

Christ Lutheran
Social Studies Curriculum

Grade Four

Theme: California: A Changing State

Goal: Students learn and appreciate the story of their state, how God has blessed this region with varied geography and natural resources that brought waves of immigrants, creating our diverse society today; how this mix of diversity effects our state socially, politically, and economically. In addition, students will learn to appreciate how local and state constitutions/governments work with the U.S. constitution/government as "one nation under God."

Objectives:

1. Students demonstrate an understanding of the physical and human geographic features that define places and regions in California.
2. Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods.
3. Students understand how significant events, like the explain the economic, social, and political life in California from the establishment of the Bear Flag Republic through the Mexican-American War, the Gold Rush, and the granting of statehood have impacted our state socially, politically, and economically.
4. Students explain how California became an agricultural and industrial power, tracing the transformation of the California economy and its political and cultural development since the 1850s.
5. Students understand the structures, functions, and powers of the local, state, and federal governments as described in the U.S. Constitution.

Instructional Materials: Scott Foresman History Social-Science for California (2006)

Videos: Cabrillo, Spanish Exploration, Missions, The Gold Rush, Transcontinental Railroad...

Books: All topics of CA geography, history, people, events, historical novels, etc.

Realia: Replicas, models, or actual objects for students to see, touch, smell...Photos/posters/drawings of actual places/objects.

Projects and field trips may include but are not limited to:

Projects: Two projects with choices from 3-4 historical time periods and 8-12 topics to choose from and methods to execute.

Field Trips: Page Museum and the La Brea Tar pits, Hancock Park, Los Angeles, CA

A Day in School (100 years ago) at Heritage Hill Historical Park, Lake Forest, CA

Children's Water Education Festival, Irvine, CA

CA Time Capsule (Review of Native American, Mission, and the Gold Rush periods) through the Ocean Institute of Dana Point, CA (Held at the Lazy W Ranch off Ortega Highway)