



WHAT 5TH GRADE KIDS SHOULD KNOW

5th Grade SURGE Standards™

Skills Used for Readiness, Growth & Excellence

A colorful, family-friendly guide to the important knowledge, skills, and learning habits children build in 5th Grade.

START STRONG. SURGE AHEAD. ACHIEVE.™

The SURGE Standards™

Skills Used for Readiness, Growth & Excellence

S	Skills Build the essential academic and learning skills students need for success.
U	Used Apply learning through reading, writing, mathematics, investigation, discussion, and problem solving.
R	Readiness Strengthen grade-level foundations that prepare students for the next challenge.
G	Growth Practice, feedback, reflection, and persistence help every learner make progress.
E	Excellence Build confidence, independence, and the ability to transfer learning to new situations.

For families: These standards are written in everyday language as guiding examples of important grade-level learning. They are informed by Texas grade-level expectations and are not a replacement for the official TEKS.

Reading, Language & Writing

READ IT • THINK IT • WRITE IT

Reading & Comprehension

A 5th Grade SURGE reader is learning to...

- Read and comprehend increasingly complex literary and informational texts independently.
- Determine themes and central ideas and summarize texts using key evidence.
- Make deeper inferences and support conclusions with relevant text evidence.
- Analyze characters, plot development, text structure, point of view, author's purpose, and craft.
- Evaluate how authors use language, evidence, and organization to influence meaning or achieve a purpose.
- Synthesize information and compare ideas, themes, and perspectives across multiple texts and genres.

Writing & Communication

A 5th Grade SURGE writer and speaker is learning to...

- Write well-developed multi-paragraph compositions with clear organization, purpose, and audience awareness.
- Develop claims or central ideas using relevant facts, examples, explanations, and text evidence.
- Revise for organization, word choice, sentence fluency, and clarity and carefully edit conventions.
- Write narratives, informational texts, argumentative pieces, correspondence, and responses to literature.
- Generate research questions and gather, paraphrase, organize, and present information from reliable sources.
- Present ideas clearly in collaborative discussions and formal or informal presentations.

Mathematics

MODEL IT • SOLVE IT • EXPLAIN IT

Mathematical Thinking

A 5th Grade SURGE mathematician is learning to...

- Represent, compare, and operate with whole numbers and decimals through the thousandths.
- Multiply multi-digit whole numbers and divide larger numbers using efficient strategies and standard methods.
- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators and multiply fractions in meaningful problem situations.
- Solve multi-step numerical and real-world problems using equations and appropriate operations.
- Classify two-dimensional figures and solve problems involving perimeter, area, and volume.
- Represent and interpret numerical data and apply grade-appropriate personal financial literacy concepts.

Math SURGE habit: Strong mathematicians choose strategies, represent their thinking, explain how they solved a problem, and check whether an answer is reasonable.

Science & Social Studies

EXPLORE IT • DISCOVER IT • CONNECT IT

Science Explorers

Students investigate the natural world by learning to...

- Plan investigations, identify variables when appropriate, collect reliable data, and defend explanations with evidence.
- Describe matter using physical properties and investigate mixtures, solutions, and physical changes.
- Analyze force, motion, electrical energy, light, sound, and energy transformations.
- Model Earth systems, weather and climate patterns, natural resources, and relationships in space.
- Compare structures, functions, adaptations, traits, and life cycles of organisms.
- Analyze food webs and explain how environmental changes affect organisms and ecosystems.

History, Geography & Citizenship

Students connect people, places, government, economics, and history by learning to...

- Explain major events, people, ideas, and eras in United States history.
- Analyze geographic regions, settlement patterns, migration, and human-environment interactions.
- Explain principles of government, important founding ideas and documents, citizenship, and civic participation.
- Describe economic development, trade, entrepreneurship, and free-enterprise concepts.
- Analyze contributions and perspectives of diverse groups in United States history and culture.
- Use primary and secondary sources, maps, graphs, and timelines to draw and support conclusions.

Ready-to-Learn Skills

CONFIDENCE + INDEPENDENCE + PERSEVERANCE

Academic growth in 5th Grade also depends on habits that help students become confident and increasingly independent learners.

- Read assignments closely and identify exactly what a question or task requires.
- Use evidence and reasoning to defend conclusions.
- Plan ahead for projects, assessments, and deadlines.
- Take notes, summarize learning, and study with increasing independence.
- Collaborate respectfully, build on others' ideas, and explain disagreements appropriately.
- Reflect on strengths, set goals, and prepare for increased middle-school independence.

The 5th Grade SURGE Check

- Determine themes and central ideas and summarize texts using key evidence.
- Analyze characters, plot development, text structure, point of view, author's purpose, and craft.
- Write well-developed multi-paragraph compositions with clear organization, purpose, and audience awareness.
- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators and multiply fractions in meaningful problem situations.
- Solve multi-step numerical and real-world problems using equations and appropriate operations.
- Plan investigations, identify variables when appropriate, collect reliable data, and defend explanations with evidence.
- Explain major events, people, ideas, and eras in United States history.
- Reflect on strengths, set goals, and prepare for increased middle-school independence.

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Family note: Children develop at different rates. Use the SURGE Standards to celebrate growth, notice strengths, and identify skills that may benefit from enrichment, review, or additional support.