

**HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
CURRICULUM GUIDE**

**KINDERGARTEN:  
MANY ROLES IN LIVING, LEARNING, AND WORKING TOGETHER**

**DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW**

Students learn about classroom democracy, respect for one another, local geography, roles of people, national, state, and community traditions, and economics in the context of work and money.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

- Topic 1. Civics: Classroom Citizenship
- Topic 2. Geography: Connections Among Places
- Topic 3. History: Shared Traditions
- Topic 4. Economics: Work and Commerce

**LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD**

Pre-Kindergartners' history and social science learning was primarily in the context of their own and family experiences. In Grade 1, students will learn about leadership and citizenship, map types, the use of cardinal directions, and how the concepts of unity and diversity shape life in the United States.

**GOALS**

Hingham's Kindergarten social studies curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework (2018), which incorporates the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Literacy. The primary goal of the social studies program is to prepare students to be active and contributing citizens in the local, regional, national, and international community. Basic to this goal is the acquisition and processing of knowledge through the development of critical thinking and citizenship skills. The curriculum emphasizes, through the use of various teaching strategies, the application of factual knowledge to major themes that are essential for all students. Among these themes are those designed to foster an appreciation and respect for human dignity and the promotion of positive relations.

**ASSESSMENT**

Evaluation of students is based on classroom observation and discussion, read aloud and discussion, and writing. Key themes are integrated through the literacy program and other disciplines, as social studies is taught through a multidisciplinary approach. Formal assessment on the kindergarten report card reflects students' understanding of key content and concepts.

**RESOURCES:**

*Into Social Studies: The World Around Us* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018)

*Me and My World* (TCI, 2016)

*Let's Find Out* (Scholastic)

various trade and picture books

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**GRADE 1:  
LEADERSHIP, COOPERATION, UNITY, AND DIVERSITY**

**DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW**

Students learn about leadership on many levels, the meaning of citizenship, and map types. They explore how the concepts of unity and diversity, respect for differences, and respect of self shape life in the United States, and how people make choices about purchasing goods and services and saving resources.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

- Topic 1. Civics: Communities, Elections, and Leadership
- Topic 2. Geography: Places to Explore
- Topic 3. History: Unity and Diversity in the United States
- Topic 4. Economics: Resources and Choices (shared with Grade 2)

**LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD**

Kindergartners learned about taking responsibility, places and locations, the origins of national holidays, and the relationship of work, buying, and selling. Second graders will build on their pre-K to Grade 1 learning by concentrating on global geography, looking at reasons why people settle in particular places, why they migrate, how they bring culture with them, and how they discover and make use of natural resources for their own consumption and for trading with others.

**GOALS**

Hingham's Grade 1 social studies curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework (2018), which incorporates the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Literacy. The primary goal of the social studies program is to prepare students to be active and contributing citizens in the local, regional, national, and international community. Basic to this goal is the acquisition and processing of knowledge through the development of critical thinking and citizenship skills. The curriculum emphasizes, through the use of various teaching strategies, the application of factual knowledge to major themes that are essential for all students. Among these themes are those designed to foster an appreciation and respect for human dignity and the promotion of positive relations.

**ASSESSMENT**

Evaluation of students is based on classroom observation and discussion, read aloud and discussion, and writing. Key themes are integrated through the literacy program and other disciplines, as social studies is taught through a multidisciplinary approach. Formal assessment on the Grade 1 report card reflects students' understanding of key content and concepts.

**RESOURCES:**

*Into Social Studies: Families Living and Working Together* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018)  
*My School and Family* (TCI, 2016)  
*Scholastic News* (Scholastic)  
various trade and picture books

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**GRADE 2:  
GLOBAL GEOGRAPHY: PLACES AND PEOPLES, CULTURES AND RESOURCES**

**DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW**

Students learn about global geography, looking at reasons why people settle in particular places, why they migrate, how they bring culture with them, and how they earn a living, exchange goods and services, and save for the future.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

- Topic 1. Map Skills
- Topic 2. Geography: Effects on People
- Topic 3. History: Migrations and Cultures
- Topic 4. Civics: Countries and Governments
- Topic 5. Economics: Resources and Choices

**LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD**

First graders learned about leadership, places and locations, the concepts of unity and diversity, and the relationship of work, buying, and selling. Third graders will study the geography, history, government and economics of Massachusetts and New England from early cultures of Native Peoples through the colonial period, while fourth graders will examine the physical and political geography of North America, including Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

**GOALS**

Hingham's Grade 2 social studies curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework (2018), which incorporates the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Literacy. The primary goal of the social studies program is to prepare students to be active and contributing citizens in the local, regional, national, and international community. Basic to this goal is the acquisition and processing of knowledge through the development of critical thinking and citizenship skills. The curriculum emphasizes, through the use of various teaching strategies, the application of factual knowledge to major themes that are essential for all students. Among these themes are those designed to foster an appreciation and respect for human dignity and the promotion of positive relations.

**ASSESSMENT**

Evaluation of students is based on classroom observation and discussion, read aloud and discussion, and writing. Key themes are integrated through the literacy program and other disciplines, as social studies is taught through a multidisciplinary approach. Formal assessment on the Grade 2 report card reflects students' understanding of key content and concepts.

**RESOURCES:**

*Impact Social Studies: Exploring Who We Are* (McGraw Hill, 2020)  
*My Community* (TCI, 2016)  
*Scholastic News* (Scholastic)  
various trade and picture books

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**GRADE 3:  
MASSACHUSETTS: HOME TO MANY PEOPLE**

**DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW**

Students study Massachusetts and New England: the culture of Native Peoples and their interactions with European explorers and settlers; ideas about self-government in the colony of Massachusetts that led to rebellion against Great Britain, the causes and consequences of the American Revolution for Massachusetts, and the development of students' own cities and towns.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

- Unit 1: Introduction to Massachusetts History & Geography
- Unit 2: Native Peoples of Massachusetts
- Unit 3: Native Peoples' Contacts with European Explorers
- Unit 4: The Pilgrims, Plymouth Colony, and Native Peoples
- Unit 5: The Puritans, Massachusetts Bay Colony, Native Peoples and Africans
- Unit 6: Massachusetts in the 18th Century Through the American Revolution
- Unit 7: Hingham Today

**LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD**

Second graders learned about how geography affects history and economics. Fourth graders will study the physical and political geography of North America, while fifth graders will study American history from the Revolution through the Civil War and be introduced to the 20th century Civil Rights Movement.

**GOALS**

Hingham's Grade 3 social studies curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework (2018), which incorporates the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Literacy. The primary goal of the social studies program is to prepare students to be active and contributing citizens in the local, regional, national, and international community. Basic to this goal is the acquisition and processing of knowledge through the development of critical thinking and citizenship skills. The curriculum emphasizes, through the use of various teaching strategies, the application of factual knowledge to major themes that are essential for all students. Among these themes are those designed to foster an appreciation and respect for human dignity and the promotion of positive relations.

**ASSESSMENT**

Evaluation of students is based on classroom observation and discussion, read aloud and discussion, and writing. Social studies in Grades 3-5 becomes increasingly academic. While key themes continue to be integrated through the literacy program and other disciplines, social studies is also taught as a standalone subject. Formal assessment on the Grade 3 report card reflects students' understanding of key content and concepts.

**RESOURCES:**

*Massachusetts, Our Home* (Gibbs Smith, 2020)  
various trade and picture books

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**GRADE 4:  
NORTH AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, AND PEOPLES**

**DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW**

Students learn about North America (Canada, Mexico, and the United States) and its peoples from a geographic perspective. They learn about ancient civilizations on the continent and early European exploration as they expand map reading, mapmaking, and geographic reasoning skills introduced in Grades 2 and 3. They apply concepts of how geography affects human settlement and resource use, and how the westward expansion of the United States created a modern nation of 50 states and 16 territories.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

- Unit 1: Geography and Map Skills
- Unit 2: Ancient Civilizations of North America
- Unit 3: European Exploration and Conquest
- Unit 4: U.S. Northeast
- Unit 5: U.S. Southeast
- Unit 6: U.S. Midwest
- Unit 7: U.S. Southwest
- Unit 8: U.S. West

**LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD**

Second graders learned about how geography affects history and economics. Third graders learned about Massachusetts geography history, civics, and economics. Fifth graders will resume a chronological study of North American history from the Revolution through the Civil War and Reconstruction, and then study the 20th century movements for civil rights for all people. Sixth and seventh graders will study world geography and history.

**GOALS**

Hingham's Grade 4 social studies curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework (2018), which incorporates the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Literacy. The primary goal of the social studies program is to prepare students to be active and contributing citizens in the local, regional, national, and international community. Basic to this goal is the acquisition and processing of knowledge through the development of critical thinking and citizenship skills. The curriculum emphasizes, through the use of various teaching strategies, the application of factual knowledge to major themes that are essential for all students. Among these themes are those designed to foster an appreciation and respect for human dignity and the promotion of positive relations.

**ASSESSMENT**

Evaluation of students is based on classroom observation and discussion, read aloud and discussion, and writing. Social studies in Grades 3-5 becomes increasingly academic. While key themes continue to be integrated through the literacy program and other disciplines, social studies is also taught as a standalone subject. Formal assessment on the Grade 4 report card reflects students' understanding of key content and concepts.

**RESOURCES**

*Regions of Our Country* (TCI, 2016)  
various trade and picture books

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**GRADE 5:  
UNITED STATES HISTORY TO THE CIVIL WAR  
AND THE MODERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

**DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW**

Building on their knowledge of North American geography and peoples, students learn about the history of the colonies, the early Republic, the expansion of the United States, the growing sectional conflicts of the 19th century, and the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

- Unit 1: The Colonial Period
- Unit 2: The American Revolution
- Unit 3: Principles of United States Government
- Unit 4: Growth of the Republic
- Unit 5: Slavery, the Legacy of the Civil War, and the Struggle for Civil Rights for All

**LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD**

Grades 3, 4, and 5 provide students with foundational knowledge about their own state, country, and continent. In grades 6 and 7, students will study global geography and ancient and classical civilizations throughout the world.

**GOALS**

Hingham's Grade 5 social studies curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework (2018), which incorporates the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Literacy. The primary goal of the social studies program is to prepare students to be active and contributing citizens in the local, regional, national, and international community. Basic to this goal is the acquisition and processing of knowledge through the development of critical thinking and citizenship skills. The curriculum emphasizes, through the use of various teaching strategies, the application of factual knowledge to major themes that are essential for all students. Among these themes are those designed to foster an appreciation and respect for human dignity and the promotion of positive relations.

**ASSESSMENT**

Evaluation of students is based on classroom observation and discussion, read aloud and discussion, and writing. Social studies in Grades 3-5 becomes increasingly academic. While key themes continue to be integrated through the literacy program and other disciplines, social studies is also taught as a standalone subject. Formal assessment on the Grade 5 report card reflects students' understanding of key content and concepts.

**RESOURCES:**

*America's Past* (TCI, 2016)  
*Investigating History* (DESE, 2023)  
various trade and picture books