



Grade 2 Overview: Global Geography- Places and Peoples, Cultures and Resources

Second grade students build on their Pre-K to grade 1 learning by concentrating on global geography, looking at reasons why people move or settle in particular places, how they keep cultural traditions alive, and how they use resources. They study these topics by exploring questions such as “What can people and cultures of other parts of the world teach us?” and “What do people do with the money they earn?”

Grade 2 Standards for History & Social Sciences

Topic	Description of Standards + Topic Covered
<p>Topic 1 Reading and Making Maps</p>	<p><i>What do maps show?</i> Second graders explain the kinds of information provided by components of a map (e.g., compass rose/cardinal directions, scale, key/legend, title) and give examples of how maps can show relationships between humans and the environment (e.g., travel, roads, natural resources, agriculture, mining). They learn to compare different kinds of map projections (e.g., Mercator, Peters) and explain how they represent the world differently. They create maps of a familiar location (e.g., the school, the neighborhood, a park).</p>
<p>Topic 2 Geography and its effects on people</p>	<p><i>How do people adapt to or change their environment?</i> On a map of the world and on a globe, students can locate all the continents and some major physical characteristics on each continent (e.g., lakes, seas, bays, rivers and tributaries, mountains and mountain ranges, and peninsulas, deserts, plains). They can also locate the oceans of the world, and explain the importance of oceans and how they make the world habitable. Second graders learn how the location of landforms and bodies of water helps determine conditions (i.e., climate, weather, vegetation) for habitable living and describe human interaction with the physical world. They learn how humans either adapt to or change the environment to meet their needs for survival and living and why humans prefer to settle by rivers, bodies of water, and in or near certain landforms</p>
<p>Topic 3 History: migrations and cultures</p>	<p><i>What are the different reasons people choose to settle in a community?</i> Second graders investigate reasons why people migrate to different places around the world, both voluntary and forced migration. They explore informational texts or primary sources in which people migrate or move in order to solve a problem, such as moving to be closer to relatives and friends, to be safe, to find a less expensive, healthier, or better place to live, etc. They learn about the hardships people face that might be addressed by migration. They explore why the United States is called “a nation of immigrants”, explaining why people move to a new location or stay in a particular location and what they bring with them. Second graders explore the significant impacts of migration and identify elements that define the culture of a society and how these contributions enrich a community.</p>
<p>Topic 4 Civics in the context of geography: countries and governments</p>	<p><i>Why are continents divided into countries?</i> Second graders learn the difference between physical geography and political geography, as well as the characteristics of a country. They explore characteristics that make up a country (e.g., government, leaders, citizens), some purposes of government (e.g., to provide security and education) and how one country distinguishes itself from others (e.g., by its history, culture, language, type of government). They learn about and conduct research on the physical features, resources, and people of a country outside the United States.</p>
<p>Topic 5 Economics: resources and choices</p>	<p><i>How do the resources of an area affect its industries and jobs?</i> Continuing their learning in grade one, second graders explore resources and basic principles of an economy, for example, earning and saving money and buying goods and services. They learn about the connection between geography and economics, and that natural resources (both renewable and nonrenewable) can be specific to the geography of a place and can influence its economic activities. Second graders explore the idea of earning income through the sale and use of various goods and services, and how people choose between them. They compare and contrast the different reasons people save some of their money.</p>



Grade 2 History & Social Sciences Standards

Standards for History & Social Science Practice

1. Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
2. Develop focused questions or problem statements and conduct inquiries.
3. Organize information and data from multiple primary and secondary sources.
4. Analyze the purpose and point of view of each source; distinguish opinion from fact.
5. Evaluate the credibility, accuracy, and relevance of each source.
6. Argue or explain conclusions, using valid reasoning and evidence.
7. Determine next steps and take informed action, as appropriate.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

1 **Teach** students about the legacy of democratic government.

2 **Incorporate** diverse perspectives & acknowledges that perceptions of events are affected by race, ethnicity, culture, religion, education, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and personal experience.

3 Every student **deserves** to study history & social science every year, from pre-K-12.

4 **Teach** students to think historically.

5 **Integrate** knowledge from many fields of study.

6 **Build** students' capacities for research, reasoning, making logical arguments, & thinking for themselves.

7 **Improve** reading Comprehension by increasing students' content knowledge

8 **Incorporate** the study of current events and news/media literacy

9 **Teach** students about using data analysis and digital tools as research and presentation techniques in the social sciences.

10 **Develop** social and emotional skills.