



Kindergarten Overview: Leadership, Cooperation, Unity and Diversity

Kindergarten students begin their social studies education by learning about classroom democracy, local geography, traditions of the United States and community, and economics in the context of work and money. They study these topics by exploring guiding questions such as, “Why is it important to be fair to other people?” Students learn to articulate their place as individuals in society that has respect for one another and characterize their experiences as members of their families, school, community, state, and country.

Kindergarten Standards for History & Social Sciences

Topic	Description of Standards + Topic Covered
Topic 1 Civics: classroom citizenship	<p><i>What does it mean to be responsible?</i></p> <p>Kindergarten students develop an understanding about how to follow rules, limits, and expectations of their environment, as well as the reasons for these rules. Students take on responsibilities and follow through on them, while being helpful to and respectful of others. They are engaged with texts read aloud that exhibit examples of characters who show authority, fairness, caring, justice, responsibility, or who show how rules are created and followed. They explore books to gain information about national symbols, songs, and texts of the United States:</p>
Topic 2 Geography: connections among places	<p><i>How do maps, globes, and photographs show different things about a place?</i></p> <p>Kindergarteners learn to correctly use positional words and phrases such as up, down, near, far, left, right, straight, back, behind, in front of, next to, and between. They examine the similarities and differences between maps and globes, and learn to identify the elements of a physical address, including the street name and number, the city or town, the state of Massachusetts and the United States. They learn map skills in order to identify the town in which they live and the Pentucket region, as well as how to locate their school. Students create their own drawings or other representations to show and explain to others the location of important places and relationships among places in the immediate neighborhood of their home or school.</p>
Topic 3 History: shared traditions	<p><i>How do we commemorate our shared history as a nation and community?</i></p> <p>Students study how civic holidays are special because they celebrate important events or people in history. They contrast and compare traditions and celebrations of peoples with diverse cultural backgrounds. Kindergarteners learn to use temporal words, putting events from their personal lives, observations of the natural world, and from stories in temporal order.</p>
Topic 4 Economics: work and commerce	<p><i>What kinds of work do women, men, and children do?</i></p> <p>Kindergarteners explore the basic principles of an economy, including some things people do when they work inside and outside of the home. Students learn about buying, selling or trading something and explain how people make choices about the things they need and want. They use personal experiences and examples from text to identify goods and services that people might purchase with money they earn from working.</p>



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.