

First Grade Unit Organizer: May

CORE KNOWLEDGE TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

History/Geography: Modern Civilization and Culture of Mexico

- Geography of North America
- Central America, Yucatan Peninsula, Gulf of Mexico, Rio Grande
- Mexico City
- Indian and Spanish heritage
- Traditions and holidays: fiesta, piñata, Sept. 16th (Independence Day)

Science: Oceans and Undersea Life

- Locate and label oceans
- Coast, shore, waves, tides, currents (the Gulf Stream), salt water
- Ocean floor – peaks and valleys
- Ocean life; dangers to ocean life

Literature

- Stories: Medio Pollito, It Could Always Be Worse, How Anansi Got Stories from the Sky God
- Poem: “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod”
- Sayings: “The Land of Nod,” “A fish out of water”

Math

- Numbers to 100 (cont. from April)
- Money (value of coins and counting money)
- Basic Economics Concepts (wants and needs, consumers and producers, goods and services)

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.

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: Written quiz at the end of the unit, with reading help as needed. Students will also demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a given sea animal, by creating a research project and sharing the information with the class.

Literature: Show an understanding and appreciation for various types of literature, through written assignments, story webs and maps, and answering 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 life in modern-day Mexico – *Knowledge*
Discussing similarities/differences between life in Mexico and life for us – *Patterns*

Reviewing knowledge about the Aztec and Maya people, and seeing their influence in modern-day Mexico – *Patterns*

Science: Learning about some of the animals that live in oceans – *Knowledge*
Relating that knowledge to what we already know about habitats and food

chains – *Patterns*

Literature: Learning some commonly used sayings and phrases – *Knowledge*
Being able to explain and correctly use the sayings/phrases –

Patterns

Math: Identifying coins and their values – *Knowledge*

Counting coins and writing the total value – *Patterns*

Being able to count out a given amount of money and make change –
Mental Modeling

STATE STANDARDS:

The Colorado Model Content Standards outline what students should know and be able to do. They integrate knowledge, skills, and perspectives that will remain useful throughout their lives. If you are interested in learning more about the Colorado Model Content Standards, please visit the Colorado Department of Education website:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/currentstandards.html>

Standards that are being covered this month are shown in bold italics:

History:

- 1. Students understand the chronological organization of history and know how to organize events and people into major eras to identify and explain historical relationships.***
2. Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.
- 3. Students understand that societies are diverse and have changed over time.***
- 4. Students understand how science, technology, and economic activity have developed, changed, and affected societies throughout***

history.

5. Students understand political institutions and theories that have developed and changed over time.
6. **Students know that religious and philosophical ideas have been powerful forces throughout history.**

Geography:

1. **Students know how to use and construct maps, globes, and other geographic tools to locate and derive information about people, places, and environments.**
2. **Students know the physical and human characteristics of places, and use this knowledge to define and study regions and their patterns of change.**
3. **Students understand how physical processes shape Earth's surface patterns and systems.**
4. **Students understand how economic, political, cultural, and social processes interact to shape patterns of human populations, interdependence, cooperation, and conflict.**
5. Students understand the effects of interactions between human and physical systems and the changes in meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.
6. **Students apply knowledge of people, places, and environments to understand the past and present and to plan for the future.**

Science:

1. **Students apply the processes of scientific investigation and design, conduct, communicate about, and evaluate such investigations.**
2. Students know and understand common properties, forms, and changes in matter and energy.
3. **Life Science: Students know and understand the characteristics and structure of living things, the processes of life, and how living things interact with each other and their environment.**

Reading and Writing:

1. **Students read and understand a variety of materials.**
2. **Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.**
3. **Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.**
4. **Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.**
5. **Students read to locate, select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.**
6. **Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.**

Math:

1. **Students develop number sense and use numbers and number relationships in problem-solving situations and communicate the reasoning used in solving these problems.**
2. **Students use algebraic methods to explore, model, and describe**

- patterns and functions involving numbers, shapes, data, and graphs in problem-solving situations and communicate the reasoning used in solving these problems.*
- 3. Students use data collection and analysis, statistics, and probability in problem-solving situations and communicate the reasoning used in solving these problems.*
 - 4. Students use geometric concepts, properties, and relationships in problem-solving situations and communicate the reasoning used in solving these problems.*
 - 5. Students use a variety of tools and techniques to measure, apply the results in problem-solving situations, and communicate the reasoning used in solving these problems.*
 - 6. Students link concepts and procedures as they develop and use computational techniques, including estimation, mental arithmetic, paper-and-pencil, calculators, and computers, in problem-solving situations and communicate the reasoning used in solving these problems.*

HABITS OF MIND:

History: 1. Acquire a comprehension of diverse cultures.

2. Understand the relationship between geography and history.

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

2. Raise questions about the world around them and be willing to seek answers.

CHARACTER TRAITS:

Literature: It Could Always be Worse – Cooperation; Medio Pollito – Respect, Cooperation