**Social Studies Topics - 5th Grade**

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| **UNIT** | **ESSENTIAL QUESTION** |
| Geography and Early Societies of the Western Hemisphere | *To what degree does geography determine culture?* |
| European Exploration | *How do issues of power, wealth, and morality influence exploration and colonization?* |
| Comparative Case Studies of Western Hemisphere Cultures | *How do key forces and events shape nations?* |
| The Western Hemisphere Today | *How does an interdependent region meet the challenges of modern living?* |