



# SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

**Y**OU 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 about learning in the classroom and how to support that learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

## FOURTH GRADE

### **What to expect:**

At this age, children are widening their view of the world, taking on more responsibility for organizing their work and creating questions to guide their own learning. In fourth grade, students will examine the physical, cultural, political, economic and historic development of the United States, including early European contact with American Indians.

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

- Identify and locate U.S. landforms, bodies of water and unique natural features.
- Identify and locate states and major cities.
- Describe natural resources in the United States and how they impact the economy of each region in industries like fishing, farming, ranching, mining, manufacturing, tourism, wind, and oil and gas.
- Summarize Americans interact with their environment in terms of housing, industry, transportation, bridges, dams, tunnels, canals, etc.
- Describe the various races and ethnicities of the people of the United States.
- Summarize the reasons for key European expeditions and their impact on the development and culture of each region.
- Identify major American Indian groups and their ways of life.
- Identify and evaluate instances of cooperation and conflict between American Indian groups and European settlers.

### **What to do at home:**

- Explore natural resources in your neighborhood and community, and notice cultural influences on street signs.
- Play games or put together puzzles that identify states, major cities and transportation routes
- Give your child the opportunity to experience conflict and cooperation.
- Locate professional sports teams of interest to your child on a map.
- Create a map of your house, school or community.
- Read books about places, resources, monuments and landmarks in the United States.
- Compare your community to others in the United States.
- Describe how people in your community interact with the environment.
- Visit local landmarks, museums, festivals or other community celebrations.



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### Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want 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 spark curiosity, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What natural resources are present in your community? How do they affect your area?
- If you opened a store, what would you sell and why?
- If you could make up a new holiday, what would it be?

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

### Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

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

- What is the most exciting adventure you could take?
- Who would you take with you on the adventure?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone today?

### Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help fourth-graders understand what they are reading.

#### BEFORE READING

- Skim through the book and chapter titles. What do you think the book will be about?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What type of book did you choose (fiction, biography, graphic novel, etc.)? Why?

#### DURING READING

- What do you think will happen in the next chapter?
- Who is the main character? Who are the supporting characters?
- What words can I help you understand?

#### AFTER READING

- Could this story take place in today's world? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author wants the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you were one of the characters in the book, how would you have ended the story? Why?