

# KINDERGARTEN

## Foundations of Social Studies: Children as Citizens

Social studies in kindergarten focuses on those aspects of living that affect the children and their families. The classroom serves as a model of society in which decisions are made with a sense of individual responsibility and with respect for the rules by which we all must live. The students learn about the nature of their physical environment—home, school, neighborhood, and town, including how the people in their community provide goods and services. They also learn about the role of families now and in the past; the need for rules and authority; and the values of American **democracy** as reflected in the traditions and history of the nation.

Instruction should utilize the social studies literacy skills for the twenty-first century that are enunciated in chart format in Appendix A. These statements represent a continuum of tools, strategies, and perspectives that are necessary for the student’s understanding of social studies material that is taught at each grade level. Beginning at kindergarten and progressing to graduation, each statement is a developmentally appropriate iteration of the same skill as it is being further honed at each grade band (K–3, 4–5, 6–8, and high school). While most of these skills can be utilized in the teaching of every standard, the most *appropriate* skills for each

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**Standard K-1:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of his or her surroundings.

### Enduring Understanding

Maps and other geographic representations can communicate information about the location and features of one's surroundings. To access and utilize geographic information efficiently, effectively, and accurately, the student will utilize the knowledge and skills set forth in the following indicators:

### Indicators

- K-1.1 Identify the location of his or her home, school, neighborhood, and city or town on a map.
- K-1.2 Illustrate the features of his or her home, school, and neighborhood by creating maps, models, and drawings.
- K-1.3 Identify his or her personal connections to places, including home, school, neighborhood, and city or town.
- K-1.4 Recognize natural features of his or her environment (e.g., mountains and bodies of water).

### Social Studies Literacy Skills for the Twenty-First Century

Interpret information from a variety of social studies resources.\*

Recognize maps, **mental maps**, and geographic models as representations of spatial relationships.

Find and describe the locations and conditions of places.

\* Social studies resources include the following: texts, calendars, timelines, maps, mental maps, charts, tables, graphs, flow charts, diagrams, photographs, illustrations, paintings, cartoons, architectural drawings, documents, letters, censuses, artifacts, models, geographic models, aerial photographs, satellite-produced images, and geographic information systems.

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**Standard K-3:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the values that American **democracy** represents and upholds.

### Enduring Understanding

The core values of American **democracy** are reflected in the traditions and history of our country. To make connections among those traditions, history, and values, the student will utilize the knowledge and skills set forth in the following indicators:

### Indicators

- K-3.1 Recognize the significance of symbols of the United States that represent its democratic values, including the American flag, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, the Pledge of Allegiance, and “The Star-Spangled Banner.”
- K-3.2 Identify the reasons for our celebrating national holidays, including Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President’s Day, Memorial Day, and

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