CAPITAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Social Studies Curriculum – Fourth Grade

Capital's social studies curriculum is aligned with state and national standards and addresses concepts in civics, economics, geography, and history. Students use tools such as maps, globes, timelines, charts and other geo-graphics to learn about various times and places in our world. Studying both primary and secondary resources such as artifacts, diaries, photographs, and newspaper accounts enables students to research topics, understand a variety of cultures and peoples, and analyze the causes and effects of events from the past to the present.

This year, your child will be focusing on the units listed below. The essential questions listed for each unit provide an overview of the main concepts that will be addressed in these units.

Unit: The Thirteen Colonies

1. How did the geography, history, economics, and government of the thirteen colonies have an impact on America?
2. What was Delaware's role in the colonies and the important events of the times?
3. What were some of the obstacles facing the colonists?
4. How does life in colonial times compare with life today?
5. How does the loss of a primary industry economically impact a community or region?

Unit: Countdown to the Revolution (Birth of A Nation)

1. What are the cultural, political, and economic factors that contributed to the significant events leading up to the American Revolution?
2. What artifacts, documents, and other historical materials help us understand the significant events and identify the important people in America's past?
3. Why did assistance from other countries play an important role in America's war for independence?
4. What impact did the Declaration of Independence have on the fight for freedom?
5. How do people create and change governmental and authority structures?
6. What are the key ideas of a democratic government?

Unit: From Sea to Shining Sea (The Westward Movement)

1. Why did people move to the American west in the 1800's?
2. What are the contributions of various cultures to the history of the West?
3. What are some of the significant events and their impact on Western history, including government actions to acquire land?
4. What are the geographic landforms and resources in the West and how did they economically impact the region?
5. How did the natural environment influence the journey West and how did emigrants adapt to the environment?

For more information about your child's Social Studies curriculum, please contact your child's teacher or call the Curriculum Office at 672-1951.