



Course Syllabus

Course Title: Social Studies, Grade 4

School Year: 2024-2025

Semester(s): 1 and 2

Grade Level(s): Grade 4

Course Day(s) and Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 am - 10:00 am PST

Teacher Information

- **Name:** Mary Miller
- **Email:** mary.miller@brancheslearning.org
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

Class Materials - <https://brancheslearning.org/product/social-studies-grade-4/#Materials>

Course Description: Fourth-grade students delve into the histories of California and the Colonial United States. Key topics cover early exploration and settlement in California, the repercussions of colonization on Native American communities, the geographic characteristics of California, and the roles of local, state, and federal governments.

We will be learning about our great country. This will include learning about the first Americans. We will learn about the Westward Expansion, how the U.S. government works. We will learn map skills so you never get lost!! We will talk about early settlements and so much more. I can't wait to get started. We have lots of learning and exploring to do!!

In this course, students will:

- Use various sources to investigate and evaluate historical events and figures.
- Increase critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills as they research, present, and reflect on their learning.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the historical events and perspectives that shaped California and the United States through project-based learning.



Course Units

Unit 1: Map Skills - Southwestern Region US

Unit 2: Geographic Information

- Geographic Regions
- Continents and Oceans
- Geography - Western Region

Unit 3: Notable People of the Westward Expansion

Unit 4: Time Lines

- Early Settlements
- Pioneer Life
- Famous Americans
- Interdependence of Goods and Services
- Trade and Transportation
- Immigration

Unit 5: Citizenship and Government

- Local and State Government
- The Presidency
- State Government
- U.S. Constitution
- American Citizenship

Unit 6: Government and Political System

- Local Government
- Forming a Government
- Purpose of Government
- Local and State Government

Course Expectations: Come to class ready and excited to learn!! Please come to class on time, be ready to participate. We are all here to help each other learn. Come with your Social Studies notebook, paper, pencils, pens. Homework needs to be done in a timely manner. The homework is assigned to help reinforce what was learned and discussed in class. Waiting until the end of the quarter to get homework in will not help you understand the material. Late work will result in a dropped grade. I also have a "do over" policy, if you do an assignment and you have trouble you can do it over, and I will change the grade. If you hand it in late then you won't have a chance for a "do over"!

I know we will have a great time this year!! I am so excited to meet all of you!



Grading Scale

Elementary School, Grades K-5

- EE – Exceeding grade level expectations
- ME – Meeting Grade Level Expectations
- AE – Approaching Grade-Level Expectations
- LE – Lack of Evidence Needed to Assess Grade-Level Expectations
- WTG – Working Toward Personal Goals Outlined in a Student's IEP

Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.

Important Branches Learning Policy Information

Camera Policy

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.

Headset Policy

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.

Attendance Policy

Absences must be reported to the course instructor via email or sent to info@brancheslearning.org. Class recordings are available upon requests.

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

Late Work

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.

