

# 5th Grade Curriculum Update

- Overarching theme: individual contributions to society
- Research skills: finding sources for research questions, navigating online resources, evaluating source credibility, recording & citing information accurately
- Units:
  - Trimester 1 Project: Influential Individual Newspaper Article
  - Trimester 2 Project: Historical Movement Concept Map
  - Trimester 3 Projects: Trailblazer Interview, A Day in the Life of a First Lady Journal
  - Culminating Project: Contributions to my school and my community

# Research Skills

- Lessons with Elissa Cooper about research skills
  - Finding credible sources
  - Developing research questions
  - Keywords
  - Using databases



# T1 Project: Influential Individual Newspaper Article

- **Unit 1 question:** How can the actions of one individual impact the rest of the world?
- Discussions about what it means to be “influential”--relating to how we can be influential in our own lives
- Students chose from pre-selected list of individuals based on interest level to research
  - Research areas: Early life, values & motivations, life challenges, charity/philanthropic work, major contributions to society
- Introduction to research skills
  - Responsibilities associated with surfing the internet
  - Navigating articles
  - Tracking sources used

*The Tiger Post*  
By: [REDACTED]

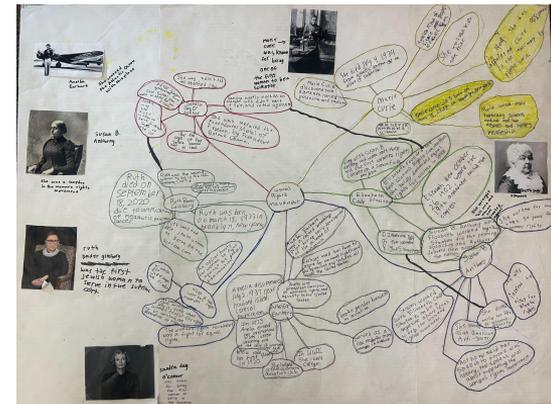
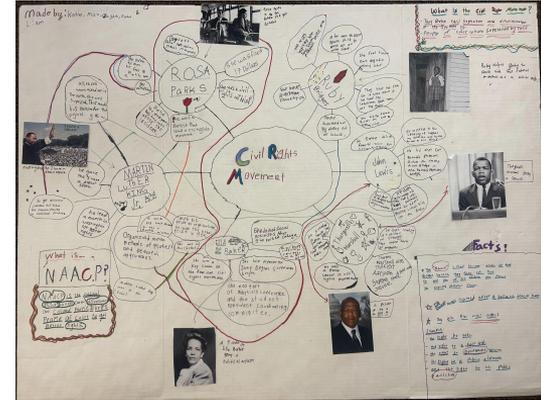
Extra! Extra! Read ALL about it!      October 2025 Edition      Just the Facts!

## Serena Williams

<p><b>Early Life</b> Serena Williams was born on the date September 26 1981 in Saginaw Michigan by parents Richard Williams and Oracene Price. She has four sisters and her sister's names were Venus Williams, Yetunde Price, Lyndrea Price, and Isha Price. Her tennis debut was in Compton, California. She moved to Palm Beach Florida where she practiced tennis with a coach. At 14 she joined in an event and placed in the top 20.</p>	 <p>When Serena Williams worked with Instacart to donate meals to other food programs.</p>	<p><b>Life Challenges</b> Serena sadly had depression which made her rank go lower. Serena got diagnosed with blood clots in her lungs. She struggled balancing her career and her family life. She had 3 surgeries for many diagnoses, yet she overcame her problems by sharing her experiences to her many followers, people who are inspired by her, and many mothers/woman who connect to her and provide support to her and reach out.</p>
 <p>When Serena played tennis as a young age.</p>	<p><b>Charity and Philanthropic Work</b> Serena worked with Instacart due to Covid causing food insecurity so, she asked if her followers on Instagram could donate meals to feeding programs and bring awareness. YPRC (Yetunde Price Resource Center) she works with them for people who have trauma due to violence. She donated 4 million face masks to Bella + Canvas so children could go back to school safely in 2020-21. She worked with UNICEF so children in Ghana have education and health care for mothers and newborns.</p>	<p><b>Values and Motivations</b> Serena inspired many to speak up whenever they have hardships. Serena represents a role model to many children. She influences people to have power, belief, and try your best. She influences mothers and women to be brave. She inspires children of color to play tennis and join programs without being afraid. Serena believes in herself while she balances through hardships.</p>

# T2 Project: Historical Movement Concept Map

- **Unit 2 Question:** How can different individuals contribute to societal goals?
- Civil Rights Movement, Labor Movement, Women's Rights Movement, Disability Rights Movement
- Collaborative project—students working in groups across classes
- Students became “experts” on their given historical movement and the individuals associated with their movement
- Created a concept web of their research with a focus on finding connections among individuals
- Presented their concept webs orally and through a written essay
- Research skill focus: credible sources



# T3 Project: Trailblazer Interview

- **Unit 3 Question:** How can an individual change the future trajectory of their field or industry?
- Change from last year–wanted to make the project more collaborative and allow for more student choice
- Industries/fields covered: sciences, arts, business, government
- Students work in partnerships to develop research questions and gather information on a trailblazer in their assigned field
- After collecting research, one student will become the interviewer and one will be the trailblazer being interviewed and students will record an interview to share with the class.
- Research skill focus: developing research questions, using databases

# T3 Mini Project: A Day in the Life of First Lady Journal

- **Essential Question:** How has the role of the First Lady influenced U.S. society throughout history?
- Students select a first lady from a given list
- Research daily responsibilities, goals/accomplishments, challenges, major historical events
- Write 3 journal entries in first person, each detailing a different day in their life using the factual information gathered
- Students will select their favorite journal entry to share with the class

# End of Year Project: Who am I?

- **Essential Question:** How do our choices and actions show who we are, and how can we contribute to our school and community?
- Students reflect on who they are as an individual, and how they contribute to our school and community
- Students create a newspaper about themselves and different ways they contribute to their classroom, school, and community
- Present to the class