

Grade Four

North American Geography

(with optional standards for one Early Civilization)

In Grade 4, students study the geography and people of the United States today. Students learn geography by addressing standards that emphasize political and physical geography and embed five major concepts: location, place, human interaction with the environment, movement, and regions. In addition, they learn about the geography and people of contemporary Mexico and Canada. Teachers may choose to teach the standards on the geography and social characteristics of the nations in Central America and the Caribbean Islands. Teachers may also choose to have students study in the first half of the school year one early civilization. MA DESE recommends China because it is not studied in Grade 7 and can be easily connected to the English language arts curriculum through its myths, legends, and folktales.

Note: The grade 5 MCAS will cover only the U.S. history, geography, economics, and civics standards, concepts and skills of grades 4 and 5.

Concepts and Skills:

History and Geography

1. Use map and globe skills to determine absolute locations (latitude and longitude) of places studied. (G)
2. Interpret a map using information from its title, compass rose, scale, and legend. (G)
3. Observe and describe national historic sites and describe their function and significance. (H, C)

Civics and Government

4. Give examples of the major rights that immigrants have acquired as citizens of the United States (e.g., the right to vote, and freedom of religion, speech, assembly, and petition). (C)
5. Give examples of the different ways immigrants can become citizens of the United States. (C)

Economics

6. Define and give examples of natural resources in the United States. (E)
7. Give examples of limited and unlimited resources and explain how scarcity compels people and communities to make choices about goods and services, giving up some things to get other things. (E)
8. Give examples of how the interaction of buyers and sellers influences the prices of goods and services in markets. (E)