

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?**

The United States of America is one of many countries.

#### **I. The US is a country of rich diversity.**

- The US has diverse borders, physical features, regions, resources, and climates.
  - Diverse physical environments of the US influence the way people live and work.
  - The US has a rich diversity of people and cultures.
1. *What borders, physical features, resources, and climates are found in the US?*
  2. *What are the geographic regions of the US?*
  3. *How have people of the US been influenced by, adapted to, and changed their environment?*
  4. *Why does the US have a rich multicultural heritage?*

#### **II. The history of the US is the story of its people, events, conflicts, and ideas.**

- Early exploration occurred for a variety of reasons.
  - People settled in North America for many reasons.
  - Life differed from one colony to another
  - The American Revolution was the fight for independence from England.
  - The American Revolution created a new nation.
1. *For what were European nations searching?*
  2. *What are the reasons Europeans settled in North America?*
  3. *Who were these people and where did they come from?*
  4. *How did the encounter between native and non-native peoples shape early colonization?*
  5. *What are the factors that made life different from one colony to another?*
  6. *Why were enslaved Africans brought to the colonies?*
  7. *Why did the colonists want independence?*
  8. *What were the causes of the American Revolution?*
  9. *Why is the Declaration of Independence important?*
  10. *Who were the important leaders of the American Revolution?*
  11. *What were some of the major battles of the War?*
  12. *What were the differences of the Loyalists, Patriots, and Neutrals?*
  13. *How was the new nation organized?*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?**

The United States of America is one of many countries.

#### **III. The US representative form of government unites the 50 states.**

- The Constitution defines the government of the United States.
- Each of the three branches of federal government has its own duties and responsibilities.
- American citizens have rights and responsibilities.

1. *What values and principles are basic to our democracy?*
2. *Why is the Declaration of Independence important?*
3. *What is the purpose of the Constitution?*
4. *What is the Bill of Rights? Why is it important?*
5. *How is the US government organized?*
6. *Who are the current leaders of the federal government?*
7. *What are the rights and responsibilities of American citizens?*

#### **IV. The economy of the US is based in a free enterprise system.**

*Students will have the opportunity to experience a free enterprise system with the Junior Achievement Curriculum "Enterprise Village."*

<b>SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS</b>	
<b>Inquiry and Information Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define a central question</li><li>• Search for relevant information</li><li>• Evaluate information</li><li>• Organize information</li><li>• Apply information</li></ul>
<b>Interpersonal and Group Process Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion skills</li><li>• Group interaction skills</li><li>• Interview skills</li></ul>
<b>Critical Thinking Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define and clarify a problem</li><li>• Judge information related to the problem</li><li>• Solve problems and draw conclusions</li><li>• Analyze cause and effect relationships</li><li>• Think chronologically</li><li>• Take perspective</li></ul>