Grade 4: Social Studies Practices

A. Gathering, Interpreting, and Using Evidence
   1. Develop questions about New York State and its history, geography, economics and government.
   2. Recognize, use, and analyze different forms of evidence used to make meaning in social studies (including sources such as art and photographs, artifacts, oral histories, maps, and graphs).
   3. Identify and explain creation and/or authorship, purpose, and format for evidence; where appropriate, identify point of view.
   4. Identify arguments of others.
   5. Identify inferences.
   6. Create an understanding of the past by using primary and secondary sources.

B. Chronological Reasoning and Causation
   1. Explain how events are related chronologically to one another.
   2. Employ mathematical skills to measure time in years and centuries. Understand the difference between B.C.E. and C.E. Identify the chronological significance of data presented in time lines, with teacher support.
   3. Identify the relationship between multiple causes and multiple effects, using examples from his/her life or from a current event or history.
   4. Distinguish between long-term and immediate causes and effects of a current event or an event in history.
   5. Recognize dynamics of historical continuity and change over periods of time.
   6. Use periods of time such, as decades and centuries to put events into chronological order.
   7. Recognize and identify patterns of continuity and change in New York State.

C. Comparison and Contextualization
   1. Identify a region in New York State by describing a characteristic that places within it have in common, and then compare it to other regions.
   2. Identify multiple perspectives on an historical event.
   3. Describe and compare New York State historical events.
   4. Recognize the relationship between geography, economics, and history in social studies.
   5. Describe historical developments in New York State with specific detail, including time and place.

D. Geographic Reasoning
A. Use location terms and geographic representations (maps and models) to describe where places are in relation to each other, to describe connections between places, and to evaluate the benefits of particular places for purposeful activities.
B. Distinguish human activities and human-made features from “environments” (natural events or physical features—land, air, and water — that are not directly made by humans).
C. Identify how environments affect human activities and how human activities affect physical environments.
D. Recognize relationships between patterns and processes.
E. Describe how human activities alter places and regions.

E. **Economics and Economic Systems**
1. Explain how scarcity necessitates decision making; compare the costs and benefits of economic decisions.
2. Distinguish between the various types of resources (human capital, physical capital, and natural resources) required to produce goods and services.
3. Explain the role of money in making exchange easier; examine the role of corporations and labor unions in an economy.
4. Explain why individuals and businesses specialize and trade.
5. Explain the meaning of unemployment.
6. Explain the ways the government pays for the goods and services it provides, including tax revenue.

F. **Civic Participation**
1. Demonstrate respect for the rights of others in discussions and classroom debates, regardless of whether one agrees with the other viewpoints.
2. Participate in activities that focus on a classroom, school, community, state, or national issue or problem.
3. Identify different types of political systems used at various times in New York State history and, where appropriate, United States history.
4. Identify opportunities for and the role of the individual in social and political participation in the school, local, and/or state community.
5. Show respect in issues involving differences and conflict; participate in negotiating and compromising in the resolution of differences and conflict.
6. Identify situations in which social actions are required and suggest solutions.
7. Identify people in positions of power and how they can influence people’s rights and freedom.
8. Identify rights and responsibilities as a citizen of your community and state.
Themes with Context

1. Individual Development and Cultural Identity
   - Role of social, political, and cultural interactions in the development of identity
   - Personal identity as a function of an individual’s culture, time, place, geography, interaction with groups, influences from institutions, and lived experiences

2. Development, Movement, and Interaction of Cultures
   - Role of diversity within and among cultures
   - Aspects of culture such as belief systems, religious faith, or political ideals as influences on other parts of a culture, such as its institutions or literature, music, and art
   - Cultural diffusion and change over time as facilitating different ideas and beliefs

3. Time, Continuity, and Change
   - History as a formal study that applies research methods
   - Reading, reconstructing, and interpreting events
   - Analyzing causes and consequences of events and developments
   - Considering competing interpretations of events

4. Geography, Humans, and the Environment
   - Relationship between human populations and the physical world (people, places, and environments)
   - Effect of human activities on the environment
   - Interactions between regions, locations, places, people, and environments
   - Spatial patterns of place and location

5. Development and Transformation of Social Structures
   - Role of social class, systems of stratification, social groups, and institutions
● Role of gender, race, ethnicity, education, class, age, and religion in defining social structures within a culture
● Social and political inequalities
● Expansion and access of rights through concepts of justice and human rights

6. Power, Authority, and Governance
● Purposes, characteristics, and functions of various governance systems as they are practiced
● Individual rights and responsibilities as protected and challenged within the context of majority rule
● Fundamental principles and values of constitutional democracy
● Origins, uses, and abuses of power
● Conflict, diplomacy, and war

7. Civic Ideals and Practices
● Basic freedoms and rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic republic
● Role of the citizen in the community and nation and as a member of the global community
● Civic participation and engagement
● Respect for diversity Introduction Page 11
● Civic ideals and practices in countries other than our democratic republic
● Struggle for rights, access to citizenship rights, and universal human rights

8. Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems
● Production, distribution, and consumption
● Scarcity of resources and the challenges of meeting wants and needs
● Supply/demand and the coordination of individual choices
● Economic systems Trade, interdependence, and globalization
● Role of government in the economy
● Personal finance

9. Science, Technology, and Innovation
• Scientific and intellectual theories, findings, discoveries, and philosophies
• Applications of science and innovations in transportation, communication, military technology, navigation, agriculture, and industrialization
• Relationship between science, technology, and innovation and social, cultural, and economic change

10. Global Connections and Exchange
• Past, current, and likely future global connections and interactions
• Cultural diffusion; the spread of ideas, beliefs, technology, and goods
• Role of technology
• Benefits/consequences of global interdependence (social, political, economic)
• Causes and patterns of migration
• Tension between national interests and global priorities