

Instructional Vocabulary

Grade 2 Social Studies

Unit 1: I am a Citizen

- **Good citizen** – lives within the rules of society; characteristics of good citizenship, including truthfulness, justice, equality, respect for oneself and others, responsibility in daily life, and participation in government by educating oneself about the issues, respectfully holding public officials to their word, and voting
- **Pledge** – a promise; a binding promise or agreement to do; The Pledge of Allegiance is a declaration of American patriotism, originally published in 1892 in *The Youth's Companion*, and probably written by one of the magazine's editors, Francis Bellamy. The original words read: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands; one nation indivisible, with liberty and Justice for all." The phrase "my Flag" became "the flag of the United States of America" in 1924, and in 1942, the U.S. government officially recognized the pledge. Twelve years later, in 1954, the phrase "under God" was added and a law codified the proper behavior to adopt when reciting the pledge: stand straight, remove any headgear, and place the right hand over the heart. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands: one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."
- **Justice** – the quality of being fair
- **Equality** – the quality or state of having the same rights, social status, etc.
- **Respect** – to show consideration for; a feeling or understanding that someone or something is important, serious, etc., and should be treated in an appropriate way

Unit 2: I am a Texan

- **Monument** – a structure built to commemorate people or events
- **Symbol** – something which stands for or suggests something else. It can be a visible sign of something which is intangible. The Statue of Liberty, for example, is a symbol of freedom.
- **Map** – representation of a region; a picture or chart that shows the rivers, mountains, streets, etc., in a particular area
- **Globe** – spherical map of the Earth
- **Landmark** – a readily identified structure or physical feature. It may be a symbol of an event or an achievement in history. Examples: A statue honoring war veterans and the county court house are local or community landmarks. The Alamo and the San Jacinto Monument are landmarks of the Texas Revolution. The Arch in St. Louis is a landmark which distinguishes that city as the gateway to the west and westward expansion. The White House and the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. are national landmarks. The Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island in New York harbor is a landmark of international significance.

Unit 3: I am an American (Celebrate Freedom Week)

- **American identity** – the defining criteria and shared heritage by which a people define and recognize themselves as a people. In America, components of national identity include a love of individualism, inventiveness, and freedom. These are reflected in our customs, symbols, and celebrations. "American identity embraces a pluralism that spans racial, religious, and ethnic divides. It also encompasses a strong civic commitment to individual freedom and to a representative government of limited and clearly defined powers that respects that freedom" (from <http://www.america.gov>). Other characteristics in the American identity include a culture highlighted by originality and personal choice, tolerance, and patriotism.

- **Freedom** – to have choice in action and speech
- **Individualism** – belief in the individual, self reliance, and determination; the belief that the needs of each person are more important than the needs of the whole society or group
- **Patriotic** – inspired by love of country

Unit 4: Where I Live

- **Source** – a book, statement, person, etc., supplying information
- **Chronology** – the sequential order in which past events occur
- **Physical characteristics of place** – the natural environment of a place
- **Human characteristics of place** – the ways humans have altered a place

Unit 5: Where Others Live

- **Region** – areas of the earth’s surface that have similar physical or human characteristics distinctive from the characteristics of neighboring areas.
- **Settlement pattern** – distribution of human activities across the landscape and the spatial relationship between these activities and features of the natural and social environment
- **Landform** – any natural features of the earth’s surface such as plains, mountains, deserts, hills, canyons, valleys and mountains
- **Weather pattern** – the state of wind, temperature, and precipitation. A geographic factor that is a physical characteristic of place.
- **Natural resource** – things used by people provided by nature. Natural resources are items provided by nature from which people produce goods and provide services. Some examples of natural resources include water, soil, and vegetation as well as minerals and metals such as gold and iron ore. Even an abundance of fish can be a natural resource
- **Natural hazard** – naturally occurring events that have negative effects on people and the environment. A natural hazard is a process or event in the physical environment, not caused by humans and not predictable, but which can destroy human life and property. Natural hazards include hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, volcanoes, fires, floods, and insect infestations

Unit 6: Remembering Heroes

- **Veteran** – someone who has served in the military
- **Good citizen** – someone who lives responsibly within the laws of society. Characteristics of good citizenship include truthfulness, justice, equality, respect for oneself and others, responsibility in daily life, and participation in government by educating oneself about the issues, respectfully holding public officials to their word, and voting
- **Source** – a book, statement, person, etc., supplying information. A primary source is a document or physical object which was written or created during the time under study; a secondary source interprets and analyzes primary sources. Secondary sources are one or more steps removed from the event

Unit 7: Invention and Innovation Change Communities

- **Chronology** - arrangement of events in order of time or occurrence
- **Innovation** - new ways of doing things
- **Invention** - an original device or process

- **Technology** - the application of processes, methods, or knowledge to achieve a specific purpose; technology includes anything humans create to solve a problem. (Pencils were a technological improvement over a reed brush or chisel. Ball point pens were an improvement over fountain pens, which were an improvement over quills.)

Unit 8: Functions of Government

- **Security** - state of being protected or safe from harm; things done to make people or places safe from harm
- **Conflict** - an extended struggle, fight, battle, or sharp disagreement (as between ideas, interests, or purposes); disagreement
- **Tax** - a fee or sum of money levied by the government to finance and provide public goods and services. Examples of taxes include property, income, and sales taxes.
- **Government services** – services provided by the government for the good of the community. Examples include public services such as police, fire, and street lights; public utilities such as water, gas, and electricity; transportation services including road maintenance and construction, bus or subway systems, airports, and harbors; and education and recreation services such as schools, libraries, museums, parks, and sports facilities. Local governments **generate revenue to pay for these from property and sales taxes and grants from state and national governments**

Unit 9: Government Officials and Services

- **Mayor** – the elected leader of a community
- **Governor** – the elected leader of a state
- **President** – the elected leader of the nation
- **Election** – the process by which a leader selected by a vote of the people to be represented
- **Appointment** – when someone is selected for a government office by another official

Unit 10: Choices and Decisions

- **Spend** – using money to purchase items
- **Earn** – working for money
- **Save** – not spending the money earned, accumulating more
- **Producer** – to create a product
- **Consumer** – to use a product

Unit 11: My Community is Special

- **Culture** – the art, music, clothing, traditions and celebrations of a group or place
- **Celebration** – to observe a day or event with festivities
- **Art** – products of human creativity
- **Music** – artistic sounds that involve rhythm and melody