

Kindergarten Social Studies

In kindergarten, students learn about themselves, their families, friends, and the school community. They focus on family heritage and traditions, and state and national holidays and celebrations. They discuss how families use their resources to provide food, clothing, and shelter; and they use simple maps to describe their classroom, school, and neighborhood. Kindergarten students develop and practice citizenship skills in their classrooms, and they learn about the contributions of important leaders in the community, state, and nation.

In Kindergarten social studies, your child will:

History

- learn about patriotic holidays.
- identify contributions of people, such as George Washington and Stephen F. Austin.
- place events in order by using terms such as “before,” “after,” “next,” “first,” “last”.

Geography

- locate and describe the relative location of places by using terms such as over, under, near, far, left, right.
- identify the geographic characteristics of places.

Government

- identify examples of family and classroom rules and reasons for having them.
- identify authority figures at home and in school.

Citizenship

- identify the U.S. and Texas flags.
- recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Culture

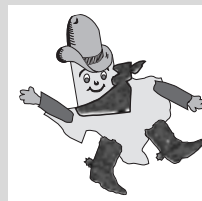
- identify similarities and differences among people.
- identify family and community customs.

Science, Technology, and Society

- identify examples of technology and describe how they meet people’s needs.

Social Studies Skills

- obtain information from oral and visual sources.
- sequence and categorize information.
- identify main ideas.
- express ideas orally and visually.
- use problem-solving and decision-making processes.



TEKSman’s Tips for Parents

- Demonstrate pride in your cultural and family heritage by sharing family stories and traditions.
- Involve your child in planning family events.
- Help your child recognize the names of important leaders and places in the news.
- Participate in educational and cultural events in your community.
- Participate in cultural events in the community. Visit local art galleries, historic sites, and museums.

Kindergarten Social Studies

Kindergarten Social Studies Activities and Questions

Attend a patriotic parade, or take part in a cultural celebration. Talk with your child about the significance of the event, and the historical figures involved. Share your memories of similar events and how they have changed through the years. Watch for announcements about parades and special events related to holidays such as Vietnamese or Chinese New Year, Presidents Day, Cinco de mayo, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Diez y seis de septiembre, a Native American powwow (the Austin Powwow is the first Saturday of November), and Veteran’s Day.

- Discuss:** **What is the purpose of this event or parade?**
Why are we celebrating this day?
What is your favorite holiday? Why?
If you were marching in this parade what would you wear? Why?

On your next outing—even on trips to your local grocery store, video store, relatives’ house, or the mall—describe the route you will take and the things you will see along the way. Ask your child to give you directions by encouraging him or her to use words such as left, right, far, and near. Talk about the importance of using street signs and landmarks to find your way and keep you safe.

- Ask:** **Why do we need street signs? What would happen without street signs?**
How do maps help us find the way to our destination?
What street do you live on? What is your address?
What are the names of important buildings, parks, or other landmarks near our home?

Have a family meeting to assign family jobs such as trash duty, helping wash dishes, folding laundry, etc. Practice each job with your child. Clearly explain to your child what a well-done job looks like.

- Ask:** **Why is your job important to our family?**
What happens if the job is not done?
What job in the family would you like to have when you are older?
What job would you like when you grow up?

Make a grocery list of the items you need on your next trip to the grocery store. Use the Wednesday and Sunday newspaper ads to help you create your lists. Allow your child to cut out pictures from these ads and paste them on an “illustrated grocery list.” As you shop, talk to your child about which items are “needs” (those you must have) and which are “wants” (items that would be nice to have).

- Discuss:** **How do people decide what to buy?**
How do prices affect our choices?

Are all food items “needs”? What are some foods that are “wants”?

What are other examples of “needs” and “wants”?

Choose a game to play like Tic-Tac Toe, Concentration, or Hopscotch. Before you begin the game, discuss the rules and their importance with your child.

- Discuss:** **Why is it important to follow the rules of a game?**
What would happen if we did not have rules?
What does it mean to be “fair”?
Are there other situations, besides in games, in which rules are important?
What are some family rules we follow? School rules?
How are the rules made in our family?
What would happen if we did not have these rules?
How do rules keep us safe?

To promote good citizenship, talk to your child about the meaning of important state and national symbols such as the U.S and Texas flags, the bald eagle, Statue of Liberty, and customs like reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the Star Spangled Banner. Look for other flags or patriotic symbols in your neighborhood.

- Ask:** **What are the colors of the U.S. and Texas flags?**
What do the stars on the U.S. flag represent? How are the U.S. and Texas flags alike? Different?
What do the U.S. and Texas flags represent?

Use family photos, videos and stories to talk about holidays and family traditions. Encourage conversations with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends. Help your child create his or her own photo album or holiday scrapbook.

- Ask:** **Why is this photo special or interesting?**
Who are the people in the photo?
Why would you want to include this photo in an album?
What is your favorite family tradition or memory?

Identify tools you use regularly and explain how they make your work easier. Teach your child to use appropriate tools and appliances. For example, teach your child basic telephone skills—answering the phone safely and taking messages. Explain to your child how people communicated before the invention of the telephone.

- Discuss:** **How have the computer, microwave oven, washing machine, refrigerator, car, and other inventions made our daily lives easier?**
How do you think people (popped popcorn, washed clothes, preserved food, traveled to far-off cities, etc.) before this tool, machine, or appliance was invented?