



SOCIAL STUDIES

2

FOR FAMILIES

SECOND GRADE

What to expect:

In second grade, children are beginning to ask more in-depth questions as their learning continues to grow. By asking questions about the world around them, new and exciting learning experiences take shape as they learn about citizenship, economics, geography and history. At this age, students are interested in how things work and do well with hands-on tasks. Second-graders also enjoy learning through games. Their listening skills are growing, which means they are better able to join in class discussions. This information is a snapshot of learning in second-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

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

- Be able to summarize the five key individual rights and liberties protected under the First Amendment.
- Understand the roles of national leaders, including the President of the United States, members of Congress and justices of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Describe the relationship between taxes and the community services they pay for, such as roads and bridges.
- Point out the state of Oklahoma, its major cities and the states bordering it on a map.
- Point out landforms and bodies of water in the world around them and on a map.
- Describe how people make changes in the environment to meet community needs (for example, building a drain to help with flooding).
- Understand and give examples of the concept of supply and demand (for example, when less gasoline is produced, it becomes more expensive).

What to do at home:

- Talk about community services like fire stations and schools paid for by taxes.
- Ask your child to find examples of First Amendment rights in current events.
- Discuss ways people can make changes in the environment (by building a dam, for example).
- Visit bodies of water like ponds, lakes and rivers and landforms like plateaus, valleys and hills.
- Discuss ways people pay for goods and services (for example, with cash, credit or trade).

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!



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture 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:

- What do you notice or wonder about in your community?
- What is your favorite place to spend time? Why?
- If you could change any rule, what rule would you change and 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:

- What is your favorite outfit or shoes and why?
- What should we make for dinner on your birthday?
- What is your favorite toy and why?

Fostering Comprehension

As children continue to strengthen their reading skills, they benefit from reading independently and with adults. Sharing a variety of print materials – books, comics, etc. – helps them explore new words and ideas. 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?
- What kind of book is this?

DURING READING

- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?
- What do you notice about the characters?

AFTER READING

- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

Join the conversation!

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