

## Grade 2

# Social Studies Curriculum

### Unit 1: Active Citizenship

#### Enduring Understandings:

- Responsible citizens show support for their country and community by being patriotic and helping others. Citizens of a country have responsibilities. These include obeying laws, voting, and paying taxes.

#### Essential Questions:

- What kinds of things do “good” citizens do?

#### NYS Social Studies Framework:

#### **2.3 The United States is founded on the principles of democracy, and these principles are reflected in all types of communities.**

- 2.3a The United States is founded on the democratic principles of equality, fairness, and respect for authority and rules.
- 2.3b Government is established to maintain order and keep people safe. Citizens demonstrate respect for authority by obeying rules and laws.
- 2.3c The process of holding elections and voting is an example of democracy in action in schools, communities, New York State, and the nation.
- 2.3d Symbols of American democracy serve to unite community members.

#### **2.4 Communities have rules and laws that affect how they function. Citizens contribute to a community’s government through leadership and service.**

- 2.4a Communities have the responsibility to make and enforce fair laws and rules that provide for the common good.
- 2.4b Communities have leaders who are responsible for making laws and enforcing laws.
- 2.4c Citizens provide service to their community in a variety of ways.

#### Vocabulary:

government, responsibility, ballot, election, equality, citizenship, laws, vote, rights, patriotism, community, rules, local, laws, state

#### Knowledge and Skills:

*Students will demonstrate increasing awareness and competence in the following areas:*

- compare/contrast ideas
- identify cause/effect
- draw inferences/make conclusions
- make decisions
- organize/get information
- support a position
- define terms
- identify basic assumptions
- recognize different points of view
- work collaboratively with others
- decode images

## Unit 2: Economics

### Enduring Understandings:

- The availability of resources to meet needs and wants can vary across individuals, groups, businesses, and communities.
- People make decisions to buy, sell, and use money based on their needs, wants, and the availability of resources.
- Scarcity, the price of goods and services, and choice all influence economic decisions made by individuals, businesses, and communities.
- Taxes are collected to provide communities with goods and services individuals could not afford to pay for by themselves.
- A community requires the interdependence of many people performing a variety of jobs and services to provide for needs and wants.

### Essential Questions:

- How do economic decisions and challenges affect people, businesses, and communities?

### NYS Social Studies Framework:

#### 2.8 Communities face different challenges in meeting their needs and wants.

- 2.8a The availability of resources to meet basic needs varies across urban, suburban, and rural communities.
- 2.8b People make decisions to buy, sell, and use money based on their needs, wants, and the availability of resources.
- 2.8c Scarcity, the price of goods and services, and choice all influence economic decisions made by individuals and communities.
- 2.8d Taxes are collected to provide communities with goods and services.

#### 2.9 A community requires the interdependence of many people performing a variety of jobs and services to provide basic needs and wants.

- 2.9a Goods are the products a person or group of people makes. Services are actions performed by a person or group of people with a certain skill.
- 2.9b Members of a community specialize in different types of jobs that provide goods and/or services to the community. Community workers such as teachers, firefighters, sanitation workers, and police officers provide services.
- 2.9c At times, neighboring communities share resources and workers to support multiple communities.

### Vocabulary:

needs, wants, goods, services, producers, consumers, earning, spending, taxes, budget, choice, expense, financial decision, goal, income, interdependence, money, products, revenue, savings, scarcity, sharing

### Knowledge and Skills:

*Students will demonstrate increasing awareness and competence in the following areas:*

- Use decision making skills to determine needs and wants for a specific purpose and stay within a budget

- Explain how available resources affects spending, saving, and sharing
- Identify economic goals and tell how the availability of resources can impact those goals
- Explain what it means to spend wisely
- Identify the role of U.S. Treasury Department as it pertains to money
- Identify the services a bank provides
- Identify the purpose of taxes
- Identify factors business owners need to consider if they want their business to be successful

### Unit 3: Rural, Urban, and Suburban

#### Enduring Understandings:

- Rural, urban, and suburban communities have distinct characteristics but they also share many similarities.

#### Essential Questions:

- Are rural, urban and suburban communities more different than similar?

#### NYS Social Studies Framework:

**2.1 A community is a population of various individuals in a common location. It can be characterized as urban, suburban, or rural. Population density and use of the land are some characteristics that define and distinguish types of communities.**

- 2.1a An urban community, or city, is characterized by dense population and land occupied primarily by buildings and structures that are used for residential and business purposes.
- 2.1b Suburban communities are on the outskirts of cities, where human population is less dense, and buildings and homes are spaced farther apart.
- 2.1c Rural communities are characterized by large expanses of open land and significantly lower populations than urban or suburban areas.
- 2.1d Activities available for people living in urban, suburban, and rural communities are different. The type of community a person grows up in will affect a person's development and identity.

**2.2 People share similarities and differences with others in their own community and with other communities.**

- 2.2a People living in urban, suburban, and rural communities embrace traditions and celebrate holidays that reflect both diverse cultures and a common community identity.
- 2.2b A community is strengthened by the diversity of its members, with ideas, talents, perspectives, and cultures that can be shared across the community.

#### Vocabulary:

agriculture, community, commute, country, crops, density, downtown, farm, high-rise, home, livestock, metropolitan area, neighbor, neighborhood, public transportation, rural, skyscrapers, social, group, suburb, subway, townhouses, traditions, urban, transportation

#### Knowledge and Skills:

*Students will demonstrate increasing awareness and competence in the following areas:*

- Compare and contrast ideas
- Identify cause and effect
- Draw inferences and make conclusions

- Evaluate the type of community they live in
- Distinguish fact from opinion
- Handle diversity of interpretations
- Gather information
- Organize information
- Interpret information
- Apply information
- Analyze information
- Support a position using information gained from the unit
- Define terms
- Recognize and avoid stereotypes
- Recognize those who have a different point of view
- Participate in group planning
- Cooperate to accomplish goals
- Assume responsibility
- Decode images
- Draw conclusions
- Make predictions

## Unit 4: Geography of Communities

### Enduring Understandings:

- Geography influences the lifestyles of different communities.
- Maps help people understand the geography of their surroundings.
- Map skills help individuals read maps.

### Essential Questions:

- Can geographic tools help us understand the similarities and differences of communities?

### NYS Social Studies Framework:

#### Unifying Theme: Geography, Humans, and the Environment

- 2.5 Geography and natural resources shape where and how urban, suburban, and rural communities develop and how they sustain themselves.
- 2.5a Urban, suburban, and rural communities can be located on maps, and the geographic characteristics of these communities can be described by using symbols, map legends, and geographic vocabulary.
- 2.5b The location of physical features and natural resources often affects where people settle and may affect how those people sustain themselves.
- 2.5c Humans modify the environment of their communities through housing, transportation systems, schools, marketplaces, and recreation areas.
- 2.5d The location and place of physical features and man-made structures can be described using symbols and specific geography vocabulary.

#### Unifying Theme: Time Continuity and Change

- 2.6 Identifying continuities and changes over time can help understand historical developments.
- 2.6a Continuities and changes over time in communities can be described using historical thinking, vocabulary, and tools such as time lines.
- 2.6b Continuities and changes over time in communities can be examined by interpreting

evidence such as maps, population charts, photographs, newspapers, biographies, artifacts, and other historical materials.

- 2.7 Cause-and-effect relationships help us recount events and understand historical development.
- 2.7a Cause-and-effect relationships help us to understand the changes in communities.

### **Vocabulary:**

climate, compass rose, desert, environment, equator, geography, hill, island, key/legend, lake, landform, map, mountain, ocean, plains, river, symbol, valley, vegetation

### **Knowledge and Skills:**

*Students will demonstrate increasing awareness and competence in the following areas:*

- Apply map skills
- Identify and compare different environmental factors
- Examine the connections between geographic/environmental factors and the lifestyle of a community
- Analyze photos of different communities in terms of geographic/environmental factors and lifestyle
- Evaluate how the geographic/environmental factors of their own community affects the lifestyle of the people in their community