



National Social Studies and Science Standards Alignment

Junior Great Books Nonfiction Inquiry provides nonfiction content that educators can use to connect their English Language Arts curriculum to content areas in science and social studies. This chart details the alignment of Nonfiction Inquiry units with the disciplinary core ideas in the Grade 5 NextGen Science Standards (NGSS) and the Grade 5 themes outlined by the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS).

Unit 1: “Home Sweet Homestead”

NCSS Grade 5 Themes

2. Time, Continuity, and Change

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the past and its legacy.

3. People, Places, and Environments

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.

Unit 2: “Give It Up for Happiness”

NCSS Grade 5 Themes

7. Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Unit 3: “Storytelling in the Time of Slavery”

NCSS Grade 5 Themes

1. Culture

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity.

2. Time, Continuity, and Change

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the past and its legacy.

Unit 4: “Out-of-This-World Weather”

NGSS Grade 5 Disciplinary Core Ideas

SS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems

Earth’s major systems are the geosphere (solid and molten rock, soil, and sediments), the hydrosphere (water and ice), the atmosphere (air), and the biosphere (living things, including humans). These systems interact in multiple ways to affect Earth’s surface materials and processes. The ocean supports a variety of ecosystems and organisms, shapes landforms, and influences climate. Winds and clouds in the atmosphere interact with the landforms to determine patterns of weather. (5-ESS2 Earth’s Systems)

ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth’s resources and environments. (5-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity)

Unit 5: “How Free Should Recess Be?”

NCSS Grade 5 Themes

4. Individual Development and Identity

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of individual development and identity.

5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions.

Unit 6: “Thomas Heatherwick: Making Things Happen”

NGSS Grade 5 Disciplinary Core Ideas

ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems

Possible solutions to a problem are limited by available materials and resources (constraints). The success of a designed solution is determined by considering the desired features of a solution (criteria). Different proposals for solutions can be compared on the basis of how well each one meets the specified criteria for success or how well each takes the constraints into account. (3-5-ETS1 Engineering Design)

ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions

- Research on a problem should be carried out before beginning to design a solution. Testing a solution involves investigating how well it performs under a range of likely conditions.

- At whatever stage, communicating with peers about proposed solutions is an important part of the design process, and shared ideas can lead to improved designs.
- Tests are often designed to identify failure points or difficulties, which suggest the elements of the design that need to be improved. (3-5-ETS1 Engineering Design)

ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

Different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solves the problem, given the criteria and the constraints. (3-5-ETS1 Engineering Design)

NCSS Grade 5 Themes

8. Science, Technology, and Society

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of relationships among science, technology, and society.

Unit 7: “The Richest Man in the World”

NCSS Grade 5 Themes

2. Time, Continuity, and Change

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the past and its legacy.

5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions.

10. Civic Ideals and Practices

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship in a democratic republic.

Unit 8: “Plain, Ordinary Mrs. Roosevelt”

NCSS Grade 5 Themes

2. Time, Continuity, and Change

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the past and its legacy.

6. Power, Authority, and Governance

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create, interact with, and change structures of power, authority, and governance.

Unit 9: “Roads Take a Toll on Wildlife”

NGSS Grade 5 Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

The food of almost any kind of animal can be traced back to plants. Organisms are related in food webs in which some animals eat plants for food and other animals eat the animals that eat plants. Some organisms, such as fungi and bacteria, break down dead organisms (both plants or plants parts and animals) and therefore operate as “decomposers.” Decomposition eventually restores (recycles) some materials back to the soil. Organisms can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met. A healthy ecosystem is one in which multiple species of different types are each able to meet their needs in a relatively stable web of life. Newly introduced species can damage the balance of an ecosystem. (5-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics)

ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth’s resources and environments. (5-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity)

NCSS Grade 5 Themes

3. People, Places, and Environments

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.