Unit 5 - Communities - Earth

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Social Studies**
Time Period: **Ongoing**
Length: **approx 2 months**
Status: **Published**

NCS Kindergarten Social Studies Curriculum

BOE Adopted & Approved October 2017

Big Idea

Our Big Book of Communities

Explore Earth

Four seasons

Weather

Forests

Mountains

Oceans

Plains

Maps

Essential Questions

What are some kinds of weather?

What are the seasons?

What are forests?

What are plains?

What are mountains?

What are oceans?

What does a map show?

What does a map of our country look like?

What does a map of the world look like?

What does Earth look like?

How can we help the Earth?

Skills

Develop an awareness of the physical features of the neighborhood/community

Compare and contrast information that can be found on different types of maps, and determine when the information may be useful

Use physical and political maps to explain how the location and spatial relationship of places in New Jersey, the United States and other areas worldwide, have contributed to cultural diffusion and economic interdependence

Describe how landforms, climate and weathe, and availability of resources have impacted where and how people live and work in different regions of New Jersey and the United States

Describe how human interaction impacts the environment in New Jersey and the United States

Compare and contrast characteristics of regions in the United States based on culture, economics, politics and physical environment to understand the concept of regionalism

<u>Learning Targets include but not limited to:</u>

Different types of weather that can occur throughout the year

Four seasons in the year and that the weather varies from season to season

Explore forests, plains, mountains and oceans to learn about different animals and plants that are found there

Explore maps to learn how landforms and other features are shown on a simple map

Explore a US map to use the map to locate their state

Explore a world map to learn what the world looks like from above and learn that there are many countries

Explore the globe as a model of Earth

Learn about Earth's resources and ways in which people can help conserve resources

Activities include but not limited to:

Pantomine different activities they like to do in each kind of weather

Draw picture of favorite season

The Great Kapok Tree - draw pictures of forests

Animals on the Plains - name and move like animals that live on the plains

Sculpt clay mountains

Ocean Animals - discuss ways they move

Research state bird

Earth Collage - put pictures of your favorite things about Earth on a beach ball

The Lorax - draw a picture of a resource in the story

Standards

Includes but not limited to:

Assessments

Classroom Participation

Teacher Observation

Anecdotal notes

Classwork

Homework

Reviews & Tests

Resources/Instructional Materials

Holidays/Important Patriotic dates

Workbooks/Practice books

Atlas & Maps

Trade books

Read Aloud books

Modifications

Modifications for Special Education Students	Note IEP, audio recordings, digital media, screen casts, visual presentation, study guides, outlines
Modifications for English Language Learners	Extended time, assign preferential seating, positive reinforcement, peer tutoring, study guides, lower reading level, read directions aloud, alternative assignments, study guides, outlines
Modifications for Students Who Lack Support for School	Extended time, assign preferential seating, positive reinforcement, peer tutoring, study guides, lower reading level, read directions aloud, alternative assignments, study guides, outlines
Modifications for Gifted Students	Integrate, abstract, complex and varied assignments, freedom of choice when applicable, variable pacing levels

Integration of 21st Century Skills

Focus on the development of 21st Century Content Skills:

- Global awareness
- Civic literacy
- Health and wellness awareness
- Environmental literacy

Focus on the Development of Learning and Thinking Skills:

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills
- Communication Skills
- Creativity and Innovation Skills
- Collaboration Skills

- Information and Media Literacy Skills
- Contextual Learning Skills

Focus on the Development of Life Skills:

- Leadership
- Ethics
- Accountability
- Adaptability
- Personal Productivity
- Personal Responsibility
- People Skills
- Self Direction
- Social Responsibility

Interdisciplinary Connections

- Academic and Technical Rigor - Projects are designed to address key learning standards identified by the school or district.
- Authenticity - Projects use a real world context (e.g., community and workplace problems) and address issues that matter to the students.
- Applied Learning - Projects engage students in solving problems calling for competencies expected in high-performance work organizations (e.g.,teamwork, problem-solving, communication, etc.).
- Active Exploration - Projects extend beyond the classroom by connecting to internships, fieldbased investigations, and community explorations.
- Adult Connections - Projects connect students with adult mentors and coaches from the wider community.
- Assessment Practices - Projects involve students in regular, performance-based exhibitions and assessments of their work; evaluation criteria reflect personal, school, and real-world standards of performance.