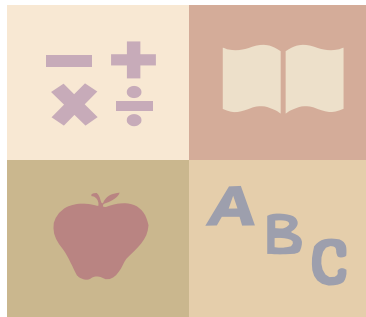


Harford County Public Schools

Meeting the Maryland State Department Voluntary State Curriculum Standards for First Grade Social Studies



First Grade

The social studies is an exciting field of study comprising many social science subjects, including: History, Political Science, Geography, and Economics. The Voluntary State Curriculum also provides information on skill development and multicultural education associated with the social studies. In first grade, students analyze the roles of a citizen of the United States, are introduced to the concept of culture, examine the importance of economic decision-making, differentiate between past and present, and use the tools of a geographer. Students are also introduced to the vocabulary unique to each of the social science fields.

Jacqueline C. Haas, Ed.D.,
Superintendent

First Grade Political Science

To understand the historical development and current status of the democratic principles and development of skills and attitudes necessary to become a responsible citizen, students will:

- explain the importance of rules
- identify and discuss the meaning of symbols and practices associated with the United States of America
- identify and describe people important to the American political system
- describe the rights and responsibilities of being a participating member of the family, school and neighborhood



Peoples of the Nations and World

To understand the diversity and commonality, human interdependence, and global cooperation of the people of Maryland, the United States, and the World through a multicultural and a historic perspective, students will:

- observe and describe ways that people of different cultural backgrounds meet human needs and contribute to the community
- recognize that individuals and groups share and borrow from other cultures
- explain how groups of people interact

History

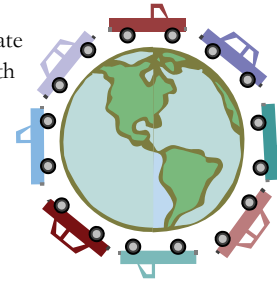
To understand significant ideas, beliefs, and themes; to organize patterns and events; and analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time in Maryland and the United States, students will:

- examine differences between past and present time
- compare people and objects of today and long ago

Geography

To understand geographic concepts and processes to examine the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location and distribution of human activities and spatial connections throughout time, students will:

- use geographic tools to locate and describe places on Earth
- describe places in the environment using geographic characteristics
- explain how transportation and communication link people and places by the movement of goods, messages, and people
- explain how people modify, protect, and adapt to their environment



Economics

To understand the development of economic reasoning and the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world, students will:

- describe economic choices people make about goods and services
- describe the production process
- explain how technology affects the way people live, work, and play
- describe types of markets in the community
- describe how goods and services are acquired



Social Studies Skills

To understand reading, writing, and thinking processes and skills; to gain knowledge and understanding of political, historical, and current events using chronological and spatial thinking, economic reasoning, and historical interpretation; and framing and evaluating questions from primary and secondary sources, students will:

- develop and apply social studies vocabulary through exposure to a variety of text and portions of text
- use strategies to prepare for reading (before reading)
- use strategies to monitor understanding and derive meaning from text and portions of text (during reading)
- use strategies to demonstrate understanding of the text (after reading)
- compose oral, written, and visual presentations that express personal ideas, inform, and persuade
- locate, retrieve, and use information from various sources to accomplish a purpose
- identify a topic/situation/problem that requires further study
- identify primary and secondary sources of information that relate to the topic/situation/problem being studied
- engage in field work that relates to the topic/situation/problem being studied
- organize information from print and non-print sources
- interpret information from secondary sources including pictures, graphics, maps, atlases, and timelines
- describe how the community has changed over time and how people have contributed to change, drawing from maps, photographs, newspapers, and other sources



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