

# Parents' Guide to Student Success in *Social Studies*

## **First Grade**

### **Why Are Academic Standards Important?**

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

### **Here are Some Things Your Child Will Be Working on in First Grade**

- Introduction to United States history through the study of selected historical figures
- Important contributions each historical figure made
- Where these historical figures lived
- Basic geographic concepts
- Basic economic concepts



### **Keeping the Conversation Focused:**

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything instead keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In First Grade, these include:

- History
- Geography
- Economics
- Civics & Government

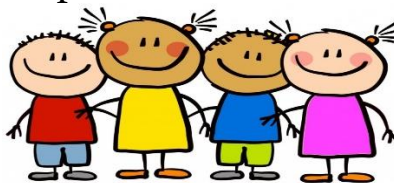
### **Help Your Child Learn at Home**

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

- Read to and/or with your child daily quality text that is aligned to the curriculum topics.
- Discuss the contributions made by selected historical figures in American history and how everyday life of these figures is similar to and different from everyday life in the present (ex. food, clothing, homes, transportation, communication, recreation, etc.)
- Describe how each historical figure was influenced by his or her time and place
- Describe how the historical figures displayed positive character traits such as: fairness, respect for others, respect for the environment, courage, equality, tolerance, perseverance, and commitment
- Use a map or globe to locate major topographical features of the earth's surface
  - All continents: North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Antarctica, Australia
  - Major Oceans: Arctic, Atlantic, Pacific, Indian
  - Landforms: mountains, deserts, valleys, coasts

# First Grade

## Nine Week Checkpoints for Parents and Students



Helpful Websites	
<a href="https://www.monticello.org/house-gardens/virtual-tours-of-monticello/">https://www.monticello.org/house-gardens/virtual-tours-of-monticello/</a> <a href="https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/national-parks/">https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/national-parks/</a> <a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/map-skills-elementary-students/">https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/map-skills-elementary-students/</a>	
First Nine Weeks	Second Nine Weeks
<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and locate the student's city, county, state, nation (country), and continent on a simple map or globe</li> <li>Explore the concept of patriotism through the words in the songs America (My Country 'Tis of Thee) and America the Beautiful.</li> <li>Read about and describe the life of historical figures in American History (Benjamin Franklin, George Washington Carver, Thomas Jefferson) and describe how everyday life of these historical figures is similar to and different from everyday life in the present</li> <li>Describe how the historical figures displayed positive character traits</li> </ul>	<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read about and describe the life of historical figures in American History (Thomas Jefferson, Lewis &amp; Clark w/ Sacagawea, Ruby Bridges) and describe how everyday life of these historical figures is similar to and different from everyday life in the present</li> <li>Describe how the historical figures displayed positive character traits</li> <li>Identify goods that people make and services that people provide for each other</li> <li>Explain that scarcity is when unlimited wants are greater than limited resources</li> <li>Describe how people are both producers and consumers</li> <li>Explain that people earn income by working and that must make choices about how much to save and spend</li> </ul>
Third Nine Weeks	Fourth Nine Weeks
<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read about and describe the life of historical figures in American History (Theodore Roosevelt) and describe how everyday life of these historical figures is similar to and different from everyday life in the present</li> <li>Describe how the historical figures displayed positive character traits</li> <li>Identify goods that people make and services that people provide for each other</li> <li>Explain that scarcity is when unlimited wants are greater than limited resources</li> </ul>	<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and locate the student's city, county, state, nation (country), and continent on a simple map or globe</li> <li>Locate major topographical features of the earth's surface</li> <li>Identify and locate the student's city, county, state, nation (country), and continent on a simple map or globe</li> <li>Describe how the historical figures displayed positive character traits</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe how people are both producers and consumers</li><li>• Explain that people earn income by working and that must make choices about how much to save and spend</li></ul>	
---	--