



What's New in Grade 5?

FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2026-27

A revised version of DESE's Investigating History Grade 5 course will be published for School Year 2026-27. "Legacy" Grade 5 materials will be available upon request. Updates to Grade 5 units include:



UPDATES TO UNIT STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

Revised units feature one streamlined essential question, consistent formative assessments for each lesson cluster, and lesson-level updates based on feedback.



STREAMLINED INQUIRY ROUTINES

Key inquiry routines (Launching the Question, Investigating Sources, Putting It Together) are vertically aligned across Grades 3-7 units. Grade 5 units no longer feature a separate "In-Depth Inquiry" given the consistent inquiry structure.



INCREASED SCAFFOLDS AND SUPPORTS

New features include scaffolded versions of key activities, differentiated lesson-level look-fors and strategies for multilingual learners, and Language and Literacy builders to support key language functions.



MORE END-OF-UNIT SYNTHESIS

Units now include a Unit Synthesis lesson focused on the unit essential question and an optional Content Assessment to supplement summative performance tasks.

Learn more at mass.gov/investigatinghistory