

SOCIAL STUDIES

LENGTH OF TIME: varied throughout the year
20 minutes, three times weekly

GRADE LEVEL: 1

COURSE STANDARDS:

Students will:

1. Solve problems and make decisions that naturally arise in the course of the class day. (PA Std. 5.2, 8.1)
2. Begin to develop an understanding of cultural diversity by comparing their lives to others' -- both now and long ago. (PA Std. 8.1)
3. Develop an increased awareness of their sense of place and spatial relationships. (PA Std. 7.1, 7.2)
4. Develop a continuing understanding of the place where they live and how it interconnects with the rest of the world. (PA Std. 8.1)

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Civics and Government

5.2 Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Geography

7.1 Basic Geographic Literacy

7.2 The Physical Characteristics of Places and Regions

History

8.1 Historical Analysis and Skills Development

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS:

Students will demonstrate achievement of the standards by:

1. Actively participating in recognizing and reinforcing positive attributes of friendship and cooperation for themselves and their classmates through discussions, posters, and/or role playing. (Course Standard 1)
2. Constructing a three event timeline of their own life or of events in the classroom that will demonstrate their understanding of past and present. (Course Standard 2)
3. Cooperatively constructing a map of the classroom with a key with the teacher's assistance. (Course Standard 3)
4. Preparing a simple bar or picture graph to illustrate their changing community, in cooperative learning groups. (Course Standard 4)

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

The first grade course will focus on the thematic strand of Individuals, Groups, and Institutions. Students will become aware of the ever-expanding world beyond their classroom. They will

compare and contrast their lives with those of others, both in the past and the present. This course will be interdisciplinary, relying heavily on experiences gained through literature, the life of the classroom, visual opportunities, and real life.

Students will be assessed individually and as a part of a group using self, peer, and teacher checklists and teacher observations.

TITLES OF UNITS:

1. Here We Are
2. Exploring Neighborhoods
3. Looking at our Earth
4. What is a Map?
5. Where do we Live?
6. Other Places, Other People

SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

1. Small/large group activities
2. Cooperative learning
3. AV presentations
4. Role playing
5. Read alouds, guided and independent reading

MATERIALS:

1. Nystrom Grade 1 Kit, Exploring Where and Why
2. Materials supplied by Nystrom
3. Trade books

METHODS OF ASSISTANCE AND ENRICHMENT:

1. Cooperative learning groups
2. Specialist assistance - IST, Title I reading
3. Community volunteers
4. Field trips
5. Guest speakers/assemblies

PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT:

Social studies portfolio pieces will be selected from classroom activities and cooperatively chosen by the student and the teacher.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

1. Materials from Nystrom unit assessment and evaluation

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:

1. Concepts
-demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts and principles of the course standards

2. Communication
 - respond orally and/or in writing to various topics
 - class discussions
 - produce, perform, or exhibit work
 - construct meaning from classroom presentations
3. Thinking/Problem Solving
 - compare and contrast various topics relating to social studies
 - observe customs and traditions of other cultures
4. Application of Knowledge
 - relate personal experiences to other cultures, and new knowledge
 - demonstrate connections between selected social studies topics
5. Interpersonal Skills
 - work cooperatively with others on projects and investigations
 - communicate effectively using new terms related to social studies