



What's New for SY26-27

COURSE UPDATES AND NEW RESOURCES

Welcome back! Below are key updates and new resources for users of DESE's Investigating History across grade levels. On the following two pages, you will find a summary of key features in our new Grades 3-4 courses as well as revision highlights for Grade 5.

- **NEW GRADES 3-4 COURSES AND REVISED GRADE 5 COURSE**

Previously available only in pilot form, Investigating History's courses for Grades 3-4 have been fully revised based on pilot teacher feedback and are now available on the [DESE website](#). Additionally, our Grade 5 course has been revised with an emphasis on vertical alignment, updated unit structure, and increased scaffolds and supports.

- **FINAL CLUSTER FOR UNIT 6.2**

Unit 6.2 has been updated with a new final cluster of lessons on the origins of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in alignment with Topics 6.T3e-f of the 2018 History and Social Science Framework.

- **UPDATED RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PLANNING AND INSTRUCTION**

New and updated resources can be found on our [Resources for Educators](#) page, including an updated Curriculum Guidebook, pacing guidance for Grades 3-5 and 6-7, language and literacy supports, picture book lists for Grades 3-5, and more.

- **ACCESSIBILITY UPDATES**

All Grades 3-5 units are WCAG 2.1 compliant based on new federal guidelines. Grades 6-7 units are being progressively updated to align to this standard. Links to PDF/Universally Accessible versions of materials can be found at the bottom of each unit page.

- **ERROR REMEDIATION**

Grades 6-7 units are being progressively updated in response to reported errors and minor feedback. These updates do not substantively impact unit content or tasks. A change log can be found on our [curriculum page](#).

Learn more at mass.gov/investigatinghistory



What's New in Grades 3-4?

FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2026-27

Previously available only in pilot form, DESE's Investigating History curriculum will be fully published in Grades 3 and 4 for the first time in School Year 2026-27. Pilot materials have been revised to include:



UPDATES TO UNIT CONTENT

Revisions to unit content and lesson logistics reflect feedback from content experts and 150+ pilot educators.



STREAMLINED FORMATTING

New formatting aligns to current Grades 5-7 materials and increases clarity and accessibility. Materials will be available in a variety of formats, including Google Docs, PDFs, and printed versions.



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



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.



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