

# Social Studies at Home

Grade 2

Newsletter

## “Exploring Our Place in the World”

### Marking Period 2

**Unit 1 - Government and Citizenship**

**Unit 2 - Geography**

### Marking Period 4

**Unit 3 - Economics and Culture**

**Unit 4 - Changes Over Time**

Each of the units are aligned with the Maryland State Curriculum and are designed to teach students basic 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 the structure of a community, including government and ways citizens demonstrate citizenship. Examples include: demonstrating skills such as respect, kindness, honesty, and following rules and laws. It is important to make sure that your child understands that rules and laws are often for their safety and the safety of others. Take time to discuss the importance of being a good citizen, the importance of voting, and being an active community member.

**Unit 2** focuses on moving beyond basic geography to being able to use maps, as well as identify places and features. One way to support your child is to 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. Take time to look at different maps with your child to identify the parts of the map. For example, look at a map of a department store or mall to determine how to get where you want to go.

**Unit 3** will build the foundation for your child as they learn about basic economic principles such as goods, services, making wise choices with their money, and the production process. Students will also broaden their knowledge of how cultures are similar as well as support the comparison of diverse cultures. Discuss your family’s culture with your child. What traditions have been handed down through the generations? What elements of culture come from other places?

**Unit 4** is a chance for you to help your child build an understanding of time and how time affects the things around them. Encourage your child to visit with older family, friends and neighbors. Have them ask for oral history or stories from their youth about the ways things used to be. Look at old pictures and discuss how things have changed.

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.

