

Social Studies

Unit 2: How do issues of power, wealth and morality influence exploration and colonization?"

Students will learn:

- what motivated European explorers to explore the Western Hemisphere.
- how European exploration affected Native American peoples.
- how the Columbian Exchange reshaped the lives and beliefs of people and its effect on the Western Hemisphere.

Reading Workshop Informational Reading

In the first part of this unit, students will closely read high interest informational texts- focusing in on text structures and summarizing as they read. In the second part of this unit, students will research one aspect of a topic and use what they have learned about note taking as a way to hold onto and organize the information they will teach others. Students will also learn to look closely at how authors present information and how the point of view of an author influences how information is being presented.

Reminders

11/6- Election Day-No School

11/12-Veteran's Day- No School

11/13- Report Card Distribution

11/15- Parent Teacher Conferences

11/22- 11/23- Thanksgiving Recess

Math

In topic 5, your child will take division of whole numbers a step further. He or she will learn how to divide any whole number by a two-digit divisor. In order to do this, your child must understand how to divide multiples of ten. Certain skills such as estimation, substitution, finding one- and two-digit quotients, and dividing greater numbers will be learned and practiced.

In topic 6, your child will learn to divide decimals, including amounts of money. He or she will divide decimals by whole numbers and by decimals. Estimating quotients when dividing decimals will be another important skill.

WRITING WORKSHOP

News & Feature Articles-In this unit, students will work towards creating well-structured, elaborated, and engaging feature articles of great personal interest.

Students will learn to:

- structure an article that is well-planned with headings and sub-headings.
- elaborate in order to teach a significant amount of information to readers.
- use expert vocabulary to teach more about their topic.
- engage and provide closure for their readers.

Science

In Patterns of Earth and Sky, students are asked to figure out and explain the significance of illustrations on a recently discovered thousand-year-old artifact with a missing piece, the anchor phenomenon for the unit. Students observe and investigate patterns in the sky by day and by night with kinesthetic models, as well as using a digital simulation, and informational text. They learn that stars are all around us in space, develop an understanding of scale and distance in the universe, and discover how the spin and orbit of our planet causes us to observe daily and yearly patterns of stars. Students apply their understanding of why we see different stars at different times to explain what is shown on the artifact, and what might be on the missing piece.