



Fourth Grade Instructional Plan for Science/Social Studies: First Semester

Course Overview

Fourth Grade Science and Social Studies are designed to foster inquiry, critical thinking, and real-world connections through hands-on exploration and interactive learning. Instruction emphasizes key scientific and historical concepts while developing analytical, observational, and communication skills essential for lifelong learning.

Through an integrated approach, students will engage with content aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), applying the scientific method, historical reasoning, and geographic literacy in meaningful ways. Instruction will be explicit, scaffolded, and inquiry-based to support all learners in mastering grade-level expectations.

Science

- Develop and apply scientific inquiry skills through observation, data collection, and investigation
- Use tools to measure, record, and analyze information during experiments
- Explore the properties of matter, energy, force, and motion
- Investigate Earth and space systems including the water cycle, weather, and natural resources
- Understand life science concepts such as food webs, ecosystems, and inherited traits
- Identify the role of scientists and engineers in solving real-world problems
- Communicate scientific understanding using models, diagrams, and scientific vocabulary

Social Studies

- Analyze primary and secondary sources to understand historical events
- Study the history of Texas, including early exploration, colonization, independence, and statehood
- Identify important historical figures and their contributions to Texas and the nation
- Understand the geography of Texas and use tools such as maps and graphs to interpret data
- Explore the cultural diversity of Texas and its impact on communities
- Examine the structure and function of government, civic responsibilities, and democratic principles
- Apply economic reasoning to understand the production and distribution of goods and services
- Communicate ideas through discussion, writing, timelines, and visual presentations



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Contact Information

Teacher Name: Antonio Jimenez

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Classroom Expectations

Our classroom is a safe learning place, which encourages teamwork, positive feedback, and academic achievement. All students will be respectful to others. We will be good listeners to the teacher and to other's ideas. All students will be hard working contributors in the process of getting their education in order to be successful and reach their full potential.

Rule 1: Be respectful

- Use a quiet voice
- Raise your hand, and wait your turn to speak
- Listen to all instructions and directions
- Stay in your seat, wait for teacher permission.
- Cannot interrupt while teacher is teaching

Rule 2: Be responsible

- Complete all assigned tasks
- Come to class prepared and on time
- Be prepared: Have all necessary materials

Rule 3: Be safe

- Always keep your hands and feet to self
- Walk at all times
- Report problems to an adult

Rule 4: Be ready to learn and try your best every day!

Positive reinforcement and clear routines will help students learn and meet these expectations. If expectations are not met, the teacher will first reteach and remind the student(s) of expectations. If a student continues to fail to meet expectations, they will be redirected, then parents will be contacted. If a student is unable to meet expectations after these preventative measures, an office referral will be made.

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular attendance is essential for your child's academic success in Science and Social Studies. In fourth grade, students build foundational knowledge about the natural world and the history, geography, and culture of Texas. Daily attendance ensures students stay engaged in hands-on investigations, group discussions, and critical thinking activities that are difficult to replicate outside the classroom. Each day missed is a missed opportunity for active learning, exploration, and growth. Consistent attendance supports your child in becoming a confident scientist, historian, and critical thinker.



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Please notify the school if your child will be absent. Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the first semester, students will be able to:

Using the **Science Penguin** approach, students will develop key science literacy and inquiry skills, including:

Science Skills and Concepts

- Explore **Scientific Investigation and Reasoning**: Plan and conduct investigations; use tools to collect and record data; make observations and predictions.
 - Understand **Matter and Its Properties**: Identify properties of matter such as mass, temperature, magnetism, and states of matter.
 - Investigate **Forces and Energy**: Explore forces like gravity and magnetism; understand energy transfer and motion.
 - Examine **Earth and Space Systems**: Study patterns of seasons and weather; learn about the water cycle and environmental changes.
 - Develop **Scientific Communication**: Use models, diagrams, and scientific vocabulary to explain observations and results.
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Social Studies Skills and Concepts

- Study **Texas History and Culture**: Learn about early Texas exploration, colonization, and the Republic of Texas.
 - Analyze **Primary and Secondary Sources**: Differentiate between source types; extract key information from documents, maps, and artifacts.
 - Develop **Geographic Literacy**: Use maps, globes, latitude, longitude, and cardinal directions to locate and describe places in Texas.
 - Understand **Government and Civic Responsibility**: Explore basic government structures, democratic principles, and civic duties.
 - Build **Critical Thinking and Communication Skills**: Sequence events using timelines; compare and contrast historical perspectives; communicate ideas clearly through writing and discussion.
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Course Resources

- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD)
- Journals and writing utensils (part of the school supply list)
- Science Penguin

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

Teachers are expected to use a variety of types of student work performance to assess student achievement. The teacher should choose those which are most appropriate to the class, the students, and the TEKS/SEs under study.

Students will receive minor assignment feedback within three to five school days. Major assignments such as research projects, group projects, and research papers or other long-term projects shall receive a final cumulative grade within ten school days. However, the teacher shall award interim minor assessment grades for individual steps in the process.

Major assignments - 40% Minor assignments - 60% which may include homework; however, homework may not constitute more than one fourth of the minor assessment summative grade.

Class DoJo (School-wide System of Communication)

Our campus uses ClassDoJo to communicate with families. Please ensure you join our class for important updates.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.

We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in Third Grade Reading Language Arts. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Parent Signature : _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____