

A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for Second Grade Social Studies. This guide offers some learning experiences students may engage in during this school year, experiences that may also be supported at home.

Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas – emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

Social Studies for Elementary Schools (k-5)

The social studies standards in the elementary years begin with individuals and families and move from there to explorations of neighborhoods, communities, the state of Colorado, and the United States. In each grade students investigate historical events, examine geographic features and resources, consider economic decision-making processes, and define civic roles and responsibilities.

Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Stephanie Hartman, Social Studies Content Specialist at 720-498-2084, Hartman_s@cde.state.co.us



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At the end of
Second Grade,
students can...



Social Studies Learning Expectations for Second Grade

History

Use timelines, artifacts, and documents to consider the different people, perspectives, and events that make up the historical story of their community.

Geography

Use different kinds of maps to consider their community, the ways that people in the community use environmental resources, and how community members have adapted to the physical environment.

Economics

Identify money decisions people make based on long term and short term goals, prices, and availability of goods and services.

Civics

Consider options for how people participate in decision making in the community and identify the ways in which community members can work together to resolve conflicts.

Throughout the Second Grade, you may find students...

- Creating and using timelines to sequence, examine, and explain historical events in the community; examining photos, newspaper articles, and other sources of historical community news.
- Using map keys, symbols, and legends to locate and identify information on globes and maps; categorizing various physical/environmental aspects of the community (landforms, water sources).
- Identifying things made and services available in the community.
- Creating examples of person financial decisions (saving v. spending).
- Defining and describing the characteristics of a responsible community member (actions, attitude); generating examples of civic responsibilities.
- Crafting sets of rules that particular communities (classrooms, schools, neighborhoods) might agree upon.

