K-5 Scope and Sequence

Kindergarten - Self and Family/Families Around the World
Students focus on developing positive attitudes about themselves, their families and families of diverse cultures.

First Grade - Neighborhoods and Communities Around the World
Students examine a variety of neighborhoods and recognize the multiple roles of individuals and families.

Second Grade - Regional Studies: Local, State, United States and World
Students study how communities may be linked through cultural, geographic and economic ties.

Third Grade - Citizenship: People Who Make a Difference
Students investigate contributions made to society by local, state, national and global leaders, as well as how leaders and communities confront and resolve problems.

Fourth Grade - North Carolina Geography and History
Students study the land as well as the diverse groups of people that have contributed to the development of North Carolina beginning with the American Indians up to the Revolutionary period.

Fifth Grade - United States History, Canada, Mexico and Central America
Students discover the history and history-makers of the United States while comparing and contrasting the social, economic and political institutions of Canada, Mexico and Central America.

Social Studies Skills

Social Studies skills are necessary for the development of social inquiry and rational decision making. The social studies skills include:
- Reading and vocabulary building
- Using research to gather, synthesize, and report
- Analyzing, interpreting, creating, and using resources
- Applying decision making and problem solving techniques
- Incorporating technology

Elementary Social Studies

Parent Tips for Developing Effective Citizens

K-12 Social Studies
Curriculum and Instruction
Department of Public Instruction

Public Schools of North Carolina
Department of Public Instruction
2006
Elementary Social Studies in the 21st Century

Elementary students are citizens of a world experiencing increasing amounts of information, varying cultural values, and growing interdependence among nations. Social studies in the K-5 classroom gives students the foundation for addressing the complexities of the 21st century. The purpose of social studies is to help develop the young person’s ability to make sound decisions.

The Social Studies Standard Course of Study was revised and approved in 2001. The Standard Course of Study specifies the required themes, goals, and objectives that are to be taught at each grade level.

ABCs of Elementary Social Studies

These ABC tips will help you support your child during their elementary years.

Ask questions about social studies expectations in your child’s school.
Buy puzzles of the United States and the world. Children will connect the pieces and places.
Congratulate your child when he/she demonstrates good character traits.
Discuss significant and possibly controversial issues with your child when questions arise.
Encourage your child to communicate with family and friends in a variety of ways (postal mail, email, phone).
Find out about groups of which your child may become a member.
Get involved by voting or joining a civic organization.
Help your child understand basic economic principles such as wants, needs, saving and spending.
Inform yourself and your child about events happening around the world.
Join a library with your child.
Keep maps and reference books close at hand.
Listen to questions and comments from your child. These become “teachable moments”.
Make a calendar or timeline to record important family events.
Notice and point out features like rivers, streams, forests and dunes while traveling.

Observe and talk about changes in the environment such as seasons and farming.
Plot family trips on a map. Let your child assist in planning the route.
Question the activities in which your child is involved.
Read non-fiction articles and books related to social studies with your child.
Stay informed on current events.
Tell family stories to build a sense of history.
Urge your child to become an active participant in home, school and community affairs.
Visit museums, historic landmarks and other interesting places in the community with your child.
Work with your child to set up rules at home and to understand their importance.
Xerox and keep safe birth certificates and family records.
Yield results by modeling and expecting good behavior.
Zip through local schedules to locate cultural events and festivals to attend.