

Haddon Township School District
Kindergarten
Social Studies

The Kindergarten Social Studies Curriculum provides developmentally appropriate experiences that reflect the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Social Studies. The study of civic life, politics, and government begins in the early grades to help all students develop knowledge, understanding, and an appreciation of the principles of American democracy and the roles of its citizens. This curriculum will continue evolving to meet the needs of the students as well as the standards established by the New Jersey Department of Education.

ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS: *All Kindergarten social studies students will demonstrate an understanding of the following strands from the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards:*

U.S. History, America and the World (NJ 6.1)
All kindergarten students will...

- Demonstrate an understanding of rules by following most classroom routines.
- Demonstrate responsibility by initiating simple classroom tasks and jobs.
- Explain how the United States government is organized and how the United States Constitution defines and limits the power of government.
- Explain how the fundamental rights, the individual and the common good of the country depend upon all citizens exercising their civic responsibilities at the community, state, national and global levels.
- Compare and contrast information that can be found on different types of maps.
- Compare and contrast responses of individuals and groups, past and present, to violations of fundamental rights.
- Describe the process by which immigrants become US citizens.
- Summarize reasons why various groups, voluntarily and involuntarily, immigrated to New Jersey and America, and describe the challenges they encountered.

U.S. History, America and the World (NJ 6.1)
 continued...

- Identify the major cities in New Jersey, the United States and major world regions and explain how maps, globes, and demographic tools can be used to understand tangible and intangible cultural differences.
- Explain the role of historical symbols monuments and holidays and how they affect the American identity.
- Describe how the actions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights leaders served as catalysts for social change and inspired social activism in subsequent generations.
- Describe the civic leadership qualities and historical contributions of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin toward the development of the United States government.
- Explain how experiences and events may be interpreted differently by people with different cultural or individual perspectives.

Active Citizenship in the 21st Century (NJ 6.3)
All kindergarten students will...

- Evaluate what makes a good rule or law.
- Identify actions that are unfair or discriminatory, such as bullying, and propose solutions to address such actions.

Haddon Township School District
Kindergarten
Social Studies

CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LEARNERS:

All kindergarten students will demonstrate growth in the development of the following characteristics of effective learners:

Trustworthiness, demonstrated by the ability to...

- Be honest in words and actions
- Keep promises
- Stand up for beliefs and do what is right
- Be a good friend

Respect, demonstrated by the ability to...

- Treat others the way you would want to be treated
- Be polite and courteous
- Treat others well even if they look, act, or believe differently than you do

Responsibility, demonstrated by the ability to...

- Do what you are supposed to do
- Think about how your actions will affect others
- Always try to do your best

Fairness, demonstrated by the ability to...

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Try to see the other person's side
- Speak up if you know something is unfair

Caring, demonstrated by the ability to...

- Be kind with your words and actions
- Help others
- Think about other people's feelings and needs
- Be thankful for what others do for you

Citizenship, demonstrated by the ability to...

- Cooperate with others
- Obey rules and laws
- Do your best to make your school and neighborhood better
- Help protect the Earth

New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards indicated in parentheses

Resources

Harcourt Social Studies Units
www.harcourtschool.com

Additional Resources

- *Time for Kids/Scholastic New*
- Maps101.com
- Primary documents, maps, globes
- Teacher directed materials
- Music
- Literature and art connections

Technology

Students will use technology in social studies classrooms to:

- Access and retrieve information responsibly to support learning
- Present social studies information in a variety of visual forms

Assessment

Student learning will be assessed using a variety of measures, including:

- Formal assessments
- Student projects and presentations
- Student participation

Parent Involvement

Research supports that parent involvement in education can lead to academic benefits for students. Haddon Township parents of kindergarten students are encouraged to:

- Set a regular time, place, and routine for homework with minimal distractions
- Provide appropriate supplies for students
- Review homework and course content regularly
- Discuss local and national news accessed through newspapers, news magazines, newscasts, educational television, and appropriate internet sites
- Plan family trips and outings that support social studies learning, including visits to sites of historical interest
- Discuss contemporary issues that relate to and support content and learning