

National Social Studies and Science Standards Alignment

Junior Great Books Nonfiction Inquiry provides nonfiction content that educators can use to connect their English Language Arts curriculum to content areas in science and social studies. This chart details the alignment of Nonfiction Inquiry units with the disciplinary core ideas in the Grade 4 NextGen Science Standards (NGSS) and the Grade 4 themes outlined by the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS).

Unit 1: “Air Jordans: Demanding the Brand”

NCSS Grade 4 Themes

7. Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Unit 2: “Crows: Friend or Foe?”

NGSS Grade 4 Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS1.D: Information Processing

Different sense receptors are specialized for particular kinds of information, which may be then processed by the animal’s brain. Animals are able to use their perceptions and memories to guide their actions. . . . Some responses to information are instinctive—that is, animals’ brains are organized so that they do not have to think about how to respond to certain stimuli. (4-LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes)

Unit 3: “Young Inventors Making the Future Brighter”

NGSS Grade 4 Disciplinary Core Ideas

ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems

Possible solutions to a problem are limited by available materials and resources (constraints). The success of a designed solution is determined by considering the desired features of a solution (criteria). Different proposals for solutions can be compared on the basis of how well each one meets the specified criteria for success or how well each takes the constraints into account. (3-5-ETS1 Engineering Design)

NCSS Grade 4 Themes

8. Science, Technology, and Society

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of relationships among science, technology, and society.

Unit 4: “The Life and Legend of Johnny Appleseed”

NCSS Grade 4 Themes

2. Time, Continuity, and Change

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the past and its legacy.

Unit 5: “Zitkala-Sa at Boarding School”

NCSS Grade 4 Themes

1. Culture

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity.

2. Time, Continuity, and Change

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the past and its legacy.

6. Power, Authority, and Governance

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create, interact with, and change structures of power, authority, and governance.

Unit 6: “We Show Up for Each Other”

NCSS Grade 4 Themes

3. People, Places, and Environments

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.

10. Civic Ideals and Practices

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship in a democratic republic.

Unit 7: “Peer Solutions: Better Than Punishment?”

NCSS Grade 4 Themes

6. Power, Authority, and Governance

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create, interact with, and change structures of power, authority, and governance.

Unit 8: “Leave It to Beavers?”

NGSS Grade 4 Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS3.A: Natural Resources

Energy and fuels that humans use are derived from natural sources, and their use affects the environment in multiple ways. Some resources are renewable over time, and others are not. (4-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity)

NCSS Grade 4 Themes

3. People, Places, and Environments

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.

8. Science, Technology, and Society

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of relationships among science, technology, and society.

Unit 9: “Bystanders Who Stand Together”

NCSS Grade 4 Themes

4. Individual Development and Identity

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of individual development and identity.