

# ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES TOOLBOX

**NOV-DEC  
2021**



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## NEWSLETTER

<https://socialstudies.jordandistrict.org/>

## DECEMBER LITERACY IDEAS

December is a great month to talk about different cultures around the world. Since there are many cultural holidays in December, you can do fun reading, writing, and art lessons.

Many of the social studies standards for elementary school talk about different cultures. So as you are doing these fun lessons you are doing social studies!

This December is the 120th anniversary of the Nobel Prize. You could talk about some of the people who have won the Nobel Peace Prize. Upper grades could talk about the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. And December is the 230th anniversary of the Bill of Rights! What a great time to teach students about some of the rights that they are lucky to have because of the Bill of Rights. Later in the Newsletter you will find some literacy lesson activities that go along with these anniversaries.

Make a goal to find some time this month teaching social studies!



## DRAWING: WIN A SOCIAL STUDIES PICTURE BOOK

Each month I will hold a drawing to win one of the picture books that are mentioned in the lesson ideas in this newsletter. Make sure to sign up so that you can have a new book to add to your classroom library and use for a social studies lesson!

Sign up here: [Contest Form](#)

# Social Studies Content

## 4th Grade PLC Collaboration

I was recently asked to collaborate with a 4th grade team. They mentioned that they would like some help with some activities on Women in Utah during WW2 and the Topaz Japanese Internment Camp. I worked with them and was able to create these activities for your use.

### Utah Women During WW2

This activity is a digital escape room. Students need to look through primary sources to find answers and then figure out some clues.

**Utah Women During WW2 Digital Escape Room**  
**Video Tutorial on How to do it**  
**Student Answer Sheet** and **Answer Key**.

### **Topaz Blow the Roof Off Activity**

This activity is a fun way to introduce the content and get students moving.

**Topaz Blow the Roof Off**

### Topaz Gallery Walk

This activity will have students analyzing primary sources and thinking critically about this concept.

**Topaz Gallery Walk**  
**Graphic Organizer**

If you would like to collaborate with me to work on some social studies content/activities, please reach out [kaye.rizzuto@jordandistrict.org](mailto:kaye.rizzuto@jordandistrict.org)

# LITERACY TOOLS

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## INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

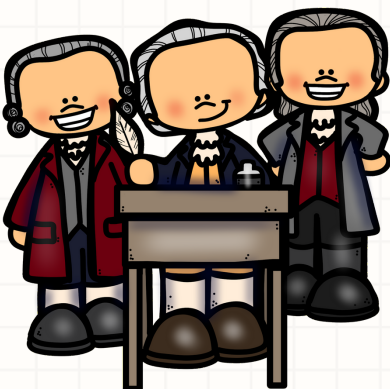


This month we have some fluency/informational texts that can be used for specific grades, but there are also a couple of readings you could use for learning about geography, cultural holidays, and the Bill of Rights. Remember these can be used for homework, full class activities, fast finishers or whatever works for you. If you already have fluency readings on social studies content that you are willing to share, please let me know so that we can get this resource out to other JSD teachers. Here is a link to the available fluency texts based on Lexile levels: [Fluency Reading Texts](#).



## NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

This December is the 120th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize. What a great social studies lesson! Teaching kids about finding ways to promote peace is such an important topic. There is also an interesting reason why the prize was created. Alfred Nobel was the inventor of dynamite which caused so much destruction. He wanted to help change the destruction that his invention caused by promoting peace. Later in the newsletter is a literacy activity based on a picture book about Alfred Nobel.



## BILL OF RIGHTS

December is the 230th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. It is a great opportunity to talk about these important rights and how they impact us. Teaching about the Bill of Rights is an important civics lesson. Later in the newsletter you will find a literacy lesson activity that is tied to a picture book about the First Amendment.

# INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

## 1st Grade: North Pole

Standard 3 of the Utah Social Studies Core talks about geographic tools and being able to identify the North Pole. Christmas time is also a fun time to learn about the North Pole. This reading is a Lexile of 230.

### North Pole



## 2nd Grade: Bill of Rights

Standard 2 of the Utah Social Studies Core talks about the benefits of being an American Citizen. The Bill of Rights provide us so many freedoms which are a huge benefit. This reading is 430 Lexile. It can be a great way to celebrate the 230th anniversary of the Bill of Rights

### Bill of Rights

## 4th Grade: The Utah War

Standard 2 of the Utah Social Studies Core talks about how Utah has changed over time. The Utah War was a significant event and it played an important role in the development of Utah. This reading is 820 Lexile.

### The Utah War

## 3rd Grade: Hanukkah

Standard 2 of the Utah Social Studies Core talks about the role that cultures play in the community. This reading is 610 Lexile. Students can learn about why and how this holiday is celebrated and learn that not every child celebrates Christmas.

### Hanukkah



## 5th Grade: Rights of the Accused

Standard 3 of the Utah Social Studies Core talks about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. This reading helps students to better understand the 6th Amendment. This reading is 870 Lexile.

### Rights of the Accused

## 6th Grade: Magna Carta

Standard 2 of the Utah Social Studies Core talks about how the government of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance impacted modern times. The Magna Carta was an important document in England that our Bill of Rights was patterned after. This reading is 890 Lexile.

### Magna Carta

# December PICTURE BOOKS

## 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

- Voices of Pearl Harbor by Sherry Garland
- The History of Pearl Harbor by Susan B. Katz
- What was Pearl Harbor? By Patricia Brennan Demuth

## 230th Anniversary of the Bill of Rights

- The Bill of Rights by Norman Pearl
- I Know My Rights: a Children's Guide to the Bill of Rights and Individual Liberty by Rory Margraf
- What if Everybody Did That? By Colleen M. Madden
- Free for You and Me by Christy Mihaly
- The Bill of Rights in Translation: What it Really Means by Amie Jane Leavitt
- What Does it Mean to be an American? By Rana DiOrio

## 120th Anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize

- Alfred Nobel: The Man Behind the Peace Prize by Kathy-Jo Wargin
- Science and Me: Inspired by the Discoveries of Nobel Prize Laureates in Physics, Chemistry and Medicine by Ali Winter
- Malala's Magic Pen by Malala Yousafzai
- Peace and Me: Inspired by the Lives of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates by Ali Winter



**Remember to**  
**enter the**  
**drawing to win a**  
**book**

## RESOURCES

You can access the social studies curriculum maps and find other teaching strategies here:

<https://socialstudies.jordan-district.org/>



# LITERACY LESSONS

## Freedom for You and Me

This lesson activity is appropriate for grades K-3. This lesson will have students reading, writing, and speaking and listening. Students will have a chance to talk to other students and share why certain freedoms are important to them. It is a great way to get students to start using civil dialogue at a young age.

### 1-2-3 Special Speaking and Listening Activity.

## Voices of Pearl Harbor

This lesson activity is appropriate for grades 4-6. This story teaches about the attack on Pearl Harbor from many perspectives. It can be done like a Gallery Walk, Blended Learning Centers, or as a whole class. Students will complete a graphic organizer and compare accounts of the attack.

### Multiple Perspectives Activity.

## Alfred Nobel: The Man Behind the Peace Prize

This lesson activity is appropriate for any of the grades. Students will have to evaluate the main idea of the book and then they will have a chance to share their ideas in a speaking activity. There is also a writing prompt to get students creating an opinion text

### Two For You Speaking and Listening Activity.