

Cumberland County Schools

Curriculum Guide

Social Studies



SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in grades K-2 are introduced to an integrative approach to social studies by exploring aspects of self, others, families, and communities across the world in developmentally responsive ways. K-2 students use maps and globes to develop geographic awareness of their surroundings and process information about locations. They learn that people not only use the environment, but also modify or adapt to it. In history, students begin to develop the ability to think like a historian as they acquire knowledge of history to understand the past and present. In economics, students develop and build upon basic economic concepts by relating to their own wants and needs. Thus, proper integration of the strands serves to guide students through a balanced social studies curriculum that helps to build a solid foundation during the early years.

History

Understand change over time.

1. Explain how people change over time (self and others).
2. Explain how seasons change over time.
3. Explain the impact of how life events bring change (a new sibling, moving to a new house, a new job, a new school, etc.).

Geography and Environmental Literacy



Use geographic representations and terms to describe surroundings.

1. Use maps to locate places in the classroom, school, and home.
2. Use globes and maps to locate land and water features.
3. Identify physical features (mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, roads, etc.).
4. Identify locations in the classroom using positional words (near/far, left/right, above/beneath, etc.).

Understand the interaction between humans and the environment.

1. Explain how people adapt to weather conditions.
2. Explain ways people use environmental resources to meet basic needs and wants (shelter, food, clothing, etc.).

Economics and Financial Literacy

Understand basic economic concepts.

1. Explain how families have needs and wants.
2. Explain how jobs help people meet their needs and wants.



Civics and Governance

Understand the roles of a citizen.

1. Exemplify positive relationships through fair play and friendship.
2. Explain why citizens obey rules in the classroom, school, home, and neighborhood.



Culture

Understand how individuals are similar and different.

1. Explain similarities in self and others.
2. Explain the elements of culture (how people speak, how people dress, foods they eat, etc.).

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History

Understand that history tells a story of how people and events changed society over time.

1. Explain how and why neighborhoods and communities change over time.
2. Explain the importance of folklore and celebrations and their impact on local communities.
3. Explain why national holidays are celebrated (Constitution Day, Independence Day, observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Day, Presidents' Day, etc.).



Geography and Environmental Literacy



Use geographic representations, terms, and technologies to process information from a spatial perspective.

1. Use geographic tools to identify characteristics of various landforms and bodies of water.
2. Give examples showing location of places (home, classroom, school, and community).
3. Understand the basic elements of geographic representations, using maps (cardinal directions and map symbols).

Understand how humans and the environment interact within the local community.

1. Explain ways people change the environment (planting trees, recycling, cutting down trees, building homes, building streets, etc.).
2. Explain how people use natural resources in the community.
3. Explain how the environment impacts where people live (urban, rural, weather, transportation, etc.).

Economics and Financial Literacy

Understand basic economic concepts.

1. Summarize the various ways in which people earn and use money for goods and services.
2. Identify examples of goods and services in the home, school, and community.
3. Explain how supply and demand affects the choices families and communities make.

Civics and Governance

Understand the importance of rules.

1. Explain why rules are needed in the home, school, and community.
2. Classify the roles of authority figures in the home, school, and community (teacher, principal, parents, mayor, park rangers, game wardens, etc.).
3. Summarize various ways in which conflicts could be resolved in homes, schools, classrooms, and communities.

Culture

Understand the diversity of people in the local community.

1. Compare the languages, traditions, and holidays of various cultures.
2. Use literature to help people understand diverse cultures.



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History

Understand how various sources provide information about the past.

1. Use timelines to show sequencing of events.
2. Identify contributions of historical figures (community, state, nation, and world) through various genres.
3. Compare various interpretations of the same time period using evidence such as photographs and interviews.

Geography and Environmental Literacy

Use geographic representations, terms, and technology to process information from a spatial perspective.

1. Interpret maps of the school and community that contain symbols, legends, and cardinal directions.
2. Interpret the meaning of symbols and the location of physical and human features on a map (cities, railroads, highways, countries, continents, oceans, etc.).

Understand the effects of humans interacting with their environment.

1. Give examples of ways in which people depend on the physical environment and natural resources to meet basic needs.
2. Explain how people positively and negatively affect the environment.

Economics and Financial Literacy

Understand basic economic concepts.

1. Give examples of ways in which businesses in the community meet the needs and wants of consumers.
2. Explain the roles and impact producers and consumers have on the economy.
3. Summarize the concept of supply and demand.
4. Explain why people and countries around the world trade for goods and services.
5. Explain how money is used for saving, spending, borrowing, and giving.
6. Summarize the role of financial institutions relative to savings.

Civics and Governance

Understand the purpose of governments.

1. Explain government services and their value to the community (libraries, schools, parks, etc.).
2. Explain how governments establish order, provide security, and create laws to manage conflict.

Understand the roles and responsibilities of citizens.

1. Exemplify characteristics of good citizenship through historical figures and everyday citizens.
2. Explain why it is important for citizens to participate in their community.

Culture

Understand how various cultures influence communities.

1. Explain how artistic expressions of diverse cultures contribute to the community (stories, art, music, food, etc.).
2. Recognize the key historical figures and events that are associated with various cultural traditions.
3. Exemplify respect and appropriate social skills needed for working with diverse groups.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In third grade, students draw upon knowledge learned in previous grades to develop more sophisticated understandings of how communities may be linked to form larger political units, and how there are cultural, geographic, and economic connections. Students will understand the importance of being a citizen and identify the contributions of selected individuals in the local community. Students will recognize that Americans are comprised of people who have diverse ethnic origins and traditions who all contribute to American life. Using both primary and secondary sources, students understand the significant role of the individual in shaping history and explore changes in communities and regions over time. Through the study of historical narratives, students are introduced to the concept of perspective by asking them to explain why people can describe the same event differently. This serves as a building block for more sophisticated analyses in subsequent grades.

History

Understand how events, individuals, and ideas have influenced the history of local and regional communities.

1. Explain key historical events that occurred in the local community and regions over time.
2. Analyze the impact of contributions made by diverse historical figures in local communities and regions over time.
3. Exemplify the ideas that were significant in the development of local communities and regions.

Use historical thinking skills to understand the context of events, people, and places.

1. Explain change over time through historical narratives (events, people, and places).
2. Explain how multiple perspectives are portrayed through historical narratives.

Geography and Environmental Literacy

Understand the Earth's patterns by using the five themes of geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and regions).

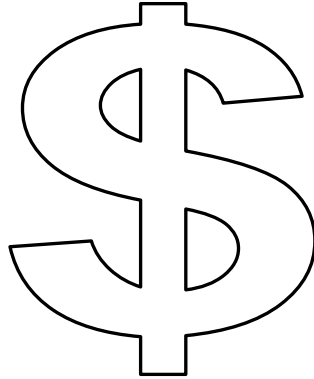
1. Find absolute and relative locations of places within the local community and region.
2. Compare the human and physical characteristics of places.
3. Exemplify how people adapt to, change, and protect the environment to meet their needs.
4. Explain how the movement of goods, people, and ideas impacts the community.
5. Summarize the elements (cultural, demographic, economic, and geographic) that define regions (community, state, nation, and world).
6. Compare various regions according to their characteristics.



Economics and Financial Literacy

Understand how the location of regions affects activity in a market economy.

1. Explain how location impacts supply and demand.
2. Explain how locations of regions and natural resources influence economic development (industries developed around natural resources, rivers, and coastal towns).



Understand entrepreneurship in a market economy.

1. Explain why people become entrepreneurs.
2. Give examples of entrepreneurship in various regions of our state.

Civics and Governance

Understand the development, structure, and function of local government.

1. Summarize the historical development of local governments.
2. Describe the structure of local government and how it functions to serve citizens.
3. Understand the three branches of government, with an emphasis on local government.

Understand how citizens participate in their communities.

1. Exemplify how citizens contribute politically, socially, and economically to their community.
2. Exemplify how citizens contribute to the well-being of the community's natural environment.
3. Apply skills in civic engagement and public discourse (school, community).

Culture

Understand how diverse cultures are visible in local and regional communities.

1. Compare languages, foods, and traditions of various groups living in local and regional communities.

2. Exemplify how various groups show artistic expression within the local and regional communities.

3. Use nonfiction texts to explore how cultures borrow and share from each other (foods, languages, rules, traditions, and behaviors).

SOCIAL STUDIES

Fourth grade is the first formal introduction to North Carolina, its ethnic diversity, its rich culture, the economic energy of its people, and its geographic regions. Fourth grade students will explore the social disciplines of our state's history, geography, government, culture, and economics. Students will also study American Indian groups indigenous to North Carolina before European contact, the impact of colonization, and key historical events leading up to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will prepare for their role as responsible and informed citizens of North Carolina as they examine the North Carolina Constitution and the concept of separation of powers in each branch of state government. Finally, students will explore North Carolina's economy by examining how natural resources have influenced economic development in our state.

History

Analyze the chronology of key historical events in North Carolina history.

1. Summarize the change in cultures, everyday life, and status of indigenous American Indian groups in North Carolina before and after European exploration.
2. Explain how and why North Carolina was established.
3. Explain how people, events, and developments brought about changes to communities in various regions of North Carolina.
4. Analyze North Carolina's role in major conflicts and wars from the Pre-Colonial period through Reconstruction.

Understand how notable structures, symbols, and place names are significant to North Carolina.

1. Explain why important buildings, statues, monuments, and place names are associated with the state's history.
2. Explain the historical significance of North Carolina's state symbols.



Geography and Environmental Literacy



Understand how human, environmental, and technological factors affect the growth and development of North Carolina.

1. Summarize changes that have occurred in North Carolina since statehood (population growth, transportation, communication, and land use).
2. Explain the impact that human activity has on the availability of natural resources in North Carolina.
3. Exemplify the interactions of various peoples, places, and cultures in terms of adaptation and modification of the environment.
4. Explain the impact of technology (communication, transportation, and inventions) on North Carolina's citizens, past and present.

Economics and Financial Literacy

Understand how a market economy impacts life in North Carolina.

1. Understand the basic concepts of a market economy: price, supply, demand, scarcity, productivity, and entrepreneurship.
2. Understand how scarcity and choice in a market economy impacts business decisions.
3. Analyze the historical and contemporary role that major North Carolina industries have played in the state, nation, and world.
4. Explain the impact of entrepreneurship on the economy of North Carolina.

Economics and Financial Literacy

Understand the economic factors when making personal choices.

1. Explain how personal financial decisions such as spending, saving, and paying taxes can positively and/or negatively affect everyday life.
2. Explain how scarcity of personal financial resources affects the choices people make based on their wants and needs.

Civics and Governance

Understand the development, structure, and function of North Carolina's government.

1. Summarize the key principles and revisions of the North Carolina Constitution.
2. Compare the roles and responsibilities of state elected leaders.
3. Explain the influence of the colonial history of North Carolina on the governing documents of our state.
4. Compare North Carolina's government with local governments.

Analyze the North Carolina Constitution.

1. Analyze the preamble and the articles of the North Carolina Constitution in terms of rights and responsibilities.
2. Give examples of rights and responsibilities of citizens according to North Carolina's Constitution.
3. Differentiate between rights and responsibilities reflected in the North Carolina Constitution.

Culture

Understand the impact of various cultural groups on North Carolina.

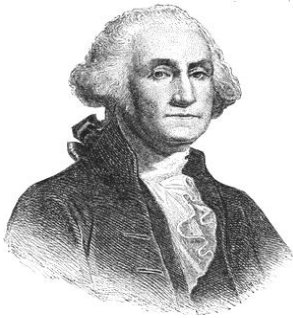
1. Explain how the settlement of people from various cultures affected the development of regions in North Carolina (languages, foods, and traditions).

2. Explain how the artistic expression of various groups represents the cultural heritage of North Carolina.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Continuing the history, geography, civics and government, economics, and culture strands from previous grades, fifth grade expectations will address change and continuity in United States history. Using primary and secondary sources, fifth grade students will compare founding documents of the United States, such as the United States Constitution, with those of North Carolina, such as the North Carolina Constitution. Students will learn about the “Founding Fathers” who envisioned the path for our democratic republic, while also exploring the contributions of diverse groups to the building of our nation. Speeches that laid the foundation of American ideals and institutions will be studied along with the examination of everyday life during the Pre-Colonial period through Reconstruction. Building on their knowledge of economic principles, students focus on economic growth in the United States and develop an understanding of production, specialization, and the division of labor.

History



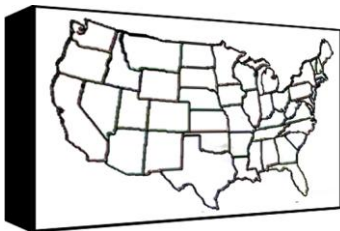
Analyze the chronology of key events in the United States.

1. Evaluate the relationships between European explorers (French, Spanish, and English) and American Indian groups, based on accuracy of historical information (beliefs, fears, and leadership).
2. Summarize the political, economic, and social aspects of colonial life in the thirteen colonies.
3. Analyze the impact of major conflicts, battles, and wars on the development of our nation through Reconstruction.

Understand the role of prominent figures in shaping the United States.

1. Summarize the contributions of the “Founding Fathers” to the development of our country.
2. Explain how key historical figures have exemplified values and principles of American democracy.
3. Compare the changing roles of women and minorities on American society from Pre-Colonial through Reconstruction.

Geography and Environmental Literacy



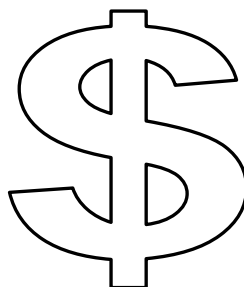
Understand how human activity has and continues to shape the United States.

1. Explain the impact of the physical environment on early settlements in the New World.
2. Explain the positive and negative effects of human activity on the physical environment of the United States, past and present.
3. Exemplify how technological advances (communication, transportation, and agriculture) have allowed people to overcome geographic limitations.
4. Exemplify migration within or immigration to the United States in order to identify push and pull factors (why people left/why people came).

Economics and Financial Literacy

Understand how a market economy impacts life in the United States.

1. Summarize the role of international trade between the United States and other countries through Reconstruction.
2. Explain the impact of production, specialization, technology, and division of labor on the economic growth of the United States.



Understand that personal choices result in benefits or consequences.

1. Explain the importance of developing a basic budget for spending and saving.
2. Evaluate the costs and benefits of spending, borrowing, and saving.

Civics and Governance

Understand the development, structure, and function of government in the United States.

1. Explain how ideas of various governments influenced the development of the United States government (Roman, Greek, Iroquois, European, and British).
2. Summarize the organizational structures and powers of the United States government (legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government).
3. Analyze historical documents that shaped the foundation of the United States government.

Analyze life in a democratic republic through rights and responsibilities of citizens.

1. Understand the values and principles of a democratic republic.
2. Analyze the rights and responsibilities of United States citizens in relation to the concept of “common good” according to the United States Constitution (Bill of Rights).
3. Exemplify ways in which the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of citizens are protected under the United States Constitution.
4. Explain why civic participation is important in the United States.

Culture

Understand how increased diversity resulted from migration, settlement patterns, and economic development in the United States.

1. Analyze the change in leadership, cultures, and everyday life of the American Indian groups before and after European exploration.
2. Exemplify how the interactions of various groups have resulted in borrowing and sharing of traditions and technology.
3. Explain how the movement of goods, ideas, and various cultural groups influenced the development of regions in the United States.
4. Understand how cultural narratives (legends, songs, ballads, games, folk tales, and art forms) reflect the lifestyles, beliefs, and struggles of diverse ethnic groups.