

Maryland

High Quality Instructional Materials



When the Blueprint for Maryland's Future was passed in 2021, the Maryland State Department of Education concentrated on helping its schools find High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)¹. To that end, the State Board of Education adopted HQIM frameworks on April 30th, 2024. It published a detailed framework, with supporting research, for social studies curricula the same year.²

The state's framework has four elements:

1. Grade-level and Standards-Aligned: Developmentally appropriate materials that are aligned to the Maryland State Standards.
2. Designed to affirm students: Scaffolded supports are provided to monitor progress and reach students where they are.
3. Instructional design: Strategies that reinforce multilingual learners and are culturally affirming are included.
4. Educator supports: Additional tools to deepen a teacher's knowledge and skill-set through thoughtful design.³

As these elements imply, there is a lot more to education than what the students see. Before class even starts, educators must know what the students need to be taught, how to teach it effectively, and how to reach all students. And, of course, teachers need plenty of support in this endeavor.

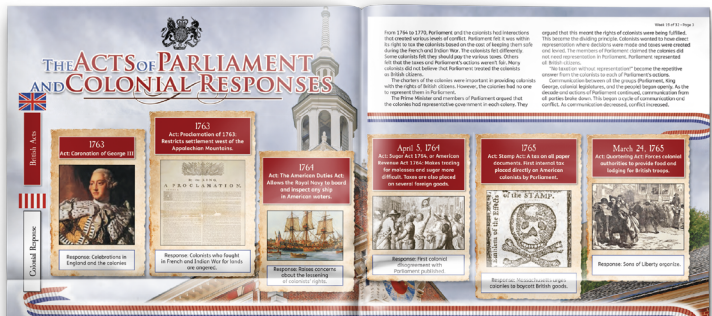
Studies Weekly is a popular publisher of quality materials for social studies, science, and wellness curriculum. Core to any quality publication is standards coverage. Studies Weekly maintains documents showing how

its materials correlate with Maryland's standards. For example, in third grade, standard (C) 1.2 states that "Students will analyze the local, state, and national levels of government." Studies Weekly covers this over the course of five weeks, including "The Purpose of Government," "National Government," "Tribal, State, and Local Government," "We the People," and "Inquiry: Research a Tribal, State, or Local Government." Correlation documents are available upon request.



Detail from Studies Weekly: Our Community, Week 11

The Studies Weekly student edition is a colorful, newspaper-style consumable that can be sent home each week or can be high-lighted, and cut and glued into interactive notebooks. Each week contains articles and

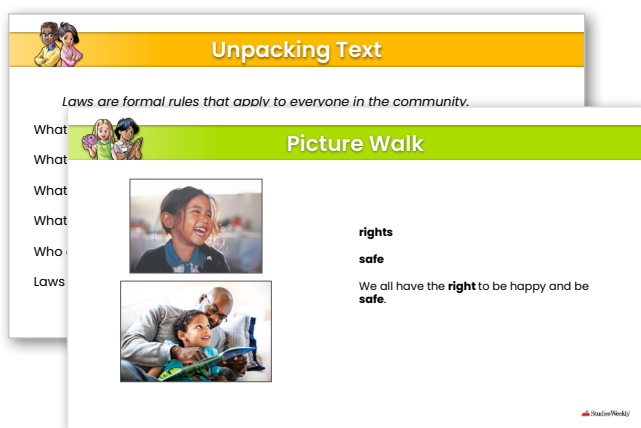


Detail from Studies Weekly: Our Nation, Week 19

other content, including rich images and graphics to support student understanding of the content.

While the student editions provide engaging and explicit standards coverage, even more value can be found in the Teacher's Edition. This guide provides teaching material and strategies for each article or activity from the student edition, including background knowledge, vocabulary words, lesson plans, classroom activities, reteaching strategies, ELA connections, assessments, literature connections and even videos. The curriculum is vetted by outside sensitivity readers from various races, cultures, and groups.

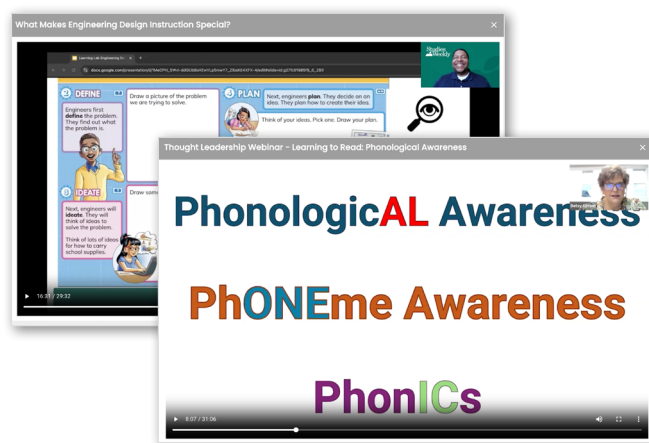
Supporting multilingual learners is important so that students can access content and develop academic language. Native English speakers also benefit from targeted language instruction. That's why most Studies Weekly publications include a set of online English Language Development slides that include seven different instructional strategies (in grades 2-5) to accommodate all entry points into each week. Grades K and 1 include grade-level appropriate language activities.



Studies Weekly: My World Grade K, Week 8

Studies Weekly: Our Community Grade 3, Week 1

Professional development is key to the success of any program, and any teacher for that matter. While Studies Weekly provides a wide array of paid professional development opportunities, the Training and Resources area of the online platform includes an incredible library of videos and resources to help teachers onboard, grow, evolve, and



Training and Resources in Studies Weekly's online platform.

thrive. Whether learning about NGSS and 3-dimensional learning, ideas to support students in developing grit and a growth mindset, or how to incorporate English language arts strategies into any content area, the training and resources materials included in the subscription help teachers thrive every step of the way.

Whether supporting students or teachers, Studies Weekly gives the teacher an abundance of high quality materials to work with as teachers increase their own education and strive to use affirming practices to reach all their students.

¹"What Is the Blueprint for Maryland's Future?" Maryland State Department of

Education, <https://blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/about/>.

²"Social Studies: High Quality Instructional Materials Identification Framework, 2024–2025," Maryland State Department of Education, <https://hqim.marylandpublicschools.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2024/10/Social-Studies-HQIM-Selection-Framework-a.pdf>.

³"Frameworks and Rubrics," Maryland State Department of Education, <https://hqim.marylandpublicschools.org/frameworks-and-rubrics/>.