FIFTH GRADE ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS AND ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, U.S. HISTORY
SOCIAL STUDIES, 2008

Standard 1
Enduring Understanding: Students will understand how the exploration and colonization of North America transformed human history.

Essential Questions:
1. How were the early American colonies settled and how did they grow?
2. How did the American colonization impact the rest of the world?
3. What rights and responsibilities did different groups of people have during the Colonial period?

Standard 2
Enduring Understanding: Students will understand the chronology and significance of key events leading to self-government.

Essential Questions:
1. How did the movement toward revolution cause the Declaration of Independence to be written?
2. How did the Revolutionary War impact the colonies ability to rule themselves?

Standard 3
Enduring Understanding: Students will understand the rights and responsibilities guaranteed in the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Essential Questions:
1. What are the underlying principles of the U.S. Constitution?
2. How has the U.S. Constitution been amended and interpreted over time? How have these amendments had on our rights and responsibilities as citizens?

Standard 4
Enduring Understanding: Students will understand that the 19th century was a time of incredible change for the United States.

Essential Questions:
1. What are the significant events during America’s expansion? What roles did people play?
2. What divisions (geographic, cultural, political and economic) between regions contributed to the Civil War?
3. What events happened during the Civil War and what impact did they have?
4. How did economic forces impact the post-Civil War era?

Standard 5
Enduring Understanding: Students will address the causes, consequences and implications in the emergence of the United States as a world power.

Essential Questions:
1. What role did the U.S. play during World War I, The Great Depression and World War II?
2. What impact did the social and political movements of the 20th century have on the United States?
3. Why and how is the United States a world power and what does that mean?