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K-5 Connecting Themes/Enduring Understandings Used in DOE Frameworks

In order for students to understand and use what they learn in Social Studies, they need to have a way to organize the standards. The following list of Enduring Understandings will be used in all of the K-5 Social Studies Frameworks. By using this list, students will have the tools to use historical, geographic, civic, and economic understandings and apply them to their daily lives. This list is based on the Enduring Understandings that were written for the 6-12 Social Studies Frameworks. These Enduring Understandings are an introduction to the Connecting Themes and Enduring Understandings that will be used in the Middle and High School classes.

(The K-5 Enduring Understandings are bolded and italicized.)

- **Beliefs and Ideals:** The student will understand that the beliefs and ideals of a society influence the social, political, and economic decisions of that society.
 - *The student will understand that people’s ideas and feelings influence their decisions.*
- **Conflict and Change:** The student will understand that when there is conflict between or within societies, change is the result.
 - *The student will understand that conflict causes change.*
- **Culture:** The student will understand that the culture of a society is the product of the religion, beliefs, customs, traditions, and government of that society.
 - *The student will understand that culture is how people think, act, celebrate, and make rules, and that it is what makes a group of people special.*
- **Distribution of Power:** The student will understand that distribution of power in government is a product of existing documents and laws combined with contemporary values and beliefs.
 - *The student will understand that laws and people's beliefs help decide who gets to make choices in government.*
- **Individuals, Groups, Institutions:** The student will understand that the actions of individuals, groups, and/or institutions affect society through intended and unintended consequences.
 - *The student will understand that what people, groups, and institutions say and do can help or harm others whether they mean to or not.*
- **Location:** The student will understand that location affects a society’s economy, culture, and development.
 - *The student will understand that where people live matters.*
- **Movement/Migration:** The student will understand that the movement or migration of people and ideas affects all societies involved.
 - *The student will understand that moving to new places changes the people, land, and culture of the new place, as well as the place that was left.*

- **Production, Distribution, Consumption:** The student will understand that the production, distribution, and consumption of goods/services produced by the society are affected by the location, customs, beliefs, and laws of the society.
 - *The student will understand that the ways people make, get, and use goods and services may be different from how people in other places make, get, and use goods and services.*
- **Scarcity:** The student will understand that scarcity of all resources forces parties to make choices and that these choices always incur a cost.
 - *The student will understand that because people cannot have everything they want, they have to make choices.*
- **Technological Innovations:** The student will understand that technological innovations have consequences, both intended and unintended, for a society.
 - *The student will understand that new technology has many types of different consequences, depending on how people use that technology.*
- **Time, Change, Continuity:** The student will understand that while change occurs over time, there is continuity to the basic structure of that society.
 - *The student will understand that some things will change over time, while other things will stay the same.*