Please check Power School for all grades that will be posted. As of now, all assessments will be paper and not electronic on the computer. This may change as the year progresses.

## **Homework/Class work**

Homework will be assigned almost every night (with a few exceptions) and should last about 15 minutes. This will depend on the student. PLEASE CHECK OUR WIKI PAGE AND ASSIGNMENT BOOKS!!! I realize that some students may need guidance to get started on homework, but the work should be the student’s and not the parent’s.

Students must bring the homework to class each day. If homework is not turned in, students will be responsible for filling out a missing homework report and parents will be emailed as a notification. There is no need to respond to this email as it is just an FYI. Students must make up and bring in late work to receive credit minus 10% of grade for being late. If it is not brought in, the student will receive a 0 for the assignment. While we adjust to our tablets, some of the homework will be on paper yet our goal is to move to more electronic. All homework assignments will be posted on the fifth grade wiki.

**Making Up Missing Work**

See the Middle School section of the Family Handbook explaining this.

* Note … if a student misses an assessment for an unexcused reason, they will only receive 80% of the grade they have earned.

Again, homework and assignments will be posted on our fifth grade Wiki space.

There will be no extra credit work.

There will be no exams in fifth grade. ☺

**Tutoring/Extra Help**

A student should seek help first from the classroom teacher. When a tutor’s services are obtained, communication between the tutor and the teacher is recommended for success. A tutor should guide the student with parallel examples that further aid the student’s ability to work self-sufficiently and become an independent learner.

### **Supplies**

Students should bring their tablet, textbook, and their expandable folder to class each day. In addition to this, they should always have pencils, highlighters, and bright colored ink pens in class. These ink pens are used for self-grading and the corrections/additions we make when reviewing. No red or black please. Bright colors are preferred. We also use colored pencils for projects and map work. Thus, it would be a good idea to have duplicate supplies at home for homework assignments.

All relevant history papers should be kept together in the accordion folder and in electronic notebooks that we will create on their tablets as well. Papers will become fewer in number as we work towards filing our papers electronically. These papers will include vocabulary, notes, guided reading fill ins, handouts, worksheets, project directions, supplemental information, and graded work. It is important to stay organized and to file these to help review for quizzes and tests.

### **U.S. History**

In this U.S. history course, students will study our country and the importance of history in our everyday lives. We will learn about past events and places where these events took place. We will also study individuals and groups of people and the effect they have had on our country. It is important that the students also understand the biblical principles on which our country was founded and how they have shaped our country.

This year we will primarily focus on the time periods from the Revolutionary War to World War II. We will spend a few weeks reviewing the time periods prior to the Revolutionary War to set a background of early America. Our textbook is divided into seven units. We will cover many of these units but not all of them. In addition to our text material, we will cover many other topics and areas of interest that relate to our country both past and present. This includes our Election year, current events and various articles from our Junior Scholastics magazine.

It will be a busy and exciting year. I am thrilled to be teaching this U.S. History course and look forward to successful year with your fifth grader!

**Please read over this syllabus, sign below, and return only this page to school.**

Please keep the syllabus at home for reference.

The students have gone over this with me during class time.

Student\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ History period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Using e-mail is the best way. I look forward to a great year with these fifth graders!

Barbara S. Lewis

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