



The social studies standards in the elementary years begin with individuals and families and move from there to explorations of neighborhoods, communities, the state of Colorado, and the United States. In each grade, students investigate historical events, examine geographic features and resources, consider economic decision-making processes, and define civic roles and responsibilities.

#### Expectations for 4th Grade Students:

- **History:** Explain the role of individuals, diverse cultural groups, and ideas in the historical development of Colorado; organize and sequence events in Colorado history in chronological order; recognize the connections between important Colorado events and important events in the history of the United States.
- **Geography:** Use maps to ask and answer questions about the geography of Colorado and to understand the interactions between humans and their environment.
- **Economics:** Explain the relationship between choice and “opportunity cost” (the value of something that you give up when choosing something else). **Personal Financial Literacy:** Define positive and negative incentives.
- **Civics:** Discuss multiple perspectives on an issue; explain the formation and structure of Colorado state government (General Assembly, Judicial, and Executive branches).

#### Throughout 4th Grade You May Find Students:

- Using primary and secondary sources such as artifacts, documents, photos, and newspaper articles to examine cause and effect relationships among events in Colorado’s history; explaining the role of individuals and groups in the development of Colorado (trappers, traders, miners); exploring examples of conflict and cooperation between the diverse cultures in Colorado.
- Using map keys, symbols, and legends to show how Colorado cities, towns, and neighborhoods were settled, and how they have developed and changed over time; exploring the connections between Colorado’s physical resources (mountains, plains) and why diverse populations have chosen to live here.
- Describing unique products and services provided in Colorado; exploring the connections between Colorado’s physical resources and what is produced and provided in the state.
- Discussing the work of the three branches of Colorado’s state government; explaining the types of services state government provides and how those are funded; examining multiple perspectives on a Colorado issue (use of water) in order to consider possible solutions that could benefit the most people.