

Social Studies at Home

Grade 1

Newsletter

“Understanding Our Place in the World”

Marking Period 2

Unit 1 - Citizenship

Unit 2 - Culture

Marking Period 4

Unit 3 - Economics

Unit 4 - Geography

Each of the units is aligned with the Maryland State Curriculum and are designed to introduce students to social studies skills and processes through the integration of reading, writing, listening and speaking. During each unit, there will be opportunities for you to be involved in what your child is learning. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities as you are an important member of your child’s educational team.

Unit 1 will discuss appropriate ways to demonstrate citizenship at school, home, and in your community. Examples include: doing chores, following rules and laws, and showing citizenship traits such as respect, responsibility, and honesty. It is important for your child to understand that rules and laws are often for their safety and the safety of others. Take time to discuss symbols that represent the United States, the importance of voting, and being an active community member. Encourage your child to draw pictures and write sentences about the citizenship traits that they are learning in school and at home.

Unit 2 will explore various aspects of culture around the world. This is an opportunity for you to discuss your family’s culture: celebrations, traditions, food, clothing, and language. Some questions to discuss with your child include: Where did your family come from? What elements of culture have been brought and passed down through generations? What elements from other cultures have been integrated into your own?

Unit 3 will build the foundation for your child as they learn about money, including basic economic principles such as goods, services, and making wise choices with their money. We will learn what resources are used to produce goods we use daily. Talk with your child about the decision-making process you go through when determining if you should buy an item.

Unit 4 will help your child learn about the environment. We will discuss ways to keep our earth clean and healthy such as reducing, reusing, and recycling. Talk about some things that you already do at home. Your child may have a new idea to share. We will also be studying maps and map elements. We will talk about cardinal directions and relative distance (near, far, etc). Take time to show your child maps so that they can begin to build their background of the places in our country and world. As you travel, point out road signs and other tools that help you to know where you are and to determine how to get where you want to go.

As your child learns throughout the school year, encourage them to share what they are learning with you. We look forward to working with you this school year.

Thank you for supporting our social studies program.

