



1st Grade
Social Studies



OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE

In the first grade, students continue their introduction to United States history through the study of selected historical figures. In the history strand, students study the important contributions each historical person made. In the geography strand, students learn about where these historical people lived and explore important basic geographic concepts. The civics strand provides a study of the positive character traits exhibited by these important historical figures. The economics strand continues the introduction of basic economic concepts.

CONNECTING THEMES AND ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

The following connecting themes and enduring understandings will feature prominently in the course and help students increase their understanding and retention of knowledge.

1. **CULTURE:** The student will understand that the culture is how people think, act, celebrate, and make rules, and that it is what makes a group of people special.
2. **INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, INSTITUTIONS:** The student will understand that what people, groups, and institutions say and do can help or harm others whether they mean to or not.
3. **LOCATION:** The student will understand that where people live matters.
4. **SCARCITY:** The student will understand that because people cannot have everything they want, they have to make choices.
5. **TIME, CHANGE AND CONTINUITY:** The student will understand that some things will change over time, while other things will stay the same.

INFORMATION PROCESSING SKILLS

The student will be able to locate, analyze, and synthesize information related to social studies topics and apply this information to solve problems and make decisions.

1. Compare similarities and differences
2. Organize items chronologically
3. Identify issues and/or problems and alternative solutions
4. Distinguish between fact and opinion
5. Identify main idea, detail, sequence of events, and cause and effect in a social studies context
6. Identify and use primary and secondary sources
7. Interpret timelines



MAP AND GLOBE SKILLS

The student will use maps and globes to retrieve social studies information.

1. Use a compass rose to identify cardinal directions
2. Use intermediate directions
3. Use a letter/number grid system to determine location

HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDINGS

SS1H1 Read about and describe the life of historical figures in American history.

- a. Identify the contributions made by these figures: Benjamin Franklin (inventor/author/ statesman), Thomas Jefferson (Declaration of Independence), Meriwether Lewis and William Clark with Sacagawea (exploration), Theodore Roosevelt (National Parks and the environment), George Washington Carver (science), and Ruby Bridges (civil rights).
- b. Describe how everyday life of these historical figures is similar to and different from everyday life in the present (for example: food, clothing, homes, transportation, communication, recreation, etc.).

GEOGRAPHIC UNDERSTANDINGS

SS1G1 Describe how each historic figure in SS1H1a was influenced by his or her time and place.

- a. American colonies (Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson)
- b. American frontier (Lewis & Clark and Sacagawea)
- c. National Parks (Theodore Roosevelt)
- d. Southern U.S. (George Washington Carver and Ruby Bridges)

SS1G2 Identify and locate the student's city, county, state, nation (country), and continent on a simple map or a globe.

SS1G3 Locate major topographical features of the earth's surface.

- a. Locate all of the continents: North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Antarctica, and Australia.
- b. Locate the major oceans: Arctic, Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Ocean.
- c. Identify and describe landforms (mountains, deserts, valleys, and coasts).



GOVERNMENT/CIVICS UNDERSTANDINGS

SS1CG1 Describe how the historical figures in SS1H1a display positive character traits such as fairness, respect for others, respect for the environment, courage, equality, tolerance, perseverance, and commitment.

SS1CG2 Explore the concept of patriotism through the words in the songs *America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)* and *America the Beautiful* (for example: brotherhood, liberty, freedom, pride, etc.).

ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDINGS

SS1E1 Identify goods that people make and services that people provide for each other.

SS1E2 Explain that scarcity is when unlimited wants are greater than limited resources.

SS1E3 Describe how people are both producers and consumers.

SS1E4 Explain that people earn income by working and that they must make choices about how much to save and spend.