



Bedford Public Schools

Grade 4 – Social Studies

In grade 4, students study the geography and people of the United States in today's world. They explore the five regions, which include Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, West, & Southwest, through the lens of a geographer. The five themes of geography and their accompanying questions are: Location (Where is it?), Place (What is it like?), Human and Environment Interaction (How do people interact and change their environment?), Movement (How do people, goods, and ideas move from one location to another?), and Region (What is the major similarity that ties the region together?). Applying their knowledge of these 5 themes of geography will help students understand and compare the features of each region and their effect on the people who live there.



Learning Expectations

Social Studies

Social Studies

<p>Enduring Understandings In order to meet the standards, the students will need to understand that . . .</p>	<p>Essential Questions In order to understand, students will need to consider questions such as . . .</p>	<p>Knowledge and Skills Learning this material will require students to . . .</p>
<p>Introduction to Geography and Regions of the United States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 5 themes of geography that help us understand how living things interact and change the World (i.e. location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, regions). • Applying geographic knowledge helps us understand the past, interpret the present, and plan for the future. • The United States is a large country with a wide variety of different landmasses, important bodies of water, natural resources, and varied climates. These differences divide the country into different regions; Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Middle West, and the West. • Regions are man-made designations to help make sense of geographic features. Similarities between states define the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is geography? • How does understanding the geography of a place help you understand its people? • How does where we live affect how we live? • How do changes in our world affect how we live? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an understanding of the 5 themes of geography by designing a scrapbook of each region. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location: Where is it? 2. Place: What is it like? 3. Human – Environment Interaction: How do people interact and change their environment? 4. Movement: How do people, goods, and ideas move from one location to another? 5. Region: What is the major similarity that ties the region together? • Explore how living things change the world for good and bad. • Discuss how the past can impact the present and help plan for the future. • Illustrate on a map how the United States is divided up into regions.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Northeast Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northeast Region is a small region with many states. • This region has many natural resources, unique features, and landforms. • The climate of the Northeast impacts every aspect of people’s lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does where we live affect how we live? • How do changes in our world affect how we live? • How does climate affect how people live? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the themes of geography to the Northeast region in a scrapbook. • Think critically about the cause/effect relationship between the elements of the Northeast region.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Southeast Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southeast region is a large region with unique landforms. • The Southeast has very interesting and diverse cultures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does where we live affect how we live? • How do changes in our world affect how we live? • How does culture shape a region? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the themes of geography to the Southeast region in a scrapbook. • Think critically about the cause/effect relationship between the elements of the Southeast region.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Midwest Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Midwest region is a large region with unique features. • Farming played a key role in shaping the Midwest. • Agriculture has shaped the Midwest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does where we live affect how we live? • How do changes in our world affect how we live? • How do different regions contribute to the unique needs of our nation’s people? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the themes of geography to the Midwest region in a scrapbook. • Think critically about the cause/effect relationship between the elements of the Midwest region. • Discuss why the Midwest is called “America’s Heartland” due to its location, economy, and culture.

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<p style="text-align: center;">The West Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The West region is a large region with unique features. • Landforms and other features support the economy of the West. • Natural Parks have been created to preserve the beauty of the land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does where we live affect how we live? • How do changes in our world affect how we live? • Why are people drawn to a particular region? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the themes of geography to the West region in a scrapbook. • Think critically about the cause/effect relationship between the elements of the West region.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Southwest Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southwest region is a large region with unique features. • Water plays an important role in the Southwest. • History has played an important role in shaping the culture of this region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does where we live affect how we live? • How do changes in our world affect how we live? • How can geography and history shape life in a region? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the themes of geography to the Southwest region in a scrapbook. • Think critically about the cause/effect relationship between the elements of the Southwest region.