

Introduction

Curriculum Overview

Congratulations on choosing an outstanding second grade curriculum! Using this curriculum, you and your student will be engaged in reading nonfiction literature, designing charts and graphs, creating booklets, playing games, illustrating geographical symbols, interpreting maps, creating graphic organizers, and a plethora of other activities. One of the advantages in selecting Texas Tech University K-12 curriculum is that you will have an all-encompassing curriculum similar to what you would find in some of the most outstanding teacher's classrooms in our nation.

This course is completed online in Blackboard using the PDF **Unit Lessons** and **Worksheets** documents.

Unit assessments in this course consist of two parts, the **Unit Test** and the **Unit Project**. For each Unit Test, the student will download and complete PDF test pages, then scan or take a digital photograph of the completed pages showing his or her work. Completed Unit Projects must also be scanned or photographed. Combine the images for each assignment into a single PDF (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** on the course home page) and upload the file for grading as instructed in the assignment.

2nd Grade Social Studies

The first semester of 2nd grade Social Studies is divided into three units. The first unit, *Living in a Community*, teaches that we all belong to many groups and communities, people and places change over time, and we all have basic needs. This unit will also explain the need for people to work together, get along, and be good citizens. The second unit, *Our Government*, covers state, local, and national governments and their leaders. The importance of patriotism, choosing leaders, and the making and carrying out of laws and rules is also covered in this unit. The last unit, *Looking at the Earth*, includes the study of landforms and bodies of water. It introduces continents, maps, globes, and cardinal directions, and also explains the need to conserve and protect our natural resources. Each unit will also contain different skill activities such as charts and graph skills, citizenship skills, map and globe skills, and reading skills.

Course Objectives

The curriculum meets all of the [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills](#) (TEKS) objectives. At the end of this course, the student should be able to:

- explain how things can be grouped;
- understand that people live, work, and play together;

- define community;
- explain the need for rules;
- understand the responsibilities of citizens to the community;
- recognize the different roles people play in their families and communities;
- differentiate between the roles of an adult and a child;
- be aware of the need for cooperation in a group;
- describe a neighborhood;
- compare a map and an aerial photograph of a neighborhood;
- find communities, states, the United States, and other countries on maps and globes;
- compare suburbs, cities, and rural or farming areas;
- use symbols and locate places on a map;
- sketch maps to show places and routes;
- explain ways in which people and places change;
- differentiate between photographs of a place taken at different times;
- use and understand a calendar;
- name people’s basic needs;
- distinguish between wants and needs;
- recognize patriotic songs such as “America the Beautiful”;
- understand laws and the consequences of breaking them;
- describe a local government;
- recognize community services such as libraries, schools, and parks;
- identify qualities of a good leader;
- understand ways public officials are elected or appointed to office;
- describe and recognize some roles of a state government;
- find states, state capitals, and state borders on a map;
- describe our national government;
- compare the roles of a mayor, governor, and President;
- recognize patriotic symbols such as Uncle Sam and the U.S. flag;
- understand a picture graph;
- distinguish between a fact and opinion;
- sequence and classify information;

- recognize different kinds of landforms and bodies of water;
- read symbols, colors, and labels on maps;
- identify continents and oceans on a map or globe;
- compare globes and maps;
- locate the poles, the cardinal directions, and the equator on a globe;
- describe directions on a map;
- understand how people depend on natural resources for their basic needs;
- name some natural resources and give examples of their use;
- read a table;
- compare tools from the past and present;
- explain how technology has changed the ways in which people meet their basic needs;
- understand ways that people have changed the physical environment, such as clearing forest land, building roads, and mining coal;
- recognize and use a map scale;
- explain ways people can conserve and replenish natural resources;
- discuss ways to recycle;
- describe pollution.

Handwriting

Handwriting is taught in the Language Arts course; however, good handwriting skills are necessary in all subjects including social studies. In Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2, manuscript is the preferred technique. When teaching your child handwriting, please consider the appropriate letter and number formation and spacing. Please refer to the manuscript chart included on the next page to assist you in appropriately teaching your child handwriting. Please reinforce the importance of good handwriting in all subject areas.

Traditional Manuscript

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg

Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn

Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Books and Materials for SOCS 2 This Semester

Textbooks:

- Field, *Harcourt Horizons: About My Community, Texas Edition* (Harcourt, Inc., 2003), ISBN 0153342293
- *Harcourt Horizons: About My Community—Activity Book* (Harcourt, Inc., 2003), ISBN 0153225955

Materials:

- color pencils
- crayons
- globe
- glue
- markers
- paper: drawing, plain white, writing
- pencils
- picture of Uncle Sam
- scissors
- spiral notebook for Vocabulary Notebook
- stapler
- world map

Grading Procedures and Unit Assignment Checklists

Grades are calculated for Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3. The semester grade is an average of the three unit grades. The unit grades will include a test and a project for each unit. The Units 1 and Unit 2 Tests and Projects are located in their respective Unit folders in this online course; the Unit 3 Test and Project are the Final Exam folder.

The Unit Tests and Unit Projects will be submitted **separately** to Texas Tech University K-12 to be graded. After the student has finished the Unit Test, scan or take a digital photograph of the assigned pages, showing his or her work. Combine the images into a **single PDF** (see “Requirements for Creating PDFs” on the course home page).

Scan or photograph each Unit Project. (For audio or video projects, see “Audio Help” and “Video Help” on the course home page for information about saving these formats for upload.) Combine multiple images into a **single PDF**.

When you save your documents, use the naming convention given for each Unit Test or Unit Project as the name of your file. Upload the file according to the instructions given in the assignment.

Schedule for tests and projects

Unit 1:

- Day 23: Unit 1 Test
- Day 24: Work on the Unit 1 Project
- Day 25: Finish and submit the Unit 1 Project

Unit 2

- Day 48: Unit 2 Test
- Day 49: Work on the Unit 2 Project
- Day 50: Finish and submit the Unit 2 Project

Unit 3

- Day 72: Unit 3 Test
- Days 73-74: Work on the Unit 3 Project
- Day 75: Finish and submit the Unit 3 Project

Unit Projects

Your student must complete a project for each unit. The student has the option of creating his or her own project or choosing one of those listed in **Suggested Projects** in this course. If the student chooses a topic, he or she must choose a topic based on the information presented in the unit, and it must be approved by Texas Tech University K-12. The student must also complete a **Unit Topic Planner**. Please submit these to Texas Tech University K-12 no later than one week after your student begins the unit.

The student's teacher will send feedback regarding whether or not your project has been approved. You will find it in the **My Grades** area of this course.