

**Ms. Kassi's**  
**2nd/3rd Grade Class**  
School Year starting with an odd year



**First Semester**

***Social Studies: America the Beautiful***

Overview: We will be looking at different historical landmarks, National Parks, and National Symbols that represent our great country. Some of those will include: Old Glory, The White House, the Bald Eagle, the monuments that reside in the National Mall, the Statue of Liberty, Yellowstone, Mt. Rushmore, Pikes Peak and the song, "America the Beautiful."

Objectives-Students will:

1. Be able to identify national monuments, national parks, statues, and important buildings.
2. Observe and describe objects, and explain how art and architecture is used to memorialize people, ideas and institutions.
3. Learn the locations of a few National Parks and the significant role President Theodore Roosevelt played in preserving the beauty of America, through his conservation efforts
4. Study "America's Mountain," Pikes Peak, and the journey of Kathryn Lee Bates, which inspired her to pen the beauty of what she saw, in what was to become, "America the Beautiful."
5. Design their own symbol to represent America.

***Science: Rocks***

***Rocks, Minerals and Erosion***

Overview: Students will learn about the classification and properties of rocks and minerals. We will also discuss the Rock Cycle, weathering and erosion.

Objectives-Students will:

- Learn about the rock cycle and the three main types of rocks.
- Learn about the layers and structures of the Earth.
- Observe the mineral properties of rocks using specimens in class.
- Become rock detectives. Students will gather data and draw conclusions to be able to identify rocks on the Moh's Scale of hardness using specimens and those brought in to class.
- Create a landform that is not affected by wind or water erosion.

**Field Trip IDEA: Garden of the Gods Geology Guided School Field Trip**

Date: Fall-Quarter 1

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Cost:

## Second Semester

### ***Social Studies: Ancient Egypt and Ancient Rome***

#### ***Ancient Egypt***

Overview: Students will build an understanding of the role of the Egyptians with regards to ancient civilization, thus including their design of one of the earliest forms of written communication through hieroglyphs. They will study the religious and political significance of the pyramids. Students will walk through the mummification process by creating their own mummified hotdog, observing the dehydration process.

Objectives-Students will:

- Understand the complex nature of a given culture: its history, geography, politics, art, religion, architecture, technology, social structure, and economy.
- Review the basic geography of Africa including the Nile River: floods and farming. We will create and paint a salt map showing the design of Egypt around the Nile.
- Recognize a pyramid and understand its purpose in ancient Egyptian culture.
- Learn about the pharaohs including Cleopatra and King Tut plus the other members of Egyptian society.
- Become aware of the mummification process and will make a model of a sarcophagus and include their own mummified hot dog.
- Understand that the ancient Egyptians developed a system of written communication called hieroglyphics on papyrus and learn to write their names in this Egyptian language.

#### ***Ancient Rome***

Overview: Students will gain an understanding that societies are diverse and have changed over time. They will recognize what ideals inspire a people's sense of purpose and what images portray their idea of themselves through their myths, legends, values, and beliefs. Students will develop a sense of historical empathy and see through the eyes of people from the past.

Objectives-Students will:

- Locate the following places on a world map; Rome, Italy, Mediterranean Sea, Greece, France and Spain, Britain, and Germany.
- Study the roles of emperors and dictators such as Julius Caesar and his son, Augustus and the role of the citizen.
- Develop an understanding of contribution from the Roman Empire in architecture by learning about:
  - The Forum: temples, courtyards, marketplaces
  - The Coliseum: circuses, gladiators, chariot races.
  - Roads, bridges, and aqueducts, bathhouses
- Create their own bridge using design methods of the Romans.

### ***Science: Simple Machines and States of Matter***

#### ***Simple Machines/Forces***

Overview: We will be exploring the physical world and how things work. We will be learning all six simple machines and what jobs they make easier. We will also be covering forces in the physical world to include magnets.

Objectives-Students will:

- Learn the six simple machines and how they make work easier.
- Discover what must be known about a force to predict how it will change an object's motion.
- Observe how applying a force will affect the way an object moves.
- Discuss how many recreational activities, such as in tug-of-war, there is a relationship between forces and changes in motion.
- Collaboratively create a simple machine design with a known objective.
- Learn about the forces of magnets and what makes them push each other away or pull towards each other using vocabulary: poles, repel and attract.

#### ***States of Matter***

Overview: We will continue to build on student's knowledge of the three states of matter. We will focus on how matter can change with temperature.

Objectives-Students will:

- Understand the 3 states of matter including the properties and atom structure of each.
- Learn the difference between a physical and chemical change
- Experiment with cooling and heating matter: evaporation, freezing, melting, condensing

#### **Field Trip IDEAS:**

**In school; Meteorologist visit**

**Pikes Peak Children's Museum: States of Matter-in school or visit**

**Ms. Kassi's**  
**2nd/3rd Grade Class**  
Even Year Start School Year



**Fall Semester**

**Social Studies: Pilgrims**

**Overview:** Land ahoy!! Jump aboard the Mayflower and set sail for the New World. This semester our class will be diving into the experiences and lives of the Pilgrims! We will focus on the Pilgrim's journey: what precipitated their voyage, the hardships that took place, and the rewards for their endurance. We will experience the voyage on the Mayflower, what life was like to start over in a new land, survival in Plymouth Plantation, the Native Wampanoag Native Americans that befriended the Pilgrims, and the first Thanksgiving they had in their new home.

**Objectives (Students will...):**

- Develop an understanding of the Pilgrim's experiences moving to the New World.
- Develop an understanding of the Pilgrim and Wampanoag cultures of the early 1600's and learn how they worked together (trade, balance their communities).
- Understand the importance of bringing their new set of laws to the New World through the Mayflower Compact (government of the New World).
- Compare and Contrast Pilgrim life and to our modern-day lifestyle

**Hands On Activities:** Build a Mayflower replica, build a wetu, create a wampum design using beads, participate in a Pilgrim-day simulation, and create a Pilgrim Thanksgiving food.

**Science: Weather**

**Overview:** In this unit, students will learn about weather on the earth and the scientists who specialize in tracking the weather. We will discuss why weather events happen, how they affect the geosphere, and how they impact living things. Students will get to create a meteorologist report for severe weather: video news report or slide show after having a meteorologist visit our classroom!

**Objectives (Students will...):**

- Identify patterns in weather
- Learn about the water cycle on earth
- Develop an understanding of how severe weather impacts living things

**Hands On Activities:** Design models, create a weather notebook, create a severe weather report video or slide show presentation

**Field Trip IDEA:** Meteorologist visit

Date: Fall 2024

## **Spring Semester**

### **Social Studies: Pioneers and Westward Expansion**

Overview: Time to saddle up and join the wagon train! This semester we are learning about the exciting Westward Expansion era in America during the early 1800's. Our focus will be on the pioneer experience and how advancements in technology changed the way America was connected. We will chronologically sequence America's history from 1800-1850.

Objectives (Students will...):

- Discover the reasons for the Westward Expansion including the Louisiana Purchase
- Discuss the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Sacagawea
- Learn about life on a wagon train, obstacles on the trail, frontier life of settlers, the life of a pioneer child, and The Oregon Trail.
- Learn about advancements in technology: the steamboat, Erie Canal, Pony Express, telegraph, and Transcontinental Railroad and how these changed the way Americans traveled/communicated. We will compare and contrast technology of the past with today.
- Learn about the Gold Rush and the 49ers

Hands On Activities: create maps, play Pioneer games, experience life on the Oregon Trail, listen to songs from that era, create a flatboat, lay tracks on the railroad, experience a Pioneer-day, pan for gold

### **Science: Living Things: Life cycles, habitats, and adaptations**

Overview: In this exciting unit, students will learn about living things! Throughout this unit, students will first study a habitat and then learn about animals and plants within the habitat. We will then discuss life cycles and adaptations that allow the plants and animals to survive in each habitat.

At the end of this unit, we will combine all our learning to create zoo exhibits for an animal making sure to provide all the things it needs to be happy and healthy. Before creating our zoo exhibits, we will get to conduct zoo exhibit field research by going to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo on a field trip!

Objectives (Students will...):

- Identify basic needs of animals throughout their life cycle
- Discuss how living things interact with their environment/habitat
- Identify characteristics that allow animals and plants to survive in their habitat (fur, beak, claws, etc.)
- Learn the different life cycles of plants and animals: mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, insects, and amphibians.

Hands On Activities: Experience the life cycle of a butterfly, create a habitat/animal notebook, participate in a bird beak discovery, start our own plant life cycle from a seed, create a zoo exhibit based on the needs of an animal to be happy and healthy.

**Field Trip:** Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (Habitat Zoo Exploration with tour guide)

**Date:** Thursday, May 1, 2025

**Cost:** \$17-20