

I researched the new TCI curriculum for kindergarten and I have come up with the following insights for you to consider. The following are my observations:

In my opinion, the bar is set pretty low compared to Hillsdale's K-3 curriculum - a free, top-tier American history and civics curriculum. If you want to peruse the Hillsdale curriculum I will provide the link for you. As the website states, "Hillsdale's member schools provide an education that is both classical and American in its orientation; one that is rooted in the liberal arts and sciences, offers a firm grounding in civic virtue, and cultivates moral character." It offers a comprehensive plan of instruction from Kindergarten through 12th grade and again **it is FREE.** <https://k12.hillsdale.edu/curriculum/the-hillsdale-1776-curriculum/>

In the Hillsdale curriculum, it states that Christopher Columbus's discovery of "the new world" is one of the most consequential events in all of recorded history. He established the first enduring links between the old and new worlds, **however**, this fact is not mentioned at all when discussing the history of America and Christopher Columbus.

The curriculum seems to **emphasize student's differences rather than what connects us.** I'm glad that PUHD teaches Responsibility, Courage, Self-Direction, Respect, Empathy, Perseverance, Teamwork, Kindness, and Integrity. Additionally, Citizenship is emphasized, and there is a page entitled, "Ideas That Unite us as Americans, however, it seems that **diversity is emphasized** in all the photos and it also seems like **activism is emphasized.** **While it is important to to "take care of where we live", the TCI curriculum seems to emphasize creating young activists.** example "How can you save the Rainforests"? Even in the fifth grade index it says that "the Black Lives Matter movement protests police brutality against Black people". How can that be the definition when the facts are that it involved so much more than that. The TCI learning lab for teachers (on their website) states, "We hope that this is the beginning of your journey to educate, empower, and activate your students to become engaged civic leaders in their communities." When researching TCI, I found that as part of the TCI community culture "**Diversity and Inclusion**" is emphasized. In actuality, the TCI organization itself states on it's website "We strongly believe in providing inclusive and engaging learning opportunities to all students and **empowering them to become engaged citizens who will change the world.**" and "We are constantly changing to ensure equality and accessibility through our work to our products and services. We have reviewed our resources to identify areas where content can be made more inclusive." Diversity and Inclusion | TCI (teachtci.com) and About Us | TCI (teachtci.com) The TCI curriculum mentions Hanukkah and other traditions, however, when discussing families celebrating other holidays the curriculum doesn't mention

Christmas. When in a Gallup poll **ninety-three percent of Americans in December 2019 report celebrating Christmas,** and since it is in line with the level Gallup has recorded over the past quarter century Christmas should be mentioned

The unique and extraordinary nature of the founding and development of the United States as most free and prosperous nation ever founded and developed on the face of the earth is not discussed. Nor the fact that “the United States of America has achieved the greatest degree of freedom and prosperity for the greatest proportion of any country's population in the history of humankind” When the Statue of Liberty is discussed the fact that it represents Freedom is stated, however, there is no mention of what is written on the tablet she carries which bears the adoption date of the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776) .

Kindergarten students are smart enough to understand the importance of the Bill of Rights. People in the United States have **freedom** of religion and can practice any religion or no religion, however, Freedom of Religion is only mentioned in the TCI citizenship section. One website I research stated, “Freedom of religion is the first freedom mentioned in the Bill of Rights. This shows how important it was to the Founding Fathers of the United States. Many of the people who first came to America did so in order to have religious freedom. They did not want the new government to take this freedom away. The First Amendment allows people to believe and practice whatever religion they want. They can also choose not to follow any religion“. This is what should be emphasized.

The history section starts out asking about the differences between a classroom long ago and today. **But the text fails to mention anything about the unique and extraordinary nature of the founding and development of the United States as most free and prosperous nation ever founded and developed on the face of the earth.** Students should develop a love for our country, and be given plentiful facts about the United States.

In the geography section, it should be emphasized the tremendous advantages America's land offered people in history. The discussion of the song, “America the Beautiful” was good because America had excellent and untouched soils for cultivation, and temperature and rainfall averages were ideal. Native plants and animals were abundant, and waterways were plentiful and mostly navigable. Why aren't all these fabulous facts mentioned? America has always been a land of immigrants. Even the indigenous people of North America likely migrated from Northeast Asia. **Without explaining this fact, students could assume that all early immigrants were Native Americans.**

When discussing the history of slavery in the United States, the curriculum should also include the history of slavery from ancient times through the middle ages and in different places leading to the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Otherwise, it would be easy for the student to assume that slavery started in the United States.

I believe there should be more of an emphasis on U.S. History and the fact that the United States of America has achieved the greatest degree of freedom

and prosperity for the greatest proportion of any country's population in the history of human kind.

Kindergarten students can understand the importance of the Constitution and the meaning of the document. However, this curriculum omits any mention of God, or the Creator which was the basis of this document and was important in the perspective of the colonists and founding fathers. It also states, "They are endowed by the Creator". Why is that not mentioned? Religious toleration is not discussed at all either. People in the United States have freedom of religion and can practice any religion or no religion. Freedom of religion is the first freedom mentioned in the Bill of Rights. This shows how important it was to the Founding Fathers of the United States. Many of the people who first came to America did so in order to have religious freedom. They did not want the new government to take this freedom away. The First Amendment allows people to believe and practice whatever religion they want. They can also choose not to follow any religion. This should be included in the curriculum.

In the section, "Symbols that Represent the US", and in the section, "Symbols of the United States", "in God we trust" is not mentioned and in the picture of a closeup of money the only side shown is the eagle.