

Course Name: Grade 4 Social Studies

Course Description:

This course introduces students to core concepts in history, geography, civics and economics, building on concepts previously introduced and preparing students for more advanced study of these fields in the upper grades. The course begins with an exploration of the U.S. Constitution and the American Revolution. Students analyze questions about freedom, equality and human rights to understand why the American Revolution occurred, why the Constitution was written the way it was, and how those ideals impact their lives today. Next, the course turns to the study of geography to understand how location, place, region, and human-environment interaction impact the way people live in various parts of New Jersey and the United States. Students will analyze the ways that geography, civics, history and economics are connected by exploring questions such as “How do natural resources impact the economy of a place?” The culmination of the year challenges students to apply what they have learned in social studies and science to consider why the preservation and conservation of natural environments in the United States. Students will explore the range of environments and habitats that have been protected by designations such as the National Parks and consider the reasons why such designations might be expanded, revoked or reconsidered.

Course Proficiencies: The following is a list of proficiencies that describe what students are expected to know and be able to do as a result of successfully completing this course. The proficiencies are the basis of the assessment of student achievement. The learner will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Engage in discussion with others by sharing ideas and opinions supported by evidence, considering multiple perspectives, and recognizing when one’s own ideas or opinions might evolve based on new information and insights. (6.1.5.HistoryUP.6, 6.1.5.HistoryUP.7, 6.1.5.CivicsCM.3)
2. Define and describe core civic virtues and democratic principles that shape the American government and citizenry. (6.1.5.Civics.DP.1, 6.1.5.HistoryCC.2)
3. Analyze the values of freedom, equality, diversity and human rights and the ways that those values are reflected in the US Constitution and Bill of Rights. (6.1.5.CivicsPI.8)
4. Investigate the ways that principles from the Constitution and the Bill of Rights impact the daily lives of themselves and their fellow citizens. (6.1.5.CivicsPI.3, 6.1.5.CivicsPI.8, 6.1.5.CivicsHR.1, 6.1.5.CivicsDP.2)
5. Participate in a democratic decision-making process to understand the importance of considering multiple perspectives and the value of each voice being heard. (6.1.5.Civics.DP.1, 6.1.5.CivicsPD.3)

6. Analyze primary and secondary sources to draw conclusions about significant events from the American Revolution, specifically focusing on the role of New Jersey. (6.1.5.HistoryCC.1, 6.1.5.HistoryCC.3, 6.1.5.GeoHE.1)
7. Identify different types of maps, their purposes and uses, and be able to use special purpose maps to determine locations, distances, and relationships between places and characteristics of those places. (6.1.5.GeoSV.3, 6.1.5.GeoGI.1, 6.1.5.GeoSV.1, 6.1.5.GeoSV.2)
8. Utilize a range of geographic sources and tools to draw conclusions about the way that geography impacts the way people live in various regions of New Jersey and the United States (6.1.5.GeoHE.1, 6.1.5.GeoSV.3, 6.1.5.GeoSV.4)
8. Compare different regions of New Jersey and the United States to determine the role that geography, natural resources, climate, transportation, technology, and/or the labor force play in economic opportunities. (6.1.5.EconEM.4, 6.1.5.EconNM.2, 6.1.5.GeoPP.2)
9. Explain the significance of and reasons for governmental policies and programs to preserve and conserve the natural environment (6.1.5.CivicsPI.1)
10. Apply understanding of concepts from the social sciences and the natural sciences to propose solutions to environmental challenges (6.3.5.CivicsPD.1, 6.3.5.GeoHE.1)
11. Evaluate various ideas for balancing the preservation of the natural environment with the need for humans to utilize resources from their environment. (6.3.5.CivicsPD.1, 6.3.5.GeoGI.1, 6.1.5.CivicsPD.3)
12. Collaborate with others, consider multiple perspectives and utilize evidence and data to draw conclusions and propose solutions about environmental challenges, such as those caused by human activity (6.3.5.CivicsPD.1, 6.3.5.GeoGI.1, 6.1.5.CivicsPD.3)

Assessments:

1. Multimedia presentations
2. Classroom discussion
3. Open-ended responses and essays

Board Adopted Materials:

Texts:

Social Studies Alive! Regions of Our Country

Teachers Curriculum Institute, 2022

Board Approved - 9/21/2022

