



Social Studies at Peak to Peak is made up of four components. They are: History, Civics, Economics, and Geography. Each of these areas has state and national standards. These standards define what students will learn from Kindergarten through Fifth grade. The scope and sequence will provide elementary students with the background knowledge and necessary skills for a successful transition to the middle school. As noted in our Literacy Instruction philosophy, Peak to Peak strives to provide students immersion “in multiple opportunities to read and write that are purposeful and authentic throughout the day and across curriculum areas.” (Schulman and Payne 2000). This opportunity to read and write about Social Studies content is aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

The content for teaching **World History** comes primarily from the Core Knowledge sequence. Peak to Peak is a “Friends of Core Knowledge” school. We consult with the Core Knowledge Foundation for information and lesson plans available in Social Studies areas. The Core Knowledge Curriculum provides opportunities for students to explore various cultures, customs, and religions from around the world, for example the fourth grade study of cultures and economic impact along the Silk Road. This fosters a sense of respect for the differences within the school environment. Peak to Peak has established important memorable culminating events such as: Medieval Festival, Roman Marketplace, Greek Festival, and Egyptian Walk.

Peak to Peak also provides a rich background in **American History and Civics**. The study of government, national symbols, landmarks, and important leaders throughout our nation’s history provides the students with the knowledge of our country’s growth and development from its earliest beginnings to the present. Students are actively involved in establishing connections through research, hands on projects and culminating events. Some events include: Young Ameritowne, Western Day, American Revolution Simulation, Founding Fathers Fair, Civil Rights Leader Hero Day, Immigration Day, and a celebration of Colorado History. These special events provide enrichment and connect meaning to the key ideas from the lessons as our students see history “come alive”. The students are also able to make additional connections through classroom literature and Peak to Peak’s music, world language, and art programs.

**Geography** at Peak to Peak is integrated throughout the Social Studies sequence. Geography is supplemented with “Map Essentials,” a National Geographic Curriculum, and Rand-McNally Atlases. These geography skills are taught based on the 18 National Geography Standards.

The study of **Economics** is embedded in Peak to Peak’s Social Studies program in various units such as the Greek Agora on Greek Festival Day and the community resource, Junior Achievement. Children learn “hands on” applications of resources, production, and consumption. At the higher grades the annual Market Day and Young Ameritowne experience further incorporates these skills to deepen the understanding of economic systems and the various factors that can impact the economy.

## Assessments

Students’ learning is evaluated through written responses and problem-based assessments.

The standards for research, technology, graphing, and data analysis, using Math and Science skills, are woven into the Social Studies Curriculum. Student weekly periodicals, such as *TIME for Kids* provide many opportunities for students to work independently, as well as being a contributing member of a small group. The inquiry-based learning model gives students practice in seeking answers to questions



using text based evidence. The students are expected to respond to “Essential Questions” at all grade levels through written communication. These “Essential Questions” cover content; however the responses require higher levels of comprehension and advanced written communication skills. These questions are based on Bloom’s Taxonomy of Higher Order of Thinking. The written responses are evaluated according to rubrics for informational writing.

Many resources are available to support the Social Studies Curriculum. These materials provide opportunities for differentiation and “tiered” lesson plans. Additional support for advanced independent research is provided by our Media Specialist.

Peak to Peak’s Social Studies Curriculum is designed to be a vital and vibrant part of our students’ education. Students will have a high degree of background knowledge and the courage, creativity, and passion necessary to become productive citizens and leaders in their own communities, in our nation, and in the world.

## **Social Studies Curriculum Links**

Please click the links below to see grade level standards:

[Kindergarten](#)

[First Grade](#)

[Second Grade](#)

[Third Grade](#)

[Fourth Grade](#)

[Fifth Grade](#)