

## **GRADE 4 SOCIAL STUDIES**

Grade 4 social studies combines a historical study of the United States with a present day study of geography, economics, culture, and civics. Students begin with the geography of Maryland and the United States before investigating the Native American cultures of different regions of North America. In Unit Two students learn the chronology of U.S. history through the waves of historic and present migration. Students conclude Unit Two with a study of the early colonists. The last unit is a study of the classic colonization from 1700-1763. Students are also introduced to the basics of civics in the last unit.

### **Unit 1 The Impact of Geography: Defining Three Worlds**

Chronology: Pre-1492 and Today

Major knowledge, skills, and concepts:

- Geography of Maryland and the United States and the impact of geography on settlement patterns within states and regions
- Economic activity in Maryland and the United States
- The role of technology in developing the economy and its impact on the environment today and historically
- The historic and present cultures of specific Native American groups from regions of North America
- Social, economic, and political characteristics of Western Europe and West Africa in the 15<sup>th</sup> century

### **Unit 2 Migration: Three Worlds Collide**

Chronology: 1492-1700 and Today

Major knowledge, skills, and concepts:

- Historic turning points in the four waves of migration in United States history
- Causes and consequences of migration today and during the early settlement period in America
- Symbols of American ideas and values
- Social, economic, and religious composition of early settlers and their motives for migration
- Daily life in the early settlements of St. Mary's City, Jamestown, and Plymouth
- Reading historic document and artifacts to learn history

### **Unit 3 The Colonies Thrive**

Chronology: 1700-1763 and Today

Major knowledge, skills, and concepts:

- Individual rights and responsibilities and the importance of civic participation
- The functions of the three branches and levels of government
- How taxes finance government operations and provide public goods and services

- How citizens and governments work together to solve problems (Case studies: Developing an equal access park, Hadley's Park, and addressing the declining Blue Crab population)
- Historic turning points in individual rights and the economy of the Chesapeake Bay
- Daily life in the thirteen colonies including social, economic, and political activities from many individual perspectives
- The social and economic institutionalization of slavery and its impact on enslaved Africans
- Colonial and royal governments' roles in the colonies
- The French and Indian War's affect on individuals and groups