

4th Grade Resources

Regions and Cultures of the Americas (Pre-contact to 1763)

Students will study the Americas (North, Central, and South America along with the Caribbean Islands) using an integrated approach.

Course Considerations:

- Theories about the first peopling of the Americas
- The development of Mesoamerican and South American civilizations including the Olmec, Inca, Maya, and Aztec
- American Indian life in the Americas prior to European exploration including the peoples in the Southwest, Pacific Northwest, nomadic nations of the Great Plains, and the woodland peoples east of the Mississippi River (Eastern Woodland)
- The causes and consequences of European exploration and colonization
- The environmental, political, and cultural consequences of the interactions among European, African, and American Indian peoples in the late 15th through 17th centuries
- Regional settlement patterns, significant developments, and life in the Southern, Middle, and New England colonies
- Roles and responsibilities as members of a society
- The contributions of various cultural and ethnic groups to the development of the Americas
- Examination of primary and secondary sources including written and oral histories, images, and artifacts
- Inclusion of historical fiction, picture, books, graphic novels, in addition to informational text
- Disciplinary skills and processes including change and continuity over time, multiple perspectives, using and understanding sources, and cause and effect

NOTE: Resources may be listed as a different grade based upon national or other state curriculum. Please search by topic for sources to use.

Resource	Website	Description
2019 Notable Social Studies Books	https://www.cbcbooks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/NOTABLES2019_PreviewList2.pdf	List of notable books to teach and use for social studies broken down by grade band. There are also past lists available at https://www.cbcbooks.org/readers/reading-lists/best-of-lists/notable-social-studies/ .
Arizona Geographic Alliance	https://geoalliance.asu.edu/	Lessons and resources with a geography focus. Lessons are searchable by topic and grade level.
C3 Inquiry	http://www.c3teachers.org/inquiries/	Search by topic to find inquiries that cover the course considerations. Use all or part of the inquiries in your classes.
Docs Teach	https://www.docsteach.org/	Wide variety of primary sources from the National Archives covering U.S. History. Includes online tools to create activities based on the primary sources selected. Can modify images for 4 th grade.

Newsela	https://newsela.com/	Current events searchable by topic, and grade level. Manipulate the lexile of the article to suit your students' needs.
Digital Public Library of America	https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/	Primary source documents and lessons on early U.S. history and Native American history. Many may be adapted for 4 th grade.
CommonLit	https://www.commonlit.org	Search the library for texts on a variety of subjects. Sources and lessons searchable by lexile and include reading guides.
Project Learn Smart	https://www.projectlooksharp.org/?action=main	Sources and lessons organized by topic or by grade level and contains a media literacy focus. Many come with teacher and student guides.
Read Works	https://www.readworks.org/	Similar to Newsela. Searchable sources for social studies with adaptable lexile levels. Great resource for many topics.
Primary Source Nexus	http://primarysourcenus.org/psn-resources/themed-link-sets/cps-social-studies/	Resource partnered with the Library of Congress. Searchable topics and grade levels and includes lessons.
Teaching Tolerance	https://www.tolerance.org/	Great K-12 lessons, posters, and film on civics, history, geography, and economics with a focus on tolerance and community.
PBS Media Learning	https://az.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/social-studies/	Interactives, videos, lessons, galleries, audio, images, and documents all for K-12. Search by topics in addition to grade level.
EDSITEment	https://edsitement.neh.gov/	Lessons from the National Endowment for the Humanities. All lessons are searchable by grade level or subject/topic.
Council for Economic Education	https://www.econedlink.org/	K-12 lessons on economic principles. Many are hands on and interactive.
Brain Pop Jr.	https://jr.brainpop.com/	High quality short videos on a variety of subjects K-6. No corresponding resources.
The Smithsonian Museum Lab	http://smithsonianeducation.org/	Huge number of resources for many topics, not just social studies. Resources include lessons, video clips, and interactives. Read or watch the getting started guide to narrow your searches.
Teaching History.org	https://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials	Searchable lessons and resources for K-12 as well as teacher methodologies.
Annenberg Learner	https://www.learner.org/	Annenberg Media's K-12 site for videos, lessons, and interactives. Other content areas are available as well.