



4TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Welcome to 4th Grade! This guide will help you understand what your child will learn in social studies this year and how you can support their learning at home. Throughout the year, your child will engage with history, geography, civics, and economics through inquiry, analysis, and meaningful discussion. If you have questions, contact your child's teacher.

This year's focus: **US History – Revolution to Reconstruction**

Your child will explore the founding of the United States, westward expansion, the Civil War, and the rebuilding of the nation during Reconstruction.

HISTORY

- Understand the causes, events, and outcomes of the American Revolution
- Learn about the Constitutional Convention and the challenges of forming a new government
- Explore westward expansion
- Study the abolitionist and suffrage movements
- Examine the Civil War, including major battles, leaders, and the effects on the North and South
- Analyze the Reconstruction Era

GEOGRAPHY

- Locate major physical features and man-made landmarks
- Understand how geography influenced battles and expansion
- Identify barriers and gateways that shaped movement and settlement



CIVICS & GOVERNMENT

- Learn about natural rights and the idea of popular sovereignty
- Understand the federal system and representative democracy
- Explore the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights
- Examine the three branches of government and how they interact



ECONOMICS

- Apply economic concepts to historical events: Opportunity cost, trade, specialization, voluntary exchange, productivity, and price incentives
- Learn how technological advancements impacted productivity
- Understand the basics of a personal budget and the importance of saving and spending wisely



HOW YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN

Fourth graders learn through inquiry, analysis, and creative expression:

- Ask & Wonder: Pose questions like “Why did people move west?” or “What rights do we have today because of the Constitution?”
- Investigate: Read historical texts, analyze maps and timelines, and explore primary sources
- Share & Explain: Write essays, create projects, or present arguments and conclusions
- Reflect: Connect historical events to current issues and personal experiences

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS YOUR CHILD WILL USE

- Use maps, timelines, and charts to gather and interpret information
- Compare and contrast historical events and perspectives
- Organize events chronologically and identify cause and effect
- Analyze primary and secondary sources
- Formulate research questions and draw conclusions

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Talk about history: Discuss how the U.S. was founded and how it has changed
- Explore maps: Locate battle sites, rivers, and regions discussed in class
- Visit historical sites or museums related to the Revolution or Civil War
- Read biographies of leaders and changemakers
- Discuss economic choices like saving, spending, and budgeting

4th Grade Social Studies helps students understand the foundations of American democracy and how the past continues to shape our present. With your support, your child will grow into a thoughtful, informed, and active citizen.



SOCIAL STUDIES

HISTORIC, GEOGRAPHIC, POLITICAL & ECONOMIC LITERACY.