



# Southmoreland School District

## Second Grade Social Studies Curriculum Overview

### **Second Grade Social Studies Overview:**

The second grade social studies curriculum is divided into four modules: (1) Civics and Government, (2) Economics, (3) Geography, and (4) History. Second grade students apply their emerging understanding of civics, economics, geography, and history to their communities and others around the world. They are empowered with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to make informed decisions that are relevant to their lives today. Students develop critical thinking and interpersonal communication skills to become responsible and productive citizens in our culturally diverse and interdependent world. In addition, students learn about how their community works as well as the variety of ways that communities organize themselves. Finally, students develop conceptual understandings by examining the geographic and economic aspects of life in their own neighborhoods and compare them to those of people long ago. The civic mission of social studies requires more than the acquisition of content. The National Council of Social Studies defines social studies as “the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence.”

### **Module Titles:**

**Module 1:** Civics and Government

**Module 2:** Economics

**Module 3:** Geography

**Module 4:** History

### **Module Overviews:**

#### **Module 1: Civics and Government**

The goal of this module is for students to learn about our government and our rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Second grade students recognize different forms of government and compare a monarchy to a democracy. They identify the role the government plays in the community and in the United States. Students explain the importance of rules and responsibilities in the classroom and school community. Finally, students demonstrate responsible community behaviors.

#### **Module 2: Economics**

The goal of this module is for students to understand the basic elements of a community’s economic system, including producers, distributors, and consumers of goods and services. Second grade students investigate how communities pay for the goods and services they need and want. They describe jobs that people have in a community. Students learn to make choices as consumers and among products and



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services that have costs and benefits. Finally, students identify products produced inside and outside the United States

### **Module 3: Geography**

The goal of this module is for students to recognize the impact of geographic locations on its people. Second grade students use geographic tools such as a map and a globe to identify how information is organized and presented. They describe places and regions using geographic landforms. Finally, students describe the effects of local geography on the residents of the region.

### **Module 4: History**

The goal of this module is for students to understand the significance of historical events that shaped our nation. Second grade students recognize patterns of continuity and changes as they read and interpret information on a simple timeline. They distinguish between fact and opinion to interpret historical events. Students apply sources of historical information to conduct research. In addition, students identify the roles of individuals and their contributions to the history of the United States. The students study the significance of documents, artifacts, and sites in American history. Finally, students identify how conflict is impacted by ethnicity and race, working conditions, immigration, and economics.