

Fourth Grade Syllabus

ELA/Social Studies

Course Description/Goals:

This course develops students' foundational literacy skills through instruction aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts and Reading. Students will engage in daily reading, writing, listening, and speaking experiences that promote language development and comprehension. Focus areas include building phonics and decoding skills, expanding vocabulary, reading fluency, understanding literary and informational texts, and writing for various purposes. Students will learn to use the writing process, apply grammar and conventions, and develop oral and written communication skills. Instruction is differentiated to support all learners and to foster a lifelong love of reading and writing.

Course TEKS/Objectives:

ELA - The English language arts and reading Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) embody the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the seven integrated strands of developing and sustaining foundational language skills; comprehension; response; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition; and inquiry and research. The strands focus on academic oracy (proficiency in oral expression and comprehension), authentic reading, and reflective writing to ensure a literate Texas. The strands are integrated and progressive with students continuing to develop knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

Social Studies - In Grade 4, students examine the history of Texas from the early beginnings to the present within the context of influences of North America. Historical content focuses on Texas history, including the Texas Revolution, establishment of the Republic of Texas, and subsequent annexation to the United States. Students discuss important issues, events, and individuals of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Students conduct a thorough study of regions in Texas and North America resulting from human activity and from physical features. The location, distribution, and patterns of economic activities and settlement in Texas further enhance the concept of regions. Students describe how early American Indians in Texas and North America met their basic economic needs. Students identify motivations for European exploration and colonization and reasons for the establishment of Spanish settlements and missions. Students explain how American Indians governed themselves and identify characteristics of Spanish colonial and Mexican governments in Texas. Students recite and explain the meaning of the Pledge to the Texas Flag. Students identify the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to Texas and describe the impact of science and technology on life in the state. Students use critical-thinking skills to identify cause-and-effect relationships, compare and contrast, and make generalizations and predictions.

Course Outline:

Click on this [link](#) to access the **ELA/SS** Year at a Glance for a quarterly content overview for Reading, Phonics, Writing, Grammar, and Social Studies.

Math

Course Description/Goals:

For students to become fluent in mathematics, students must develop a robust sense of number. The National Research Council's report, "Adding It Up," defines procedural fluency as "skill in carrying out procedures flexibly, accurately, efficiently, and appropriately." As students develop procedural fluency, they must also realize that true problem solving may take time, effort, and perseverance. Students in Grade 4 are expected to perform their work without the use of calculators. The primary focal areas in Grade 4 are use of operations, fractions, and decimals and describing and analyzing geometry and measurement. These focal areas are supported throughout the mathematical strands of number and operations, algebraic reasoning, geometry and measurement, and data analysis. In Grades 3-5, the number set is limited to positive rational numbers. In number and operations, students will apply place value and represent points on a number line that correspond to a given fraction or terminating decimal. In algebraic reasoning, students will represent and solve multi-step problems involving the four operations with whole numbers with expressions and equations and generate and analyze patterns. In geometry and measurement, students will classify two-dimensional figures, measure angles, and convert units of measure. In data analysis, students will represent and interpret data.

Course TEKS/Objectives:

The 4th Grade TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) are organized into reporting categories, each focusing on a specific strand of mathematics. These categories include: Numerical Representations and Relationships, Computations and Algebraic Relationships, Geometry and Measurement, and Data Analysis and Personal Financial Literacy. Each category contains specific standards (TEKS) that students are expected to master:

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ch111a.pdf>

The process standards are integrated at every grade level and course. When possible, students will apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace. Students will use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution. Students will select appropriate tools such as real objects, manipulatives, algorithms, paper and pencil, and technology and techniques such as mental math, estimation, number sense, and generalization and abstraction to solve problems. Students will effectively communicate mathematical ideas, reasoning, and their implications using multiple representations such as symbols, diagrams, graphs, computer programs, and language. Students will use mathematical relationships to generate solutions and make connections and predictions. Students will analyze mathematical relationships to connect and communicate mathematical ideas. Students will display, explain, or justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication.

Course Outline:

Click on this [link](#) to access the **Math** Year at a Glance for a quarterly content overview.

Science

Course Description/Goals:

Science, as defined by the National Academy of Sciences, is the "use of evidence to construct testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena, as well as the knowledge generated through this process." This vast body of changing and increasing knowledge is described by physical, mathematical, and conceptual models. In fourth grade, science helps students gain a deeper understanding of natural and physical phenomena through organized strands that continue building their science foundation. Students expand their skills in scientific inquiry by planning investigations and using scientific tools. They will explore properties of matter, forms of energy like light and electricity, and how force and motion affect objects. Students will study weather, Earth's resources, slow changes like erosion, and patterns in the sky. They will also learn about food webs, ecosystems, and inherited traits. By asking questions and designing solutions, students will strengthen their ability to think critically and solve real-world problems.

Course TEKS/Objectives:

In Kindergarten through Grade 5 Science, content is organized into recurring strands. The concepts within each grade level build on prior knowledge, prepare students for the next grade level, and establish a foundation in science. In fourth grade, students focus on concepts like matter and its properties, force and motion, Earth and space, living things and their environments, and how science works. Each category contains specific standards (TEKS) that students are expected to master:

<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/texas-administrative-code/19-tac-chapter-112>

In fourth grade, science helps students gain a deeper understanding of natural and physical phenomena through recurring strands that keep building on prior knowledge. According to the TEKS, students expand their skills by planning more detailed investigations and using scientific tools and safety practices. They will explore the properties of matter, including mixtures and solutions, and investigate how different forms of energy—such as electrical, light, and thermal—are used in daily life. Students will study how force and motion work together and observe weather, erosion, and patterns in Earth's surface and sky. They will learn about producers, consumers, and decomposers in ecosystems, inherited traits, and life cycles. By asking testable questions, designing solutions, and explaining results, students build critical thinking skills they will need for real-world problem solving.

Course Outline:

Click on this [link](#) to access the **Science** Year at a Glance for a quarterly content overview.