

# **1st Grade Social Studies Essential Outcomes**

## **District Created**

### **Trimester 1 - Rules and Citizenship**

Students will:

- Identify and explain the student's responsibilities to family and how families develop and change rules.
- Understand how to be a good citizen at home and in the classroom.

### **Trimester 2 - Map Skills**

Students will:

- The student can use reference points, and directions to identify various representations of the earth's surface.
- The student can use maps to represent the community.

### **Trimester 3 - Introduction to United States History, Symbols, and Events**

Students will:

- Explain the significance of national symbols.
- Identify and describe important events and famous people

# **2nd Grade Social Studies Essential Outcomes**

## **District Created**

### **Trimester 1 - Civics**

Students will:

- Understand the basic components of a community, different types of communities and why a community is important.
- Understand the basic purpose of a government and rules.
- Understand what it means to be a good citizen in the community.

### **Trimester 2 - Geography**

Students will:

- Understand and apply basic mapping elements such as compass rose, labels, and a key to read and construct maps that display information.
- Identify the 7 continents and 5 oceans on a world map.

### **Trimester 3 - United States Immigration**

Students will:

- Understand individuals who have shaped US history
- Demonstrate how to read and create a timeline.
- Understand why and how past inventions have changed over time.

# 3rd Grade Social Studies Essential Questions

## District Created

### Trimester 1 - Geography

- What is the geography of North America?
- What are the physical features, climate, traditions, and natural resources found in the United States?
- What are the regions of the United States?
- What are the 5 Themes of Geography (embedded in our US regions lessons)?
  - Location -- Where are things located?
  - Place -- What makes a place different from other places?
  - Human-environment interaction -- What are the relationships among people and places?
  - Movement -- What are the patterns of movement of people, products, and information?
  - Regions -- How is the United States divided into regions?

### Trimester 2 - First Nation (Native Americans)

- Why did people first migrate to the Americas?
- How does the physical surrounding effect the people living in an area?
- How do the Native Americans in a given tribe meet their basic needs?
- How are Native American tribes alike and different?

### Trimester 3 - United States Immigration

- What is an immigrant?
- Why did people leave their land?
- What brought people to America? (push/pull factors)
- What is Ellis Island? What did immigrants face when arriving?

# **4th Grade Social Studies Essential Questions**

## **Using Wisconsin Historical Society Curriculum**

### **Trimester 1- Exploring Wisconsin**

- Wisconsin's Geography
  - What are characteristics of Wisconsin's 5 regions and identify them on a map?
- Wisconsin's Native Americans
  - Who were the first people of Wisconsin and how did they use their environment to meet their basic needs?
- Wisconsin's Explorers/Fur Traders
  - Who were Wisconsin's first explorers?
  - Why did they come to the states?
  - Where did they explore?

### **Trimester 2 - Wisconsin's Early People**

- Wisconsin's Immigration/Statehood
  - Who were the immigrants?
  - Why did they come to Wisconsin?
  - Where did they settle?
- Wisconsin's Natural Resources
  - What are Wisconsin's natural resources and how do they affect the way people live and work?
- Wisconsin's Industry
  - How did Wisconsin's industries help cities grow?

### **Trimester 3 - Wisconsin Today**

- Wisconsin's Agriculture
  - What are Wisconsin's primary agricultural products?
- Wisconsin's Government
  - How is Wisconsin's government created and structured?
- Celebrating Wisconsin
  - What makes Wisconsin unique?

# **5th Grade Social Studies Essential Questions**

## **Foundation created by National Geographic curriculum**

### **Unit 1- Essentials of Geography**

- How do geographers think about the world?
- How do people use geography?
- How has geography influenced cultures around the world? (Cultures, Religions, Economic, Political)

### **Unit 2 - North America**

- What are the significant physical features of North America?
- How did the United States and Canada develop as nations?
- How have various cultures influenced Mexico's history?
- What issues do the United States and Canada face today?
- How has globalization affected Mexico?

### **Unit 3 - Central America and the Caribbean**

- How has physical geography been a positive or negative influence on Central America and the Caribbean?
- How has the economic resources influenced the history of Central America and the Caribbean?
- How do trade and globalization affect the cultures of Central America and the Caribbean?
- How is Central America and the Caribbean countries trying to improve the standard of living?

### **Unit 4 - South America**

- How does elevation influence climate in South America?
- How did mountains, plateaus, and rivers shape South America's history?
- In what ways is South America culturally diverse?
- How is modern South America building its economies?

### **Unit 5 - Europe**

- How did Europe's physical geography encourage interactions with other regions?
- How did European thought shape Western civilization?
- How did Europe develop and extend its influence around the world?
- How is the diversity of Europe reflected in its cultural achievements?

- What are the costs and benefits of European unification?

### **Unit 6 - Russia and the Eurasian Republics**

- How have size and extreme climates shaped Russia and the Eurasian republics?
- How has geographic isolation influenced the Russia and the Eurasian republic's history?
- What features have influenced Russian cultures (size, climates, etc...)?
- How have Russia and the Eurasian republics dealt with recent political, economic, and environmental challenges?

### **Unit 7 - Junior Achievement - Biz Town Essential Outcomes**

- Students will begin to understand the basics of deposits, checks, withdrawals and electronic banking and bank-cards.
- Students are introduced to basic economic concepts and discuss the impact of taxes and philanthropy.
- Students are introduced to the concept of circular flow of money and goods within an economy.
- Students will explore how their skills and interests lead individuals into jobs and careers.
- Students will work in business teams to learn about operating a successful business, setting prices to achieve a profit, and using advertising to bring in revenue.
- Students actively participate in a real-life simulation summarizing the essential outcomes in BizTown.

# **6th Grade Social Studies Essential Questions**

## **Using National Geographic curriculum**

### **Unit 1 - Sub-Saharan Africa**

- How has the varied geography of sub-Saharan Africa affected people's lives?
- How did trade networks and migration influence the development of African civilization?
- What historical and geographic factors have influenced the cultures of sub-Saharan Africa?
- How have conflict and government instability slowed economic development in sub-Saharan Africa?

### **Unit 2 - Southwest Asia & North Africa**

- How have climate and location influenced the region in the past and today?
- How did civilizations develop in Southwest Asia and North Africa?
- How have resources and migration shaped culture in Southwest Asia and North Africa?
- What forces have affected the development of modern countries in the region?

### **Unit 3 - South Asia**

- How do South Asia's water systems affect how people in the region live?
- How have physical features, religion, and empires shaped South Asia's borders?
- How is diversity reflected in South Asia's cultures?
- Why has India experienced an economic boom?
- What are some effects of South Asia's rapid changes?

### **Unit 4 - East Asia**

- How did geographic factors affect population distribution?
- What influences, beliefs, and encounters helped shape China?
- What factors had an impact on the histories of Japan and Korea?
- How do traditions and modernization create a unique way of life in East Asia?
- What problems does East Asia face today, and what are its opportunities?

### **Unit 5 - Southeast Asia**

- What are the geographic conditions that divide Southeast Asia into many different parts?
- How have physical barriers in Southeast Asia influenced its history?
- How have local traditions and outside influences shaped cultures in Southeast Asia?
- How are Southeast Asia's governments trying to unify their countries?

# **7th Grade Social Studies Essential Questions**

## **Using Discovery Education Curriculum**

### **Unit 1 - Colonization**

- What are the most important geographic characteristics of the United States?
- In what ways were the cultural traditions of Native Americans, Europeans, and West Africans alike and different?
- How did interaction between European, African, and Native American cultures shape early American history?
- Why did some Europeans choose to leave home and settle in colonial America?
- How did geography affect daily life in the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies?
- How did life there compare with other colonial regions?
- For various groups, what did it mean to be "American" in 1750?

### **Unit 2 - Causes of the American Revolution**

- In what ways were the colonies becoming their own nation before 1763?
- In what ways were they still part of the British Empire?
- Why did the colonists risk their lives to fight for independence from Great Britain?
- How does the Declaration of Independence reflect the colonists' ideas about government?

### **Unit 3 - American Revolution**

- How did the United States manage to win the Revolutionary War?
- What roles did different groups of Americans play in the Revolutionary War?

### **Unit 4 - Challenges of a New Nation**

- How well did the Articles of Confederation address the needs of the new nation?
- How did decisions made at the Constitutional Convention affect the balance of power in the new nation?
- How does the Constitution reflect major principles of American democracy?

### **Unit 5 - Westward Expansion**

- What impact did the addition of new territories have on the new nation?
- Did the benefits of American expansion outweigh the costs?



# **8th Grade Social Studies Essential Questions**

## **Using Discovery Education and We the People curriculum**

### **Unit 1 - United States Constitution**

- How did the nation's early problems reveal different philosophies about government?
- What is the rights and responsibility of each branch of government and how they interact/balance each other?
- What are the rights and responsibilities given to us by the Constitution?

### **Unit 2 - Westward Expansion and Industrialization**

- What impact did Manifest Destiny have on the growth and development of the United States?
- What effect did the admission of Texas and Oregon have on the United States?
- Did the benefits of technological advances made during the Industrial Revolution outweigh the costs?
- How did the reform movements of the 1840s change American society?

### **Unit 3 - Civil War and Reconstruction**

- In America, what did it mean to be an enslaved person? A free African American?
- How did geographical, economic, and political differences between the North and the South lead to conflict?
- How did the Union win the Civil War?
- To what extent was the Civil War America's second revolution?
- What problems did Reconstruction resolve? What problems did it fail to resolve?
- How did the end of Reconstruction affect the lives of future generations of Americans?