



SOCIAL STUDIES

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FOR FAMILIES

FIRST GRADE

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support social studies learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!

What to expect:

In first grade, children are becoming more independent as their reading skills improve and they are able to focus for longer periods of time. At this stage, they are ready to learn more about citizenship, economics, geography and history. They enjoy everyday tasks like cooking and taking photos, and school activities such as dressing up in career-related uniforms. First-graders ask many "what if?" questions but also need structured learning activities. This information is a snapshot of learning in first-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Know the main reasons why we have a government with rules and laws with consequences for when they are broken.
- Explain the need for money, how we earn money, how money and credit can be used to meet needs and wants, and the costs and benefits of spending and saving.
- Compare the manmade and geographical features of urban and rural communities.
- Use the cardinal directions of east, west, north and south to locate specific places on a map.
- Understand the importance of people and places from history. (For example, Washington, D.C., is the capital city for the United States.)
- Begin to understand how to put events in time order.

What to do at home:

- Read a story with your child and ask them to repeat or act out the highlights using the correct sequence of events.
- Use cardinal directions east, west, north and south in familiar places. (For example: "Turn west after you pass the park" or "Go to the south entrance of the store.")
- Discuss family rules and the consequences for breaking them.
- Start a savings account for your child and ask them to notice when and why the balance goes up and down.
- Help your child locate the seven continents and five oceans on a map or globe.
- Ask your child to describe geographic and manmade features they see in urban and rural areas.



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to develop curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- If you could build a treehouse for you and your friends, how would you design it?
- If you could ask an animal any question, what question would you ask and what animal would you ask?
- Would you rather visit a beach or go to the mountains? Why?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- If you wrote a book, what would it be about? Why?
- If you designed clothes, what would they look like?
- What makes you laugh?

Fostering Comprehension

Children who are on their way to becoming confident readers need time to read alone and with others. Take time as a family to talk about books, comics and other types of print with young readers. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?

AFTER READING

- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What did you learn from the book?
- Does it remind you of any other books you have read?

Join the conversation!

@oksde