



K Social Studies



FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICA

In kindergarten, students begin to understand the foundations of the social studies strands: history, geography, government, and economics. Students begin their introduction to United States history through the study of important American holidays and symbols. Basic concepts of cultural and physical geography are presented. Civics provides students with an introduction to rules and character traits of good citizens. Basic economic concepts are also introduced.

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 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

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



HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDINGS

SSKH1 Identify the purpose national holidays and describe the people and/or events celebrated.

- a. Christmas
- b. Columbus Day
- c. Independence Day
- d. Labor Day
- e. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- f. Memorial Day
- g. New Year's Day
- h. Presidents Day (George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and the current president)
- i. Thanksgiving Day
- j. Veterans Day

SSKH2 Identify the following American Symbols:

- a. The national and state flags (United States and Georgia flags)
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Star Spangled Banner (identify as the national anthem)
- d. The bald eagle
- e. The Statue of Liberty
- f. Lincoln Memorial (identify image and associate with Abraham Lincoln and Presidents Day)
- g. Washington Monument (identify image and associate with George Washington and Presidents Day)
- h. White House (identify image and associate with Presidents Day and the current president)

SSKH3 Correctly use words and phrases related to chronology and time (Note: These elements should be integrated into discussions about historical events and figures).

- a. Now, long ago
- b. Before, after
- c. Today, tomorrow, yesterday
- d. First, last, next
- e. Day, week, month, year
- f. Past, present, future



GEOGRAPHIC UNDERSTANDINGS

SSKG1 Describe the diversity of American culture by explaining the customs and celebrations of various families and communities.

SSKG2 Explain that a map is a drawing of a place and a globe is a model of the Earth.

- a. Differentiate land and water features on simple maps and globes.
- b. Explain that maps and globes show a view from above.
- c. Explain that maps and globes show features in a smaller size.

SSKG3 State the street address, city, state, and country in which the student lives.

GOVERNMENT/CIVICS UNDERSTANDINGS

SSKCG1 Demonstrate an understanding of good citizenship.

- a. Explain how rules are made and why.
- b. Explain why rules should be followed.

SSKCG2 Describe examples of positive character traits exhibited by good citizens such as and will honesty, patriotism, courtesy, respect, truth, pride, and self-control.

ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDINGS

SSKE1 Describe the work that people do such as: police officer, fire fighter, soldier, mail carrier, farmer, doctor, teacher etc.

SSKE2 Explain that people earn income by working.

SSKE3 Explain how money is used to purchase goods and services.

- a. Distinguish goods from services.
- b. Identify that U.S. coins and dollar bills (paper money) are used as currency.

SSKE4 Explain that people must make choices because they cannot have everything they want.