

# Kindergarten - History

Kinder History	<p>The study of geography and history in kindergarten helps students orient themselves in the physical world around them and begin to broaden their understanding of other ways of life. Geography topics include the beginning development of a spatial sense (e.g., simple locality, continents, oceans, globe and map use, and poles). Students will acquire and use emerging geographic vocabulary and a basic sense of how we organize and talk about the biggest pieces of land by tracing and coloring maps, and associating continents with wildlife, landmarks, and other defining features. For the entire school year, students regularly locate themselves on maps and globes in relation to the specific continents and countries they are studying.</p> <p>History topics begin in kindergarten with the immediate—their own communities. The students learn about their own classrooms, school, neighborhood, city, state, and country. The focus then shifts to a more chronological study of American history beginning with the different Native American peoples who resided in different regions. Within each region, a different Native American tribe is discussed in reference to their way of life, food, clothing, homes, and beliefs or stories. The class then studies three major topics in American history: the explorations of Columbus, the settlements of the Pilgrims, and our nation’s eventual independence from Great Britain. These three main topics are held together by the common thread of dangerous voyages and citizens with a desire for freedom.</p> <p>Students will then learn about the seven continents in our world, focusing on the plants and animals native to each, and well-known landmarks on each continent. Circling back to North America, and our country specifically, the students learn about symbols that represent America, including landmarks and figures. It is during this segment of the year, that the children are taught about the significance of American symbols such as the Statue of Liberty, Liberty Bell, American Flag and the bald eagle, among others. Each of these units guides the students to an understanding of why we hold our American culture so dear.</p> <p>Unit 1: Geography and Map Skills</p> <p>Unit 2: Native Americans</p> <p>Unit 3: Early Exploration and Settlement</p> <p>Unit 4: The Pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving</p> <p>Unit 5: The Seven Continents</p> <p>Unit 6: Formation of a Democracy</p> <p>Unit 7: American Presidents</p> <p>Unit 8: American Symbols</p>
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