

**Integrated Social Studies
English Language Arts
c u r r i c u l u m**

grades 1-5

The Integrated Social Studies/English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum is a web-based, user-friendly curriculum developed by teachers from the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES region and beyond. The curriculum development process was guided by expert social studies and technology consultants. Updated annually, the content of the curriculum is based on the New York State (NYS) Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum, integrates the NYS ELA Standards, and uses an Understanding by Design (UbD) template. Each grade level curriculum contains complete lesson plans for teachers, handouts for students, and technology links.

Comprehensive, User-Friendly Curriculum

The entire curriculum is available on the web, and all lessons can be used directly from the web or printed out. To encourage articulation and collaboration, teachers have access to all grade levels. Each unit in the curriculum includes:

- A unit overview that alerts the teacher to lessons, essential questions, correlations to learning standards, student outcomes, resources, activities, assessments, and vocabulary
- Blackline masters for assignments and assessments
- Links to web pages and video clips
- Background information for teachers
- Lists of literature in the relevant content areas
- Guided reading suggestions
- A glossary for each unit
- Assessments for each unit
- Rubrics specific to each writing task
- Answer keys for assessments

Balanced Literacy Connections

A strong literature component is one hallmark of this project. For each lesson, read-alouds are identified and annotated and questioning strategies are presented. To support a balanced literacy classroom, teachers can access guided reading suggestions, ideas for using varied genre, and leveled book lists. Writing tasks ask students to compare and contrast, state a point of view, write persuasively, write a letter, and answer document-based questions.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES

Curriculum Center

How to Obtain the Curriculum

The Integrated Social Studies/ELA Curriculum can be accessed by using a specific password, which can be purchased for your district through the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES.

Call (914) 248-2338 or e-mail BOCES at jdelvecchio@pnwboces.org for more information.

to view sample lessons go to:

www.pnwboces.org/SSELA



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Curriculum Units

- GRADE 1 -

My Family and Other Families Now and Long Ago

- Rules and Laws
- Unity in Community
- We Are Family
- Economics

- GRADE 2 -

My Community and Other United States Communities

- Active Citizenship
- Rural, Urban and Suburban
- Geography of Communities
- Change and Interdependence in Communities
(El Cambio y la Interdependencia en Comunidades)

- GRADE 3 -

Communities Around the World: Learning about People and Places

- Geography
- Brazil
- China
- United States

- GRADE 4 -

New York State History and Government

- The Three Worlds: Native Americans, Europeans and Africans Meet in New York State
- The Impact of the Colonial & Revolutionary War Period on New York and the New Nation
- The Impact of the Industrial Revolution on NYS
- National and Local Government

- GRADE 5 -

The Western Hemisphere: The United States, Canada & Latin America

- Geography: Western Hemisphere
- Economics: Needs and Wants
- Government: What is Government Anyway?
- History: Turning Points in the Western Hemisphere
- Cultural Diversity: Hands Across the Hemisphere

Grade 5 also includes a separate section for test preparation for the New York State Grade 5 Social Studies Assessment

Technology Connections

Through the use of instructional technology, the curriculum promotes higher-order thinking skills and collaborative learning. Lessons integrating technology include:

- Rich, hard-to-find information sources
- Access to primary source documents
- Real-time data
- Real-world connections
- Online publishing
- SMART Board applications
- Other software applications

Professional Development to Support Implementation

Each fall, regional workshops are run for teachers new to a district or new to a grade level. In the spring, teachers meet to develop program enhancements and revisions and to share best practices. Teachers also receive technical assistance and curriculum implementation support through the use of electronic forums (blogs) facilitated by expert social studies curriculum consultants. In addition, consultants are available to provide more in-depth training in the local districts.



Comments from the Field

"The units are very age-appropriate and teacher friendly. We really enjoy that most lessons come with a read-aloud and a planned activity. This is a very interactive and fun way of teaching required material."

- 1st grade teacher

"The parents love it!"

- 2nd grade teacher

"Integrating links and web sites allow me to use technology effectively and have students use live data from primary source documents."

- 3rd grade teacher

"The curriculum is engaging and rich; it inspires students to ask questions."

- 4th grade teacher

"The students really enjoy and learn a lot from the Internet assignments, i.e., Canada Scavenger Hunt. The scenarios are very thought-provoking and evoke enthusiastic class discussions."

- 5th grade teacher

"The Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES' Integrated Social Studies/ELA Curriculum for elementary educators combines the best of researched practices for developing content knowledge, planning instructional design, creating assessments, and integrating it all with technology. Students and teachers receive meaningful opportunities for a well-integrated curriculum."

- Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum