

# Mrs. Tamez – First Grade

## Unit Organizer for April

### **CORE KNOWLEDGE TOPICS TO BE COVERED:**

#### History/Geography: Early Exploration of the American West

- Daniel Boone and the Wilderness Road
- The Louisiana Purchase
- Lewis and Clark / Sacajawea
- Appalachian Mountains, Rocky Mountains, Mississippi River

#### Science: Habitats

- What is a Habitat?
- Specific habitats: forest, rainforest, meadow, pond, desert, underground, arctic
- Habitat destruction
- Biography: Rachel Carson

#### Literature:

- Stories: Lon Po Po, Winnie the Pooh, Why the Owl has Big Eyes
- Poems: “The Purple Cow” by Gelett Burgess; “The Pasture” by Robert Frost; “I Know All the Sounds the Animals Make” by Jack Prelutsky
- Saying: Practice makes perfect!

#### Math: - Time: Telling time to the hour and half-hour

- Numbers to 100: Tens and ones; order of numbers; addition and subtraction within 100

Grammar: Grammar is done daily using the Shurley Grammar Program. Some of the many skill areas covered in this grammar program are: study skills; identifying nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs; writing complete sentences; capitalization; synonyms and antonyms; singular and plural words; writing paragraphs; writing letters.

### **ASSESSMENTS:**

History/Geography: Written quiz at the end of the unit, with reading help as needed. Students will also demonstrate an understanding of the main concepts through class discussions and written work.

Science: Quiz at the end of the unit, with reading help as needed, that covers the types of habitats and animals that live in them. Students will also be expected to explain (orally and/or written) what a habitat is, and some of the ways in which people destroy habitats.

Literature: Show an understanding and appreciation for various types of literature, through written assignments, story webs and maps, and answering written and oral comprehension questions. Complete written comprehension assessments covering Open Court reading stories that have been read as a class and in small groups.

Grammar: Assessments are a part of the Shurley Grammar Program. Assessments cover the skills taught in class using the grammar program.

Math: Math assessments are a combination of in-class assignments, demonstrating understanding through group participation, and written assessments.

### **THINKING FRAMEWORK:**

At Liberty Common, we believe that learning needs to go beyond just acquiring knowledge. The students also need to have the ability to see patterns and analyze facts. To facilitate this, we use progressive thinking skills to guide students in applying their knowledge to patterns, using those patterns to model, and showing their mastery of the content through creativity.

While the majority of time in first grade is spent gaining new knowledge, we also develop lessons that include patterning, mental modeling and creativity. Here are some examples of the Thinking Framework being used in first grade this month:

History/Geography: Learning about the Louisiana Purchase – *Knowledge*  
Being able to discuss the reasons and significance of the Louisiana Purchase – *Patterns*

Science: Learning about different animal habitats – *Knowledge*  
Recognizing and discussing similarities and differences in the habitats,  
As well as why animals are suited to their respective habitats –  
*Patterns*

Literature: Hearing and remembering the literature stories – *Knowledge*  
Discussing the main elements of stories – *Patterns*  
Writing the story elements on a story web – *Mental Modeling*

Math: Learning how to tell time to the hour and half-hour – *Knowledge*  
Using the knowledge to accurately show the time on a clock – *Patterns*

### **HABITS OF MIND:**

History: 1. Understand the significance of the past to their own lives.  
2. Perceive past events and issues as they were experienced by people at the time.  
3. Understand how things happen and how things change.  
4. Recognize the importance of individuals who have made a difference in history, and the significance of person character.  
5. Understand the relationship between geography and history.

Science: 1. Draw pictures that correctly portray at least some features of the thing being described.

### **CHARACTER TRAITS:**

History: Daniel Boone – Perseverance, Cooperation; Lewis and Clark – Responsibility, Citizenship, Perseverance, and Cooperation.

Literature: Lon Po Po – Responsibility; Winnie the Pooh – Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship, Perseverance; “Practice makes perfect” – Responsibility, Self-control, Perseverance.

### **NEXT UNITS:**

History: Modern-day Mexico

Science: Oceans and Undersea Life