



SOCIAL STUDIES

4

FOR FAMILIES

FOURTH GRADE

What to expect:

At this age, children are understanding more, taking on more responsibility for organizing their schoolwork and asking questions to guide their learning. In fourth grade, students will learn about the physical, cultural, political, economic and historic development of the United States, including early European contact with American Indians. This information is a snapshot of learning in fourth-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Be able to identify and locate major U.S. landforms, bodies of water and unique natural features on a map.
- Be able to identify and locate states and major U.S. cities on a map.
- Describe natural resources in the United States and how they impact the economy of each region in industries like fishing, farming, ranching, manufacturing and oil and gas.
- Explain how Americans interact with their environment in a variety of areas, including housing, industry, transportation, bridges, dams, tunnels, canals, etc.
- Describe the races and ethnicities of the people of the United States.
- Explain the reasons for key European expeditions to what is now the United States and their impact on the development and culture of each region.
- Know the major American Indian tribal nations and their ways of life.
- Know and discuss instances of cooperation and conflict between American Indian groups and European settlers.

What to do at home:

- Explore natural resources such as rivers, lakes, plants, etc., in your community.
- Notice cultural influences in your community, such as how names of streets might reflect people or events important to local culture.
- Play games or put together puzzles that identify states, U.S. cities and transportation routes.
- Create opportunities for your child to experience conflict and cooperation. (For example, explain that you will give them extra time with friends if they help clean up after meals.)
- Ask your child to point out on a map the city where a favorite professional sports team is located.
- Work together to draw a map of your house, school or community.
- Read books about places, resources, monuments and landmarks in the United States.
- Discuss ways your community is similar to and different from others in the United States.
- Visit local landmarks, museums, festivals or other local celebrations.

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support social studies learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



OKLAHOMA
Education



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to develop curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What natural resources are present in your community? How do they affect your area?
- If you opened a store, what would you sell and why?
- If you could make up a new holiday, what would it be?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What is the best part about getting older? Why?
- If you could create a new class at school, what would it be and why?
- If you could create a new color, how would it look and what would you call it?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by letting your child see you reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help your child understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Flip through the book and chapter titles. What do you think the book will be about?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What type of book did you choose (fiction, biography, graphic novel, etc.)? Why?

DURING READING

- What do you think will happen in the next chapter?
- Who is the main character? Who are the supporting characters?
- What words can I help you understand?

AFTER READING

- Could this story take place in today's world? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author wants the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you were one of the characters in the book, how would you have ended the story? Why?

Join the conversation!

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