



An At-Home Guide for Families

Kindergarten Social Studies in North Carolina Public Schools

Content Outline

At the end of the year, my child will know...

Behavioral Sciences

- how to list three components of culture - the way a group of people speak, eat, and dress.
- how to identify and explain cultural practices that exist in the local community.
- how to write words and/or draw pictures describing their own culture in terms of the clothing they wear, food they eat, and way they speak.
- how to compare aspects of their own culture with another culture and identify at least one difference in each category (clothing, food, language).

Civics and Government

- how to give examples of rules and how we work together to follow them in our classroom, families, and community.
- how to tell three reasons why we follow rules (to be safe, fair, and respectful of others).
- how to identify the benefits of following rules when presented in a written source.
- how to identify ways people work together to improve classrooms and communities.
- how to identify the key information about news articles and stories.
- how to use their understanding of details in news articles and stories to explain how we can work together to improve our lives.

Economics

- how to identify the influence of needs and wants on how people spend money and make decisions.
- how to select examples of needs and wants
- how to recognize that individuals and families earn money needed to purchase needs and wants through a variety of ways.
- how to recognize various ways of obtaining and spending money.
- how to list examples and describe the difference between goods and services.
- how to discuss how jobs provide the money to meet people's needs and wants.

Geography

- how to describe the differences between maps, globes, and/or digital representations.
- how to identify the map scale and explain the purpose of it.
- how to use maps, globes, and/or digital representations to locate places in the classroom, school, and around the world.
- how to identify and define physical features.
- how to locate and read the map, globe, and/or digital representation's legend or key.
- how to use maps, globes, and/or digital representations to identify physical features.
- how to identify positional words and know their meaning.



- how to identify locations in the classroom, community, and around the world with positional words.
- how to define natural resources, state their purpose, and provide examples.
- how to identify how people around the world use natural resources.
- how to describe environmental factors in different geographical settings.
- how to identify the equator and understand how the location's distance from it affects the weather.
- how to explain how the environment influences people to move from place to place.





History

- how to explain the ways in which people change over time.
- how to explain how different events have impacted history in the United States.
- how to explain how different events have impacted history around the world.
- how to identify similarities and differences between life today and life in the past.










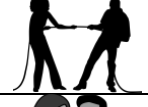


Curious what the specific standards are for Kindergarten Social Studies in North Carolina?

Check out the [North Carolina Standard Course of Study](#) to learn more. Looking for additional explanations about what students should be able to do at the end of this course? Check out [NC DPI's unpacked contents document](#) aligned to the course standards.



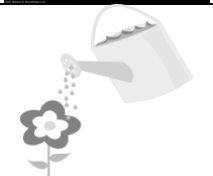








Key Vocabulary

Visual	Term	Definition
	Culture	The way a group of people live. Important parts of culture include the things people eat, the way they speak, and the way they dress.
	Community	a group of people that live near one another
	Cultural Practices	Specific ways a culture expresses themselves. This includes the way people speak, eat, and dress.
	Region	a certain area, like a specific area in a state






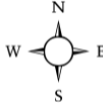










Visual	Term	Definition
	Tribe	A group of people, normally made up of families, that have similar interests
	Dialect	The way a language is spoken in a specific area or region
	Rule	how we should act
	Community	the people where you live, go to school, or play
	Digital	using an electronic device
	Safe	protected
	Fair	everyone gets what they need
	Respect	honoring others' feelings and thoughts
	Consequence	the results of an action
	Conflict	a disagreement or fight
	Discuss	talking about something with a another person or persons and listening to their thoughts too
	Brainstorm	plan by thinking of as many ideas as you can about a topic or problem







Visual	Term	Definition
	Need	things you must have in order to survive
	Want	things you would like to have but can live without
	Survive	things we need to do in order to stay alive
	Earn	to get something in return for a service
	Money	what people use to buy things or services
	Community	a group of people that live and work together in the same area
	Job	an activity or task that a person is responsible to complete
	Save	keeping money in a safe place
	Spend	using money to purchase goods or services
	Goods	objects that you buy to use or keep
	Service	jobs that you pay someone to do



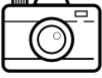





Visual	Term	Definition
	Choice	to pick between different goods or services
	Cost	the amount of money paid for something
	Map	a picture of a place or thing
	Globe	a round object that looks like the earth
	Map Scale	a tool on a map that shows you how far you are
	Cardinal Directions	north, south, east, and west
	Digital Representation	a picture of the map of a place on a phone or computer screen like a GPS
	Physical Feature	landforms like mountains, islands, valleys, and rivers
	Map Key	the legend located on the map that explains the symbols and colors on the map
	Positional Words	words that tell you where to go or look
	Above	over the top or north of the location
	Below	the area under or south of the location
	Right	a location that is opposite of left
	Left	a location that is opposite of right



Visual	Term	Definition
	Natural Resources	things we get from the earth that help us in our daily life
	Coal	a natural resource found in the earth that helps give us electricity such as lights
	Timber	a natural resource found in the earth we get from trees that we use to build houses
	Natural Gas	a natural resource found in the earth that we use to heat our homes
	Environmental Factors	things like pollution, weather, and food that affect everyday living
	Pollution	smoke and trash that can harm people and the earth
	North and South Pole	points that are located on the middle of the top and bottom of the earth
	Weather	what the sky and the air outside are like, such as warm, cold, or raining
	Change	to make or become different
	Past	something that has already happened
	Present	something that is happening now
	Future	something that has not yet happened
	Event	something that happened
	History	events that happened in the past



Visual	Term	Definition
	United States	a country with 50 states in North America
	World	the 195 countries that make up the Earth
	Primary Source	information directly from people who experienced an event
	Evolve	to change over time
	Similar	things that are the same or alike
	Different	things that are not the same or alike

Learning in Action: Grade Level Skills

Examples of Grade Level Skills

Behavioral Sciences Standards Task Example:

Read a story whose main character is a child from another culture. Create a venn diagram to compare and contrast the daily life of the story's main character to a child's daily life in your own culture.

What skill will the student learn?

How to compare aspects (clothing, food, language) of their own culture with aspects of another culture.



Economics Standards Task Example:

Choose a job that interests you. Using books or videos, research what someone with this job does to help the community. Create a picture collage of ways that this job can provide for the needs or wants of others. Present your completed collage to the class to share what you have learned about this job.

What skill will the student learn?

How jobs provide resources to the community.
How jobs provide the money to meet people’s needs and wants.

History Standards Task Example:

Create a timeline to represent important changes and milestones that have occurred in your life (ie: birth, crawling, waking, losing your first tooth, first day of school). Sequence the events in order and illustrate each event with photos, drawings, or artifacts.

What skill will the student learn?

How to explain the ways in which people change over time.

Resources

Links and online resources to allow you to support your child’s learning.

- [Ducksters - Geography for Kids](#)
- [Khan Academy Kids - Social Emotional Learning](#)
- [National Geographic Kids](#)
- [PBS Kids - Elementary Social Studies](#)

At-Home Connections

- Engage in conversations about their learning by asking questions:
 - Tell me what you are learning.
 - Tell me what this reminds you of.
 - Tell me some questions you have about what you are learning.
 - Tell me how I can help you learn more about what you are studying.
- Connect the course content to the real world:



- Attend events in your community that celebrate cultural traditions that are different from your own. Discuss the similarities and differences between the featured culture and your own.
- Discuss positive and negative consequences of decisions made by characters in books or television shows.
- Ask your child to classify the items on your shopping list as needs or wants.
- Ask your child to identify businesses they encounter as providing either goods or services to their customers.
- Discuss with your child the ways that you have experienced changes in the world around you from the past to the present.
- Encourage your child to read the map as you travel and help give you directions.

Challenges to Anticipate

Social studies is the study of how people interact with one another and the world around them. In kindergarten, students are learning to compare and contrast their own lives with the lives of those around them. Sometimes they can have a hard time understanding that their cultural norms are not necessarily the norms of others, and need to learn that it is okay for there to be differences among people, and that those differences should be respected.

When learning the basics of economics, kindergarteners need explicit instruction on needs vs. wants. Some things are very easy to determine the category (ie: medicine is a need, but a basketball is a want). However, other things may fall into a gray area where they could go either way - encourage your child to discuss their reasoning with you and allow them to see both points of view (ie: a basketball is wanted for entertainment but may be a need if you are on a basketball team and need to practice your dribbling skills at home). Students may also need help understanding how money (bills and coins) are used in society if they are only accustomed to seeing their families pay via credit or with debit cards.

When learning about how to read maps, some students who have not yet mastered determining the difference between left and right may struggle to give or follow directions on a map. Encourage them not to give up, as this is developmentally appropriate; instead, create visual cue cards on a piece of paper for them to reference.

Communicating with Your Child's Teacher

Still feeling stuck? Reach out to your child's teacher to discuss what you can do further your child's learning. Some questions that might guide your discussion:

- What resources would you suggest I use to support my child?
- Where do you see my child struggling? What can we do together to help?
- What should my child practice at home?
- What collective message can we send together to help my child learn?



Need Technical Help?

Reach out to your student's home school for technical assistance. Include the type of device (PC, Mac, Chromebook, etc.) and browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.).

Citations

Images from Canva for Education, the Noun Project and Google Drawings