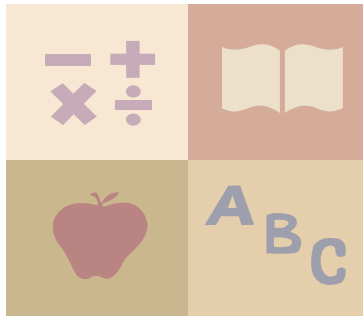


Harford County Public Schools

Meeting the Maryland State Department Voluntary State Curriculum Standards for Fourth Grade Social Studies



Fourth Grade

The social studies is an exciting field of study comprising many social science subjects, including: History, Political Science, Geography, and Economics. The Voluntary State Curriculum also provides information on skill development and multicultural education associated with the social studies. In fourth grade, students learn about the past and present political structures of Maryland, as well as the many cultural influences brought to Maryland from European, African, and Native settlers. Students also analyze the economic growth and changes in the population of Maryland over time and examine the chronology and significant events/people that have influenced Maryland in the past and the present.

**Jacqueline C. Haas, Ed.D.,
Superintendent**

Fourth Grade

Political Science

To understand the historical development and current status of the democratic principles and development of skills and attitudes necessary to become a responsible citizen, students will:

- trace how the political structure in early Maryland developed and changed over time
- analyze the documents, and democratic ideas that developed in the Maryland Colony
- analyze the role of Maryland government regarding public policy and issues
- analyze how individuals and groups contributed to the political system in Maryland
- defend the importance of civic participation as a citizen of Maryland
- describe rights and responsibilities of being a citizen in Maryland
- explain how Maryland government protects the rights of individuals and groups



Peoples of the Nations and World

To understand the diversity and commonality, human interdependence, and global cooperation of the people of Maryland, the United States, and the World through a multicultural and a historic perspective, students will:

- describe the various cultures of early societies of Maryland
- analyze how Maryland society was influenced by the contributions of people and groups
- describe cultural characteristics of various groups of people in Maryland
- evaluate how various perspectives of Marylanders can cause compromise and/or conflict

Geography

To understand geographic concepts and processes to examine the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location and distribution of human activities and spatial connections throughout time, students will:

- use geographic tools to locate places and describe the human and physical characteristics of those places
- describe similarities and differences of regions by using geographic characteristics
- describe and analyze population growth, migration, and settlement patterns in Maryland and regions of the United States
- describe how people adapt to, modify and impact the natural environment

Economics

To understand the development of economic reasoning and the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world, students will:

- explain that people must make choices because resources are limited relative to economic wants for goods and services in Maryland, past and present
- explain how limited economic resources are used to produce goods and services to satisfy economic wants in Maryland
- explain how technological changes have affected production and consumption in Maryland
- describe regional economic specialization in Maryland and the ways people live and work
- describe the types of economic systems in Maryland
- describe the role of government in regulating economic activity and providing goods and services
- examine the progression from a barter system to a money economy in Colonial America



History

To understand significant ideas, beliefs, and themes; to organize patterns and events; and analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time in Maryland and the United States, students will:

- analyze the chronology and significance of key historical events leading to early settlement in Maryland
- compare Native American societies in Maryland before and after European colonization
- examine the consequences of interactions among groups and cultures in Maryland
- explain the political, cultural, economic, and social changes in Maryland during the early 1800s

Social Studies Skills

To understand reading, writing, and thinking processes and skills; to gain knowledge and understanding of political, historical, and current events using chronological and spatial thinking, economic reasoning, and historical interpretation; and framing and evaluating questions from primary and secondary sources, students will:

- use appropriate strategies and opportunities to increase understandings of social studies vocabulary
- use strategies to prepare for reading (before reading)
- use strategies to monitor understanding and derive meaning from text and portions of text (during reading)
- use strategies to demonstrate understanding of the text (after reading)
- use informal writing strategies, such as journal writing, note taking, quick writes, and graphic organizers to clarify, organize, remember, and/or express new understandings
- use formal writing, such as multi-paragraph essays, historical investigations, research reports, letters, and summaries to inform
- use formal writing, such as multi-paragraph essays, historical investigations, editorials, and letters to persuade
- use timed, on-demand writing to demonstrate understanding on assessments (Constructed Responses)
- identify a topic/situation/problem that requires further study
- identify primary and secondary sources of information that relate to the topic/situation/problem being studied
- engage in field work that relates to the topic/situation/problem being studied
- organize information from print and non-print sources
- interpret information from primary and secondary sources
- evaluate and synthesize information from a variety of sources
- describe how the country has changed over time and how people have contributed to its change, drawing from maps, photographs, newspapers, and other sources
- use historic contexts to answer questions
- use current events/issues to answer questions

