

# **PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

#### **GRADE 4**

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to understand, apply, analyze, evaluate or create the particular concepts being taught.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course, students will define and identify major landforms and river systems in Pennsylvania. Students will define, explain, and analyze how temperature, precipitation, and elevation relate to climate. Students will describe the types of severe weather that affect Pennsylvania, and describe the major natural resources of Pennsylvania. Students will identify the Europeans who explored Pennsylvania, identify Benjamin Franklin's most important inventions, discuss how the frontier was settled, and examine the life of pioneer families. They will describe how a free-enterprise system works, identify some of the major agricultural products of Pennsylvania, and explain the effects of modern technology on farming in Pennsylvania. They will explain the four kinds of local government, and understand the checks and balances system, and identify the three branches of state government. Students will explore the five regions of the United States and learn about each regions landform, history, people, and its resources. Students will create projects based on a given state and will partake in a final project called State Fair.

#### **STUDY SKILLS:**

- Maintain an organized social studies folder.
- Adequately prepare for quizzes and exams through the development of study skills.
- Use study guides and note-taking skills to prepare for assessments

#### **1. PHYSICAL AND HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

- Define and identify landforms.
- Describe major landforms and river systems in Pennsylvania.
- Define climate.
- Explain how temperature and precipitation relate to climate.
- Analyze how elevation, distance from the equator, and distance from large bodies of water affect climate.
- Describe the types of severe weather that affect Pennsylvania.
- Apply map-reading skills when reading weather maps.
- Describe the major natural resources of Pennsylvania.
- Distinguish between renewable and nonrenewable resources.

## **2. PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY**

- Identify the Europeans who explored the Delaware Bay area, and analyze the reasons for European settlement.
- Identify early Dutch and Swedish settlements in the Pennsylvania region.
- Identify William Penn as the founder of Pennsylvania.
- Identify the different peoples who came to Pennsylvania.
- Define Quaker as a religious group.
- Define the terms immigrant, indentured servant and slavery.
- Identify Benjamin Franklin's most important inventions and contributions to colonial life.
- Describe early life in Pennsylvania's farms, and in the city of Philadelphia.
- Note the key role Philadelphia played in our country's early history.
- Identify the role of Ben Franklin's contributions to society in Pennsylvania.

## **3. PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMY AND GOVERNMENT**

- identify the different types of economic systems
- define economics terms
- identify the steps needed to start a business
- identify products manufactured in Pennsylvania
- identify services provided in Pennsylvania
- identify some of the major agricultural products of Pennsylvania
- identify goods produced or manufactured in different regions of Pennsylvania
- identify the services provided by the regions of Pennsylvania
- define agribusiness and agriculture
- identify products produced from Pennsylvania's farms
- explain the affects of modern technology on farming in Pennsylvania
- identify the types of local governments
- identify the services local governments provide
- identify the services state government provides
- identify the three branches of state government
- identify the governor of Pennsylvania
- identify for what taxes are used
- identify the governor of Pennsylvania
- define democracy
- identify the duties of Americans

#### **4. UNITED STATES REGIONS**

- identify the five regions of the United States
- name the individual states of each region and their capitals
- define landform terms
- identify the landforms and geography that led to the development of each region
- identify industries and businesses that developed in each region
- describe the history of each region
- identify the first people to live in each region
- name famous artists and inventors of each region
- describe the culture and people of each region
- list the factors that led to the development of cities in each region
- name animals of each region
- describe the tourism industry of each region
- name important destinations of each region
- list goods produced and manufactured in each region
- list products grown in each region
- list the challenges of each region
- name important facts about each region
- research a state to identify its history, landforms, people, and culture

#### **MATERIALS:**

Our Pennsylvania; MacMillan/McGraw-Hill

K is for Keystone: A Pennsylvania Alphabet Supplemental Book

Pennsylvania: Facts and Symbols Supplemental Book

Textbook: Scholastic, A TRUE Book: The Northeast

Textbook: Scholastic, A TRUE Book: The Southeast

Textbook: Scholastic, A TRUE Book: The Midwest

Textbook: Scholastic, A TRUE Book: The Southwest

Textbook: Scholastic, A TRUE Book: The West

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