

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 Kindergarten 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
Kindergarten,
students can...



Social Studies Learning Expectations for Kindergarten

History

Ask questions, share information and discuss ideas about the past; put events in chronological (time) order.

Geography

Identify the basic characteristics of maps and globes and point out their similarities/differences; discuss how people live in different settings and interact with their environment based on location.

Economics

Describe examples of want and needs in the classroom; identify the limited resources in the classroom; tell the difference between (personal) wants and needs and those of others.

Civics

Explain that groups have rules; interact positively with others; recognize membership in family, neighborhood, school, team; discuss the characteristics of an active and helpful member of the classroom and school; follow class rules.

Throughout the Kindergarten, you may find students...

- Using words such as past, present, future, to sequence events in the school day; exploring the similarities and differences of children and families long ago and today; talking about changes in their lives over time and discussing important events in their lives (and their families' lives).
- Comparing and contrasting how people live in different settings around the world; discussing different foods, types of clothing, and shelter and how they change with different environments (people living in colder climates wear warmer clothing).
- Discussing the different types of resources in the classroom; reasoning and working through situations with classmates to share those resources.
- Demonstrating positive citizenship skills such as courtesy, honesty and fairness; working productively in both independent and cooperative learning situations; contribute to making and maintaining a classroom and school community.



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