Unit 5: Discoveries

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Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Belleville Public Schools

Curriculum Guide

Sixth Grade ELA/Writing

Unit 5: Discoveries

Belleville Board of Education

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Unit Overview

- The Big Idea of the unit is Discoveries.
- The five weekly topics are as follows: Myths, Personal Strength, Innovations, Breakthroughs, and Exploration.
- Students will learn about people such as John K. Kennedy, Indians of Mesoamerica, and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as topics relating to slavery, Ancient Rome, space, silk, fishing, horses, and tools.
- The students will read stories, poems, and articles.

Enduring Understandings

Students will understand that...

- people tell and retell myths because the stories express the beliefs of a culture.
- the beliefs of a culture often have to do with what values are important to the people or how natural occurrences or phenomena of nature came to be.
- inner strength differs from physical strength because it involves the inner makeup of a person rather than the muscles.
- people show inner strength when the overcome a challenge in their life.
- innovations are new ideas or ways of doing something.
- people benefit from innovation because our lives can be improved by new technologies.
- scientists can use technology to verify what they know and lead to new discoveries.
- tools used for exploration have evolved because technology has evolved.

Essential Questions

- Why do people tell and retell myths?
- How do people show inner strength?
- How do people benefit from innovation?
- How does technology lead to discoveries?
- How have tools used for exploration evolved over time?

Exit Skills

By the end of Unit 5: Discoveries, students should be able to...

- cite relevant evidence from text.
- determine character, setting, plot, and conflict.
- make predictions.
- identify predicate adjectives and proper adjectives.
- draw evidence from literature.
- write narrative text.
- conduct short research.
- use articles and demonstrative adjectives.
- determine cause and effect text structure.
- form and use comparative and superlative adjectives.
- draw evidence from informational text.
- write informational text.
- determine sequence text structure.
- write an argument.
- summarize text.
- write a report.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS)

LA.RL.6.1	Cite textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
LA.RL.6.3	Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
LA.RL.6.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
LA.RL.6.5	Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
LA.RL.6.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.
LA.RL.6.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above, scaffolding as needed.
LA.RI.6.1	Cite textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
LA.RI.6.2	Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
LA.RI.6.3	Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

LA.RI.6.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
LA.RI.6.5	Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.
LA.RI.6.6	Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.
LA.RI.6.7	Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
LA.RI.6.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) one author's presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).
LA.RI.6.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.
LA.W.6.1.A	Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.
LA.W.6.1.C	Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.
LA.W.6.1.D	Establish and maintain a formal/academic style, approach, and form.
LA.W.6.2.A	Introduce a topic and organize ideas, concepts, and information, using text structures (e.g., definition, classification, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, etc.) and text features (e.g., headings, graphics, and multimedia) when useful to aiding comprehension.
LA.W.6.2.B	Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
LA.W.6.2.C	Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
LA.W.6.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
LA.W.6.2.E	Establish and maintain a formal/academic style, approach, and form.
LA.W.6.2.F	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.
LA.W.6.3.C	Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
LA.W.6.3.D	Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.
LA.W.6.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, voice and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.6.5	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
LA.W.6.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.
LA.W.6.7	Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.
LA.W.6.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.W.6.10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, metacognition/self correction, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.
LA.SL.6.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others'

	ideas and expressing their own clearly.
LA.SL.6.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
LA.SL.6.1.C	Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion.
LA.SL.6.1.D	Review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.
LA.SL.6.2	Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
LA.SL.6.4	Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate speaking behaviors (e.g., eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation).
LA.SL.6.5	Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, sound) and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.
LA.L.6.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.6.1.E	Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.
LA.L.6.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.L.6.2.B	Spell correctly.
LA.L.6.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
LA.L.6.4.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
LA.L.6.4.B	Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., audience, auditory, audible).
LA.L.6.4.C	Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
LA.L.6.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
LA.L.6.5.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., personification) in context.
LA.L.6.5.B	Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category) to better understand each of the words.
LA.L.6.5.C	Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, unwasteful, thrifty).
LA.L.6.6	Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Interdisciplinary Connections

- History/Social Sciences (Ethical Literacy): "Personal Strength"
- History/Social Sciences (Cultural Literacy): "Myths"
- History/Social Sciences (Geographic Literacy): "Exploration"
- Science (Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science): "Innovations"

- Science (Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science): "Breakthroughs"

LA.RST.6-8.1	Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.
LA.WHST.6-8.1.B	Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.
LA.WHST.6-8.1.D	Establish and maintain a formal/academic style, approach, and form.
LA.WHST.6-8.9	Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Learning Objectives

In Unit 5: Discoveries, students will be able to...

- interpret information presented in diverse media and formats and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
- engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion.
- use common, appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word.
- consult reference materials to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
- explain the functions of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in general and their functions in particular sentences.
- cite text evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting or plot.
- use a variety of transition, words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
- demonstrate the command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
- interpret figures of speech in context.
- use context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.
- form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified.

Suggested Activities & Best Practices

- Research report
- Text dependent questions
- Talk with a partner
- Scaffolded partner work
- Cite text evidence
- Complete a sentence frame
- Guided text annotation
- Literature Circles
- Graphic organizers

- Think Alouds
- Book review
- Independent reading
- Teacher conferences
- Presentations
- Reader's Theater
- Objective Summary

Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)

- Wonders Assessments (Unit Tests, Fluency, etc.) (Summative)
- Wonders Weekly Assessments (Summative)
- Explanatory Writing (Summative)
- Common Benchmark #3 (Benchmark)
- DRA2 Results (Benchmark)
- Anecdotal Records (Formative)

In addition to the assessments listed above, the following assessments can be used to track progress:

- Common Benchmarks (Benchmark)
- Entrance Tickets (Formative)
- Exit Tickets (Formative)
- Learning Center Activities (Formative)
- Newspaper Headline (Alternative)
- Quizzes (Summative)
- Readers/Writers Notebooks (Formative/Summative)
- Self-Assessments (Formative)
- Unit Tests (Summative)
- Written Reports (Alternative)

Primary Resources & Materials

- Wonders Anthology
- Reading/Writing Workshop
- Close Reading Companion
- Your Turn Practice Book
- High Frequency Word Cards
- Photo Cards
- Visual Vocabulary Cards
- Retelling Cards

- Sound Spelling Cards
- Leveled Workstation Activity Cards
- Leveled Readers
- Interactive Read Aloud Cards

Ancillary Resources

- Scholastic Scope
- Novels
- Decodable texts
- Leveled readers
- Literacy centers
- Better Lesson - free resource - Cause and Effect - Informational Text - https://betterlesson.com/lesson/595819/cause-and-effect-informational-text
- ReadWorks - Cause and Effect - PIZZA PROBLEMS - https://www.readworks.org/article/Pizza-Problems/536951ff-be30-4dac-971d-10b896646897#!articleTab:content/
- Commonlit.org - MYTHS - Theseus and the Minotaur - https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/theseus-and-the-minotaur?search_id=21959031; mentor test - opinion/argument https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/a-quick-note-on-getting-better-at-difficult-things?search_id=21959176
- Flocabulary - PARTS OF SPEECH - https://www.flocabulary.com/unit/parts-of-speech/teacher-resources/handouts/
- DOGO News
- Scholastic - Learning Myths, Writing Myths - https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/unit-plans/teaching-content/learning-myths-writing-myths/
- SmartTV or SmartBoard
- Student Laptops

Technology Infusion

- Ed.connect.mcgrawhill.com
- E-books
- Interactive vocabulary
- Google classroom - docs, sheets, slides, questions, assignments, material
- DOGO News
- edulastic
- Flocabulary



Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology

Mastery and infusion of **21st Century Skills & Technology** and their Alignment to the core content areas is essential to student learning. The core content areas include:

- English Language Arts;
- Mathematics;
- Science and Scientific Inquiry (Next Generation);
- Social Studies, including American History, World History, Geography, Government and Civics, and Economics;
- World languages;
- Technology;
- Visual and Performing Arts.

CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.

CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
CAEP.9.2.8.B.3	Evaluate communication, collaboration, and leadership skills that can be developed through school, home, work, and extracurricular activities for use in a career.
TECH.8.1.8.B	Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and process using technology.
TECH.8.1.8.C	Communication and Collaboration: Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
TECH.8.1.8.E	Research and Information Fluency: Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.
TECH.8.1.8.F	Critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making: Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.

21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

21st Century Skills

- Civic Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Global Awareness
- Health Literacy

Differentiation

For struggling students, **do a mini-workshop to reteach** cause and effect.

Independent research to find supporting evidence for argument writing

Varied supplemental materials - informational texts for argument writing

Differentiations:

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Repeat directions
- Use manipulatives
- Center-based instruction
- Token economy
- Study guides
- Teacher reads assessments allowed
- Scheduled breaks
- Rephrase written directions
- Multisensory approaches
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary
- Preview content & concepts
- Story guides
- Behavior management plan
- Highlight text
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations
- Large print edition
- Dictation to scribe
- Small group setting

Hi-Prep Differentiations:

- Alternative formative and summative assessments
- Choice boards
- Games and tournaments
- Group investigations
- Guided Reading
- Independent research and projects
- Interest groups
- Learning contracts
- Leveled rubrics
- Literature circles
- Multiple intelligence options
- Multiple texts
- Personal agendas
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning
- Stations/centers
- Think-Tac-Toes

- Tiered activities/assignments
- Tiered products
- Varying organizers for instructions

Lo-Prep Differentiations

- Choice of books or activities
- Cubing activities
- Exploration by interest
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Jigsaw
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Open-ended activities
- Think-Pair-Share
- Reading buddies
- Varied journal prompts
- Varied supplemental materials

Special Education Learning (IEP's & 504's)

Allow students to make corrections to their work with a view toward the students increasing their understanding.

Have students verbally respond to questions about the vocabulary or use a vocabulary word in a sentence to check for understanding.

- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- behavior management plan
- center-based instruction
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilized
- extended time on tests/quizzes
- have student repeat directions to check for understanding
- highlighted text visual presentation
- modified assignment format
- modified test content
- modified test format
- modified test length
- multi-sensory presentation
- multiple test sessions
- preferential seating

- preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
- reduced/shortened reading assignments
- reduced/shortened written assignments
- secure attention before giving instruction/directions
- shortened assignments
- student working with an assigned partner
- teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
- use open book, study guides, test prototypes

English Language Learning (ELL)

Allow students to type their work so they can use the spell check and grammar check features.

Use visual images to support new vocabulary.

- allow students to correct errors - looking for understanding
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student’s learning;
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- teaching key aspects of a topic - eliminate nonessential information
- tutoring by peers
- using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures and drawings to explain or clarify

At Risk

For the extended response question on the weekly assessment, have students respond verbally before they write down their answer.

Let students type their response to the extended response questions so they can more easily play with their ideas and revise and edit before they submit their work.

- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards,

charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning

- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- allowing students to select from given choices
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be determined prior to giving the test.
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- marking student's correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- teaching key aspects of a topic - eliminate nonessential information
- tutoring by peers
- using authentic assessments with real-life problem solving
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)

Compare and contrast myths from different cultures.

Write their own myth.

- above grade level placement option for qualified students
- advanced problem solving
- allow students to work at a faster pace
- cluster grouping flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor
- complete activities aligned with above grade level text using benchmark results
- Create a blog or social media page about their unit
- create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
- debate issues with research to support arguments
- Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery
- Multi-disciplinary unit and/or project
- teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement and growth opportunities
- utilize exploratory connections to higher grade concepts
- utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge