

2nd Grade American Online School

SOCIAL SCIENCES CURRICULUM

Citizenship, Civilizations, and the Maps That Guide Us



Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of Social Sciences Education in 2nd Grade

The 2nd Grade Social Studies curriculum introduces students to essential civic values, global geography, and the roots of early civilizations. Students explore their identity as citizens, learn to navigate maps, and build historical imagination through hands-on projects and guided inquiry. Emphasis is placed on visual learning, storytelling, cultural empathy, and connecting the past to the present.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Understand the purpose of the Pledge of Allegiance and basic civic responsibilities.
 - ✓ Use maps, symbols, and directions to interpret geographic information.
 - ✓ Recognize the contributions of ancient civilizations across time and cultures.
 - ✓ Develop timelines, compare societies, and understand historical storytelling.
 - ✓ Begin to think globally while grounding themselves in community and identity.
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2. Core Competence Areas

SoSCI.1 Citizenship and Civic Identity

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Recite and explain the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- ✓ **Recognize community helpers and their roles.**
- ✓ **Demonstrate respect, responsibility, and participation in classroom democracy.**

Competencies

SoSCI.1.A.1 – Understanding civic symbols and values

- Discuss national symbols (flag, eagle, anthem) and their meanings.
- Reflect on what it means to show fairness and kindness.

SoSCI.1.A.2 – Acting as responsible citizens

- Vote in class decisions, create “helper” jobs, and practice problem-solving.
 - Participate in a community kindness project
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SoSCI.2 Geography and Map Skills

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Use maps to locate continents, oceans, and cardinal directions.**
- ✓ **Interpret symbols, keys, and grids on simple maps.**
- ✓ **Apply spatial awareness to real-life navigation.**

Competencies

SoSCI.2.A.1 – Reading and drawing maps

- Create maps of familiar places (home, school, community).
- Label compass rose, landmarks, and paths with accuracy.

SoSCI.2.A.2 – Understanding global geography

- Identify major continents and oceans.
 - Compare landscapes and climates using pictures and descriptions.
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SoSCI.3 History and Timelines

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Understand that history is a story of the past.
- ✓ Use tools like timelines, artifacts, and biographies to learn about history.
- ✓ Retell events in chronological order.

Competencies

SoSCI.3.A.1 – Building historical awareness

- Create a personal history timeline and class timeline wall.
- Read picture books about important events and figures.

SoSCI.3.A.2 – Asking questions about the past

- Use “who, what, where, when, why” questions to analyze simple historical accounts.
 - Compare life now to life “long ago” through pictures and roleplay.
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SoSCI.4 Ancient Civilizations and Cultural Contributions

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Identify major features of Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, China, and the Aztecs.
- ✓ Recognize inventions, architecture, and traditions from these societies.
- ✓ Appreciate cultural diversity and continuity over time.

Competencies

SoSCI.4.A.1 – Exploring early civilizations through themes

- Study pyramids, democracy, aqueducts, Great Wall, Aztec temples.
- Create projects, crafts, or foods inspired by these civilizations.

SoSCI.4.A.2 – Comparing daily life across ancient cultures

- Explore homes, clothes, food, schooling, and celebrations.
- Make Venn diagrams or classroom museums to showcase findings.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Ongoing Reflection and Practice

- ✓ Map labeling tasks and scavenger hunts.
- ✓ Historical discussion circles.
- ✓ Daily reflection journals (“What I learned about today’s world and yesterday’s”).

Summative Assessments – Projects and Presentation Tasks

- ✓ Timeline portfolio and oral history share.
- ✓ “Create Your Own Civilization” group simulation.
- ✓ “Where in the World?” map quiz and travel log.

Authentic Assessment – Community and Cultural Engagement

- ✓ Kindness or citizenship campaign.
- ✓ Virtual tour of a world wonder or museum exhibit.
- ✓ Cultural Day event with food, stories, and dress.

4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Story-Based and Project-Driven

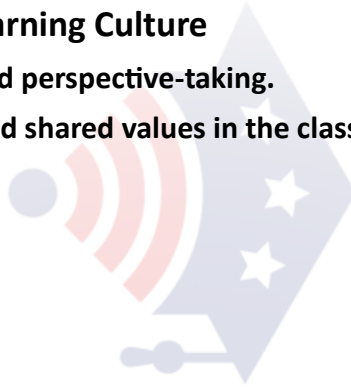
- ✓ Use storytelling, simulations, and puppet theater to bring history to life.
- ✓ Create class murals, foldables, and cultural passports.

Multimedia and Real-World Connections

- ✓ Virtual tours of global landmarks and museums.
- ✓ Map-based games, songs, and digital explorations.

Inclusive and Empathetic Learning Culture

- ✓ Practice respectful dialogue and perspective-taking.
- ✓ Celebrate identity, heritage, and shared values in the classroom.



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