Elementary Social Studies
1st Grade Public Overview

1st Grade Social Studies
1st 9 Weeks
Assessments NWEA MAP Reading Fluency BOY (8/24-8/28) NWEA MAP Growth Math BOY (9/3) NWEA MAP Growth Reading BOY (9/10)

What are we learning?
How can I help at home?

Unit 1: Government
Essential Question:

- What does it look like when people are following laws in our community?
- Who is in charge of our government?

Timeline: 8/11 – 9/8
Priority Standards: 1.10A, 1.10B, 1.11A, 1.11B
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit is important because students will develop a deeper understanding of rules, laws, and authority figures. All these things are essential knowledge for life. In the 1st concept, students will focus on the purpose of rules and laws, and they will categorize examples of rules and laws that provide order, keep us safe, or manage conflict. In the 2nd concept, students will learn about the responsibilities of authority figures in the home, school, and community. In addition, they will be exposed for the first time to public officials. This unit will form a strong foundation for when students learn about the various levels and functions of government in 2nd grade and beyond.

At-Home Connection:

- Discuss the rules you have at home with your child.
- Compare the rules in your home. Which ones are for their security or establishing order?
- Have you child name authority figures in your home.
- When you go shopping, point out the different rules that are in place in the store and the different authority figures/public officials.
- Make a game of how many rules your child can see/find while out in the community as well as how many public officials there are (For example: I spy…).

Unit 2: 1st Grading Period Holidays and Observations
Essential Question:

- What is the purpose of community, state, or national holidays?

Timeline: Taught when holidays fall

Priority Standards: 1.1A, 1.1B, 1.14A, 1.14E, 1.14F

Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit is important because remember and honor people and events on holidays is an important part of being a good citizen. A Particular focus will be on Constitution Day, and students will learn about freedom and give examples of freedoms they have. Also, the Fort Bend County Fair falls during this grading period, so students will compare community holidays to national holidays. Students will build on the knowledge they gain in this unit throughout the year as they will continue to learn about community, state, and national holidays.

At-Home Connection:

- Ask your child to draw a picture about what freedom means to them. They can include the American flag on their picture and other examples. Ask your child to explain their picture to you when they have finished.

Unit 3: Citizenship

Essential Question:

- What can we learn from our state and national symbols?
- What do good citizens do?
- What can we learn from good citizens in the past?

Timeline: 9/9 – 10/8

Priority Standards: 1.12A, 1.12B, 1.13A, 1.13B, 1.13C, 1.13D

Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit is important because students are exposed to a variety of characteristics of good citizenship for the first time. Since this unit comes right after Celebrate Freedom Week, students will first learn about Texas Symbols, so they can compare them to U.S. Symbols. In the 2nd concept, students will learn about characteristics of good citizenship such as truthfulness, equality, and justice. They will also learn about the importance of voting and how it is used to make decisions. In the 3rd concept, students will learn about historical figures such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Benjamin Franklin. For each historical figure, students will give examples of how they exemplified being a good citizen. Students will build on this knowledge in 2nd grade where they identify ways to actively practice good citizenship.

At-Home Connection:

- Discuss some ways your child can show good citizenship in their home and have him/her demonstrate this.
- Discuss ways he/she can demonstrate good citizenship while out in the community. Have him/her choose a way to show good citizenship and demonstrate it.

2nd 9 Weeks

Assessments

N/A

Unit 4: Geography: Map Skills

Essential Question:

- Where are we?
- How can I make a map of a real place?

Timeline: 10/19 – 11/20
Priority Standards: 1.3A, 1.3B, 1.4A, 1.4B
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:
This is an important unit because students will form the basic knowledge and skills in geography from which they will build on every year. Students will start off by learning about basic map skills. They will learn cardinal directions and describe where places are located using those directions. They will also create simple maps using a template of various places.

At-Home Connection:

- Have your child draw a map of your neighborhood. Ask them to use directions to show where things are located in the neighborhood including their home. Have them label important places in their neighborhood. (Example: park, walking trail, swimming pool, etc.) Ask them to explain the details in their map to you, including the directions.

Unit 5: 2nd Grading Period Holidays and Observations
Essential Question:

- What is the purpose of national holidays?

Timeline: Taught when holidays fall
Priority Standards: 1.1A, 1.13A, 1.13D, 1.13E
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:
This unit is important because remembering and honoring people and events on holidays is an important part of being a good citizen. Students will learn about Election Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. For each, a particular emphasis is on the origins of the holiday. Students will build on the knowledge they gain in this unit throughout the year as they will continue to learn about community, state, and national holidays.

At-Home Connection:

- Have your child draw and color a picture to represent Veterans Day. Ask them to explain the meaning of their picture. If you have a Veteran in your family, perhaps this could be shared with them.

Unit 6: Culture
Essential Question:

- What do stories teach us about a culture?
- What things are important to families and communities?

Timeline: 11/30 – 12/18

Priority Standards: 1.3B, 1.4A, 1.14A. 1.14B
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit is important because students live in diverse communities and then need to be aware and celebrate their similarities and differences. The student will gain an understanding of the word culture and how there is a variety in the world. Students will recognize that each culture brings something to the common good of the classroom, community, and the world.

At-Home Connection:

- Discuss your family customs and traditions with your child.
- Cook a special meal with your child that represents this custom or tradition.
- Look at some pictures of celebrations that may have occurred with these customs/traditions that involved certain types of clothing.
- Listen to types of music that are part of various customs/traditions and discuss the meaning.

3rd 9 weeks

Assessments

NWEA MAP Reading Fluency MOY (1/11-1/15)
NWEA MAP Growth Math MOY (1/21)
NWEA MAP Growth Reading MOY (1/28)

Unit 7: Geography: Physical and Human Characteristics

Essential Question:

- How does learning about physical characteristics help us better understand the world around us?
- How does where you live affect how you live?

Timeline: 1/6 – 2/2
Priority Standards: 1.3B, 1.4A, 1.5A, 1.5B
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:

This unit is important because students learn how where they live affects how they live. In the first concept, students will learn about the physical characteristics of places. They will learn about different types of landforms, bodies of water, Earth's resources, and weather. In the 2nd concept, students will learn how geography influences human characteristics of a place such as shelter, clothing, food, and activities. The knowledge and skills learned in this concept will form a foundation for when students learn about the physical environment in 2nd grade.

At-Home Connection:

- Talk about the land and water near your home and how they are the same or different from other places.
- Observe the daily weather and discuss how it affects what you wear and what activities you do.
- Describe your home, food, and clothing and explain how they fit your environment.
- Compare your community to another place and discuss how people live differently there.

Unit 8: 3rd Grading Period Holidays and Observations

Essential Question:

- What is the purpose of national holidays?

Timeline: Taught when holidays fall
Priority Standards: 1.1A, 1.1B, 1.2A, 1.13E
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:
In this unit, students will learn about Martin Luther King around MLK day and about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln around Presidents' Day. Students will explain the origins of each holiday, and the contributions of each person.

At-Home Connection:

- Have your child draw a picture of Martin Luther King, George Washington, or Abraham Lincoln. Ask them to write one word that shows who they were or what made them important.

Unit 9: History
Essential Question:

- How does a timeline help us understand past events?
- Why is it important to learn about people from our past?
- How have inventions affected our lives?

Timeline: 2/4 – 3/25 (18 days in grading period 3 and 9 days in grading period 4)
Priority Standards: 1.2A, 1.2C, 1.3A, 1.3B, 1.3C, 1.15A, 1.15B, 1.15C
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:
This unit is important because students are introduced to the meaning of history and will learn about various historical figures. The first thing students will learn about is distinguishing between past, present, and future. As part of this, they will create a simple timeline. Once they get a basic understanding of the past, they will learn about historical figures and their contributions. In the 3rd concept, students will learn about historical figures who were inventors, and they will describe how the inventions have affected our lives. This unit will help students better understand the importance of history, and they will build on this knowledge in 2nd grade where they will learn more historical skills such as primary sources.

At-Home Connection:

- Talk about events in your family to help your child understand the past, present, and future.
- Help your child create a simple timeline of important moments in their life.
- Read about a historical figure and discuss what they did and why they are important.
- Discuss an invention you use at home and how it has made life easier or different.

4th 9 Weeks

Assessments
NWEA MAP Reading Fluency EOY (5/17-5/19)
NWEA MAP Growth Math EOY (5/6)
NWEA MAP Growth Reading EOY (5/13)

Unit 10: Economics
Essential Question:

- Why do we have to make choices about the things we want?

- How do people get goods and services?
- What characteristics are important to be good at a job?

Timeline: 3/29 – 5/14
Priority Standards: 1.6A, 1.6B, 1.7A, 1.7B, 1.7C, 1.8A, 1.8B, 1.8C, 1.9A, 1.9B
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:
In this unit, students will learn about their needs and wants and similarities and differences in ways families meet their basic human needs. Through the study of wants, students will learn that people want more than they can have, which requires people to make choices. This will lead to students understanding the differences between goods and services and the choices people have to make when they are purchasing goods and services. In the last concept, students will learn the basic components and characteristics of a job. Students will build on this knowledge in 2nd grade where they will learn about free enterprise.

At-Home Connection:

- Talk with your child about needs and wants and how your family decides what is most important.
- Compare how different families meet their needs for food, clothing, and shelter.
- Discuss the difference between goods and services using examples from your daily life.
- Ask your child about different jobs and what people do to earn money and help others.

Unit 9: 4th Grading Period Holidays and Observations and Year in Review

Essential Question:

- What is the purpose of national holidays?

Timeline: Taught when holidays fall and 5/17 – 5/27
Priority Standards: 1.1A, 1.1B, 1.2A, 1.13E
Link to TEKS

Content Unit Overview:
In this unit, students will learn about San Jacinto Day, which is a state holiday. In addition, they will learn about Independence Day. Students will compare the observance of both holidays. In the 2nd concept, students will review key concepts associated with every unit throughout the year. The review will center around how all strands of social studies covered during the school year are important because the knowledge and skills gained are relevant to their lives.

At-Home Connection:

- Have your child draw pictures representing Independence Day and color them. Ask them what their pictures represent. Hang their pictures up for decoration for the holiday.
- Ask your child what the most interesting thing they learned in social studies this year. Have them share that with you and see if they can teach you something they learned.