

Fifth Grade



Bible

Fifth graders survey the Old Testament with the purpose of using various study methods to glean its truths and to apply these truths to their own lives. The goal this year is for the students to have a more in-depth, personal study of Scripture. Our Bible curriculum allows students to practice what they learn with real life scenarios using role playing and discussions. As part of these studies, students create special-focus projects for Christmas and Easter, including writing their own devotions to share with their families.

Language Arts

Developing effective writing skills and competent oral communication are key components of our fifth-grade language arts program. While we continue to learn about grammar, sentence structure, and other writing mechanics through using *Shurley English*, a major focus this year is in writing thoughtful responses to the reading. Students continue to practice their researching, note-taking and composition skills, culminating in their state report and monthly book reports. In language arts, students develop their reading comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary through the use of literature anthologies. Core literature novels fifth graders read include, *Call it Courage*, *Across Five Aprils*, *Sign of the Beaver*, *The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Bronze Bow*, *Number the Stars*, and *Clay Marble*. As part of their language arts work, fifth graders continue to practice their keyboarding skills.

History/Social Studies

Fifth grade history begins with a review of geography and a quick overview of Native American cultures. This is followed by a chronological study of exploration, colonization, the fight for independence, westward expansion, and immigration. Students will complete chapter reviews and produce chapter summaries to chronicle main

ideas. Weekly geography packets reinforce prior learning and introduce new facts and concepts through the use of world maps and legends. Included worksheets afford students the opportunity to practice map skills. There will be special projects and days related to the following studies: *Colonial Life*, *The Civil War*, and *The States*.

Math

In fifth grade, the concepts of fractions and decimals will be further developed, and students will use all four operations with these number types. There will also be an increased emphasis on algebraic thinking. Other topics that are studied include: statistics, geometry, measurement, probability, percents, and proportions. Special attention is given to critical thinking, problem solving, and mental math. Your fifth grader will not only learn to value math, but will also become a confident problem solver and learn to reason and communicate mathematically as well.

Science

FOSS (Full Option Science System) utilizes a strong, hands-on approach to the world of science. Fifth grade science units include: *Living Systems*, *The Water Planet*, and *Mixtures & Solutions*. Each FOSS unit is composed of numerous investigations, complete with a variety of science labs which are constructed in a small learning group environment. Throughout their study of science, the students investigate the world around them as they deepen their understanding of God's creation. During the school year, students also participate in special activities including field trips and a weather station project. These activities are designed to expand their understanding of the fifth-grade science curriculum.