

Galway Social Studies Curriculum Guide **4th Grade**

Grade 4: Local History and Local Government

The grade 4 social studies program builds on the students' understanding of families, schools, and communities and highlights the political institutions and historic development of their local communities with connections to New York State and the United States. The in-depth study of local government will emphasize the structure and function of the different branches and the roles of civic leaders. Students continue to learn about the rights, responsibilities, and duties of citizenship. By participating in school activities that teach democratic values, students develop a sense of political efficacy and a better understanding of the roles of supporters and leaders. Students expand their civic concepts of power, equality, justice, and citizenship as they learn about local government.

The historic study of local communities focuses on the social/cultural, political, and economic factors that helped to shape these communities. Students study about the significant people, places, events, and issues that influenced life in their local communities. Students can investigate local events and issues and connect them to national events and issues. The grade 4 program should consider the following themes and events at the local level: Native American Indians of New York State, the European encounter, the colonial and Revolutionary War period, the new nation, and the period of industrial growth and development in New York State. This chronological framework will help students to organize information about local history and connect it to United States history.

Connect local, New York State, and United States history, focusing on the following themes:

- Native American Indians of New York State
- European encounter: Three worlds (Europe, Africa, and the Americas) meet in the Americas
- Colonial and Revolutionary periods
- The new nation
- Industrial growth and expansion
- Government—local and State

Native American Indians of New York State

- Native American Indians were the first inhabitants of our local region and State.
- The Iroquois (Haudenosaunee—People of the Longhouse) and the Algonquian were the early inhabitants of our State.
- Meeting basic needs—food, clothing, and shelter
- Uses of the environment and how Native American Indian settlements were influenced by environmental and geographic factors
- Important accomplishments and contributions of Native American Indians who lived in our community and State

Three worlds (Europe, the Americas, Africa) meet in the Americas

- Major explorers of New York State
- Impacts of exploration—social/cultural, economic, political, and geographic
- The slave trade and slavery in the colonies
- Groups of people who migrated to our local region and into our State
- Ways that people depended on and modified their physical environments

Colonial and Revolutionary periods

- Dutch, English, and French influences in New York State
- Lifestyles in the colonies—comparisons during different time periods
- Different types of daily activities including social/cultural, political, economic, scientific/technological, or religious
- Ways that colonists depended on and modified their physical environments
- Cultural similarities and differences, including folklore, ideas, and other cultural contributions that helped shape our community, local region, and State
- Colonial governments
- Colonial societies were organized to answer three fundamental economic questions: What goods and services do we produce? How do we produce them? For whom do we produce them?
- Ways of making a living in our local region and State
- Causes for revolution: social, political, economic
- Important accomplishments of individuals and groups living in our community and region

The Revolutionary War in New York State

- Location of New York State
- The significance of New York State's location and its relationship to the locations of other people and places
- Geographic features that influenced the War
- Native American Indians in New York State influenced the War.

Based on NYS Social Studies Core Curriculum Content Understandings. Prepared spring 2008.

- The war strategy: Saratoga and other local battles
- Loyalists and patriots in New York State
- Leaders of the Revolution
- Effects of the Revolutionary War

The new nation

- Foundations for a new government and the ideals of American democracy as expressed in the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitutions of the
- State of New York and the United States of America
- The importance of the Bill of Rights
- Individuals and groups who helped to strengthen democracy in the United States
- The roots of American culture, how it developed from many different traditions, and the ways many people from a variety of groups and backgrounds played a role in creating it
- Those values, practices, and traditions that unite all Americans

Industrial growth and expansion

- Transportation, inventions, communication, and technology (e.g., 1800s—Erie Canal, railroads, steamboats, turnpikes, telegraph, cable; 1900s—automobiles, subways, air travel, seaways, telephones, radios and televisions, computer)
- Immigration and migration (e.g., Ellis Island; the mass starvation in Ireland, 1845-50; forced relocation of Native American Indians in New York State)
- The important contributions of immigrants to New York State
- Geographic influences of industrialization and expansion (e.g., natural resources, location); the interactions between economic and geographic factors

Urbanization: economic, political, and social impacts

- Rural to urban to suburban migration
- Economic interdependence (e.g., resource use; from farm to market)
- Ways of learning and public education in our community and State
- The labor movement and child labor

Government

- Basic democratic values (Taken from: National Standards for Civics and Government)
- The fundamental values of American democracy include an understanding of the following concepts: individual rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness; the public or common good; justice; equality of opportunity; diversity; truth; and patriotism.
- The fundamental values and principles of American democracy are expressed in the Declaration of Independence, Preamble to the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Pledge of Allegiance, speeches, songs, and stories.

Purposes of government

- The basic purposes of government in the United States are to protect the rights of individuals and to promote the common good. (Taken from: National Standards for Civics and Government)

Local and State governments

- An introduction to the probable consequences of the absence of government
- The structure and function of the branches of government of New York State and local governments, including executive, legislative, and judicial branches
- The meaning of key terms and concepts related to government, including democracy, power, and citizenship
- The United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of New York and their respective Bills of Rights were developed as written plans for organizing the functions of government and safeguarding individual liberties.
- Representatives in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches at the local, State, and national levels of government and how they are elected or appointed to office
- People elect and/or appoint leaders who make, enforce, and interpret laws.
- Citizenship and the rules and responsibilities of citizenship in the classroom, school, home, and local community
- Citizenship includes an awareness of the holidays, celebrations, and symbols of our nation, including the flag of the United States of America, its proper display, and use.
- Effective, informed citizenship involves duties such as voting, jury service, and other service to the local community.
- Citizens can participate in political decision making and problem solving at the local, State, and national levels.

