

**Social Studies Curriculum
South Atlantic District
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**

Social Studies is taught so students will recognize God's preserving hand in the past, understand their relationship to God's world and its inhabitants, and become productive Christian citizens better equipped to share the Gospel.

The goals of this Social Studies Curriculum seek to have the students:

- Develop an empathetic perspective of various peoples in different settings.
- Understand events are precipitated by previous events.
- Use skills learned in other disciplines in the study of Social Studies.
- Appreciate the varied landscape of God's creation.

Kindergarten through Grade 2

The student will:

- Understand the world in spatial terms (working knowledge of maps, globes).
- Experience different cultures/customs around the world.
- Compare the past to the present.
- Investigate and understand own heritage/cultures (family tree).
- Celebrate and experience holidays.
- Recognize important people and landmarks of our own country (Mt. Rushmore, etc.).
- Understand what are rules – why are they made?
- Become acquainted with local, state and national leaders/church leaders.
- Understand the role of being a good citizen.
- Have an awareness of local social structure.
- Understand the basic concepts of trade and commerce.

Grades 3-8

Geography

The student will:

- Know the 50 states and capitals and major cities.
- Understand the regional and cultural diversity of the United States.
- Know the physical features of the world.
- Know the countries of the world.

- Experience some major cultures of the world.
- Know the physical and political features of their home state.
- Utilize map skills.

World History

The student will:

- Delineate the development, the culture, and major contributions of the following cradles of civilization:
 - Mesopotamian
 - Egyptian
 - Indus River
 - Chinese
- Know the timeline, causes, and lasting effects of these major world historical eras:
 - Creation through the Flood
 - Four cradles of civilization
 - Classical cultures
 - Renaissance/Age of Exploration
 - Modern Era

State History

The student will:

- Recognize the indigenous peoples of his state.
- Trace the history of the European exploration of his home state.
- Know the date of and events leading to Statehood.
- Analyze the development of his state from statehood to present day.
- Understand the state's cultural heritage.
- Relate the home state's connection to the country and world.

American History

The student will:

(Indigenous-exploration)

- Have an appreciation of the indigenous cultures and their development before and after European exploration.
- Know and understand the reasons for the European Exploration of the New World and identify key participants.

(Colonial-Revolution)

- Know and understand the reasons for European Colonization and identify key participants.
- Know the basic chronology of the Colonial Era.
- Understand the cultural structure and development of the colonies.
- Understand the development of the practice of American slavery.
- Understand the changing ideology and relationship of the colonies and their mother countries.
- Identify the causes, key events and participants, and outcomes of the Revolutionary War.

(Post-Revolution-Civil War)

- Understand the development of United States and identify the framers of its government.
- Recognize the key events and participants in the gradual westward expansion of the United States and its impact on Native Americans.
- Understand the impact of the Industrial Revolution.
- Understand the movement from nationalism to sectionalism to states' rights.
- Identify the causes, key events and participants, and outcomes of the Civil War.

(Reconstruction-Great Depression)

- Identify the steps of Reconstruction and recognize its impact on American society.
- Identify the causes of American Immigration and its impact on American culture.
- Understand the logistics of the Transcontinental Railroad and know how it changed America.
- Analyze the cause/effect relationship of the Gilded Age on American government.
- Compare/contrast the cultural advancements in technology and arts from the turn of the century to today.
- Identify the causes, key events and participants, and outcomes of World War I.
- Analyze the cause/effect relationship of the Roaring 20s on the Great Depression and the relationship of the Great Depression to the New Deal.
- Identify the causes, key events and participants, and outcomes of World War II.

(Postwar era)

- Identify the basic structure of the United Nations and NATO and compare and contrast them.
- Identify the causes, key events and participants, and outcomes of the Korean War.
- Identify the causes, key events and participants, and outcomes of the Cold War.
- Identify the causes, key events and participants, and outcomes of the Vietnam War.

Citizenship

The student will:

- Know what it means to be a good citizen (including the right to vote).
- Develop desire to contribute to the greater good of the community.
- Understand the democratic process at various levels.
- Want to learn more about other cultures.
- Recognize our dual citizenship in Christ's earthly and heavenly kingdoms.

Civics

The student will:

- Know the three branches of government and their functions.
- Understand the law-making process.
- Have a basic grasp of the Constitution and its amendments.
- Know their government representatives and how they were elected.
- Know government buildings and symbols.
- Appreciate the blessings God gives to us in the United States.

Current Events

The student will:

- Know how to view current events from a God-pleasing perspective.
- Appreciate the impact of the computer and understand the effect the Information Age has on American society.
- Know the basic causes, key events and participants, and possible outcomes of American involvement in the Middle East and the War on Terror.

Economics

The student will:

- Know the value of money.
- Compare and contrast capitalism with other major economic philosophies.
- Have an appreciation for America's place in the world economy.
- Have an understanding of God-pleasing stewardship.