



California

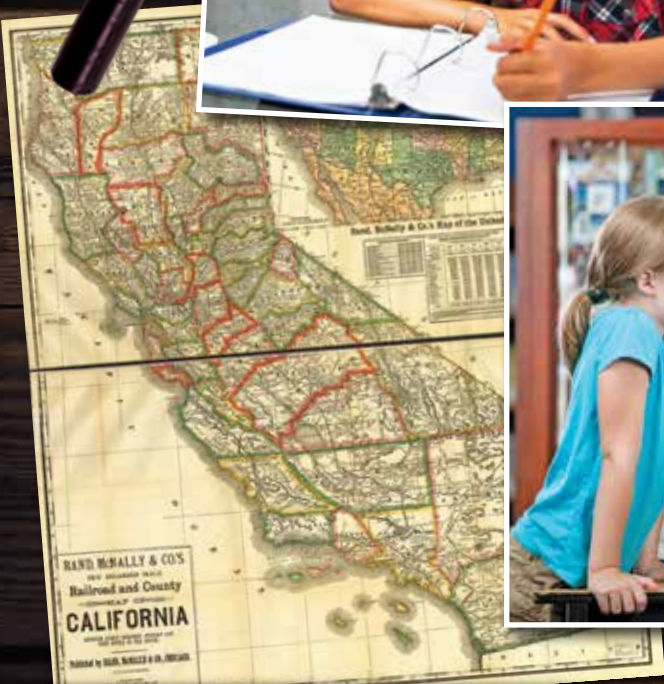
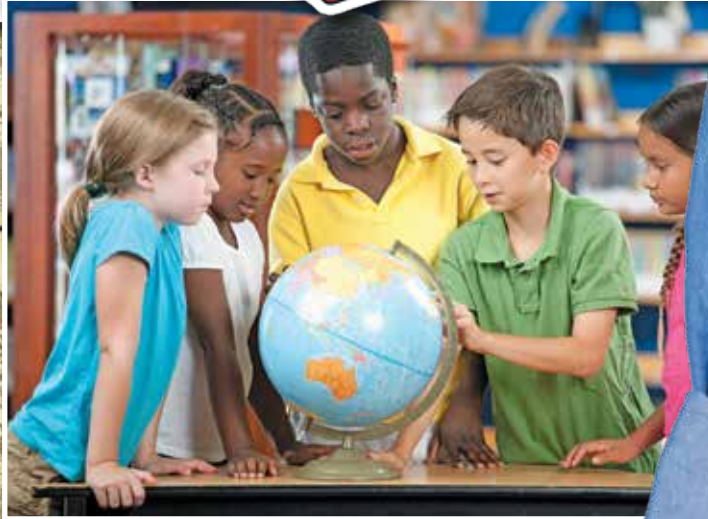
4 Studies Weekly

A CHANGING STATE

Lenses of Social Studies

You are many things. You are a student, friend, reader, and writer. You are part of a diverse world filled with many cultures, ideas, and beliefs. This year, you will study what it is like to be part of that world. You will learn to do new things, make new friends, learn about many different subjects, and expand your knowledge of the world around you.

To understand the world better, you will study social studies through different lenses. When you look at a subject through a variety of lenses, you will obtain a better understanding of it. This year, you will examine social studies through the lenses of a historian, geographer, political scientist, social scientist, economist, and a problem solver.



GUIDING QUESTION

Is there more than one way to look at something?

Historian

A **historian** researches and studies the past and makes claims that help us understand how people think and live over time. They ask questions to understand the past, such as:

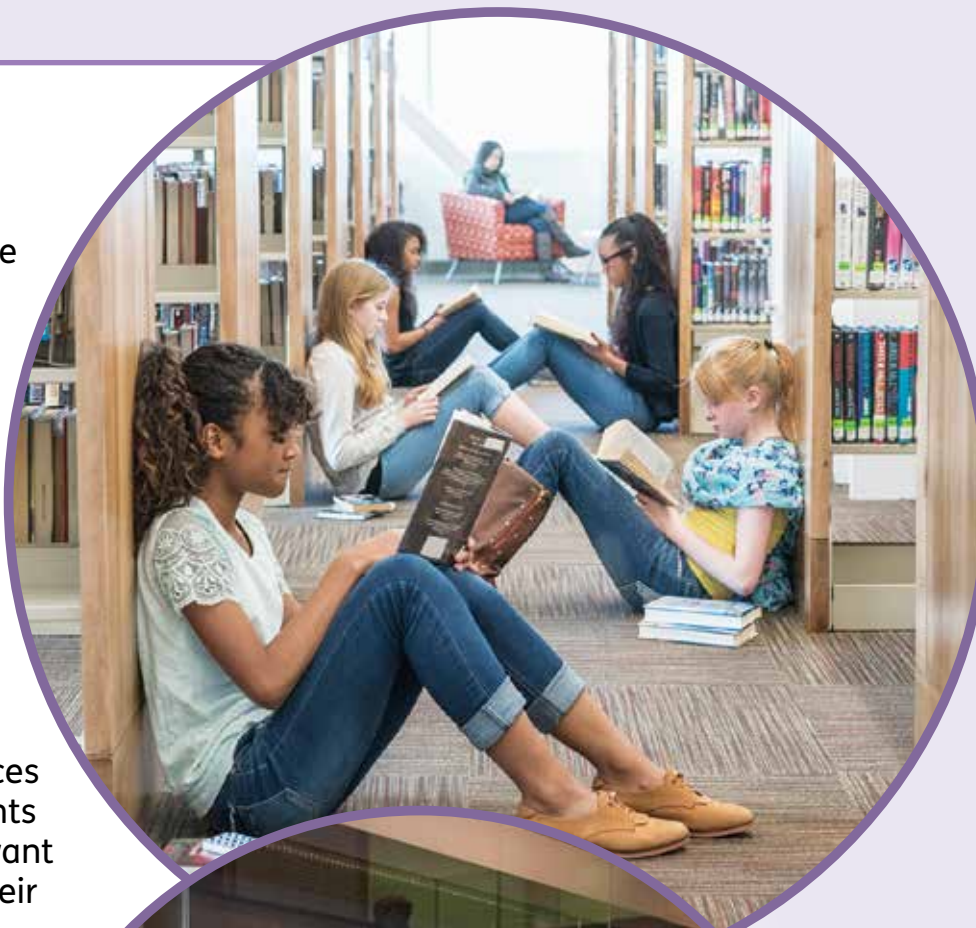
- What happened?
- When did it happen?
- Why did it happen?
- How did things change?
- What did we learn from it?

In many ways, a historian is like a detective. Historians seek to ask and answer questions about the past. When historians study the past, they also learn about a society's culture, beliefs, and economy.

Historians identify, select, analyze, and evaluate sources to understand the past. When we study people and events in history, we think like historians. When we gather relevant information from multiple sources, we can determine their meaning and determine whether the evidence we are examining is credible and reliable.

Like a historian, you will use different types of sources to study the past, including primary and secondary sources. **Primary sources** are created by people who saw or experienced a specific event, and **secondary sources** are made by people who didn't see or experience an event. These sources are usually created by people who have studied primary sources..

Learning about history teaches us about the people and events of the past. People and events have had a large impact on our communities, states, and country. Like historians, you will use many types of sources to understand the past. Then, you will apply that learning to the future.



Political Scientist

A **political scientist** is someone who studies how a government works. They help community leaders make laws for their people. Political scientists ask questions, such as:

- How will laws help our community?
- Who has the power to create a law?
- How are laws enforced?

The United States has a representative democratic government made up of three branches that share power equally. This means people elect leaders who represent them in the government. The purpose of the United States government is to protect citizens' rights and promote the common good. The government works because it receives the power to

act from its citizens.

The values of our nation and the state of California are defined in legal, political, and historical documents. Documents written during our nation's history are visible outcomes of rules and laws. They protect citizens' rights.

California's state government controls the laws of the state and is made up of elected officials. California has its own constitution. Like the United States Constitution, California's constitution must enforce laws in ways that protect the rights of citizens.

This year, you will use the lens of a political scientist to determine how laws have impacted the people, geography, and economy of California.



Geographer

Geographers study the interaction between people and the environment. Knowing what impact people and the environment have on a problem is important. Geographers use various tools to answer important questions about the world and its people. Using geographic tools helps you to organize your thinking about the world into spatial terms. Geographic tools include maps, globes, graphs, diagrams, aerial and other photographs, and other geographical representations.

Geographers ask questions, such as:

- Where is it?
- How do we use or interact with it?
- Why is it important to us?

This year, you will use the lens of a geographer to determine how geography impacts your community and other communities in California.



Social Scientist

Social scientists study all parts of a person: academic, social, emotional, physical, and mental. They analyze the effects that behaviors and emotions have on individual people or groups of people. Social scientists ask questions, such as:

- How did that event or action impact people?
- What are the consequences of these actions or events?
- How can I see this from a different perspective?
- What are the facts, and what is my interpretation of the situation?
- What is within my control, and what is not within my control?

Looking at a topic through the lens of a social scientist will help you to determine how events and the actions of individuals have impacted the history, geography, and government of California.

Name _____

Economist

An **economist** studies money and finance. Economists make claims about the economy and look at the production of goods and services within a community. They look at available resources and determine how they can help fix a problem, which then helps people make responsible financial choices. Economists ask questions, such as:

- What resources are in our community?
- How do people make money?
- Why do people use different products?
- What businesses are needed in our community?

This year, you will study social studies through the lens of an economist to determine the factors that have influenced economic growth and decline in California.



Problem Solver

Problems are part of our everyday lives. You will face challenges and obstacles throughout your life. Some will be small, while others will require more extensive thinking and planning to solve. It is important to remember that all problems have a solution, and being a problem solver requires creative thinking. Creative thinkers are people who are not afraid to try different solutions to solve a problem.

When you work to solve problems, you can make a difference. You have the power to overcome obstacles and create solutions to a problem. When you solve a problem, you help yourself and others. This can make life better in many ways for you and others, such as your family, school, community, and the world. Keep working for the common good, and use the knowledge you learn this year to make a difference!

