

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Purpose:** Our Social Studies program integrates the teaching of geography, history, current events, political science, sociology, anthropology, and economics. Students are provided with basic knowledge and understanding of the geographical impact on a country and its history. Issues, past and present, local, national, and global are discussed as age dictates, and students become aware of cultures other than their own. It is our hope that the knowledge they gain in these subjects helps them to make informed decisions as they assume the responsibility of being citizens in this diverse world.

**Overview:** across the grade levels, introduces, refines, and masters the following:

- Five Themes of Geography: Location, Place, Human/Environment Interaction, Movement, Regions.
- Culture and interdependence
- Citizenship and government
- Economic literacy
- History and change
- Society and technological change
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- Economic literacy
- History and change
- Society and technological change
- Geographic perspective
- Individuals and Systems

**Sampling of topics covered:**

### **Grades 1 – 3**

- Emphasis on understanding the specific roles in the family, school, community, and church community
- Understanding what basic needs are and how they are met
- Recognizing the need for rules
- Recognizing the values guiding our lives
- Investigating family trees
- Researching and sharing customs, traditions, art, and music of the cultures represented in the class and local neighborhoods.
- Becoming aware of holidays and their significance: Columbus Day, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day,
- Learning about allowances, creating graphs to show how money is spent

- Understanding of local and United States government.
- Looking at historic and regional geographic factors, including Native Americans across the country.
- Become familiar and be able to read the different types of maps, political, geographic, product, street, city, etc.
- Understanding and using a compass rose to determine cardinal directions.

### **Grades 4 – 6**

All of the above, as well as:

- Learning how events in history, combined with location, climate, technology development, and human resources have affected the formation and development of our country.
- Compare and contrast urban, suburban, and rural areas.
- Becoming familiar with and using longitude and latitude as a grid to locate places.
- Compare climate, culture, foods, ecosystem from different regions.
- Understand how the Civil Rights movement has changed life in America
- Appreciate the ways that the Industrial Revolution has influenced our economy.
- Understand the very early history of our United States and its connection to exploration and settlement.
- Recognizing how immigration affected the settlement of the United States
- Study the Revolutionary Period, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.
- Study expansionism into the west and Midwest, crossing the Rockies.
- Gain an understanding of the history of slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.
- Study prehistoric era, including the Old and New Stone Ages.
- Learn about the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Medieval Europe.
- Be able to explain the religions, culture, economics, history, and decline of these civilizations.
- Be able to differentiate between oral and written sources and between primary and secondary sources.

### **Jr. High**

All of the above, as well as:

- Study of American History and geography from the crossing of the Bering land bridge by Native Americans to present time.
- Analyze the dynamics and interdependence of ecosystems and bioregions in the United States and other world locations
- Understand the need for government and the powers delineated by the Constitution

- Explore situations in which ethical and religious beliefs are sometimes at odds with public policy and propose constructive responses.
- The use of primary sources to develop expertise related to significant person, events, and movements.
- Understand that the past is a teacher for the present and future.
- Understand that the wisdom of history is in the geography of a setting.
- Analyze the developments in communications and information technologies and identify how these affect the world and the common good.
- Recognize how technology is a major influence in current events and opinions
- Recognize the moral and ethical factors in decision-making
- Develop an understanding of how justice is a factor in economic decisions and programs
- Respond positively and productively in discriminatory situations.