

# KINDERGARTEN SOCIAL STUDIES

Students should be able to:

## Foundations of Social Studies: Children as Citizens

- Identify the location of his or her home, school, neighborhood, and city or town on a map
- Illustrate the features of his or her home, school, and neighborhood by creating maps, models and drawings
- Identify his or her personal connections to places, including home, school, neighborhood, and city and or town
- Recognize natural features of his or her environment, e.g., mountains and bodies of water
- Explain the purpose of rules and laws and the consequences of breaking them
- Summarize the roles of authority figures in a child's life, including those of parents and teachers
- Identify authority figures in the school and community who enforce rules and laws that keep people safe, including crossing guards, bus drivers, fire fighters, and police officers
- Explain how following rules and obeying authority figures reflect qualities of good citizenship, including honesty, responsibility, respect, fairness, and patriotism
- Recognize the importance of symbols of the United States that represent its democratic values, including the American flag, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, the Pledge of Allegiance, and "The Star-Spangled Banner"
- Identify the reasons for celebrating national holidays, including Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day
- Describe the actions of important figures that reflect the values of American democracy, including George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Compare the daily lives of children and their families in the past and present
- Explain how changes in types of transportation and communication have affected the way families live and work together
- Recognize the ways community businesses have provided goods and services for families in the past and do so in the present
- Recognize that families of the past have made choices to fulfill their wants and needs and that families do so in the present

## Activities:

Have your child:

- Identify your city on a local map
- Point out geographic features in his/her community, such as lakes or mountains, that make it unique
- Participate in a family game night. Help your child learn to follow the rules of the game, including taking turns. Discuss why following the rules makes the game fun for everyone

- Point out people in the community who should keep him/her safe, such as the school crossing guard, police officer or teacher
- During different activities point out American symbols of democracy such as the United States flag, the bald eagle, patriotic songs, and the Pledge of Allegiance. Discuss the significance of these symbols
- Visit with older members of the family and discuss the ways life was different in the past
- Identify some goods and services provided by local businesses
- Volunteer to pick up litter or do something else that helps the community or school. Talk about how this demonstrates good citizenship
- Read the Pledge of Allegiance to your child and discuss what each part means

## Books:

- Barnes, Peter and Cheryl. *Woodrow, the White House Mouse*
- Barnes, Peter and Cheryl. *House Mouse, Senate Mouse*
- Barnes, Peter and Cheryl. *Marshal, the Courthouse Mouse*
- Barnes, Peter and Cheryl. *Woodrow for President*
- Brisson, Pat. *Benny's Pennies*
- Hall, Donald. *The Ox Cart Man*
- Halliman, P.K. *For the Love of the Earth*
- Hoban, Tana. *I Read Symbols*
- Hoberman, Mary Ann. *A House is a House for Me*
- Hudson, Cheryl W. and Bernette G. Ford. *Bright Eyes, Brown Skin*
- Kennan, Shelia. *O Say Can You See? America's Symbols, Landmarks, and Important Words*
- Leedy, Loreen. *Mapping Penny's World*
- Leedy, Loreen. *Who's Who in My Family*
- Penner, Lucille Recht. *The Statue of Liberty*
- Parish, Peggy. *Amelia Bedelia's Family Album*

## Web Sites:

- Children's Books – [www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org)
- National Geographic – [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- Public Broadcast System (PBS) – [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)
- Primary Games – [www.primarygames.com](http://www.primarygames.com)
- United States Mint – [www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov)
- Weekly Reader – [www.weeklyreader.com](http://www.weeklyreader.com)
- Scholastic – [www.scholastic.com/cliffordbebig/teachers/lesson-plan-09.htm](http://www.scholastic.com/cliffordbebig/teachers/lesson-plan-09.htm)
- History of the American Flag – [www.usflag.org/history/pledgeofallegiance.html](http://www.usflag.org/history/pledgeofallegiance.html)
- Lessons for Teaching Citizenship – [www.goodcharacter.com/pp/citizenship.html](http://www.goodcharacter.com/pp/citizenship.html)