

# Instructional Vocabulary

## Kindergarten Social Studies

### Unit 1: Classroom Routines

- **Rules and Laws** – a rule regulates society by providing a framework for correct conduct or action. Rules can be dictated, suggested, or self-imposed. A law is a regulation or custom which is formally recognized as binding by a controlling authority, and implies the obligation of obedience on the part of all subjects to that authority.
- **Authority figure** –set standards, enforce the law, or maintain social order in the absence of laws. Most people respect authority and comply with the written or spoken rules. Authority figures include parents and grandparents, school teachers and principals, police officers, clergy, military officers, and others in positions of authority.
- **Chronology** – arrangement in order of time or occurrence

### Unit 2: People and Places in the School Community

- **Relative location** — the position of a place in relation to another place is its relative location. Where is the student's home relative to school? Near or far? North, south, east, or west? Where is the school in comparison to the park? All locations are described in relation to some known point.
- **Technology** — technology is anything devised by man to solve a problem. Technology is the application of processes, methods, or knowledge to achieve a specific purpose. Scientists and engineers develop technology with positive outcomes in mind such as increasing production and improving communication. Products of technology including computers, telephones, radios, and scientific equipment affect human conditions. Many believe the influences are positive, but some consider the negative ramifications of technology. For example, citizens differ in their viewpoints of nuclear energy. Does it provide safe fuel, or do the risks of disaster override its potential?

### Unit 3: Celebrate Freedom Week

- **Patriotic** – inspired by love of country
- **Nation** – a country; a self-governing political entity whose people share a common culture
- **Symbol** – a symbol is something which stands for or suggests something else. It can be a visible sign of something which is intangible. (e.g., The statue of liberty is a symbol of freedom.)
- **Celebration** – a day or event with ceremonies of respect, festivity, or rejoicing; a joyful occasion for special festivities to mark some happy event
- **Vote** – a choice that counts

### Unit 4: Classroom as Community

- **Customs** – customs are ways of doing things within a group or society, which become habit and are adopted as tradition
- **Traditions** – traditions are derived from the process of transmitting knowledge and practices through generations without written instruction
- **Authority figures** – Authority figures set standards, enforce the law, or maintain social order in the absence of laws. Most people respect authority and comply with the written or spoken rules. Authority figures include

parents and grandparents, school teachers and principals, police officers, clergy, military officers, and others in positions of authority.

- **Technology** – anything invented by humans to solve problems. Technology is the application of processes, methods, or knowledge to achieve a specific purpose. Scientists and engineers develop technology with positive outcomes in mind such as increasing production and improving communication. Products of technology including computers, telephones, radios, and scientific equipment affect human conditions. Many believe the influences are positive, but some consider the negative ramifications of technology. For example, citizens differ in their viewpoints of nuclear energy. Does it provide safe fuel, or do the risks of disaster override its potential?

#### Unit 5: Family as Community

- **Chronology** - arrangement in order of time or occurrence is chronology
- **Needs** - all humans require three things to survive: food, clothing, and shelter. People need food to eat, clothes to wear, and a house to live in. They work to make a living to buy these things, or they make them. In some cultures people make their own clothes from wool they get from the sheep they raise. Others grow cotton and spin it into cloth for themselves or to sell to businesses, which spin it and make it into clothing. Farmers provide most grain and meat to factories which process it into food for distribution through grocery stores. People can choose to pay rent or buy or build their own houses. These are some ways people meet their basic human needs. Some people experience better standards of living; they eat better food, wear nicer clothes and live in bigger houses than other people. While people can be happy with less, those who do not meet all three basic needs may not survive.
- **Customs** - ways of doing things within a group or society which become habit, and are adopted as tradition.
- **Family customs** - routine practices and habits of a family which become tradition.
- **Traditions** - derived from the process of transmitting knowledge and practices through generations without written instruction.

#### Unit 6: Other Communities: Neighborhood

- **Kinship** –close relationship, usually a blood relationship, but can also include adoption, affinity, or other close association
- **Physical Characteristics of Place** –physical characteristics of places are features such as soil, landforms, bodies of water, types of vegetation and climate. These result from climatic and tectonic processes. Forces within the Earth (tectonic) cause volcanic activity and earthquakes which result in mountains and other natural features of the landscape. Climate, including effects of temperature, precipitation, and wind, also shape the physical characteristics of places. Fertile deltas result from repeated flooding, for instance.
- **Bodies of Water** –water accumulates in natural or man-made depressions. Bodies of water result, ranging in size from small tanks or ponds to lakes, seas, and oceans.
- **Landforms** –landforms are features of the Earth’s surface which include plains, mountains, deserts, hills, and canyons.
- **Natural Resources** –natural resources are items provided by nature from which people produce goods and provide services. Some examples of natural resources include water, soil, trees, and oil as well as minerals and metals such as gold and iron ore. Even abundant fish can be a natural resource.
- **Human Characteristics of Place** –human characteristics of places include the types of houses people build, the ways they earn a living, the games children play, the languages people speak, their religious beliefs, their ethnicity, the daily schedules they follow, the foods they eat, and how they govern themselves.

- **Celebration** –a day or event with ceremonies of respect, festivity, or rejoicing; a joyful occasion for special festivities to mark some happy event.

#### Unit 7: Community Celebrations, Customs, and Traditions

- **Patriotic** - inspired by love of country
- **Nation** - a country; a self-governing political entity whose people share a common culture
- **History** - a chronological record of significant events (as affecting a nation or institution) often including an explanation of their causes; events of the past

#### Unit 8: People Contribute to the Local Community

- **Community** – place where people live, work, and play together; a unified body of individuals with common interests living in a particular area
- **Good Citizen** – person who exhibits characteristics of citizenship and/or leadership, including truthfulness, justice, equality, respect for oneself and others, responsibility in daily life, and participation in government
- **Patriot** – person who loves, supports, and defends his country with devotion
- **Patriotic** – actions or feelings inspired by love of country
- **Vote** – a choice that counts in a decision-making situation; an expression of preference for a particular person or issue that needs to be resolved or validated. The majority vote always wins.

#### Unit 9: People Who Helped Shape the State and Nation

- **Community** – a place where people live, work, and play together; a unified body of individuals with common interests living in a particular area.
- **Historic Figure** – people associated with past happenings who achieve some notability are historical figures.
- **Patriotic** – inspired by love of country.

#### Unit 10: How Communities Work: Jobs and Work

- **Community** – a place where people live, work, and play together; a unified body of individuals will common interests living in a particular area.
- **Needs** – all humans require three things to survive: food, clothing, and shelter. People need food to eat, clothes to wear, and a house to live in. They work to make a living to buy these things, or they make them. In some cultures people make their own clothes from wool they get from the sheep they raise. Others grow cotton and spin it into cloth for themselves or to sell to businesses, which spin it and make it into clothing. Farmers provide most grain and meat to factories which process it into food for distribution through grocery stores. People can choose to pay rent or buy or build their own houses. These are some ways people meet their basic human needs. Some people experience better standards of living; they eat better food, wear nicer clothes, and live in bigger houses than other people. While people can be happy with less, those who do not meet all three basic needs may not survive.
- **Choice** – option; the act of choosing, one of a number of things from which only one can be chosen.

#### Unit 11: Technology Has Changed Jobs

- **Technology** – anything invented by humans to solve problems. Technology is the application of processes, methods, or knowledge to achieve a specific purpose. Scientists and engineers develop technology with positive outcomes in mind such as increasing production and improving communication. Products of technology including computers, telephones, radios, and scientific equipment affect human conditions. Many believe the influences are positive, but some consider the negative ramifications of technology. For example, citizens differ in their viewpoints of nuclear energy. Does it provide safe fuel, or do the risks of disaster override its potential?
- **History** – a chronological record of significant events (as affecting a nation or institution) often including an explanation of their causes; events of the past.

#### Unit 12: Solving Community Problems

- **Problem solving** – the thought processes involved in solving a problem; method or process of solving a problem
- **Solution** – answer to a problem

#### Unit 13: Alike and Different: Geography, Customs, and Traditions

- **Physical characteristic** – physical characteristics of places are features such as soil, landforms, bodies of water, types of vegetation and climate. These result from climatic and tectonic processes. Forces within the Earth (tectonic) cause volcanic activity and earthquakes which result in mountains and other natural features of the landscape. Climate, including effects of temperature, precipitation, and wind, also shape the physical characteristics of places. Fertile deltas result from repeated flooding, for instance.
- **Human characteristic** – human characteristics of places include the types of houses people build, the ways they earn a living, the games children play, the languages people speak, their religious beliefs, their ethnicity, the daily schedules they follow, the foods they eat, and how they govern themselves