

FOURTH GRADE

Journeys: American Stories; That's Amazing; Problem solvers; Heroes; Nature

Texts

Language Arts

Houghton Mifflin
Practice Book

Mathematics

Math Steps 4
Saxon 54

Science

Scott Foresman
Assessment Packet

Social Studies

Harcourt – Reflections
Homework/Practice Book

INTRODUCTION

Fourth grade students will be building on the skills and academic goals achieved during third grade, at the same time using those skills to develop, explore, and expand their knowledge of the world around them. The Fourth grade themes; *Journeys, American Stories, That's Amazing, Problem Solver, Heroes, and Nature*, encapsulates the idea that fourth graders are inventive, problem solvers, and eager to explore all that is pertinent to their busy lives. The fourth grade yearlong plan encompasses the California State Content Standards as well as the integration of theme-based materials that cover the gamut from biographies, to nature, and more. Parents who follow the grid will have planning flexibility while maintaining content consistency.

In fourth grade, literacy development remains paramount, however, students will be encouraged to explore and discover outside of the realm of “text” based materials. For example, tradebooks are integrated with the language arts to include in depth studies of each theme that is introduced. If you follow the general content and assignments on the plan, you will have covered the fourth grade Content Standards. Your student will be tackling many new concepts and skills this year, and hopefully, both parent and child will find that fourth grade was a wonderful Journey.

CURRICULUM

Reading

Language Arts is centered on the Reading anthologies by Houghton-Mifflin. In fourth grade there is one reader and one practice book with six (6) themes; *Journeys*; *American Stories*; *that's Amazing*; *Problem Solvers*; *Heroes*; *Nature-Friend and Foe*.

Reading is designed to cover approximately two-three stories per week with additional enrichment activities (poetry, art projects, writing prompts, cooking, etc.) and literature units. Each week, the story(ies) should be read daily, together with your child. The reading level of the selected stories may be above your child's reading level, however, do not be concerned. These readings are specifically designed to create a challenge and foster growth in your child's reading abilities. The stories are meant to be repeated and re-read such that your student can gain confidence and security in his/her reading. Remember that the key to a successful reading lesson is to plan ahead, know the skills you want to focus on and be prepared to model, guide, and instruct your child rather than just assign. The following is a sample format with ideas you may want to adopt and modify to fit your lesson plans, as well as your child's needs.

Days 1 and 2: Introduce the story(ies). Work to build on your child's prior knowledge, have him/her make predictions based on the title, illustrations, take a "picture walk" (go through the story without reading it using the pictures to guess what the story will be about). Reinforce concepts about print (capital letters, punctuation, spaces between words, directionality, title, author, illustrator, etc.), point to each word as you read, and most importantly, enjoy the story.

Days 3 and 4: Have a read aloud using funny voices to match the characters. Take turns reading out loud. Make a point of discussing the story. Be sure your student can sequence (tell the order of events). Ask your child questions that will make him think (details, inferences, cause/effect). By the end of the week, your child should be able to read the story without too much help from you, as well as be able to retell the story in his/her own words.

Days 1 through 5: Complete the corresponding workbook pages in the Practice Book.

TRADEBOOKS

Aside from the reading textbook, your child should read for a minimum of 20 minutes a day. Select some books that will challenge his/her reading ability and some that are easy enough to build self-confidence.

Each reporting period there are a number of books that will connect with, enhance, and enrich the core curriculum (reading, science, social studies) in some way. They are listed on the grid by reading level. (easy, on level, challenge). Most books are available from VOCS, however, if they are not then the Kern County Library should have a copy available for check out. You may know of additional books that are theme related. These books are not required reading, however, it is very important that you supplement the textbook with daily free

reading. VOCS has made a conscious effort to procure tradebooks listed on the grids for our library. A number of the tradebooks have corresponding literature kits available for your use.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Within your reading Practice Book are sections devoting 2 to 3 pages per week to each of the language arts skills: spelling, grammar, writing, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Spelling: There is a weekly work list at the back of the practice book. The spelling is created to go hand in hand with the reading curriculum. Give a pre-test, do the workbook pages, and by the end of the week administer a final test.

Writing: Refer to the writing section for weekly writing lessons. Often, parents are hesitant to teach writing because they are unsure of the proper procedures and formats. The workbook gives excellent suggestions and is the perfect guide for student writing proficiency. It is a step-by-step process for writing everything from sentences, to letters, to paragraphs, and provides for consistent practice with a goal of published works.

Grammar: The grammar pages in your practice book give writing support as well as teach language conventions necessary for fourth grade proficiency.

Vocabulary: Vocabulary is a necessary skill for improving reading accuracy, comprehension, and fluency. The weekly words build this skill in a manageable and efficient manner.

Comprehension: Each week the workbook focuses on a comprehension skill that will improve your student's ability to question, answer, infer, predict, and ultimately comprehend the stories he/she is reading.

MATHEMATICS

Our school-wide recommended curriculum for math is Math Steps, a curriculum that is closely correlated to the State Standards. The chapters in the book cover place value, adding/subtracting, multiplication, division/multiple divisors, fractions, mixed numbers, geometry, measurements, temperature, decimals, data, statistics, probability, and algebra.

Saxon 54 is also listed on the fourth grade grid. Saxon will cover the same State Standards within a different teaching mode. Be sure to talk to your Resource Teacher and compare both books in order to choose the right method for your student.

SCIENCE

Scott Foresman Science is the text that we recommend for science, and in addition to the regular science reading, a science packet has been put together for each reporting period, which coincides with the current subject that is being studied. Be sure to pick up a packet each time you meet with your resource teacher. The Foresman book does an excellent job of covering the state standards for life science, physical science, earth, and health sciences. In addition, we have an extensive science kit program that offers a means for "experimentation", another area required by state standards.

SOCIAL STUDIES

State Standards require all fourth graders to know the State of California. Through reading *Reflections*, your students knowledge of pioneer times will become comprehensive through research projects, field trips, journaling, reading, art, and videos.

Map Skills – gives students a basic knowledge of reading and interpreting maps as well as the skills necessary to do so.

United Streaming – is an online source for video clips on a variety of social studies (as well as the other core areas of study) related topics, teacher guides, and stud questions that succinctly address the fourth grade standards.

ART

While Art is an enrichment subject, it is always a favorite of young students. Art ideas are scattered throughout the reading anthologies and give both art appreciation lessons as well as creative projects. There are also ideas on your grid to integrate with your studies throughout the year We do have a collection of seasonal projects if you would like additional activities and numerous books on artists and art appreciation in our library.

ENRICHMENT

You will want to take advantage of the many field trips that are offered throughout the school year. Trips are planned regularly so watch your newsletter for any excursion that you feel will be appropriate for your child or that peaks your interest.

MULTIMEDIA

Be sure to ask your resource teacher about videos, tapes, CD's and software that may be applicable to your course of study. In addition, there are numerous websites that offer educational challenges for your child. Also, be sure to check out the "Cool Internet Sites" binder located in the Parent place. It has a plethora of web addresses appropriate for student study. A great source for lesson plans and academic support in all subjects is www.ceea.org.

UNITED STREAMING

United Streaming is an online source for video clops on a variety of subjects, teacher guides, and study questions that succinctly address the fourth grade standards. United Streaming videos have been incorporated into the grid to correlate with a variety of core subjects. Please use Untied Streaming to its fullest capacity and explore lesson in all subject matters.