

# The Integrated Instructional Block

**How do you fit core K–2 ELA and social studies into one 70-minute block? Inkwell makes it possible.**

Inkwell doesn't treat literacy and social studies as separate priorities competing for time. It brings them together into one core curriculum. Reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and social studies are taught, practiced, and assessed within the same 70 minutes, with each discipline strengthening the other. This isn't ELA with a social studies theme or social studies squeezed into ELA. It's rigorous instruction in both, intentionally designed to work together.

## Across a lesson, K–2 ELA and social studies work together

Every lesson starts with integrated ELA and social studies standards that drive the texts, tasks, and assessments. The rigor of both high-quality instructional materials ELA and social studies extends learning, deepens comprehension, and layers knowledge.

| Objective                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| “Analyze how working together affected the community in <i>In Our Garden</i> to determine the central message that communities are stronger when people work together to solve problems.”            |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                            |
| Vocabulary                                                                                                                                                                                           | Close Read & Text Analysis                                                                                                                     | Writing Prompt                                                                                                                                                      | Discussion                                                                                                                                                 |
| Students learn cooperation, “working together and helping others to get something done,” then apply the language frame “I see ‘cooperation’ because _____” to the garden illustration on pgs. 26–27. | On pgs. 11–16, students cite text and illustration details that show parents, neighbors, and classmates each contributing to a shared project. | On Handout 5.2a, students write two detail sentences supporting a topic sentence, one about how the garden helped Millie and one about how it helped the community. | In a mingle-pair-share, students practice speaking and listening norms while answering “How did this help Millie?” then “How did this help the community?” |

Key: ELA Social Studies

## Lesson objectives do double duty

In Inkwell, lesson objectives describe a single task driven by both ELA and social studies. Social studies content puts ELA skills to work in ways that deepen comprehension and build knowledge. Because Inkwell was designed to integrate at the lesson objective level, everything that comes after ties to two content areas.

## Primary and secondary sources deepen comprehension of anchor texts

In Inkwell, every text does two jobs at once: deepening reading skills and comprehension while also building social studies knowledge. Students begin with accessible entry texts, then build vocabulary and background knowledge through a sequence of increasingly complex texts. Along the way, complex, content-rich sources build the background knowledge students need at the right moment.

## Social studies gives writing meaning and purpose

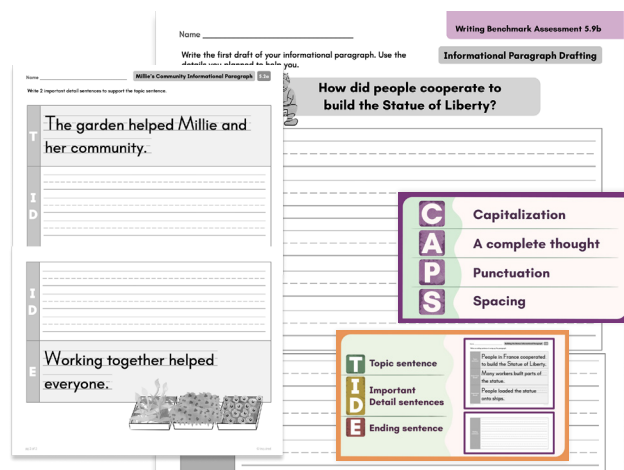
Strong writing instruction is explicit, frequent, and built on a clear sequence. In Inkwell, writing is a daily practice, designed to connect knowledge to ideas that can transfer to the next lesson, unit, and grade level. Students learn named strategies like CAPS and TIDE, progress from sentences to paragraphs, and focus on one genre per unit. And, it's integrated throughout: writing opportunities combine ELA and social studies content and skills.

### ELA

Write a complete sentence to describe a tradition Alejandra might pass down to future generations, based on details from the story

### Social Studies

### ELA



## K-2 Integrated ELA and social studies core curriculum

Inkwell is based on the science of reading and writing, translating decades of research on comprehension, writing, and knowledge-building into daily K-2 practice. Reach out to schedule a call and learn more about how Inkwell could fit into your district's plans.

[Schedule a call](#)



## Twice the information in a single assessment

In Inkwell, a single assessment provides evidence across comprehension, vocabulary, writing, language, and social studies in one pass. Assessment reflects how students read, write, speak, listen, and think across ELA and social studies content and concepts. Teachers gather evidence across lessons, modules, and units to understand how students are progressing in relation to grade-level ELA and social studies standards. Assessment guides highlight aligned ELA and social studies strands while supporting a holistic view of performance. Meaningful tasks, clear expectations, and accessible formats help students confidently demonstrate what they know and can do while continuing to deepen their understanding.

Name: Jacob Informational Paragraph Planning and Drafting 5.9a

**Part 1**  
Draw details to answer the question and plan your informational paragraph.

How did people cooperate to build the Statue of Liberty?



**Part 2**  
Draft your informational paragraph.

Topic sentence:

People helped build the statue of Liberty.

ELA (LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION)  
**Uses domain-specific vocabulary.**

**SOCIAL STUDIES (CIVICS)**  
**Explains how communities cooperate.**

ELA (WRITING)  
**Cites text evidence in own words.**

Important detail:

Some people made the statue.

Important detail:

other people gave money for it

Ending sentence:

They all helped make it together.

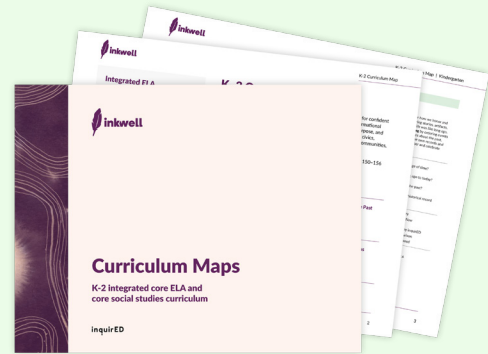
## Social studies connects knowledge across lessons, units, and grade levels

Units are rooted in social studies disciplinary standards, concepts, and vocabulary that return and deepen across lessons, units, and grades.

Within each module, students co-construct an Essential Findings Chart that carries evidence from one anchor text to the next, so what they learn on day one gets picked up and extended. Across a unit, the modules stack toward one Inquiry Challenge, with the Inquiry Wall holding key concepts visible so ideas from an earlier module become the foundation for the next, all culminating in a Transfer Module where students apply everything to a real Inquiry Product.

Across grade levels, disciplinary social studies concepts layer for deeper comprehension of complex ideas and texts.

## See how knowledge builds year-over-year



Download the Inkwell  
K-2 Curriculum Maps

**Download**

## About Inkwell

**K-2 core ELA and social studies in one,  
70-minute instructional block.**

Inkwell is an inquiry-based HQIM for both ELA and social studies, designed so each subject strengthens the other. Students develop their literacy skills by reading, writing, and discussing within sustained social studies investigations.

Supports mastery of **ELA and social studies standards** in one block

Grounded in the **Science of Reading**

Embeds **explicit writing instruction** in daily lessons

**Builds knowledge** through content-rich social studies investigations

Connects and deepens **learning through inquiry**