Harcourt Horizons curriculum guides students through social studies while integrating chart and graph skills, map & globe reading exercises, citizenship lessons, basic reading skills, primary source use, and other cross-curricular elements.

**PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

The program offers the following components:

The **Student Text** organizes content into units, chapters, and lessons. Unit introduction pages include a poem or story about the main topic, as well as a list of vocabulary words students should expect to encounter. Students also have the opportunity to start a unit project, which is completed at the end of the unit. Individual lessons include a "big idea" and new vocabulary sidebar (vocab words are highlighted throughout the lesson), as well as a unique "focus skill" (e.g. categorization, making inferences, compare and contrast). A review question signals the end of each short section, with a final end-of-lesson review that quizzes students on the big idea, vocabulary, the chapter focus skill, and main concept; an activity is also provided. Chapters and units conclude with review and test preparation pages that include vocabulary definitions, fact recall, critical thinking questions, and the opportunity to apply the skills learned. Special skills pages focused on maps, charts, and other key elements are also integrated throughout. A glossary, index, biographical dictionary, and gazetteer are included in the back of the book.

The **Homeschool Parent Guide CD-ROM** includes daily lesson plans, teaching suggestions, answers to the student edition activities, and chapter test assessments.

The **Activity Book** provides activity worksheets that reinforce the concepts and skills in the text; worksheets include multiple choice, short answer, graphic organizer, puzzle, writing, map, and chart activities. One activity per lesson and skill is provided, along with chapter review and test preparation pages. Newsprint-like pages are perforated and three-hole-punched.

The **Assessment Program** book is based around informal, formal, performance, portfolio, and personal assessments. There are individual forms for end-of-project summaries and checklists, project and presentation rubrics, and portfolio evaluations. Chapter and unit tests are included as well as performance task assignments. An answer key is included with quarter-size student pages with overlaid answers.
OVERVIEW OF EACH GRADE

GRADE 1 – “ABOUT MY WORLD” CURRICULUM

The Grade 1 “About My World” curriculum includes 6 units, which cover:

- Going to School (learning around the world, geography of schools)
- Good Citizens (rules and laws, America's symbols)
- The Land Around Us (neighborhoods & environments, map skills)
- All About People (families, festivities & culture)
- Looking Back (community history, family history)
- Jobs People Do (why people work, buying and selling)

GRADE 2 – “ABOUT MY COMMUNITY” CURRICULUM

The Grade 2 “About My Community” curriculum includes 6 units, which cover:

- Living in a Community (people groups, neighborhoods)
- Our Government (good citizenship, community governments)
- Looking at the Earth (maps and globes, natural resources)
- Learn about People (family heritage, culture)
- Past and Present (World History, measuring time)
- People at Work (producers and consumers, work and income)

GRADE 3 – “PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES” CURRICULUM

The Grade 3 “People and Communities” curriculum includes 6 units, which cover:

- Learning About Communities (geography of communities, people in communities)
- Citizenship & Government (local government, national government)
- Communities are Everywhere (place & environment, map skills)
- Many Kinds of People (American stories & heroes, immigration & culture)
- Communities over Time (community history, American history)
- People Working in a Community (inventions, using money)

GRADE 4 – “STATES AND REGIONS” CURRICULUM

The Grade 4 “States and Regions” curriculum includes 6 units, which cover:

- A View of the United States (latitude and longitude, natural resources)
- The Northeast (New England states, Middle Atlantic States)
- The South (Atlantic Coast and Appalachian States, Southeast and Gulf states)
- The Middle West (Great Lakes states, Plains states)
• The West (Mountain states, Southwest Desert States)
• The United States Today (government, economics)

GRADE 5 – “UNITED STATES HISTORY” CURRICULUM

The Grade 5 “United States History” curriculum includes 8 units, which cover:

• The Land and Early People (U.S. Geography, the Earliest Americans)
• Time of Encounters (Spanish conquerors, the European Settlement)
• The English Colonies (New England Colonies, Middle Atlantic Colonies)
• The American Revolution (French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War)
• A New Nation (the Constitution, National growth)
• Civil War Times (slavery and freedom, new industries)
• The Twentieth Century (the Great War, global conflict)
• The United States and the World (the United States today, the American economy)

GRADE 6 – “WORLD HISTORY” CURRICULUM

The Grade 6 “World History” curriculum includes 8 units, which cover:

• The World and the Early People (Earth’s Geography, Hunters and Gatherers)
• Early Centers of Civilization (the Tigris and Euphrates Valley, the Nile Valley)
• Eastern Civilizations (Southwest Asian Civilizations, Asia’s Classical Age)
• Western Civilizations (the Ancient Greeks, the Ancient Romans)
• The Rise of Later Civilizations (Europe after the Romans, Africa and Asia)
• The Spread of Civilizations (new empires, the growth of trade)
• The Early Modern World (Europe and the Western Hemisphere, the Eastern Hemisphere)
• Toward the Present Day (times of Rapid Change, Global challenges)