Swedesboro-Woolwich School District's Social Studies Curriculum Guidance Document Kindergarten ~ Unit 3 - Making Contributions

Mission Statement

The primary goal of the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District is to prepare each student with the real life skills needed to compete in a highly competitive global economy. This will be achieved by providing a comprehensive curriculum, the integration of technology, and the professional services of a competent and dedicated faculty, administration, and support staff.

Guiding this mission will be Federal mandates, including No Child Left Behind, the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, and local initiatives addressing the individual needs of our students as determined by the Board of Education. The diverse resources of the school district, which includes a caring PTO and active adult community, contribute to a quality school system. They serve an integral role in supporting positive learning experiences that motivate, challenge and inspire children to learn.

Unit 3 - Making Contributions/Module Overview

Our world is in need of problem solvers who are equipped to meet the challenges of today's society. In this third unit of study, children will experience what it means to solve problems. They will discuss the need to find ways to bring awareness to the acceptance of others and that people need to be recognized for their different abilities. Through this unit, we examine resources people need to survive and how to create solutions to preserve and protect resources. Students begin to realize how our actions affect others as well as our environment, and understand the importance of making good choices. Children learn how to be responsible members of their community and to respect the world in which they live.

Unit 3 will cover the following topics:

- 1. Abilities Awareness
- 2. Easter
- 3. Earth Day
- 4. Arbor Day
- 5. Mother's Day/Father's Day
- 6. Memorial Day National Symbols

- 7. Flag Day
- 8. Summer Safety

Standards Covered in Current Unit/Module

Related Standards and Learning Goals

	Unit 1/Our Community Weekly Learning Activities and Pacing Guide Time Frame: 12 weeks				
Topic & # Days	NJ Standards	Critical Knowledge & Skills	Possible Resources & Activities		
April Lesson 1: Abilities Awareness	New Jersey Kindergarten Social Studies Standard (2020 NJSLS-S): 6.1.2.CivicsCM.3 – Explain how diversity, tolerance, fairness, and respect for others can contribute to individuals feeling accepted in a community. 6.1.2.CivicsCM.1 – Describe why it	Objective: We are learning to: Understand that everyone has unique abilities and strengths. Recognize that people may learn, move, or communicate in different ways. Practice kindness, empathy, and inclusion toward people of all abilities. Reflect on their own strengths and how they help the classroom community. Suggested Formative Assessment(s):	Mentor Texts (Age-Appropriate): 1. "We're All Wonders" by R.J. Palacio – Celebrates uniqueness and kindness 2. "Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You" by Sonia Sotomayor – Features children with a range of disabilities 3. "My Brother Charlie" by Holly Robinson Peete – Autism awareness from a sibling's view 4. "All the Way to the Top" by Annette Bay		
	is important that people work together to solve problems and build a strong community.	Option A: "My Superpower Is" Students complete a worksheet/drawing that says: "My superpower is because I can" Encourage students to use kind and confident words.	Pimentel – About a young girl in a wheelchair advocating for accessibility 5. "I Am Not a Label" by Cerrie Burnell – Biographies of people with disabilities		

^{*}See standards in lessons below

	6.1.2.HistorySE.1 – Use examples of how experiences of individuals and families of the past and present are shared through stories, songs, and celebrations. 6.1.2.CivicsPD.1 – Develop and communicate a personal goal.	 Option B: Kindness Role Play Practice role-playing scenarios: "What would you do if a friend needed help opening a door?" "What if someone doesn't talk but smiles at you?" Option C: Inclusion Mural Create a group mural of students doing different things together (some with canes, glasses, wheelchairs, etc.) Observation: Student engagement in group discussions and empathy role-play Student Work: Review "My Superpower" pages for self-awareness and expression Exit Prompt: "What is one way you can help others feel included?" 	(adapt portions for K) Materials Needed: Chart paper and markers Mentor texts (see above) Printed "My Superpower Is" page Crayons, glue, scissors Photos or visuals of assistive tools (wheelchair, hearing aids, service animals, etc.) Mirror or handouts with emotions faces (for empathy building) Teacher Resources: RespectAbility.org – Inclusion lesson plans and disability awareness videos National Down Syndrome Society – Classroom resources Autism Speaks – Educator kits Teaching Tolerance (Learning for Justice) – Inclusion lessons YouTube Read-Alouds of books like Just Ask! and We're All Wonders Sesame Street – Meet Julia (autistic character), videos on empathy and inclusion
April	New Jersey Kindergarten Social	Objective: We are learning to: • Recognize Easter as one of many springtime	Mentor Texts (Age-Appropriate & Inclusive):
Lesson 2:	Studies Standard (2020 NJSLS-S):	 holidays celebrated by some families. Understand that people celebrate holidays in different ways. 	"The Easter Egg" by Jan Brett – Beautiful springtime art and tradition
Easter	6.1.2.HistorySE.1 – Use examples of how experiences of individuals and families of the past and present are shared through	 Identify common symbols and traditions associated with Easter (e.g., eggs, bunnies, baskets). Practice respect for different family traditions 	2. "Happy Easter, Curious George" by R.P. Anderson – Easter egg hunt fun 3. "Pete the Cat: Big Easter Adventure" by Kimberly and James Dean – Holiday

	stories, songs, and celebrations. 6.1.2.HistoryCC.4 – Describe why it is important to understand the perspectives of other cultures in an interconnected world. 6.1.2.CivicsCM.3 – Explain how diversity, tolerance, fairness, and respect for others can contribute to individuals feeling accepted in a community.	and celebrations. Suggested Formative Assessment(s): •	teamwork 4. "Easter" by Gail Gibbons - A nonfiction overview of Easter traditions 5. "Rechenka's Eggs" by Patricia Polacco - Ukrainian egg decorating and compassion 6. "Too Many Carrots" by Katy Hudson - Sharing and friendship with spring imagery Materials Needed: • Chart paper and markers • Mentor texts (see above) • Spring or Easter-themed images (eggs, bunnies, flowers, baskets) • Crayons, scissors, glue • Plastic eggs or egg cutouts (for optional sorting or math activity) Teacher Resources: • PBS Learning Media - Spring Holidays Around the World • Scholastic - Easter Crafts and Reading Printables • National Geographic Kids - Easter Around the World • BrainPOP Jr Spring and Holiday Videos
			 National Geographic Kids – Easter Around the World
April	N 7 1/2 1 . C . I	Objective: We are learning to:	M . T . (A . A
Lesson 3:	New Jersey Kindergarten Social Studies Standard (2020 NJSLS-S):	 Understand that Arbor Day is a special day to appreciate and care for trees. Recognize the role trees play in our environment 	Mentor Texts (Age-Appropriate): 1. "We Planted a Tree" by Diane Muldrow –
	,	and community.	Trees around the world
	6.1.2.CivicsPR.1 – Describe roles	 Identify ways they can help the Earth by caring 	2. "A Tree is Nice" by Janice May Udry –

Arbor Day	and responsibilities of community and local government leaders. 6.1.2.CivicsCM.1 – Describe why it is important that people work together to solve problems and build a strong community. 6.1.2.Geo.HE.1 – Explain how environmental characteristics influence how and where people	for plants and nature. Participate in a simple tree-related activity or planting project. Suggested Formative Assessment(s): Option A: "My Favorite Tree" Drawing/Writing Page Students draw a tree they like (real or imagined) Sentence prompt: "My tree is special because"	Classic, simple appreciation 3. "Tree: A Peek-Through Picture Book" by Britta Teckentrup – Seasonal tree changes 4. "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein – Tree as a symbol of giving (discussion starter) 5. "Because of an Acorn" by Lola M. Schaefer – Chain of life from a single acorn 6. "I Can Save the Earth!" by Alison Inches – Basic environmental awareness Materials Needed:
	live. 6.1.2.Geo.HE.2 – Describe how human interaction impacts the environment. 6.1.2.HistorySE.1 – Use examples of how experiences of individuals and families are shared through stories, songs, and celebrations.	 Option B: Class Tree Planting or Seed Planting Activity Plant a small sapling, flower, or seed in the schoolyard or cups for windowsills Talk about how to take care of it Option C: Leaf Rubbing Craft Use real leaves and crayons to create leaf rubbings Label parts of a tree (roots, trunk, leaves) Option D: Class Book – "Our Earth, Our Trees" Each student contributes a page about how they can help the Earth or why they love trees Observation: Participation during discussion and group brainstorming Student Work: Evaluate drawing/writing or planting project for understanding Exit Prompt: "What did you learn about trees today?" 	 Chart paper and markers Mentor texts (see below) Tree photos or real leaves Crayons, glue, scissors Optional: small saplings or seeds to plant (classroom or outdoor space) Printable Arbor Day coloring/writing sheets Teacher Resources: ArborDay.org – Free resources, kid-friendly activities PBS Kids – "Nature" videos and games National Geographic Kids – Trees and Plants Scholastic – Arbor Day printable crafts and writing prompts GoNoodle – Nature movement breaks TPT (Teachers Pay Teachers) – Free Arbor Day mini-books and tree crafts
April	New Jersey Kindergarten Social Studies Standard (2020	Objective: We are learning to: • Understand that Earth Day is a special day to learn how to take care of our planet.	Mentor Texts (Read-Aloud Books)

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Lesson 4:	NJSLS-S): 6.1.2.CivicsCM.1 – Describe why it	 Identify ways to help the environment (reduce, reuse, recycle). Recognize that everyone can make a difference 	 "Earth Day, Birthday!" by Maureen Wright A fun and simple story featuring jungle animals 	
Earth Day	is important that people work together to solve problems and build a strong community.	 by taking action. Participate in an Earth-friendly activity or project. 	 "The Earth Book" by Todd Parr – Simple, colorful messages about helping the planet "What Does It Mean to Be Green?" by Rana 	
	6.1.2.CivicsPR.1 – Describe roles and responsibilities of people in a	Suggested Formative Assessment(s):	DiOrio – Real-life actions kids can take 4. "I Can Save the Earth!" by Alison Inches –	
	community.	Option A: "My Earth Promise" Craft	Funny and informative, great for class discussion	
	6.1.2.Geo.HE.2 – Describe how human interaction impacts the environment.	 Students draw or write one thing they will do to help the Earth Attach to a paper Earth cutout and make a classroom display 	5. "Michael Recycle" by Ellie Bethel – A superhero story about recycling and action	
	6.1.2.HistorySE.1 – Use examples of how experiences of individuals	Option B: Recyclable Sorting Game	Teacher & Digital Resources	
	and families are shared through stories, songs, and celebrations.	 Show (or use real) items and ask: "Is this trash, compost, or recycle?" Students sort items into bins (paper, plastic, food, etc.) 	 National Geographic Kids – Earth Day – Videos and fun facts PBS Kids – Earth Day Videos & Games – Arthur, Wild Kratts, Elinor Wonders Why EarthDay.org – Activity ideas and global 	
		Option C: Nature Walk or Schoolyard Clean-Up Take a short walk around school to notice nature or safely pick up litter	information • [GoNoodle] – "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" dance break • [Scholastic Teachables] – Earth Day worksheets and crafts	
		Option D: "I Love the Earth" Class Book	[Teachers Pay Teachers] – Free Earth Day mini-books and coloring pages	
		Each child draws a picture and completes the sentence: "I love the Earth because"	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
		Observation : Participation during read-aloud, discussion, and sorting game		
		Student Work : Review drawings, writing, or sorting activity for understanding		

		Exit Prompt: "Tell a friend one way you can help the Earth!"	
May Lesson 1: Mother's Day	New Jersey Kindergarten Social Studies Standard (2020 NJSLS-S): 6.1.2.HistorySE.1 – Use examples of how experiences of individuals and families of the past and present are shared through stories, songs, and celebrations. 6.1.2.CivicsCM.3 – Explain how diversity, tolerance, fairness, and respect for others can contribute to individuals feeling accepted in a community. 6.1.2.CivicsPD.1 – Develop and communicate a personal goal. 6.1.2.HistoryCC.4 – Describe why it is important to understand the perspectives of other cultures in an interconnected world.	Objective: We are learning to: Understand Mother's Day as a time to honor people who care for and love us. Recognize that families may look different and caregivers may include moms, grandmothers, aunts, dads, or other family members. Express appreciation through writing, art, or spoken word. Participate in a celebration of gratitude and love. Suggested Formative Assessment(s): Option A: Mother's Day Card or Art Project Students decorate a card or craft (handprint flower, paper bouquet, coupon book) Include a writing prompt: "I love you because" or "You are special because" Option B: "My Special Person" Writing Page Students draw and write about someone they love and appreciate Adapt for diverse families (say "someone who takes care of me" instead of only "mom") Option C: Class Book – "We Love Our Caregivers" Each student contributes a page about their special person, and the class creates a collective keepsake Observation – Engagement during discussion and group sharing	Mentor Texts (Age-Appropriate) 1. "The Night Before Mother's Day" by Natasha Wing – A playful and sweet celebration prep 2. "What Mommies Do Best" by Laura Numeroff – Simple examples of nurturing 3. "Because Your Mommy Loves You" by Andrew Clements – Shows how moms guide children with love 4. "Mommy's Khimar" by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow – A beautiful story of love and culture 5. "My Heart Fills with Happiness" by Monique Gray Smith – A celebration of love and family 6. "Mama, Do You Love Me?" by Barbara M. Joosse – Unconditional love in an Alaskan setting Teacher Resources PBS Learning Media – Family and Traditions Videos Scholastic – Mother's Day crafts and writing templates TPT (Teachers Pay Teachers) – Free Mother's Day cards, acrostics, and keepsake books Sesame Street – Videos on families, love, and kindness National Geographic Kids – Families Around the World
		Student Work – Review cards or writing for thoughtful	

		expression and connection	
		Exit Prompt – "What's one way you can show someone	
May Lesson 2: Memorial Day ~ National Symbols	New Jersey Kindergarten Social Studies Standard (2020 NJSLS-S): 6.1.2.CivicsPI.3 – Explain how historical symbols, monuments, and holidays reflect the shared values, principles, and beliefs of the American identity. 6.1.2.HistorySE.1 – Use examples of how experiences of individuals and families of the past and present are shared through stories, songs, and celebrations. 6.1.2.HistoryCC.3 – Use chronological sequencing to compare life over time. 6.1.2.CivicsCM.1 – Describe why it is important that people work together to solve problems and	Exit Prompt – "What's one way you can show someone you love them?" Objective: We are learning to: • Understand that Memorial Day is a national holiday to honor soldiers who served and sacrificed for our country. • Recognize and identify important U.S. national symbols (e.g., flag, bald eagle, Statue of Liberty). • Express respect and appreciation for the people who serve our country. • Participate in a patriotic-themed activity or art project. Suggested Formative Assessment(s): Option A: Flag Craft or Coloring Page • Students color or assemble an American flag with construction paper strips • Talk about the 13 stripes and 50 stars Option B: Memorial Poppy Craft • Make paper poppies and explain they honor soldiers • Can be worn as a pin or added to a class wreath	Mentor Texts (Age-Appropriate) 1. "Memorial Day" by Emma Carlson Berne – A simple nonfiction overview 2. "The Poppy Lady" by Barbara Walsh – Story of Moina Michael and the Memorial Day poppy tradition 3. "F is for Flag" by Wendy Cheyette Lewison – Gentle introduction to the American flag 4. "America the Beautiful" by Katharine Lee Bates (illustrated) – U.S. landmarks and patriotism 5. "Our Flag" by Carl Memling – A classic Little Golden Book about the flag 6. "Red, White, and Blue" by Deborah Kent – A basic guide to national symbols Teacher & Digital Resources PBS Kids – Patriotic Songs and Activities [BrainPOP Jr. – Memorial Day Video (if subscribed)] [Scholastic Learn at Home – Symbols of
	build a strong community.	 Option C: Symbol Match Game Match symbol pictures (e.g., eagle, flag, Statue of Liberty) with names or meanings Can be done as a center or group game Option D: "I Am Thankful For" Writing Page Students complete: "I am thankful for the people 	 America lesson] [Teachers Pay Teachers – Free National Symbols posters, coloring sheets, and writing prompts] [National Park Service – Junior Ranger Symbols Booklet (free printable)]

		who keep us safe." and draw a picture	
		Observation – Participation in group discussion and symbol sorting Student Work – Review crafts and writing for understanding of symbols and holiday meaning Exit Prompt – "What is one thing you remember about Memorial Day?"	
June		Objective: We are learning to:	
1 4	New Jersey Kindergarten Social	Understand that Flag Day celebrates the	Mentor Texts (Read-Aloud Books)
Lesson 1:	Studies Standard (2020 NJSLS-S):	American flag and what it stands for. Recognize the U.S. flag as a national symbol.	1. "F Is for Flag" by Wendy Cheyette Lewison
		Identify the flag's colors, stars, and stripes and	- Simple, engaging explanation of the flag's
Flag Day	6.1.2.CivicsPI.3 – Explain how	their basic meanings.	meaning
	historical symbols, monuments, and holidays reflect the shared	 Show respect for the flag and discuss how symbols bring people together. 	2. "Our Flag" by Carl Memling – A classic
	values, principles, and beliefs of	symbols bring people together.	introduction to the American flag for children
	the American identity.	Suggested Formative Assessment(s):	3. "Red, White, and Blue: The Story of the
	642 HistomySE4	Option A: Make a Flag Craft	American Flag" by John Herman – Early
	6.1.2.HistorySE.1 – Use examples of how experiences of individuals	Option A. Make a Flag Craft	history of the flag 4. "The Flag We Love" by Pam Muñoz Ryan –
	and families are shared through	Use construction paper or coloring sheets to	Poetic and patriotic
	stories, songs, and celebrations.	make the American flag	5. "I Pledge Allegiance" by Bill Martin Jr. &
	6.1.2.CivicsCM.3 – Explain how	Optional: Label the stars and stripes	Michael Sampson – Explains the meaning
	diversity, tolerance, fairness, and	Option B: "What the Flag Means to Me" Writing/Drawing	behind the pledge
	respect for others can contribute	Page	Teacher Resources
	to individuals feeling accepted in a community.	Prompt: "The flag is special because" with a	226 1/1 1/6 6 1 1 1 6
	a community.	space for drawing	 PBS Kids: U.S. Symbols and Songs National Museum of American History –
		Encourage student to think about respect,	Star-Spangled Banner Resources
		safety, or pride	 Scholastic – American Flag and U.S.
		Option C: Flag Match or Symbol Sort Game	Symbols Activities • [Teachers Pay Teachers – Free Flag Day
		Match American supplied (flag eagle Liberty	printables, crafts, and worksheets]
		 Match American symbols (flag, eagle, Liberty 	, , ,

		Bell, etc.) with their names or meanings • Sort symbols by "things that represent the U.S." vs. "things that don't"	 [YouTube – Sing-alongs like "You're a Grand Old Flag" or "The Star-Spangled Banner" (instrumental versions)]
		Option D: Sing-Along	
		 Learn a short patriotic song like "You're a Grand Old Flag" or recite "The Pledge of Allegiance" together 	
		Observation – Student engagement during discussion and flag identification	
		Student Work – Review drawings and crafts for understanding of flag components and meaning	
		Exit Ticket – "What do the stars and stripes on the flag mean?"	
June Lesson 2:	New Jersey Kindergarten Social Studies Standard (2020	Objective: We are learning to: • Understand that Father's Day is a holiday to honor and thank fathers and father figures.	Mentor Texts (Read-Aloud Books)
Father's Day	NJSLS-S):	 Recognize the role of caregivers (dads, grandfathers, uncles, stepdads, etc.) in their 	1. "Because I'm Your Dad" by Ahmet Zappa – A fun, heartfelt story of a father's love
	6.1.2.HistorySE.1 – Use examples of how experiences of individuals and families are shared through	 lives. Express appreciation through words and creative work. 	 "My Dad" by Anthony Browne – A humorous tribute to dads "Daddy Hugs" by Karen Katz – Simple and
	stories, songs, and celebrations.	Respect that families can look different but all include love and support.	loving board book 4. "Just Me and My Dad" by Mercer Mayer –
	6.1.2.CivicsCM.3 – Explain how diversity, tolerance, fairness, and respect for others can contribute	Suggested Formative Assessment(s):	A Little Critter classic about quality time 5. "I Love My Daddy" by Sebastien Braun – Gentle, sweet celebration of dad-child
	to individuals feeling accepted in a community.	Option A: "All About My Dad" or "My Special Person" Booklet	bonding 6. "A Family Is a Family Is a Family" by Sara
	6.1.2.CivicsPI.3 – Explain how historical symbols, monuments, and holidays reflect shared	 Fill-in-the-blank pages like: "My dad's name is" "He likes to" 	O'Leary – Emphasizes family diversity Teacher Resources
	values and beliefs of the	o "I love my dad because"	PBS Kids – Family videos and crafts:

	American identity.	o Include drawings of them together	https://pbskids.org
	6.1.2.HistoryCC.3 – Use chronological sequencing to compare life over time.	Option B: Father's Day Card or Craft Simple art project like a handprint card, necktie craft, or coupon book Encourage kids to use words like "thank you," "I love you," or "You're the best!" Option C: Class Book – "People We Love" Each child draws and writes a sentence about their dad or special caregiver Combine into a class book or slideshow Option D: Sing a Song or Poem	 Scholastic – Father's Day Cards & Crafts Teachers Pay Teachers – Free Father's Day printables, writing prompts, and class books Sesame Street – Families Come in All Shapes and Sizes YouTube Read-Alouds – Many mentor texts above are available in video format
		Teach a simple Father's Day poem or create a class chant Observation – Participation in class discussion and story	
		responses Student Work – Review card or booklet for understanding and meaningful expression Exit Prompt – "What is one way you can say thank you to someone in your family?"	
June		Objective: We are learning to:	
Lesson 3:	New Jersey Kindergarten Social Studies Standard (2020 NJSLS-S):	 Recognize safe and unsafe situations related to summer weather, swimming, and outdoor play. Identify trusted adults and safe actions to take when unsure. 	Mentor Texts (Read-Aloud Books) 1. "A Day at the Beach" by Tom Booth – Great for introducing beach safety and fun
Summer Safety	6.1.2.CivicsCM.1 – Describe why it is important that people work together to solve problems and build a strong community. 6.1.2.CivicsPD.1 – Develop and	 Express ways they can stay safe and healthy during summer vacation. Participate in creating a personal or class summer safety guide. Suggested Formative Assessment(s):	2. "Jabari Jumps" by Gaia Cornwall – Gentle intro to water safety and facing fears 3. "Sun Safe" by Emma Redden – Simple story about sunscreen, hats, and hydration 4. "Froggy Learns to Swim" by Jonathan London – Water safety in a silly,

communicate a personal goal.

6.1.2.HistorySE.1 – Use examples of how experiences of individuals and families are shared through stories, songs, and celebrations.

Option A: "My Summer Safety Book"

- Students draw and write (or dictate) on pages like:
 - "In the sun, I will..."
 - o "At the pool, I will..."
 - "When I ride my bike, I will..."

Option B: Poster or Coloring Page

- Make a poster of a safe summer scene (beach, playground, etc.)
- Label it with safety tips

Option C: Summer Safety Sorting Game

- Present picture cards (sunscreen, sunglasses, running near pool, drinking water)
- Sort into "Safe" and "Not Safe" categories

Option D: Role-Playing Safety Scenarios

• Act out what to do in different situations (e.g., lost at the beach, too much sun, need help)

Observation – Student responses during story and safety discussion

Student Work – Check for understanding in their safety drawings/writing

Exit Ticket – "What's one safe thing you can do this summer?"

kid-friendly way

5. **"Officer Buckle and Gloria"** by Peggy Rathmann – A fun way to discuss rules and safety

Teacher Resources

- Safe Kids Worldwide Summer Safety Tips (https://www.safekids.org)
- PBS Kids Outdoor Safety Games & Videos
- CDC: Water and Sun Safety for Children
- GoNoodle Sun Safety Song
- Scholastic Teachables Summer safety writing prompts and coloring pages
- Teachers Pay Teachers Free "Summer Safety Rules" worksheets and mini books

Link to Additional Components including Cross Curricular Connections, Accommodations, Assessments, Etc.

ELA Enduring Understanding Statements