

California FAQs

Why did you change the curriculum?

Our goal is to give you the best curriculum possible, so we changed the publications to align more strongly with the California Social Studies Standards and Framework and the FAIR Education Act and make them more engaging for students.

How is the new curriculum different from what I had before?

Our curriculum specialists consulted with California educators, cultural studies experts, subject matter experts, and diverse contributors to ensure the new publications are culturally responsive and authentic. We seek to widen the context of each narrative and contextualize individual stories that give an understanding of cultural identity without incurring stereotypes or conglomerate representations, all with an eye to removing barriers to access and equity for all students.

These changes create multiple entry points to learning, with representation of race, ethnicities, abilities, identities and types of families and community groups. The publications show this representation through words, images, and activities.

Articles feature role models and the contributions of people from various heritages so students can see themselves in the content. The new curriculum also includes more of the history of indigenous tribes native to California.

I have lesson plans and activities already that fit with the old curriculum. How much work will I need to do to start using the new publications?

As with any new curriculum, you will need to make some changes. Some lessons you'll be able to use; others you'll need to adjust or will no longer fit. The new curriculum includes assessments, lesson plans, graphic organizers, and videos tied to the content so you have materials readily available to make using the new curriculum easier.

What is your political agenda as you build your curriculum?

Studies Weekly has no political agenda. We try to walk a middle ground and tightly align our curriculum to your state's standards so that you teach social studies your way. We stick to the facts by building our publications around primary sources so teachers and students can analyze them and come up with their own conclusions.