

## Grade 4 Social Studies Achievement Level Descriptors

The Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) describe the knowledge, skills, and cognitive processes that students should exhibit with relative consistency and accuracy in a variety of contexts. Some deviations or exceptions may be observed.

	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<b>General Social Studies Descriptors</b>	Students at the Approaching Basic level demonstrate a <b>limited</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts of the United States.	Students at the Basic level demonstrate a <b>general</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts of the United States.	Students at the Mastery level demonstrate a <b>strong</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts of the United States.	Students at the Advanced level demonstrate a <b>thorough</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts of the United States.
Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<b>Claims and Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and express <b>flawed</b> claims that provide <b>vague</b> explanations of connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and/or place.</li> <li>• Use <b>little or no</b> evidence from the sources and <b>limited</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• Rely on either knowledge from the course <b>or</b> information provided in the sources to make <b>vague or incomplete</b> connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and express <b>reasonable</b> claims, but provide <b>inconsistent or incomplete</b> explanations of connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and/or place.</li> <li>• Use <b>disconnected</b> evidence from the sources and <b>general</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• <b>Use</b> knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make <b>obvious</b> connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and clearly express <b>logical</b> claims that provide <b>consistent and complete</b> explanations of the connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and/or place.</li> <li>• Use <b>appropriate</b> evidence from the sources and <b>strong</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• <b>Integrate</b> knowledge from the course with information provided in the sources to make <b>reasoned and informed</b> connections that show the relationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and effectively express <b>valid</b> claims that provide <b>cohesive and in-depth</b> explanations of the connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and/or place.</li> <li>• Use <b>well-chosen</b> evidence from the sources and <b>thorough</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• <b>Synthesize</b> knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make <b>sophisticated</b> connections that show the interrelationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>

Sample Content Connections	Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Climate and geography shape the economies of the five regions of the United States.</li> <li>● Geography influenced the migration and settlement of people in North America.</li> <li>● British colonial policies motivated the founders to fight for a representative government.</li> <li>● The Louisiana Purchase led to the geographic and economic expansion of the United States.</li> <li>● Technological innovations helped expand the boundaries of the United States.</li> <li>● The belief in Manifest Destiny supported the expansion of the United States and the spread of democracy</li> </ul>	<b>History</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use a timeline of historical events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Construct timelines of historical events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use timelines to explain how changes over time have caused movement of people or expansion of boundaries in the United States.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify US symbols.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe the historical significance of US symbols.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain the historical significance of US political symbols.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify early explorers significant to the expansion of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe the early explorations significant to the expansion of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain how early explorations affected the expansion of boundaries and development in the United States.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify groups that migrated within the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe the voluntary migration of people within the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain the voluntary migration of people in relation to the expansion of boundaries of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain the voluntary migration of people and its significance in the development of the boundaries of the United States.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify key contributions of people in the history of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe how key contributions of people influenced the history of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cite evidence to support the key contributions and influence of people in the history of the United States.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify inventions that affected the lives of people in the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe how inventions affected the lives of people and the economy of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe how inventions and new processes affected the lives of people and the economy of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain how inventions and new processes affected the lives of people, migration, and the economy of regions of the United States.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Show an understanding of events that helped democracy expand in the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe events in that helped expand democracy in the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Draw conclusions about the relationship between significant events in the history of the United States and the expansion of democracy in the United States.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Show an understanding of the meanings of “melting pot,” “salad bowl,” and “cultural mosaic.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use concepts of “melting pot,” “salad bowl,” and “cultural mosaic” to describe diversity in the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use concepts “melting pot,” “salad bowl,” and “cultural “melting pot,” “salad bowl,” and “cultural mosaic” to explain the impact of immigration on population growth and diversity in the United States.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Locate and label continents, oceans, poles, and hemispheres on a map and/or globe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Locate and label continents, oceans, poles, hemispheres, and key parallels and meridians on a map and globe.</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Locate and label the major physical features of the United States on a map.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Locate and label the major physical features of each of the five regions of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Locate and label the major physical features of each of the five regions of the United States and summarize how they affect the climate of each region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Locate and label the major physical features of each of the five regions of the United States and summarize how they affect the climate, economy, and population of each region.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the states of each of the five regions.</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measure approximate distance on a map.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measure approximate distance on a map using scale to the nearest hundredth mile.</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe lines of longitude and latitude.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the approximate longitude and latitude coordinates of various locations in the United States.</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguish between the five regions of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the general physical characteristics of the five regions of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare and contrast the distinguishing physical characteristic of the five regions of the United States.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the physical characteristics of a region and its economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect the physical characteristics of a region to its economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how the physical characteristics of a region shape its economic development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze how physical characteristics of a region shape its economic development.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify characteristics of a physical region necessary for human settlement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how physical characteristics of a region influence human settlement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and explain how the physical characteristics of a region influence human settlement.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify how natural processes have created and/or changed the physical characteristics of places in the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Show an understanding of how natural processes have created and/or changed the physical characteristics of places in the United States.</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify ways humans affect land and bodies of water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe ways humans impact land and bodies of water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe human impact on the land and bodies of water in the five regions of the United States.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Civics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify amendments that have been added to the US Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify changes that have been made to the US Constitution through the amendment process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the significant changes that have been made to the US Constitution through the amendment process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and summarize the significant changes that have been made to the US Constitution through the amendment process.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the key ideas contained in the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the significance of key ideas contained in the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the significance of key ideas contained in the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the basic purposes of government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the basic purposes and necessity of government as identified in the Preamble to the US Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the basic purposes and necessity of government as identified in the Preamble to the US Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and analyze the basic purposes and necessity of government as identified in the Preamble to the US Constitution.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the three branches of the federal government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the structure and function of the three branches of the federal government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Differentiate between the structure and function of the three branches of the federal government.</li> </ul>	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the key requirements for becoming a US citizen.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the difference between rights, responsibilities, and duties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe a citizens' rights, responsibilities, and duties.</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the qualities of a good citizen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the qualities of a good citizen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how good citizenship contributes to democracy in the United States.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify current issues that citizens can solve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how a good citizen can help solve an issue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how good citizenship can solve a current issue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the qualities of a good citizen and how good citizenship contributes to democracy in the United States.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify wants and needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how needs should be met before wants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a logical argument to support the choice of a particular want after all needs are met.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify examples of human, natural, and capital resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how human, natural, and capital resources are used to produce goods and services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify examples of human, natural, and capital resources and explain how these resources are used to produce goods and services.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define profit and risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define profit and risk and identify how they relate to each other.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the terms profit and risk and explain how they relate to each other.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify which goods and services the government provides.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how governments pay for goods and services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how government pays for goods and services through taxes and fees.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify roles of businesses and jobs in the economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify roles of households, businesses, jobs, banks, and governments in the economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the roles of households, businesses, jobs, banks, and governments in the economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarize the roles of households, businesses, jobs, banks, and governments in the economy.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define barter and trade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify why individuals and businesses engage in barter and trade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain why individuals and businesses engage in barter and trade.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify money, checks, debit cards, and credit cards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare money (currency), checks, debit cards, and credit cards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the difference between money (currency), checks, debit cards, and credit cards and identify advantages of each type of monetary exchange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiate between money (currency), checks, debit cards, and credit cards and identify advantages and disadvantages of each type of monetary exchange.</li> </ul>