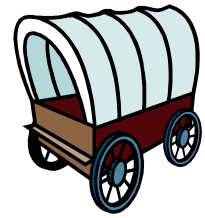




Fourth Grade at Westgate Christian Academy



The Strengths of the Nation

Summary

At the fourth grade level the students study the geography and people of the United States as it became a nation and expanded westward. They will study the people and places of those times as well as the political environment that led up to various land acquisitions. As students study these people and times of the country, they relate the events to their ancestors and the nations from which their families originated. They will also will look at Massachusetts as a state and study its history.

Concept Statements

1. Nations are formed for protection, order, ideals, and power.
2. Nationalism is developed and evidenced by songs, heroes, flags, celebrations, literature, and art.
3. Nationalism can flourish in times of crisis (i.e. war, economic difficulties, and persecution)
4. Nations are strong or weak depending on the supply and use of resources, a consensus about principles, their military, their leadership, and their innovations.
5. Nations have a moral responsibility before God to be just, be good stewards, protect human rights, recognize the sacredness of life, recognize and honor God's sovereignty.

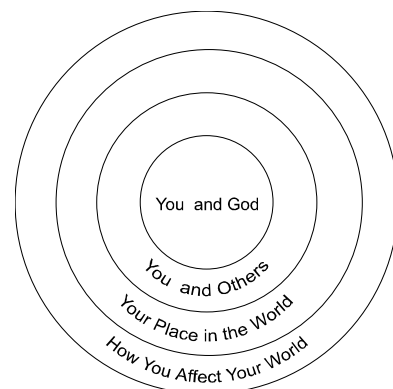
Thematic Units

Thematic Units are organized around a particular theme. For the fourth grade this theme is "The Strengths of the Nation." This theme is then infused into all the basic subjects such as reading and science with hands on exploration. This is based on the idea that children learn best in the context of the "whole," and when they can connect subjects together with the real world. The culminating unit involves a project that links the units studied to the student's life. In fourth grade, this unit is "You and Your Ancestors." The thematic units for fourth grade are:

Exploration	Colonial America
Revolutionary Times	Westward Movement
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	You and Your Ancestors

The Big Picture

The curriculum can be translated into a visual model that looks like a target. In the center of the target is the child's relationship with God which is the primary focus. As we move from the center, the child begins to understand how he or she relates to others, how he or she has a place in this world and finally how this world is affected by the child's actions.



Subject	Curriculum	Projects/Units
History	The Strengths of the Nation	Exploration Revolutionary Times Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Geography	Developed within History	Colonial America Westward Movement You and Your Ancestors
Bible	Developed within History	Drawing maps of areas including the United States particularly areas studied Projects surrounding geography of the areas studied Use of latitude and longitude and compass, scale, and legend
Mathematics	Saxon 4	The Nation of Israel (Joshua; I and II Chronicles) Acts and “Telling all the Nations”
Reading	Individual Novel Units	<i>Number Sense and Operations:</i> Includes finding square roots, writing numbers on checks, and further multiplication and division with decimals <i>Patterns, Relations, and Algebra:</i> Includes skip counting by 11’s and using manipulatives to solve problems <i>Geometry:</i> Includes identifying polygons by name and finding area of individual shapes <i>Measurement:</i> Includes estimating and measuring circumference and area of a circle or sphere, identifying time zones <i>Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability:</i> Includes finding the mean and median of a set of data and graphing information
Writing	Writer’s Express 5	Includes novels such as <i>George Washington’s Socks, Sarah, Plain and Tall,</i> and <i>The Sign of the Beaver.</i> Vocabulary and reading comprehension activities are also utilized during the study of the novels
Spelling	Spellwell D and Dd	Personal Narrative Business Writing Book review Essays Poetry and Riddles How-To Writing Writing Stories from History *Grammar is incorporated into the Writer’s Express program
Penmanship	Program chosen by teacher	Friendly Notes Paragraph Writing Persuasive or Expository Plays Summary Classroom Reports
Science	Real Science 4	Units include review of: suffixes, prefixes, and plurals
		Includes review of all letters and application of cursive to all assignments throughout the year
		<i>Life</i> - The World of Living Things; Organisms Live and Grow ; Ecosystems <i>Earth</i> - The Solar System; Weather; Shaping and Reshaping Earth; Rocks, Minerals, and Soils <i>Physical</i> - Static Electricity and Magnets; Energy Pathways ; Heat; Matter, Motion, and Machines <i>Health</i> – Skin; Chemical Substances; Nutrition