Integrated Social Studies/ELA Curriculum K – 6 Recommended Books

Integrated Social Studies/English Language Arts
Recommended Books

Please note: There are dozens of books on each of the key ideas and concepts in the SS/ELA curriculum. Below are suggestions to aid the social studies supervisor, teacher, or library media specialist who wishes to purchase books to complement SS/ELA. The list below contains books suggested by teachers. Many of you probably already have some of these suggested books. If you own books with a different title that are on the same key idea or concept as those below, there is no need to purchase new ones; and your books can be simply substituted in each lesson.

Kindergarten: Getting To Know Myself and Others

Unit 1 Myself and Others

Lesson 1
  • Dr. Seuss, *Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You?* New York: Random House, 1970. Mr. Brown imitates sounds and invites the reader to join him and see what they can do. (E-Book available)

Lesson 2

Lesson 3

Lesson 4
  • Small, Mary, *Being Respectful. A Book about Respectfulness*. Minneapolis, MN: Picture Window Books, 2006. Small defines respect, "caring how a person feels," and provides several examples illustrating the concept. Each scenario is illustrated with a colorful, double-page spread. Examples focus on common home and school situations, and include showing respect to oneself by keeping clean, eating healthy foods, and getting plenty of rest.
Lesson 5

Lesson 6
- Bunnett, Rochelle. *Friends at School*. New York: Star Bright Books, 1995. This book goes through a typical school day showing show each member of a group of children can participate in class activities regardless of personal abilities (and some students with disabilities).

Lesson 7
- Bauld, Jane Scoggins. *We Need Custodians*. Mankato, Minnesota; Pebble Books, 2000. (others in series include: We Need Teachers, We Need Librarians) This non-fiction book describes custodians and their role in taking care of schools.

Lesson 8

Unit 2 How Can I Be a Good Citizen?

Lesson 1

Lesson 2

Lesson 3

Lesson 4

Lesson 5
- Rappaport, Doreen. *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*. New York: Jump At The Sun, 2007. This picture-book biography provides an introduction to the life of Dr. King.
Unit 3 Understanding Economics and Geography

Lesson 1

Lesson 4

Lesson 5

Lesson 6
Grade 1 My Family and Other Families Now and Long Ago

Unit 1 Rules and Laws

Lesson 1

Lesson 2

Lesson 3
- Kroll, Virginia and Nancy Cote. *Jason Takes Responsibility*. Morton Grove, Ill., Albert Whitman & Company. Jason learns the importance of responsibility which enables each person's rights to be respected. (E-book available)

Lesson 4

Lesson 5
- Kishel, Ann-Marie. *U.S. Symbols*. Lerner Classroom, 2007. Both real and fictional narrators serve as your tour guides on this fun and factual trip into American Symbols. Francis Scott Key, Ben Franklin, and James Madison offer insight on their roles in history and the resulting symbols, such as the National Anthem, that are still honored today.

Lesson 6
- ________. *The Pledge of Allegiance*. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2001. The text of the Pledge of Allegiance is illustrated with stunning photographs of American landscapes, monuments, and flags. The meaning of the pledge, its history, and information about the flag are included.

Unit Two We Are Family

Lesson 1

Lesson 2
- Sweeney, Joan. *Me and My Family Tree*. New York, NY: Random House, 2000. A young girl uses simple language, her own childlike drawings, and diagrams to explain how the members of her family are related to each other and to her. Clear, colorful. (YouTube)
Lesson 4

Lesson 5

Unit Three Unity in Community

Lesson 1

Lesson 2
- Hartman, Gail. *As the Crow Flies, A First Book of Maps*. Aladdin, 1993. Learn about maps from different animals’ points of view. (YouTube)

Lesson 3

Lesson 4

Lesson 5

Lesson 6

Lesson 7

Lesson 8
Unit Four Economics

Lesson 1
- Kellogg, Steven. *Jack and the Beanstalk*. New York, NY: William Morrow Inc., 1997 or any classic version of the Jack and the Beanstalk tale. This is a story about a boy named Jack who begins an adventure in the clouds when he wakes to find a beanstalk outside his window.

Lesson 2
  This book tells the story of how a young boy, Ki-pat, brings the much needed rain to the dry Kapiti Plain.

Lesson 4

Lesson 5
- Stewart, Sarah. *The Money Tree*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1991. In summer, the leaves on the strange tree growing in Miss McGillicuddy’s yard are harvested by many people, but when Miss McGillicuddy thinks about needing firewood for the winter, she realizes the tree may have another use.
Grade 2 My Community and Other United States Communities

Unit One Active Citizenship

Lesson 1
• Meiners, Cheri. *Know and Follow Rules*. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, 2005 or book of choice for a Read-Aloud. This book is about why we have rules and the pride a child feels when he/she follows these rules. (E-book available)

Lesson 2

Lesson 3
• Cronin, Doreen. *Duck For President*. Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers. New York, NY: 2004 or similar book. This book is about a farm of animals with ambition. Duck is tired of doing work and chores and decides to have an election to replace Farmer Brown. This book teaches the election process in a child-friendly way. (E-Book available, YouTube)

Lesson 4

Lesson 5
• Cotton, Jacqueline. *Veterans Day* (Rookie Read-About Holidays), New York, NY: Children’s Press, A Division of Scholastic, Inc., 2002. In this book children learn that we celebrate Veteran’s Day to honor the men and women who have served in the armed forces of our country. The series has books about many other patriotic holidays.

Unit 2 Rural, Urban, Suburban

Lesson 2

Lesson 3
• Kalman, Bobbie. *Food and Farming Then and Now* (From Olden Days to Modern Ways in Your Community) New York: Crabtree, 2014. It examines different types of food eaten and how they were produced over time.
Lesson 4

Lesson 5

Lesson 6

Unit 3 Geography of Communities

Lesson 1

Lesson 2

Lesson 3

Lesson 4

Unit 4 Change and Interdependence in Communities

Lesson 1

Lesson 2
- Nelson, Robin. *School Then and Now*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Co., 2003. Briefly describes how school in the United States has changed through the years, including such topics as transportation, supplies, and subjects taught.
Lesson 4

Lesson 5

Lesson 6
Grade 3 Communities around the World

Unit 1 Geography

Lesson 6
- _______ *National Geographic Beginner's Atlas*. National Geographic, 2009. This beautiful book is an engaging experience with fact-filled essays and spectacular photographs that will catch the curiosity of young readers. Large maps pinpoint the physical features, capitals, and other towns and cities of each state. Key points reflect the latest information about land and water, animals, and people and places. Children can access a wealth of information including state flags, birds and flowers.

Unit 2 United States

Lesson 1
- Cherry, Lynne. *A River Ran Wild*. Lexile 670. New York: Scholastic, 1992. It is a “true story of environmental destruction and rebirth, a story encompassing 500 years of American history... Detailed watercolor and colored-pencil pictures plus intricate borders that feature labeled artifacts from each time period to supplement the narrative, and a timeline and maps help students follow along.

Lesson 2

Lesson 5

Lesson 6

Lesson 7

Unit 3 Brazil

Lesson 1
Lesson 3

Lesson 5
- Fontes, Ron and Justine Fontes. *Brazil A to Z*. New York: Scholastic, 2004. An entry for each letter. Contains a Table of Contents and an Index. There are companion books for United States, China, and Kenya

Unit 4 China

Lesson 1

Lesson 5

Lesson 6

Lesson 7

Unit 5 Kenya

Lesson 1

Lesson 6

Lesson 7
Unit 6 Making a Difference

Lesson 1
- ______ We Are All Born Free, Amnesty International: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2008. This book is a child friendly, illustrated version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (YouTube)

Lesson 2
- Hughes, Susan. Off to Class. Ontario: Owl Kids, 2011. This book introduces students to the many types of schools found around the world today.

Lesson 4
Grade 4 New York State History and Government

Unit 1 The Three Worlds: Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans Meet in NYS

Lesson 2

Unit 2 The Impact of the Colonial and Revolutionary Periods in NY and the New Nations

Lesson 1

Lesson 2

Lesson 4

Lesson 5
Lesson 6

- Schanzer, Rosalyn. *George vs George: The Revolutionary War as Seen from Both Sides*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Children's Books, 2004. There are two sides to every story. This engaging and wonderfully illustrated book brings to life both sides of the American Revolution. Must be purchased from ngchildrensbooks.org

Unit 3 National and Local Government

Lesson 3

- Schimel, Kate. *New York’s Government*. (Spotlight on New York (Powerkids)). New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2012. Available also as an e-book. This fact-filled volume examines the history of this government structure from its earliest roots in the Iroquois constitution to an explanation of the separation of powers. The book is richly formatted with full-color photographs as well as primary source documents that help bring the evolution of New York's government into the spotlight.

Unit 4 Industrial Revolution

Lesson 6

Grade 5 The Western Hemisphere

Unit 2 European Explorers and Slavery

Lesson 2

Unit 4 Government in the Western Hemisphere

Lesson 3

Unit 5 Economics in the Western Hemisphere

Lesson 3

Lesson 4
Grade 6 The Eastern Hemisphere

Unit 1 Neolithic Revolution

Lesson 1

- Bailey, Linda. *Adventures in the Ice Age* (Good Times Travel Agency). Kids Can Press, August, 2004. Adventures in the Ice Age is an engaging mix of adventure and historical information about life in the last Ice Age in a graphic format. Also available for Ancient Egypt, Greece, China and the Middle Ages.

- Denzel, Justin. *The Boy of the Painted Cave*. Puffin Books, 1996. Set 18,000 years ago in prehistoric France, this is the story of a 14-year-old boy who longs to be a cave painter. This is forbidden, however, because Tao is not a Chosen. One, he’s a tribal outcast with a crippled foot and no father to claim him. This is a fictional story of his journey to “fit in.” ELA connection.

- Getz, David. *Frozen Man*. New York: Square Fish Publishers, reprinted 1996. Getz's account of the 1991 discovery of the Ice Man, a mummified shepherd from the Copper Age found in the Italian Alps, not only describes the scientific process of determining the age of the body, but also how scientists used the remains to gain valuable clues about how humans lived at the time.


- *Archaeology*. Kids Discover Series. Order at www.kidsdiscover.com. Available as a magazine or an app. Archaeology for students introduces them to the science that has revealed so much to us about past peoples. First, they’ll learn how archaeologists figure out where to dig, and then they’ll check out their methods, from mapping a site and sifting dirt to using delicate brushes to unearthing artifacts without breaking them.

Unit 2 River Valley Civilizations

Lesson 3


Lesson 4


Lesson 5

- *Ancient Egypt*. Kids Discover Series. Order at www.Kidsdiscover.com. Available as a magazine or as an app. This volume explores the many fields in which Egyptians left their mark – including medicine, agriculture, engineering, and, of course, architecture.
Unit 3 Classical Civilizations

Lesson 3

The following titles would be suitable for this unit

- *Ancient China*. Kids Discover Series. Order at www.kidsdiscover.com. Available as a magazine or an app. Students will read about the major dynasties of the Chinese Empire and find out what life was like for everyone on the ladder of Chinese society, from royals to peasants.


- *The Roman Empire*. Kids Discover Series. Order at www.kidsdiscover.com. Available as a magazine or an app. Students will read about the vast size and strength of the Roman Empire. They will also learn about the many Roman contributions passed on to the modern world.

Unit 5 The Mediterranean World


- Rodgers, Kelly. *The Byzantine Empire: A Society That Shaped the World*. California: Teacher Created Materials, 2013. Readers will discover how the Byzantines transformed Christianity, protected Europe from would-be invaders, and later carried the seeds of the Renaissance to Italy during their thousand-year reign. This book is inexpensive, colorful, and accessible for all levels of learners and VERY helpful if students are creating the flip book.


- Rodgers, Kelly. *Justinian I*. California: Teacher Created Materials, 2012. In this captivating biography, readers will learn how Emperor Justinian I ruled the Byzantine Empire for 38 years. Featuring eye-catching images, maps, and photos, stunning facts, and easy to read text, readers will be introduced to Justinian's Code, the Nika Rebellion, and iconoclasm. The same comments apply to this book as applied to The Byzantine Empire.

Unit 6 Interactions across the Hemisphere


handsome picture book for older readers that combines a general overview with an account of one typical journey around A.D. 700. The paintings are filled with action, reflecting the diversity of places and cultures and people that were connected when the great silk trade flourished.

- Rumford, James. *Traveling Man – The Life of Ibn Battuta*. Boston, MA: HMH Books for Young Readers, 2004. This is a retelling of Ibn Battuta’s story in words and pictures, adding the element of ancient Arab maps—maps as colorful and evocative as a Persian miniature, as intricate and mysterious as a tiled Moroccan wall.


A General Reference You Might Find Useful:

*When on Earth*. New York: DK Children, 2015. *When on Earth?* This approaches history in a different way than most books, giving context that can put what children learn in school in a broader historical perspective. In more than 60 specially commissioned maps, this one-of-a-kind history book shows where, when, and how history happened. There the multiple connections to the Key Ideas in SS/ELA such as “China’s Golden Age,” “Black Death,” “Silk Road.”