

Social Studies Curriculum

Grade Level: 2nd Grade

Focus: Communities

Time Frame: August/September/October

Illinois Learning Standards:

15A: Understand how different economic systems operate in the exchange, production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.

15C: Understand that scarcity necessitates choices by producers.

15E: Understand the impact of government policies and decisions on production and consumption in the economy.

16C: Understand the development of economic systems.

17A: Understand world geography and the effects of geography on society, with an emphasis on the United States.

17C: Understand relationships between geographic factors and society.

17D: Understand the historical significance of geography.

18C: Understand how social systems form and develop over time.

Essential Question(s):

1. What are the different types of communities and how do they affect us?
2. Why and how do communities develop differently?

Understandings:

1. The students will be able to state and discuss the different types of communities and how these communities affect the individual.
2. The students will gain understandings of the factors that help create a community and why communities develop.

The Student Will Be Able To:

1. Understand that throughout the nation, there are urban, rural and suburban communities.
2. Distinguish the characteristics of an urban, rural and suburban community.
3. Distinguish the features of an urban, rural and suburban community.
4. State how geography and natural resources shape where and how communities develop.
5. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of an urban, rural and suburban community.
6. Describe that migration patterns exist in all communities (urban to suburban, suburban to rural).
7. State how people provide for their needs in a variety of ways (food, clothing, etc).

Social Studies Curriculum

Grade Level: 2nd Grade

Focus: Communities (Government in Communities)

Time Frame: October/November/December

Illinois State Standards:

14A: Understand and explain basic principles of the United States government.

14B: Understand the structures and functions of the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations.

14C: Understand election processes and responsibilities of citizens.

14D: Understand the roles and influences of individuals and interest groups in the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations

Essential Question:

1. What is the relationship between local government and the community?

Understandings:

1. The students will gain understandings of the reciprocal relationship between the local government and community.

The Student Will Be Able To:

1. Understand that the local government reflects the federal government.
2. Communities need rules to solve problems and resolve conflicts.
3. People need rules for the use of community resources.
4. People elect community leaders to make, enforce and interpret rules and laws.
5. Rules and laws have changed over time to meet the needs of the community members.

Social Studies Curriculum

Grade Level: 2

Focus: Communities (Culture in Communities)

Time Frame: December/January/February

Illinois Learning Standards:

16A: Apply the skills of historical analysis and interpretation.

16D: Understand Illinois, United States and world social history.

16E: Understand Illinois, United States and world environmental history.

18A: Compare characteristics of culture as reflected in language, literature, the arts, traditions and institutions

Essential Question:

1. Why are cultural holidays celebrated in the United States?

Understandings:

1. The students will gain understandings of the history and factors that led to the celebrations of cultural holidays in the United States.

The Student Will Be Able To:

1. Understand that people have rich cultural traditions passed down from generation to generation.
2. Understand that culture encompasses all that people do, create, value and believe.

Social Studies Curriculum

Grade Level: 2nd Grade

Focus: Continents and Oceans (Global Communities)

Time Frame: March/April/May/June

Illinois Learning Standards:

17A: Locate, describe, and explain places, regions and features on the earth.

17B: Analyze and explain characteristic and interactions of the Earth's physical systems.

Essential Questions:

1. What are the important features of communities throughout the world?
2. How do culture, history, geography, people and government shape the development of a community?

Understandings:

1. The students will gain understandings of the important features that create a community and how they are similar and different throughout global communities.
2. The students will understand that the development of a community will depend on culture, history, geography and government.

The Student Will Be Able To:

1. Understand that a community's location is relative to other communities.
2. Name and locate all seven continents.
3. Name and locate all of the four major oceans.
4. Identify and locate the continents based on geographical features.
5. Understand that some of the continents are large and/or diverse.
6. Understand that continents have different types of climates based on location.
7. Understand that most of the continents have different countries in them.
8. Understand the vegetation and wildlife of each continent.
9. Know a unique feature from each continent.
10. Know the global symbols of the continents.