

## Welcome to EMS Elementary Social Studies!

Throughout the school year, students will develop the knowledge and skills needed to understand the people, places, events, and ideas that have shaped our communities, state, nation, and world. Through reading, discussion, inquiry, and the analysis of maps and sources, students will build critical thinking skills while making connections between the past and present.

| General Ways to Reinforce Learning outside the Classroom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| What Will My Child Learn?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Conversation Starters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Learning Support Ideas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop skills for reading and analyzing maps, graphs, photographs, and primary sources.</li><li>• Explore how geography, history, economics, government, and culture shape communities and societies.</li><li>• Practice critical thinking by asking questions, gathering evidence, and drawing conclusions.</li><li>• Make connections between historical events and the world today.</li><li>• Build civic responsibility by examining the roles and responsibilities of citizens.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What did you investigate in social studies today?</li><li>• What new map, source, or historical artifact did you examine?</li><li>• How does what you learned connect to the world today?</li><li>• What surprised you most about today's lesson?</li><li>• What questions do you still have about the topic?</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss local, state, national, and world events.</li><li>• Encourage your child to explain what they learned using evidence from class.</li><li>• Explore maps, atlases, and geography tools together.</li><li>• Visit museums, historic sites, parks, or cultural events when possible.</li><li>• Read informational articles and books related to topics studied in class.</li></ul> |

The Studies Weekly curriculum is organized into units that explore key social studies concepts in history, geography, economics, government, and citizenship. The information below provides an overview of the topics students will study throughout the year, along with questions and activities families can use to support learning at home.

| Unit 1: Communities and Citizenship                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| What Will My Child Learn?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Conversation Starters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Learning Support Ideas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore how communities are organized and how citizens contribute to the common good.</li><li>• Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.</li><li>• Examine the roles of local governments and community leaders.</li><li>• Learn how individuals can make a positive impact in their communities.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What makes a community a good place to live?</li><li>• Why do communities need rules and laws?</li><li>• How can one person make a difference in a community?</li><li>• What responsibilities do citizens have?</li><li>• What community helpers are important and why?</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss ways family members contribute to the community.</li><li>• Point out examples of responsible citizenship in everyday life.</li><li>• Attend a community event or volunteer activity.</li><li>• Talk about local issues and possible solutions.</li><li>• Encourage your child to explain how citizens can improve communities.</li></ul> |

| Unit 2: Geography and Communities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| What Will My Child Learn?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Conversation Starters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Learning Support Ideas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use maps, globes, and geographic tools to investigate places and regions.</li> <li>• Identify physical and human characteristics of communities.</li> <li>• Explore how geography influences where people live and work.</li> <li>• Compare communities in different locations.</li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does geography affect where people live?</li> <li>• What physical features make a place unique?</li> <li>• Why do people choose to settle in certain locations?</li> <li>• How do maps help us understand the world?</li> <li>• How are communities similar and different?</li> </ul>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore maps of Texas, the United States, and the world.</li> <li>• Use GPS or maps while traveling and discuss locations.</li> <li>• Identify physical and human features in your community.</li> <li>• Compare places your family has visited.</li> <li>• Encourage your child to explain how geography influences daily life.</li> </ul>                                  |
| Unit 3: Culture and Heritage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| What Will My Child Learn?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Conversation Starters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Learning Support Ideas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the traditions, customs, and contributions of diverse cultural groups.</li> <li>• Examine how people and cultures influence communities.</li> <li>• Learn how historical events shape communities over time.</li> <li>• Develop an appreciation for different perspectives and experiences.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What traditions are important to our family?</li> <li>• How do cultures make communities stronger?</li> <li>• What have you learned about another culture?</li> <li>• Why is it important to understand different perspectives?</li> <li>• How do traditions connect people across generations?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share family stories, traditions, and cultural experiences.</li> <li>• Attend local cultural celebrations or events.</li> <li>• Explore books that highlight diverse cultures and traditions.</li> <li>• Discuss how traditions have changed over time.</li> <li>• Encourage your child to ask family members about their heritage.</li> </ul>                               |
| Unit 4: Economics and Government                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <p>Students Will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate how people earn, spend, and save money.</li> <li>• Identify examples of goods, services, and producers.</li> <li>• Explore the purpose of government and public services.</li> <li>• Analyze how economic choices affect individuals and communities.</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the difference between a good and a service?</li> <li>• Why do people work?</li> <li>• How do people make choices about spending money?</li> <li>• What services does government provide for our community?</li> <li>• Why is it important for citizens to participate in government?</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss family spending, saving, and budgeting decisions.</li> <li>• Identify examples of goods and services during daily activities.</li> <li>• Talk about how local government helps the community.</li> <li>• Encourage your child to explain economic choices they observe.</li> <li>• Discuss current events that involve government or community decisions.</li> </ul> |