

STUDIES WEEKLY  
SOCIAL STUDIES WEEKLY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
CONTRACTUAL PERIOD: JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2023

**Contract #: 4400015306**

This program is offered in the following language(s):  
English

**Instructional Materials Submission List  
Louisiana Department of Education**

**Publisher: Studies Weekly**  
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**Program Name: Studies Weekly Social Studies**

**Grade Levels: K-2, 4-5**

Title	Content Area	Copyright	Age / Grade Level	Language(s) offered (e.g., English, French, Spanish, Mandarin (Chinese), etc.).	ISBN #	6 yr per student price (*Pricing available for 1-5 year subscriptions. See website for details: <a href="http://studiesweekly.com">studiesweekly.com</a> )	Terms: Printed SE and TE materials are consumable and will be replaced each year. Teacher materials are FREE @ one per class set with a minimum of 10 students.
Kindergarten Studies Weekly (N0)	Social Studies	2017	K	English	15503054	\$39.30	
First Grade Studies Weekly (N1)	Social Studies	2017	1	English	15503062	\$39.30	
Second Grade Studies Weekly (N2)	Social Studies	2017	2	English	15503070	\$39.30	
USA Studies Weekly - Ancient America to the Present (USAC)	Social Studies	2017	4	English	21691045	\$39.30	
USA Studies Weekly - Ancient America to Reconstruction (USAA)	Social Studies	2017	5	English	21691029	\$39.30	

**Technology Requirements:** Refers to the minimal technical requirements needed by a school or school district in order to adequately access and implement the instructional materials in the manner in which the publisher

Technical Specification Components:	Applicable to ALL grade levels
Device (e.g., Desktop, Laptop, Tablet)	Studies Weekly's online program is device agnostic. It will run on any device sufficient to run a web browser, including mobile devices.
Operating System (Windows/Mac)	Studies Weekly's applications are web-based and therefore work on any operating system on which a web browser can be installed.
Software Requirements (e.g., Office, Adobe, GameMaker etc....) Memory (RAM) (e.g., 4GB) Hard	Sufficient to run a web browser
Hardware Requirement (Laptop)	Product does NOT require additional hardware.
Internet Connection (e.g., 1 Mbps, broadband)	Sufficient to view 360p video
Web Browser Supported (Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer)	Studies Weekly supports the latest versions of all modern web browsers (Firefox, Safari, Chrome) and additionally, any version of a
Antivirus Software	Studies Weekly makes daily backups of our database in the Amazon Cloud and can roll back and recover as needed.



## Louisiana

Studies Weekly - Kindergarten (ISBN 15503054)

Studies Weekly - First Grade (ISBN 15503062)

Studies Weekly - Second Grade (ISBN 15503070)

USA Studies Weekly - Ancient America to the Present - Grade 4 (ISBN 21691045)

USA Studies Weekly - Ancient America to Reconstruction - Grade 5 (21691029)

**ABOUT OUR PRODUCT** - Studies Weekly, Inc. is an innovative curriculum program for teaching Louisiana Social Studies Standards in grades K-2 and 4-5. The engaging and easy-to-use weekly magazines make social studies interesting and fun for students and teachers at an affordable price.

**ALIGNMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS** - The state of Louisiana used information from the most respected educational organizations to develop the Social Studies Standards. By extension, this same type of research is the foundation upon which Studies Weekly publications are based. A practical dimension is added with the recruitment of experienced classroom teachers as our content authors. This ensures the content is relevant to Louisiana students and teachers. Studies Weekly, Inc. pioneered concise and comprehensive standards coverage. Using only one online student edition per week, with minimal preparation required, the Social Studies Standards are covered in Grades K-2, and 4-5 during 120-180 minutes of class time per week.

**COMPREHENSIVENESS OF STUDENT AND TEACHER RESOURCES** - The core curriculum is organized around the ideas found within the Social Studies Standards. The online and print weekly student editions are the major tools. Online, students will explore related video, audio, additional maps, journal entries, letters, speeches, photographs and other primary resources. Comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, assessment, assessment analysis and parental communication tools are also powerful facets of the online component. The printed magazines replicate the online student editions. When students use the weekly magazines at home (online or in print), it fosters parental involvement and facilitates study methods for reading comprehension.

Although the print version looks like a magazine, Studies Weekly content remains essentially the same every year. However, the student editions (both online and print) are updated enough to completely avoid obsolescence. If errors are discovered, they are easily corrected. Students have easy access to hundreds of primary source media items and documentary-style videos.

### **ABOUT STUDIES WEEKLY STUDENT EDITIONS (DIGITAL AND PRINT VERSIONS) -**

- 24 weekly magazines (K-2)
- 32 weekly magazines (Grade 4)
- 28 weekly magazines (Grade 5)
- primary source photos and documents
- eye-catching illustrations
- engaging articles
- formative assessment opportunities
- developed, written and edited by educators
- 20 x 30-inch big issue for each weekly magazine for K-2

### **ABOUT STUDIES WEEKLY TEACHER SUPPLEMENTS (DIGITAL AND PRINT VERSIONS) -**

- year-at-a-glance curriculum map
- correlations to LA Social Studies Standards at point of use
- vocabulary
- guided reading strategies
- teacher-guided questions
- differentiated instruction for lower or below-level learners, ELL, Gifted/Talented
- recommended trade books related to weekly topics
- worksheets
- integrated extension activities
- Web 2.0 technology resources for student publishing
- weekly standards-aligned assessment

### **ABOUT STUDIES WEEKLY ONLINE COMPONENTS -**

- compatible with all technology, including handheld devices
- thousands of primary source and other media, including photos, paintings, audio and video clips
- leveled questions for media
- professional development on demand
- virtual field trips to historical sites around the U.S.
- audio reader recorded by real people, not text-to-speech
- customizable standards-aligned assessments
- avatar world that allows students to earn points and build their own virtual world

### **STUDIES WEEKLY ENGAGES STUDENTS, BUILDS ON PRIOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPS CRITICAL**

**THINKING SKILLS** - Studies Weekly is a curriculum that allows students to engage in social studies content using a digital magazine format. The format itself is engaging to students because it is different from a traditional textbook. The weekly units are not as intimidating to students because they present a small, focused amount of information rather than an entire year's worth at once.

The content of Studies Weekly includes vivid illustrations and colorful maps along with primary source pictures and documents that appeal to students. Students are also more engaged when using Studies Weekly's hard copy-version publication because it is consumable. Being able to write, highlight and draw directly on the magazine helps to create a sense of ownership of the content.

Additionally, students have access to online tools where they can listen to the curriculum text in rich character voices that hold their attention. The words light up on the screen as the text is read. They can also complete interactive vocabulary games, watch primary source videos, listen to primary source audio files and take virtual field trips to historical sites to extend their learning.

The Studies Weekly publications are written to build upon prior learning. Because the publications follow the sequence and scaffolding of the standards, teachers can confidently gauge the prior knowledge their students bring into their classrooms and build upon that knowledge appropriately.

Studies Weekly helps students develop critical thinking skills. It provides a vocabulary acquisition method called "Words to Know" and uses Robert J. Marzano's "Building Academic Vocabulary" researched-based strategy. This requires the use of context clues to determine the meaning of content-based words.

### **STUDIES WEEKLY PROVIDES FOR INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING, SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING AND**

**OPPORTUNITIES TO RETEACH CONTENT** - Teachers will find that Studies Weekly provides multiple tools, resources and lesson suggestions. Studies Weekly supports teaching instruction through the Student Edition, Teacher Supplement, online experiences, extended online activities and other teacher resources for the classroom.

The Student Edition, a weekly digital and consumable magazine for each student, has an organized curriculum to support learning for all ability levels. This informational text allows for teachers to use a wide range of teaching techniques according to their classroom needs. For example, there are many tiered activity opportunities for teachers implementing differentiated instruction. When scaffolding for struggling learners, students can highlight words or main ideas directly on the resource to focus attention on specific text. The Student Edition also has guided questions within the text for inquiry-based learning, step-by-step directions for various activities and re-teaching opportunities. There are questions and discussion opportunities for students to make text-to-text and text-to-world connections. There are also challenging questions that require thinking beyond obvious responses from the newly learned materials to more abstract responses. The questions are today's and yesterday's real issues, that help students become thoughtful problem-solvers. Plus, the Student Edition provides a base for further challenging instruction. It also structures the useful knowledge about the subject for all levels of students appropriately. There are many ways that the Student Edition can be utilized for re-teaching content. Teachers can use the introductions to assess prior content knowledge. The weekly magazine format, with its presentation of content in small increments, provides students with the means to process new content while allowing teachers to continually check for understanding.

The Teacher Supplement, a resource book available online, contains a year-at-glance curriculum map and a variety of tools and resources. Teachers will find guided reading strategies, words to know, differentiated instruction, literature links, worksheets, extension activities and more. There are also resources and suggestions in the Teacher Supplement for re-teaching or formative assessment. Lessons for charts and graphic organizers, visual representation of the new material learned, collaborative activities, and reflections are provided for teachers to use according to their classroom needs.

Teachers have access to all of the online curriculum, activities and resources. Here they will find differentiated instruction support through the audio reader for students who need extra guidance with a re-read of the content, and for emergent readers. There is literacy support as the words are highlighted along with the reader, as well as the ability for a student to work at an individual pace. The online curriculum's provision of individual pace can also be utilized for advanced learners as it provides assessment feedback, allowing students to proceed with minimal teacher instruction. The online curriculum is a self-directed learning opportunity for students in a technological setting. With an integrated reward system featuring "Revere the Rat," students are motivated to be responsible in their own learning process. Beyond the integrated reward system online, teachers will find educational games, primary source videos and professional resources to provide further content extension and variance. Teachers will also find classroom instruction support on our website through a library of videos on resources, tools, strategies and ideas for implementing Studies Weekly lessons in their classroom.

While each part of our product at Studies Weekly provides the tools and resources necessary for varied teaching instruction, teachers will find that when used in conjunction the possibilities are endless. This creates a highly adaptable implementation while ensuring the correlated content of the curriculum is being completed. Teachers will enjoy flexibility when planning for the differentiated instruction, inquiry-based learning, self-directed learning and re-teaching.

## **Studies Weekly links content to real needs, problems, and activities, as well as students' lives.**

Studies Weekly, Inc. creates thoughtful, engaging publications for students. Children need to see how social studies connects to their lives. With Studies Weekly, students become a part of the action. The text encourages students to look at history and civics from their own perspective and make text-to-self connections. In Studies Weekly, history is not just about names and dates. Students learn about character traits and connections between their lives and the community, country and world.

With Studies Weekly, students tackle concepts in order to become good citizens. In addition to historical events, students learn about responsibility, economics and other cultures. Students learn about the steps to solving a conflict and then write about a time they did so. From conflicts with a friend to large-scale problems like pollution, Studies Weekly presents students with age-appropriate challenges.

Studies Weekly publications provide students with meaningful text and full-color photographs and illustrations. Photographs and illustrations show children engaged in activities in familiar places: home, school and the community. Primary sources are used throughout to highlight important documents and people. Using primary sources is one way to inspire students to become aware of what happened in the past and what is happening in the world today.

The Teacher Supplements supply additional real-world opportunities to further students' understanding. worksheets encourage students to think about their responsibilities at home and school. Lesson suggestions offer ways to bring the concepts into other situations.

The answer keys in the Kindergarten through second grade Teacher Supplements are marked for rigor and relevance. Students are routinely asked to apply knowledge to real-world predictable and unpredictable situations.

Teachers will find a list of children's literature that connects to the topics of each weekly unit. These books give teachers more options to extend the lesson and encourage students to make text-to-text connections. Because today's students are digital natives, our curriculum is offered online as well as in print. Students can navigate the publication with ease and follow along with the audio reader.

Studies Weekly publications present relevant content in an appealing manner. We place an emphasis on critical/inferential thinking, problem solving and application skills. With Studies Weekly, students are prepared to learn about the needs, problems and activities they will encounter in the world.

## **Studies Weekly Assessments**

Studies Weekly, Inc. enables teachers to monitor student progress, analyze data and report outcomes from their teacher account on [studiesweekly.com/online](https://studiesweekly.com/online). Teachers control the reading content and assessments to which their students have access. Charts and pie graphs are available that show detailed results of assessments including percentage of students who selected both correct and incorrect answers on each question, plus overall results and individual results of students. Teachers may communicate directly with every parent with a single email to send assignments to their students. Using a link within the teacher's email, students and parents may navigate directly to their assignments with no need to remember their username or password. Online assessments include both traditional and tech-enhanced questions.

To monitor student progress, teachers are equipped with summative and formative assessments from

Studies Weekly. For each week of all grade levels, teacher-authors hired by Studies Weekly have written assessment questions that pertain to the curriculum content and standards.

A formal assessment can be administered as a hardcopy downloaded from the Teacher Supplement, or it may be administered online through a student's Studies Weekly account. Using Studies Weekly's library of primary sources and related media, easy-, medium- and hard-level multiple-choice questions are available for teachers to either engage their students within a whole group or small groups, or assign online for students to answer the multiple-choice questions as a mini-formative assessment.

Studies Weekly assessments use a format similar to standardized tests. Answer choices are selected with the same bubble format used on the standardized test. Assessment structure includes multiple-choice and tech-enhanced questions that feature pictorial and graphic organizer analysis and drag-and drop features or drop-down vocabulary menus, as well as extended response questions, which require students to cite at least one source in their answers. Studies Weekly encourages students to turn back to the weekly articles to locate their answer. Teachers are able to edit any part of an assessment question and/or answer using the online assessment version.

### **Accessibility**

Teachers will find numerous resources and tools to help customize instruction for all types of learners. Each weekly unit of Studies Weekly includes visuals, such as colorful illustrations, primary source pictures, maps and charts, which help all types of learners imagine life in a historical context. All students who use Studies Weekly develop reading skills by using engaging articles and studying primary sources. Students will demonstrate understanding of concepts through a variety of activities. Unlike traditional textbooks, students can mark and highlight right on their very own pages, online or in print. Students can identify high-frequency words, the main idea and supporting details of articles, as well as find context clues to help with vocabulary words.

Studies Weekly also provides a poster-sized "Big" Student Edition for all K-2 publications. This big issue is a tool for teachers to use as a visual teaching aid while choral reading with ELL, special education and below level students.

The Teacher Supplements of Studies Weekly contain detailed lesson suggestions, worksheets, assessments, resources and tools for each weekly unit. The supplements provide Building Academic Vocabulary (BAV), teacher-guided questions and differentiated instruction. Many of the ELA standards are also included in the Teacher Supplements at point of use. When introducing every lesson, teachers are instructed to activate students' prior knowledge and introduce new vocabulary.

A teacher can challenge a gifted and talented student to find evidence in articles to support specific claims in the publication. Activities like these allow all types of learners to focus on specific concepts in their learning. Gifted and talented students are supported with differentiated questions found throughout the teacher supplements. Questions were specifically written to stretch students' thinking beyond the obvious response to an abstract-thinking response. Activities, worksheets and assessment questions have been selected carefully and analyzed thoroughly for cognitive complexity levels and relevance. Questions with a higher cognitive complexity level ask students to think in a complex way by applying their knowledge and then analyzing the results, making multiple connections.

All students are served in an engaging publication that promotes critical thinking and is ready-to-use.