

**The Public Schools of Brookline**  
**GRADE FOUR CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

SOCIAL STUDIES

In the fourth grade social studies course of study, *Continental Connections: North American Geography, History, and Culture*, students will study North American geography, history, and culture. They will begin with an introduction to a variety of mapping skills through the study of North American geography. They will explore the regions and states of the United States, as well as the provinces of Canada and the major cities of Mexico. They will then delve into the changing American cultural landscape through the investigation of the influence of various groups who settled in the continent over time: Native Americans, colonizers from the European empires, internal migrants, and immigrants. Finally, students will identify the physical and cultural characteristics of our neighboring countries, Canada and Mexico.

North American Geography: In this unit, students will develop essential mapping skills such as interpreting map features like scale and legend. They will also explore the climate landforms, vegetation zones, and natural resources of regions of the United States and investigate how scarce resources are allocated.

Native America: This unit calls upon students to inquire as to how the physical geography of various Native American cultural regions influenced the way people lived there. Exploration and Colonization: This unit addresses the causes and consequences of the Age of Exploration and offers students the opportunity to research the settlement of North America by explorers and colonizers from five different European countries. Changing American Cultural Landscape: In this unit students will address the experiences and contributions of African-American, European, Latino, and Asian internal migrants and immigrants and scrutinize the naturalization process.

Canada and Mexico: Students will examine the climate, major physical characteristics, and major natural resources of these two countries and research selected cultural features such as government, languages, and economy.