

## **GRADE 4 SOCIAL STUDIES**

The purpose of the Fourth Grade Social Studies program is based on the Massachusetts State Frameworks and the Archdiocese of Boston. This program explores the geography, economy, and people of each of the five regions of the United States of America in depth. The curriculum also provides an overview of American History from the early explores to the current times. Maps skills and geographic terms are also introduced and reviewed.

### **Our National Story**

Students will:

- Describe the way of life for the people of ancient Cahokia.
- Explain how the people of the Eastern Woodlands survived.
- Identify the ways in which the Plains and Pueblo people differed.
- Recognize the ways in which Native American of the West adapted to their surroundings.
- Describe the exchange between Europeans and Native Americans.
- Understand why the Spanish and French came to North America.
- Identify early Dutch and English settlements.
- Recognize the conflicts between Europeans and Native Americans.
- Describe the problems that arose between Great Britain and the colonists following the French and Indian War.
- Explain how taxes and protests eventually led to war.
- Discuss the advantages of the British in the war.
- Describe the outcome of the war and the establishment of the new United States government.
- Describe the growth of the United States into the Northwest Territory.
- Recognize the importance of the Louisiana Purchase.
- Identify the new methods of travel that were developed in the early 1800s.
- Summarize how western lands became part of the United States.
- Recognize that slavery led to the Civil War.
- Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the North and South during the war.
- Identify the challenges facing the United States after the war.
- Discuss the conflict caused by westward migration and the impact of new technology.
- Identify reform efforts of the early 1900s.
- Describe World War I and the struggle for women's suffrage.
- Explain life in the 1920s.
- Discuss the New Deal and the reasons that World War II ended the Great Depression.
- Identify the background and major conflicts of the Cold War.
- Describe the civil rights movement.
- Identify the major challenges of the twenty-first century.

## **The United States: Its Land and People**

Students will:

- Recognize that the United States varies greatly in its landforms, waterways, and resources.
- Understand that the eastern region includes the area from the Atlantic coast to the Mississippi River valley.
- Identify the landforms of the western regions, Alaska, and Hawaii.
- Relate the vastness of the country to the variety of its ecosystems.
- Recognize that dividing the United States into regions helps us understand it more easily.
- Identify the five regions of the United States.
- Understand that states in a region share resources.
- Recognize the various factors that affect climate.
- Understand how mountains affect rainfall.
- Describe the lake effect.
- Identify two types of extreme weather and the regions in which it occurs.
- Understand that in a free enterprise system, everyone makes his or her own economic decisions.
- Discuss why profit, investors, and supply and demand are important in any business.
- Explain the importance of planning and teamwork in business.
- Recognize the difference between needs and wants.
- Understand that businesses are producers.
- Describe the role that banks play in the economy.
- Summarize the circular flow of the economy.
- Recognize that government power is shared.
- Understand how state governments work.
- Describe the work done by local governments and the main way in which they raise money.
- Describe the type of government we have in the United States.
- Understand the powers and duties of the three branches of the national government.
- Discuss the role of tribal government in the United States.
- Recognize that citizenship involves both rights and responsibilities.
- Understand that citizens have the power to change things.
- Identify the values and beliefs that unite Americans.

## **Northeast Region**

Students will:

- Describe the mountains and lakes of the Northeast.
- Understand the importance of the resources of the Northeast.
- Identify other resources of the Northeast.
- Identify the resources of the Northeast.
- Describe the climate of the Northeast.

- Understand that the Northeast's natural resources provide a living for many people.
- Describe how the manufacturing industry got its start.
- Recognize that many people in the Northeast work in service jobs.
- Discuss the past and present of cities and suburbs in the Northeast.
- Know that Native Americans were the Northeast's first people.
- Discuss the variety of cultures in this region.
- Recognize that festivals are one way people show cultural pride.
- Identify the variety of activities available in the Northeast.

### **The Southeast**

Students will:

- Identify the Mississippi River and the wetlands of the Southeast.
- Explore the coast, hills, mountains, and islands of the Southeast.
- Describe the warm climate and effects of the Gulf of Mexico.
- Show the continuing threat of hurricanes to the Southeast.
- Describe products produced by farms in the Southeast.
- Identify renewable and nonrenewable resources found in the Southeast.
- Summarize the importance of several industries to the Southeast's economy.
- Describe the importance of tourism to the economy of the Southeast.
- Identify Native American groups who first lived in the Southeast.
- Identify the immigrant groups that settled in the Southeast.
- Trace the progress of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Describe the many different musical styles that began in the Southeast.

### **The Midwest**

Students will:

- Describe how glaciers carved the Midwest's many lakes.
- Discuss the importance of rivers and soil fertility in the Midwest.
- Identify Midwest landforms.
- Discuss the climate extremes of the Midwest.
- Identify natural resources found in the Midwest.
- Show the importance of iron to the economy of the Midwest.
- Identify important Midwestern farm products.
- Describe how the Midwestern economy had changed over time.
- Identify Native American groups that lived in the Midwest.
- Trace the different groups who settled in the Midwest.
- Show how Midwesterners honor diverse cultural traditions.
- Describe the artistic, musical, and athletic traditions of the Midwest.

### **The Southwest Region**

Students will:

- Understand that the geography of the Southwest is varied.
- Describe the landforms that can be seen in the Southwest.

- Identify the major rivers of the Southwest.
- Recognize that the scarcity of water poses a challenge.
- Recognize that oil is the Southwest's most valuable resource.
- Identify crops grown in the Southwest.
- Understand that the Southwest has developed a thriving technology sector.
- Discuss the Native American heritage of the Southwest.
- Identify the Spanish influence on the Southwest.
- Understand that immigrants and older Americans have moved to the Southwest in recent years.
- Describe the festivals and ceremonies of the Southwest.

### **The West**

Students will:

- Introduce the many environments of the West.
- Describe how Western mountains, lakes, and rivers were formed.
- Trace the effects of the movement of the Earth's plates.
- Discuss the West's varied climates.
- Describe the rich natural resources found in the West.
- Show how different landforms affect the local economies.
- Discuss different industries and employers in the West.
- Outline the importance of tourism and the service industry to the economy of the West.
- Describe ways of life of Native American groups in the West.
- Trace the movement of groups of people to the West.
- Discuss celebrations and other tourist attractions in the West.

### **Materials:**

- Textbook: Macmillian/McGraw Hill TimeLinks: Our Country and Its Regions
- Assessment book: Macmillian/McGraw Hill TimeLinks: Our Country and Its Regions
- Student Practice and Activity book: Macmillian/McGraw Hill TimeLinks: Our Country and Its Regions
- Tech Tools CD: Macmillian/McGraw Hill TimeLinks: Our Country and Its Regions
- Vocabulary book: Macmillian/McGraw Hill TimeLinks: Our Country and Its Regions
- Foldables by Dinah Zike
- Maps, Globes and Atlases

### **Instruction:**

The methods and strategies of instruction vary according to the lesson being taught.

Some of the strategies and methods used include:

- Whole class instruction
- Small group instruction

- Individual instruction
- Cooperative Learning groups
- Formal and Informal Assessments
- Illustration/writing assessments
- Acting out material
- Assign projects to enhance and enrich learning

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