A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards

COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Social Studies

Fourth Grade

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 Fourth 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?

COLORADO Department of Education

Colorado PTA everychild. onevoice.

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

Social Studies Learning Expectations for Fourth Grade

History
Explain the role of individuals, diverse cultural groups, and ideas in the historical development of Colorado; organize and sequence events in Colorado history in chronological order; recognize the connections between important Colorado events and important event in the history of the United States.

Geography
Use maps to ask and answer questions about the geography of Colorado and to understand the interactions between humans and their environment.

Economics
Explain the relationship between choice and "opportunity cost" (the value of something that you give up when choosing something else); define positive and negative incentives.

Civics
Discuss multiple perspectives on an issue; explain the formation and structure of Colorado state government (General Assembly, Judicial, and Executive branches).

Throughout the Fourth Grade, you may find students…

- Using primary and secondary sources such as artifacts, documents, photos, and newspaper articles to examine cause and effect relationships among events in Colorado's history; explaining the role of individuals and groups in the development of Colorado (trappers, traders, miners); exploring examples of conflict and cooperation between the diverse cultures in Colorado.

- Using map keys, symbols, and legends to show how Colorado cities, towns, neighborhoods were settled and how they have developed and changed over time; exploring the connections between Colorado's physical resources (mountains, plains) and why diverse populations have chosen to live here.

- Describing unique things made and services provided in Colorado; exploring the connections between Colorado's physical resources and what is produced and provided in the state.

- Discussing the work of the three branches of Colorado's state government; explaining the types of services state government provides and how those are funded; examining multiple perspectives on a Colorado issue (use of water) in order to consider possible solutions that could benefit the most people.