

GRADE 4 SOCIAL STUDIES OVERVIEW

The Grade 4 Social Studies program builds on the students' understanding of families, schools, and communities and highlights the political institutions and historic development of their local communities with connections to New York State and the United States. Students can investigate local events and issues and connect them to national events and issues through the following units:

- Native American Indians of New York State
- European Encounter: Three Worlds Meet in the Americas
- Colonial and Revolutionary Periods
- Revolutionary War in New York State
- The New Nation
- Industrial Growth and Expansion
- Urbanization: Economic, Political, and Social Impacts
- Government—Local and State

NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS OF NEW YORK STATE

Culture

- Native American Indians were the first **inhabitants** of our local region and state
- The **Iroquois (Haudenosaunee – People of the Longhouse)** and the **Algonquian** were the early inhabitants of our state
- Important accomplishments and contributions of Native American Indians who lived in our community and state

Needs and Wants

- Meeting basic needs – food, clothing, and shelter
- Uses of the environment and how Native American Indian **settlements** were influenced by environmental and geographic features

THREE WORLDS (EUROPE, THE AMERICAS, AFRICA) MEET IN THE AMERICAS

Culture

- Major explorers of New York State
- Impact of exploration – social/cultural, economic, political, and geographic
- The slave trade and slavery in the colonies
- Groups of people who **migrated** to our local region and into our state.

Environment and Society

- Ways that people depended on and modified their physical environments

COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY PERIODS

Change

- Dutch, English, and French **influences** in New York State
- Causes for revolution: **social, political, economic**
- Ways of making a living in our local region and state

Culture

- Lifestyles in the **colonies** – comparisons during different time periods
- Different types of daily activities including social/**cultural**, political, economic, scientific/technological, or religious
- Cultural similarities and differences, including folklore, ideas, and other cultural contributions that helped shape our community, local region, and state
- Important accomplishments of individuals and groups living in our community and region

Government

- Colonial Governments

Physical Settings

- Ways that colonists depended on and modified their physical environment

Economic Systems

- Colonial societies were organized to answer three fundamental economic questions:
 - What goods and services do we produce?
 - How do we produce them?
 - For whom do we produce them?

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN NEW YORK STATE

Places and Regions

- Location of New York State
- The **significance** of New York State's location and its relationship to the locations of other people and places.
- **Geographic** features that influenced the war.
- The war strategy: Saratoga and other local battles.

Human Systems

- Native American Indians in New York State influenced the war.
- The war strategy: Saratoga and other local battles.
- **Loyalists** and **Patriots** in New York State
- Leaders of the Revolution

Change

- Effects of the Revolutionary War

THE NEW NATION

Government

- Foundations for a new government and the **ideals** of American **democracy** as expressed in the **Mayflower Compact**, the **Declaration of Independence**, and the **Constitutions** of the State of New York and the United States of America

Citizenship and Civic Life

- The importance of the **Bill of Rights**
- Individuals and groups who helped to strengthen democracy in the United States

Culture

- The roots of American culture, how it developed from many different traditions, and the ways many people from a variety of groups and backgrounds played a role in creating it
- Those **values**, practices, and **traditions** that unite all Americans

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND EXPANSION

Technology

- Transportation, inventions, communication, and technology, (e.g., 1800's – Erie Canal, railroads, steamboats, turnpikes, telegraph, cable; 1900's – automobiles, subways, air travel, seaways, telephones, radios and televisions, computer)

Change

- **Immigration and migration** (e.g., Ellis Island; the mass starvation in Ireland, 1845-50; forced **relocation** of Native Americans in New York State)
- The important **contributions** of immigrants to New York State

Human Systems

- Geographic influences of **industrialization** and **expansion** (e.g., natural resources, location); the interactions between economic and geographic factors

URBANIZATION: ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

Human Systems

- **Rural to urban to suburban** migration

Environment and Society

- Economic **interdependence** (e.g., resource use, from farm to market)
- Ways of learning and public education in our community and state

Change

- The labor movement and child labor

GOVERNMENT

Civic Values

- Basic democratic values (taken from: National Standards for Civics and Government)
- The **fundamental** values of American **democracy** include an understanding of the following concepts: individual rights to life, **liberty**, property, and the pursuit of happiness; the public or common good; **justice, equality** of opportunity; **diversity**; truth; and **patriotism**.

Citizenship and Civic Life

- The fundamental values and principles of American democracy are expressed in the Declaration of Independence, **Preamble to the United States Constitution**, Bill of Rights, Pledge of **Allegiance**, speeches, songs, and stories.

PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

Government

- The basic purposes of government in the United States are to protect the rights of individuals and to promote the common good (taken from: National Standards for Civics and Government).

LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

Government

- An introduction to the probable consequences of the absence of government
- The structure and function of the branches of government of New York State and local governments, including **executive**, **legislative**, and **judicial** balances
- The meaning of key terms and concepts related to government, including democracy, power and **citizenship**
- **Representatives** in the legislative, executive and judicial branches at the local, state and national levels of government and how they are elected or appointed to office
- People **elect** and/or **appoint** leaders who make, **enforce**, and **interpret** laws

Civic Values

- The United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of New York and their respective Bills of Rights were developed as written plans for organizing the functions of government and safeguarding individual liberties

Citizenship and Civic Life

- Citizenship and the rules and responsibilities of citizenship in the classroom, school, home and local community
- Citizenship includes an awareness of the holidays, celebrations, and **symbols** of our nation, including the flag of the United States of America, its proper display and use
- Effective, informed citizenship involves duties such as voting, jury service and other service to the local community

Nation State

- Citizens can participate in political decision making and problem solving at the local, state, and national levels

GRADE 4 SOCIAL STUDIES VOCABULARY

Native American

inhabitants
Iroquois
Haudenosaunee
Algonquian
settlements

Three Worlds

migrated

Colonial and Revolutionary Periods

influences
social
political
economic
colonies
cultural

The Revolutionary War in New York State

significance
geographic
Loyalists
Patriots

New Nation

ideals
democracy
Mayflower Compact
traditions
Declaration of Independence
Bill of Rights
Constitution
values

Industrial Growth

immigration
migration
industrialization
relocation
contributions
expansion

Urbanization: Economic, Political, and Social Impacts

urbanization
rural
urban
suburban
interdependence

Government

democracy
fundamental
liberty
diversity
Preamble
Allegiance
patriotism
equality
justice

Local and State Government

executive
legislative
judicial
citizenship
representatives
elect
appoint
enforce
interpret
symbols