

# Mrs. Tamez – First Grade

## Unit Organizer for October

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

#### **History/Geography**

- **Mesopotamia:** The “Cradle of Civilization”
- Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
- Development of writing
- Code of Hammurabi
- **Ancient Egypt**
- Geography: Africa, Sahara Desert
- Location and importance of Nile River
- Pharaohs: Tutankhamen; Hatshepsut
- Pyramids
- Mummies
- Animal gods
- Sphinx
- Writing: hieroglyphics

#### **Science**

- **Astronomy: Introduction to the Solar System**
- Sun: source of energy, light, heat
- Phases of the moon
- The nine planets
- Stars: Big dipper; the sun is a star
- Earth’s place in the solar system

#### **Literature**

- The Egyptian Cinderella
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- The Pied Piper
- Poem, “Hope”
- Sayings: a.m. and p.m.  
An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

#### **Math**

- Subtraction: Making subtraction stories, methods of subtraction, writing subtraction sentences.
- Ordinal Numbers: Naming positions

#### **Grammar**

Grammar is done daily using the Shurley Grammar Program, beginning the second quarter of the school year. 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. Please see the First Grade Skills Map for more information.

### **ASSESSMENTS:**

**History/Geography:** Quiz on Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt (read orally to the class)

**Science:** Quiz on the Solar System (read orally to the class)

**Literature:** Demonstrating an understanding of the setting, main characters, problem and solution of stories, as well as vocabulary words, through discussions and written assignments.

**Math:** A combination of in-class assignments, 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 Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations – *Knowledge*  
Discussing similarities of where these groups settled – *Patterns*  
Explaining why these civilizations were started where they were – *Mental Modeling*

**Science:** Learning the names and characteristics of the planets – *Knowledge*  
Discussing similarities and differences among planets – *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 the concepts of subtraction and number sentences – *Knowledge*  
Understanding and identifying story problems that use subtraction – *Patterns*  
Writing a subtraction number sentence to go with a given story problem – *Mental Modeling*

## **HABITS OF MIND:**

### **History/Geography:**

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. Acquire a comprehension of diverse cultures
4. Understand the relationship between geography and history

### **Science:**

1. Raise questions about the world around them
2. Describe and compare things
3. Draw pictures that correctly portray at least some features of the thing being described
4. Ask, "How do you know?" in appropriate situations

## **CHARACTER TRAITS:**

**Literature:** *Poem:* "Hope" (Respect)

*Saying:* "An apple a day..." (Self control)

*Story:* Jack and the Beanstalk (Integrity, perseverance, responsibility)

*Story:* The Pied Piper of Hamelin (Citizenship, integrity)

*Story:* The Egyptian Cinderella (Respect, responsibility, perseverance)

**History:** -- "What is civilization?" (Citizenship, cooperation)

-- Code of Hammurabi (Respect, responsibility, citizenship)

-- Pyramids, Sphinx (Respect, perseverance, cooperation)

-- Mummies, pharaohs (Respect)

## **NEXT UNITS:**

**History:** History of World Religions

**Science:** Food Chain