

INQUIRY JOURNEYS

K-4 Social Studies

West Virginia Scope and Sequence





Navigating School

How can we make school a great place for everyone?

Students need to understand the places and people around them to thrive at school. In this Inquiry, students explore their roles at school, investigating how they can make choices that will make school a great place for themselves and those around them.

Investigation Modules



School norms, behaviors, and interactions

Creating maps of the school and classroom



Student roles and responsibilities

Being a helper



Interviewing staff members about roles and duties

Leaders, helpers, and friends



Tactics to help resolve conflicts

Encountering problems

Action Module



Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a Written Project, students might collaborate on an original storybook to help future students navigate school.



My Team and Self

How can we unite to build a powerful class community?

To understand what you can accomplish as a team, you need to understand who makes up the team and how those individuals can work together. Students explore elements of personal identity and identify opportunities for teamwork in their class community.

Investigation Modules



Self-portraits: historical and student-generated

Family, culture, and identity



Case Study: Apollo 11 and the power of different skills

Classmate interviews



Brainpower and brain growth

Strengths, challenges, and growth mindset



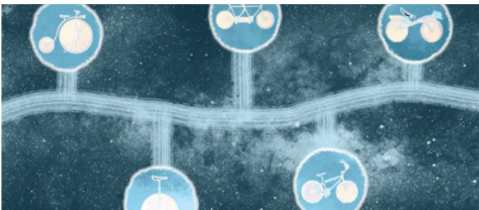
Cooperation and teamwork

Setting shared goals

Action Module



Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a 3D Project, students might create works of art to teach visitors about how knowing themselves and their classmates helps them form stronger teams.



Past, Present, and Future

How can we use wisdom from the past to build a better future?

Understanding our past experiences and how our memories shape us is integral to planning for our future. Students explore concepts of time and memory, discovering and sharing stories and memories that have helped them learn and grow.

Investigation Modules



Past, present, and future

Learning from stories



Increments and measures (months, weeks, days)

Natural cycles and patterns (night and day, seasons)



Chronological order

Timelines



Learning from experiences

Relationship between actions and outcomes

Action Module



Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a 2D Project, students might create a display of illustrations that shares pieces of wisdom they've gained from past experiences.



Families Near and Far

How can we bring families together to form stronger communities?

Families take many forms; there's no single definition. In this Inquiry, students identify the roles and responsibilities that contribute to a family. They explore what makes their family unique and the differences they may encounter among different families and cultures.

Investigation Modules

- 🔍 Exploration of different family structures
Families around the world
- 🔍 Exploring holidays and food traditions
Customs and traditions
- 🔍 Responsibilities, needs, and wants of a family
Compare and contrast roles
- 🔍 How families help each other
Diverse family types

Action Module

- 🔍 Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a Written Project, students might collect recipes to create an original cookbook that celebrates the diversity of traditions in their classroom community.



Our Special Location

How can we help others appreciate our special location?

Our geographic location shapes who we are and how we live. During this Inquiry, students investigate how location and climate shape daily life, and how goods and services meet community needs.

Investigation Modules

- 🔍 Maps and globes: symbols, directions, and location
Mapping important community locations
- 🔍 Landforms, bodies of water, and local and regional climates
Effects of climate and landscape on way of life
- 🔍 Characteristics of rural, urban, and suburban communities
Community goods and services
- 🔍 Symbols that represent our community
Community workers and helpers

Action Module

- 🔍 Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a Multimedia Project, students might use cardboard boxes to create a 3D map of their community with symbols and signage, inviting other students to their class for a miniature guided tour.



Civic Engagement

How can we work together for the good of the community?

You are never too young to engage in civic life. In this Inquiry, students explore different forms of participation and investigate key civics topics such as rights, fairness, responsibilities, rules, and laws.

Investigation Modules

- 🔍 Responsibilities as community citizens
Function of rules and laws
- 🔍 Difference between fact and opinion
Making informed choices
- 🔍 Historical changes in rules and laws
Case Study: Women and girls in sports
- 🔍 Working together to overcome challenges
Case Study: Americans with Disabilities Act

Action Module

- 🔍 Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a Presentation Project, students might collaborate to plan a video PSA that investigates an issue in their school community they would like to address.



Meeting Needs and Wants

How can we work together to meet community needs and wants?

Communities are created to meet our common needs. In this Inquiry, students are introduced to the concepts of needs and wants, scarcity and abundance, the ways that producers and consumers interact, and how individuals and communities make choices about how to use their resources.

Investigation Modules

- 🔍 Understanding needs and wants
- 🔍 Producers and consumers
- 🔍 Prices, saving, spending, and giving
- 🔍 Market economy: supply and demand
- 🔍 Planned vs. unexpected expenses
- 🔍 Community needs and wants
- 🔍 Financial literacy and decision-making
- 🔍 Generating ideas to meet community needs

Action Module

- 🔍 Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a Multimedia Project, students might demonstrate their understanding of community needs and wants by designing original products for “sale” at a model marketplace or makers fair.



Our Changing Landscape

How can we respond to our changing landscape?

Our relationship to the physical world around us begins with our own geographical location and the physical features of that location. In this Inquiry, students explore access to and dependency on natural resources, how and why we modify the landscape, and the impacts that modifications can have on land, water, and living things.

Investigation Modules

- 🔍 Identifying geographic features
- 🔍 Basic human needs
- 🔍 Natural resources of community and state
- 🔍 Freshwater and issues of scarcity
- 🔍 Types of modifications to the environment
- 🔍 Responses to environmental problems
- 🔍 Population growth and landscape changes
- 🔍 Innovation in fresh food production

Action Module

- 🔍 Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a 3D Project, students might design an interactive game to teach other students how everyday objects can be traced back to natural resources.



Innovation

How can we innovate to improve the world around us?

Innovation touches every facet of life – past, present, and future. In this Inquiry, students consider how innovation changes society as a whole as they make their own blueprints for inventing a better world.

Investigation Modules

- 🔍 Sparks and impacts of innovation
- 🔍 Spotlight on George Washington Carver
- 🔍 Using evidence to evaluate impact of innovation
- 🔍 Characteristics of effective innovators
- 🔍 Impact of Industrial Revolution’s innovations
- 🔍 Improving communities through innovation
- 🔍 Transcontinental Railroad
- 🔍 Modern innovations

Action Module

- 🔍 Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a Presentation Project, students might organize a living history museum to inform their community of the innovations and innovators that have brought about significant changes to daily life.



Global Connections

How can we act as global citizens?

Is it possible to touch a country and its people without ever setting foot there? In this Inquiry, students explore the geographic ways they are connected to distant places and the people who live there through the movement of people, goods, and ideas.

Investigation Modules

- Relative location and geographic features
- Geography's effect on culture
- Latitude, longitude, and grid systems
- Natural resources and raw materials
- Domestic and global trade
- Cultural diffusion and globalization

Action Module

Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a 2D Project, students might inform their peers of the origins of various products by creating a wordless storybook that traces the journeys of these products.



The 20th Century Civil Rights Movement

How can we take steps toward equality and justice?

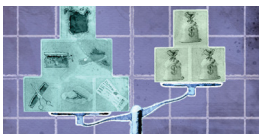
All people in the United States have the right to equal protection under the law. In this Inquiry, students investigate how citizens exercise their rights and responsibilities in our democracy through the lens of the Civil Rights Movement.

Investigation Modules

- Rights and responsibilities
- Civil rights movement
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Learning from changemakers
- March on Washington
- Positive footsteps for change

Action Module

Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a Written Project, students might celebrate the contributions of civil rights changemakers by creating a graphic novel that highlights their efforts and impacts.



Economic Choices

How can we make economic decisions that positively impact our own lives and communities?

Throughout our lives, the economic decisions we make affect us and others in our community in profound ways. In this Inquiry, students explore their role as a consumer, producer, and economic decision-maker.

Investigation Modules

- Supply and demand
- Opportunity costs
- Goods, services, producers, consumers
- Costs and benefits
- Market demand and resources
- Making goals-based economic choices
- Exploring our region's economic story
- Role of banks and financial institutions

Action Module

Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a Multimedia Project, students might design a business plan to address a community need, conducting research and developing a way to produce and sell a valuable good or service.



Native America

How can we better honor the cultural heritage of this land?

Ever since their first encounter with Europeans, Native Americans have been misrepresented in the popular imagination and the historical record. Students explore diverse historical sources to form a deeper understanding of Native America's rich and varied cultures and histories.

Investigation Modules

- Diversity across Native America
- Storytelling as a historical source
- Cultural areas investigation
- Folktale investigation
- Artifacts as historical sources
- Perceptions of the "first Thanksgiving"
- Analyzing artifacts
- Comparing narratives

Action Module

Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a 2D Project, students might share the true stories of inspiring Native Americans by creating a series of honorary portraits for display in the school building.



Natural Resources of the US
How should we use the natural resources of the United States?

Each region of the United States is unique; together, they provide people with the different resources they need to survive. In this Inquiry, students explore the rich natural resources across the US, how people use them, and the ways everyone can help sustain them.

Investigation Modules

- Climate, geography, and resources
- Renewable vs. non-renewable energy
- Economic, social, and environmental stress
- Promoting a working landscape
- Regions of the United States
- Energy from earth, air, water, and sun
- Case Study: Dust Bowl
- Sustainability

Action Module

- Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a **Written Project**, students might create brochures to support an initiative to protect a natural resource in their community.



The Colonial Era
How can facing the complexities of America's past help us to meet the challenges of the present?

The European settlement of North America created a collision of worlds that led to profound global impacts. In this Inquiry, students go beyond a single narrative to explore the complex web of events and cross-cultural interactions that helped shape both the past and present of our nation.

Investigation Modules

- Columbian Exchange
- Jamestown colony source analysis
- Migration to the Americas
- Plymouth colony source analysis
- Colonial geography, economics, and culture
- Social roles in Colonial America
- Slavery in the colonies
- Colonial resistance

Action Module

- Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a **Presentation Project**, students might address the representation of cultural groups in colonial era artworks through a presentation to the school community.



The American Revolution
How can we promote life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all?

The American Revolution reshaped society, culture, and government in the American colonies and territories. In this Inquiry, students explore the events, causes, and consequences of the Revolution, uncovering how diverse groups and individuals shaped the course of US history.

Investigation Modules

- Pre-war timeline of important events
- British and American strengths and weaknesses
- Source analysis of Capitol paintings
- Declaration of Independence
- Development of colonial identity
- Major battles and the homefront
- Founding fathers case studies
- Constitution, conflict, and compromise

Action Module

- Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a **Written Project**, students might create a magazine to inform their community about contemporary events that align to (or don't live up to) the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.



Rights and Responsibilities
How can we contribute to a healthy democracy?

The concept of freedom can be applied to the relationships between individuals, governments, religious groups, tribes, or other organizations. This Inquiry explores the concept of freedom in parallel with a study of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and branches of government.

Investigation Modules

- Preamble to the Constitution
- Checks and balances, branches of government
- Constitution, Bill of Rights
- Creating arguments through images
- Absolute monarchy and power
- Constitution in crisis
- Amending the Constitution
- Protections and limitations on freedom

Action Module

- Using the lessons and resources in the Action Module for a **2D Project**, students might design and create a mural that illustrates their rights and responsibilities as Americans to encourage young people to be more active in their community.