

Social Studies Curriculum Guide

Kindergarten

A. History

Students will examine the connections of their own environment with the past, begin to distinguish between events and people of the past and the present, and use a sense of time in classroom planning and participation

1. History: Past and Present

Students will:

- Compare children and families of today with those in the past.
- Identify celebrations and holidays as a way of remembering and honoring people, events, and America's ethnic heritage.
- Listen to and retell stories about people in the past that showed honesty, courage, and responsibility.
- Identify and order events that take place in a sequence.
- Explain that calendars are used to represent days of the week and months of the year.
- Recognize and discuss that current events influence their lives.
- Identify causes of particular current events.
- Understand that the past influences the present.

B. Civics and Government

Students will learn that they are citizens of their school, community and the United States; identify symbols of the nation; and understand the importance of being a responsible citizen who knows why rules are needed and follows them.

1. Civics and Government: Citizenship

Students will:

- Give examples of people who are community helpers and leaders and describe how they help us.
- Identify and explain that the President of the United States is the leader of our country and that the American flag is a symbol of the United States.
- Give examples of classroom and school rules and explain how each helps us.
- Give examples of how to be a responsible family member of a group.
- Identify the role of students in the classroom and the importance of following school rules to ensure order and safety.

- Become aware of and participate in the process of making and/or changing rules.
- Identify responsible actions in themselves and others.
- Decide how to manage or resolve disagreements.
- Demonstrate respect for the rights of others.

C. Geography

Students will learn that maps and globes are different representations of the Earth's surface and begin to explore the physical and human geographic characteristics of their school, neighborhood, and community.

1. Geography: Maps and Globes

Students will:

- Use words related to location, direction and distance, including here/there, over/under, left/right, above/below, forward/backward and between.
- Identify maps and globes as ways of representing Earth and understand the basic difference between a map and globe.
- Locate and describe places in the school and community.
- Identify and describe the address and location of home and school.
- Describe people and places in the school and community.
- Identify and compare similarities and differences in families, classmates, neighbors and neighborhoods, and ethnic and cultural groups.

2. Geography: Human and Physical Systems

Students will:

- Identify and compare similarities and differences in families, classmates, neighbors and neighborhoods, and ethnic and cultural groups.
- Recommend ways that people can improve their environment at home, in school, and in the neighborhood.
- Describe simple differences and similarities between ways people live in cities and on farms.

3. Geography: Seasonal Changes

Students will:

- Describe and give examples of seasonal weather changes and illustrate how weather affects people and the environment.

D. Economics

Students will explain that people do different jobs and work to meet basic economic needs and wants.

1. Economics: Work

Students will:

- Explain that people work to earn money to buy the things they need and want.
- Identify and explain the difference between a need and a want.
- Identify and describe different kinds of jobs that people do and the tools or equipment used in these jobs.
- Explain why people in a community choose different jobs.
- Give examples of work activities that people do at home.
- Identify and compare the benefits of saving versus spending.