



Parent Guide to Kansas Standards for History, Government, and Social Studies for

2nd Grade: Then and Now

Mission Statement:

The Kansas Standards for History, Government, and Social Studies prepare students to be informed, thoughtful, engaged citizens as they enrich their communities, state, nation, world, and themselves.

- An informed citizen possesses the knowledge needed to understand contemporary political, economic, and social issues.
- A thoughtful citizen applies higher order thinking skills to make connections between the past, present, and future in order to understand, anticipate, respond to, and solve problems.
- An engaged citizen collaborates, contributes, compromises, and participates as an active member of a community.

At this grade level . . .

The focus is on the concept of then and now, or past and present. The goal is for students to understand the concept of then and now as a framework for studying various social studies topics. In conjunction, students will gain an understanding of the related concepts of change over time and cause and effect. The course should be rigorous and relevant with instruction that combines thinking skills, historical processes, and content so that students are able to apply their learning to their own lives.

History, Government, and Social Studies Standards

1. Choices have consequences
2. Individuals have rights and responsibilities
3. Societies are shaped by beliefs, ideas, and diversity
4. Societies experience continuity and change over time
5. Relationships between people, places, ideas, and environments are dynamic

These standards outline the expectations for Kansas students in all classes and courses in History/Government/Social Studies (HGSS). These standards and expectations lay out the skills and knowledge that are being developed through the curriculum and instruction of your local school district.

Students should be learning to . . .

- Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to show understanding of key details in a story or book
- Identify the main topic of a text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the story or book
- Describe the connection between a series of events, ideas or concepts in a story or book
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a story or book relevant to a 2nd grade topic or subject area
- Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic
- Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report
- Participate in conversations with partners about 2nd grade topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups
- Draw a graph to represent data and solve simple problems using information presented in that graph
- Use historical documents or artifacts
- Describe some democratic principles
- Use maps, graphs and other representation to show the relationship between things
- Recognize how scarcity impacts the price of things

Topics that may be discussed . . .

History	Civics	Geography	Economics
Transportation	Responsibilities	Cardinal Directions	Saving
Communication	Patriotism	Human & Physical Geography	Spending
Invention	Tolerance		Income
Immigration	Respect		Trade
			Money