Unit: Culture

Grade: 5th

**Reading Literature**: In collaboration with their study of Western Expansion in the classroom, we read historical fiction books about specific events of the Western Expansion. They analyzed the story elements, including the cultural groups, and determined what was historical and what was fictional in the text.

**Informational Media**: Meanwhile, we watched segments of the DVD “The Story of America.” They took notes. (These are attached to the back of their historical fiction graphic organizer.) With this background knowledge, they picked an historical event that interested them.

**Historical thinking/Finding evidence**: We are creating a digital display of primary resources to answer some questions about the cultural contributions during the historical events of the Western expansion. They will find evidence of which cultures contributed to the expansion into the West, and what customs, beliefs, ideas, languages, and religions they brought to the West.

**Standards:**

SS 5.3 Over time, different ethnic, religious, and national groups, including Native Americans, have contributed to the cultural diversity of the nations and regions in North and South America by sharing their customs, beliefs, ideas, and languages.

SS 5.3.b Nation‐states within North and South America have developed over time and contain multiple diverse ethnic and religious groups.

SS 5.3.c Different ethnic groups share their various customs, beliefs, ideas, languages, and religions creating culturally diverse nations and regions and leading to cultural integration.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/5/2/) Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama **respond to challenges** or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.7](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/5/7/) Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.8](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/5/8/) Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.5](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/SL/5/5/) Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, sound) and visual displays in presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

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