

# INQUIRY JOURNEYS

## Pacing Guide

Strategies to Make Time for Social Studies

# Introduction

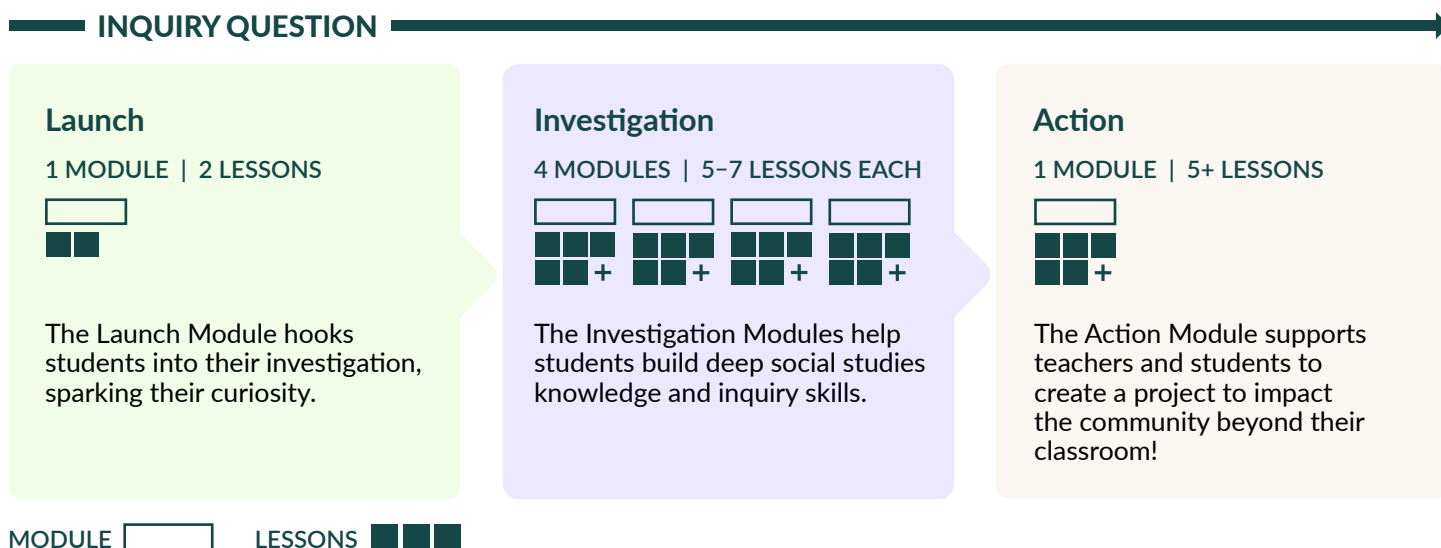
This sample pacing guide is designed to help you plan time for social studies in your school or district's elementary schedule.

It's based on real examples from our district partners using Inquiry Journeys, inquirED's elementary social studies curriculum. This guide offers a practical framework for balancing social studies with other subjects, showing how districts have successfully made time for social studies — even in packed schedules.

## About Inquiry Journeys

As you explore this pacing guide, it will be helpful to understand how Inquiry Journeys is structured. Each unit is divided into six instructional modules, which include Core lessons and optional Extension lessons.

### Structure of an Inquiry Unit



## Making Time for Social Studies

The factors that impact pacing vary from district to district. They might include expectations for instructional minutes, whether minutes are shared with another subject, flexibility in daily schedules, reporting deadlines, or whether the district uses quarters or trimesters.

This document includes several types of pacing guides:

- **Year-at-a-Glance Pacing for K-5:** A broad overview of the year, broken into monthly segments for a flexible, comprehensive approach.
- **Alternating Subjects – Week-by-Week Pacing:** For districts alternating social studies and another subject (often science) weekly. This guide provides weekly lessons and suggested minutes.
- **Alternating Subjects – Unit-by-Unit Pacing:** For districts alternating subjects by unit. This detailed guide offers weekly lessons, suggested minutes, and flexible Extension lessons.

# INQUIRY JOURNEYS


## PACING GUIDE


### Year-at-a-Glance

This high-level pacing guide provides an overview of K-5 social studies instruction for the entire year, broken down into monthly segments. It offers a clear picture of how much instructional time is needed each month.

Interested in learning more about Inquiry Journeys, inquirED's K-5 social studies curriculum? [Contact us!](#)

**How much time do I need to teach Inquiry Journeys?**

 In a typical 180-day school year, you can expect to spend **30-60 instructional days per unit**, depending on whether social studies is taught daily or alternates with another subject.

 Lessons are designed for **45 minutes**, with shorter 30-minute lessons for kindergarten.

Lessons are designed for 45-minute instructional blocks (with the exception of kindergarten, which is 30 minutes). School-level factors such as instructional time and scheduling should be considered when applying this pacing guidance. View the full [Inquiry Journeys Scope and Sequence here](#).

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	TOTAL # LESSONS
KINDERGARTEN UNITS	NAVIGATING SCHOOL Core Lessons: 23 Extension Lessons: 10		MY TEAM AND SELF Core Lessons: 22 Extension Lessons: 9		PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE Core Lessons: 22 Extension Lessons: 10		96			
GRADE 1 UNITS	FAMILIES NEAR AND FAR Core Lessons: 23 Extension Lessons: 10		OUR SPECIAL LOCATION Core Lessons: 23 Extension Lessons: 9		CIVIC ENGAGEMENT Core Lessons: 23 Extension Lessons: 9		97			
GRADE 2 UNITS	MEETING NEEDS AND WANTS Core Lessons: 23 Extension Lessons: 8		OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE Core Lessons: 24 Extension Lessons: 8		INNOVATION Core Lessons: 23 Extension Lessons: 9		95			
GRADE 3 UNITS	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS Core Lessons: 22 Extension Lessons: 10		MIGRATION AND MOVEMENT Core Lessons: 22 Extension Lessons: 9		THE 20TH CENTURY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT Core Lessons: 24 Extension Lessons: 8		96			
GRADE 4 UNITS	NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE US Core Lessons: 22 Extension Lessons: 10		OUR STATE AND REGION Core Lessons: 23 Extension Lessons: 16		ECONOMIC CHOICES Core Lessons: 23 Extension Lessons: 10		104			
GRADE 5 UNITS	NATIVE AMERICA Core Lessons: 25 Extension Lessons: 8		THE COLONIAL ERA Core Lessons: 24 Extension Lessons: 8		THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Core Lessons: 26 Extension Lessons: 7		RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES Core Lessons: 25 Extension Lessons: 7		130	

## PACING GUIDE


## Alternating Subjects by Week


### KINDERGARTEN EXAMPLE

Many schools alternate social studies with other subjects, often science, on a weekly basis to make the most of limited instructional time. This pacing guide offers a weekly breakdown of lessons and suggested minutes using Inquiry Journeys' kindergarten curriculum, helping leaders and teachers gauge how much time is needed per lesson and unit.

Interested in learning more about Inquiry Journeys, inquired's K-5 social studies curriculum? [Contact us!](#)

How much time do I need to teach Inquiry Journeys?

 In a typical 180-day school year, you can expect to spend **30-60 instructional days per unit**, depending on whether social studies is taught daily or alternates with another subject.

 Lessons are designed for **45 minutes**, with shorter **30-minute lessons for kindergarten**.

Over the three kindergarten units, there are 67 Core lessons and 29 Extension lessons. We've built in extra time each week and added three buffer weeks for flexibility. View the full [Inquiry Journeys Scope and Sequence here](#).

M = Module

L = Lesson

WEEK	QUARTER 1		QUARTER 2		QUARTER 3		QUARTER 4		
	UNIT 1		MODULE 6	150 min	ALTERNATE SUBJECT		M3   L2, 5	60 min	
	ALTERNATE SUBJECT		ALTERNATE SUBJECT		M5   L4-5	60 min	ALTERNATE SUBJECT		
	M2   L1, 4, 6	120 min	BUFFER/CATCH UP WEEK		ALTERNATE SUBJECT		M4   L1-2, 4-5	120 min	
	M3   L1								
	ALTERNATE SUBJECT		UNIT 2	M1   L1-2	60 min	MODULE 6	150 min	ALTERNATE SUBJECT	
	M3   L3, 5	90 min	ALTERNATE SUBJECT		ALTERNATE SUBJECT		M5   L1, 4-6	120 min	
	M4   L1								
	ALTERNATE SUBJECT		M2   L1, 4, 5	120 min	BUFFER/CATCH UP WEEK		ALTERNATE SUBJECT		
			M3   L1						
M4   L2, 5	120 min	ALTERNATE SUBJECT		UNIT 3		MODULE 6	150 min		
M5   L1-2				M1   L1-2	60 min				
ALTERNATE SUBJECT		M3   L3-5	120 min	ALTERNATE SUBJECT		ALTERNATE SUBJECT			
		M4   L1							
M5   L4-6	90 min	ALTERNATE SUBJECT		M2   L1, 2, 5	120 min	BUFFER/ CATCH UP WEEKS			
				M3   L1					
ALTERNATE SUBJECT		M4   L4-5	120 min	ALTERNATE SUBJECT					
		M5   L1-2							

## PACING GUIDE


## Alternating Subjects by Unit


### THIRD GRADE EXAMPLE

Many schools alternate social studies with other subjects, often science, on a unit-by-unit basis to make the most of limited instructional time. This pacing guide offers a breakdown of lessons and suggested minutes using Inquiry Journeys' 3rd-grade curriculum, helping leaders and teachers gauge how much time is needed per lesson and unit.

Interested in learning more about Inquiry Journeys, inquired's K-5 social studies curriculum? [Contact us!](#)

How much time do I need to teach Inquiry Journeys?

 In a typical 180-day school year, you can expect to spend **30-60 instructional days per unit**, depending on whether social studies is taught daily or alternates with another subject.

 Lessons are designed for **45 minutes**, with shorter 30-minute lessons for kindergarten.

Over the three 3rd-grade units, there are 70 Core lessons and 27 Extension lessons. The Pacing Guide is based on 200 weekly minutes for social studies/science, with extra time built in for flexibility. View the full [Inquiry Journeys Scope and Sequence here](#).

M = Module

L = Lesson

QUARTER 1	QUARTER 2	QUARTER 3	QUARTER 4
<b>UNIT 1</b> WEEK 1 M1   L1-2 90 min WEEK 2 M2   L2-3, 5* 135 min WEEK 3 M3   L1-2, 4* 135 min WEEK 4 M3   L5 135 min M4   L1-2 WEEK 5 M4   L5* 180 min M5   L1, 3, 5* WEEK 6 M5   L6 225 min MODULE 6 WEEKS 7-9 ALTERNATE SUBJECT UNIT 1	WEEKS 10-12 ALTERNATE SUBJECT UNIT 1 <b>UNIT 2</b> WEEK 13 M1   L1-2 135 min M2   L1 WEEK 14 M2   L2, 5* 135 min WEEK 15 M3   L1-2, 4* 135 min WEEK 16 M3   L5 135 min M4   L1-2 WEEK 17 M4   L5* 180 min M5   L1-2, 4* WEEK 18 MODULE 6 180 min	WEEKS 19-24 ALTERNATE SUBJECT UNIT 2 <b>UNIT 3</b> WEEK 25 M1   L1-2 135 min M2   L1 WEEK 26 M2   L2, 4-5* 135 min TESTING BEGINS	<b>UNIT 3</b> WEEK 27 M3   L1, 3, 5* 180 min M4   L1 WEEK 28 M4   L2, 4*-6 180 min WEEK 29 M5   L1-2, 5*-6 180 min WEEK 30 MODULE 6 180 min WEEKS 31-36 ALTERNATE SUBJECT UNIT 3

\*Checkpoint Assessments