

# Parent Guide to Fifth Grade

Randolph County School System



## English Language Arts

In fifth grade, your child will read widely and deeply from a range of increasingly challenging fiction and nonfiction material chosen from diverse cultures and time periods. Fifth graders will also analyze literary and informational sources in order to build knowledge about a subject.

Important goals for the year include:

### Reading:

- Summarize the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas.
- Identify and judge evidence that supports particular ideas in an author's argument.
- Use details from the text to compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events.
- Integrate information from several print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems.
- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what a text says and when implying what the text says.
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts (cause/effect, comparison, sequential, problem/solution).
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.
- Use roots and affixes to read multisyllabic words.

### Writing:

- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces for different purposes and audiences.
- Use technology (including the internet) to produce and publish writing.
- Conduct short research projects independently.
- Use grade-appropriate grammar and spelling (capitals, commas, apostrophes, and quotation marks).
- Create readable documents through legible handwriting (cursive) and word processing.

### Speaking/Listening:

- Come to classroom discussions prepared to engage fully and thoughtfully with others (e.g., contribute accurate, relevant information; elaborate on the remarks of others; synthesize ideas).
- Report orally on a topic or present an opinion in his/her own words, that follows a logical sequence of ideas, uses sufficient facts and details, and expresses ideas.

Read more about what your child will learn this year in the parent guides from the NC Department of Public Instruction! [Parent Guide](#) or [Parent Guide Booklet](#)

## Mathematics

In fifth grade, your child will continue to strengthen math habits such as problem solving, persistence, precision, accuracy, modeling, constructing arguments, and checking to see if the answer makes sense.

Important goals for the year include:

- Write and evaluate equations to solve two-step word problems.
- Analyze numerical patterns and relationships.
- Explain patterns in the place value system from one million to the thousandths place.
- Read, write, and compare decimals to the thousandths place.
- Maintain the memorization of multiplication and division facts.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-digit whole numbers and decimals.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and solve related word problems.
- Convert measurement units and use these conversions to solve word problems.
- Understand the concept of volume and solve mathematical problems involving volume.
- Represent and interpret data on a line graph.
- Graph points on the coordinate plane.
- Classify quadrilaterals into categories based on their properties.

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### Science

As fifth grade students learn about the life, physical, and earth sciences, they will develop skills of observation, actively conduct investigations, have opportunities to use their senses and other tools to gather data, and time to talk about their observations with peers. Important goals for the year include:

- Explain how gravity, friction, and change in mass affect the motion of objects.
- Compare the properties and weight of an object before and after an interaction occurs.
- Explain how the sun's energy affects the water cycle.
- Explain the effects of the transfer of heat (conduction, convection, or radiation) that occurs between objects and how heating and cooling can change the properties of some materials.
- Compare daily and seasonal weather conditions and patterns. Collect weather data and make predictions about upcoming weather events based on data and knowledge of global weather patterns.
- Compare the functions of the major systems of the human body (digestive, respiratory, circulatory, muscular, skeletal, and cardiovascular).
- Understand the interdependence of plants and animals within their ecosystem. Compare common ecosystems, classify organisms as consumers, producers, or decomposers, and explain the relationship of plants and animals to their ecosystem.
- List characteristics of organisms that may be inherited or non-inherited from their parents.

### Social Studies

Fifth grade students will examine change and continuity in United States history from pre-colonial times through the present day. Important goals for the year include:

- Study the same time period as in fourth grade but transfer from the state to the national level.
- Examine the influence of the culture and choices made by various groups of people on the development of the United States.
- Explore the development, structure, and function of the United States government as well as the role of individual rights and responsibilities.
- Examine how life is affected by economic factors and decisions.
- Understand the relationship between geography and the people, goods, and ideas of the United States.
- Learn about how events, people, and ideas shaped and influenced the United States. Students will gain a general understanding in order to have the foundations necessary for later grades where an in-depth study of the role of the United States in world affairs will be covered.

### Resources for Parents

Randolph County School System

[www.randolph.k12.nc.us](http://www.randolph.k12.nc.us)

Parent Resources

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

Today Parenting Guides

[www.today.com/parenting-guides](http://www.today.com/parenting-guides)

NC Department of Public Instruction & K-12 Standards

[www.dpi.nc.gov](http://www.dpi.nc.gov)

National PTA Parent Guides

[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

NC Department of Public Instruction ELA Parent Guides

<https://ncdpi.instructure.com/courses/914/pages/parent-guides>