



A Family Guide
To Mastering The TEKS
The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
Fourth Grade

Language Arts

Expectations at School

During Fourth Grade, students will:

- Listen with respect and respond to complex oral directions and cues in large, small, and cooperative groups
- Use correct voice tone, eye contact, and standard English in classroom discussions, reports, and presentations
- Read multi-syllable words in texts by using phonics, word parts, and context clues
- Establish purposes for reading, and read silently for at least 30 minutes, with increasing fluency
- Adjust the reading rate to suit the reading material
- Learn new words through word study, context clues, dictionaries, and other reference aids
- Determine main idea by noting supporting details
- Paraphrase and summarize text
- Check understanding of texts and make needed changes by rereading, searching for clues, using reference aids, and asking questions
- Comprehend a variety of texts by using strategies such as using prior knowledge, establishing a purpose for reading, describing mental images and determining text structures
- Read realistic fiction, fantasies, mysteries, biographies, nonfiction, poetry and classic literature, including books with chapters and books from a variety of cultures
- Comprehend a variety of texts by using strategies such as using prior knowledge, establishing a purpose for reading, describing mental images and determining text structures
- Draw inferences, such as conclusions and generalizations from text and support them with text evidence and experience
- Find similarities and differences across texts
- Use multiple sources such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, electronic texts, parts of a book, and library tools for researching answers to questions.
- Write legibly in both cursive and manuscript
- Use proper capitalization and punctuation (dialogue and titles)
- Apply spelling rules and patterns with increasing accuracy in all writing
- Write a well-constructed, well developed paragraph that includes a topic sentence and supporting details, and features varying sentence types and correct English usage
- Write creative stories, personal stories, instructions, persuasive papers, papers that compare and contrast, and informative reports
- Write using all stages of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, editing and publishing
- Improve accuracy in keyboarding skills to use computers as a tool in the writing process

- Judge how different media formats influence and inform (examples: television, radio, magazines)
- Produce visual-aid materials to support various reports and oral presentations.

Language Arts

Support at Home

As parents, provide opportunities for your 4th grader to:

- See you use good listening and speaking skills
- Read and talk about a variety of materials, asking him or her to explain, describe, compare, summarize, and/or predict
- Go to the library with you and see you read
- Read silently for a 30-minute time period
- Increase his or her vocabulary each week by reading and listening to you read aloud
- Read practical materials, such as food labels, catalogs, the newspaper weather page, sports statistics, recipes, and the phone book
- Read about and discuss current events
- Practice using the Internet, if available, as a reference for planning vacations, getting information for school projects, and communicating by E-mail
- Write by hand or use a computer to compose letters and thank you notes
- Write about daily events, vacations, and/or other activities.

Mathematics

Expectations at School

During Fourth Grade, students will:

- Use place value to read, write, and describe numbers through the millions place
- Compare and order numbers through 9,999
- Use place value to read, write, describe, compare and order decimals involving tenths and hundredths
- Generate equivalent fractions using concrete and pictorial models
- Model fractional quantities greater than one using concrete and pictorial models
- Relate decimals to fractions that name tenths and hundredths
- Add and subtract to solve meaningful problems involving whole numbers and decimals
- Recall and apply multiplication facts through 12 X 12

- Multiply (two digit numbers) and divide (one digit divisors) to solve meaningful problems involving whole numbers
- Round whole numbers to the nearest ten, hundred, or thousand to estimate reasonable results in problem situations
- Use patterns in multiplication and division
- Analyze and describe patterns and relationships between tow sets of data such as ordered pairs in a table
- Identify right, acute and obtuse angles and parallel and perpendicular lines
- Uses transformations to verify that two shapes are congruent or that a shape has symmetry
- Locate and name points on a number line using whole numbers and fractions
- Estimate and measure weight and capacity
- Measure to solve problems involving length time, temperature , and area
- Solves problems by collecting, organizing, displaying and interpreting sets of data
- Use a problem solving model to solve problems related to everyday experiences
- Explain and record observations using objects, words, pictures, and numbers and relates informal language to mathematical language and symbols
- Make generalizations from patterns of sets of examples and nonexamples
- Justify why an answer is reasonable and explain solution process

Mathematics

Support at Home

As parents, provide opportunities for your 4th grader to:

- Look to you as a positive role model in learning math
- See you as a problem solver – someone who questions, investigates, and explores a variety of solutions to problems
- Use flashcards, board games, and calculators to practice and learn addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts
- Use measurement skills in real-life situations such as shopping, cooking, charting height, sewing, or carpentry
- Calculate how much time has passed given a starting and ending time, how much time until a particular event will begin, etc. (elapsed time)
- Spend time doing problem-solving activities, such as puzzles, board games, etc.
- Make up word problems using newspapers and other familiar sources.
- See your positive attitude towards mathematics

Science

Expectations at School

In Fourth Grade, your child will:

Safety

- Demonstrate safe practices during field and laboratory investigations
- Use and conserve resources and dispose of or recycle materials

Use of Scientific Tools

- Use tools to collect and analyze information including: calculators, safety goggles, microscopes, cameras, sound recorders, computers, hand lenses, rulers, thermometers, meter sticks, timing devices, balances (triple beam and double pan), and compasses

Scientific Inquiry Methods and Critical Thinking

- Demonstrate that repeated investigations increase reliability of results
- Plan and implement descriptive investigations- ask well-defined questions, formulate hypothesis, select and use equipment and technology
- Analyze and interpret information to construct explanations from direct and indirect evidence
- Communicate valid conclusions
- Construct graphs, tables, maps, and charts to organize, examine, and evaluate information
- Analyze, review, critique scientific explanations: hypotheses, theories as to strengths and weakness
- Draw inferences based on data related to promotional materials for products and services
- Represent the natural world using models; identify limitations
- Evaluate the impact of research on scientific thought, society, environment
- Connect science concepts with history and scientists

Life Science

- Identify and describe roles of organisms in living systems and parts in nonliving systems
- Distinguish between inherited traits and learned characteristics and provide examples
- Identify characteristics that allow members within a species to survive and reproduce
- Compare adaptive characteristics of various species

Earth Science

- Identify kinds of species that lived in the past, compare to existing species
- Identify patterns of change such as in weather, metamorphosis, and objects in the sky
- Identify and observe effects of events that require time for changes to be noticeable
- Test properties of soils
- Summarize the effects of oceans on land
- Identify the Sun as a major source of energy

Physical Science

- Observe and record changes in the states of matter caused by heat
- Conduct tests, compare data, and draw conclusions about the physical properties of matter

Science

Support at Home

As parents, provide opportunities for your 3rd grader to:

- Observe real objects, events, and organisms in nature
- Describe their observations using words and numbers
- Ask questions about their observations
- Safely engage in investigations to answer their questions
- Justify their conclusions citing evidence
- Challenge and debate ideas
- Predict and explain phenomena
- Apply concepts and skills to new situations
- Watch and discuss science-oriented programs on television such as the Discovery Channel
- Read nonfiction books and magazines on science topics
- Visit museums, zoos, parks, libraries, etc.

Social Studies

Expectations at School

During Fourth Grade, students will:

- Compare the ways of life of Native American groups in Texas and the Western Hemisphere
- Identify European explorers and the reasons for exploration in the settlement of Texas and the Western Hemisphere
- Analyze causes and effects of the Texas Revolution
- Describe and compare the regions of Texas and the regions of the United States
- Identify the settlement patterns and geographic factors (landforms, climate, vegetation) that influence where people have chosen to live, past and present
- Use geographic tools (grids, a compass rose, map legends, symbols, scale, latitude and longitude) to collect, analyze, and interpret data
- Explain how people in different regions of Texas earn their living, past and present

- Explain how Texas, the United States, and other parts of the world are economically independent
- Explain how people organized governments in different ways in early Texas.
- Explain important ideas found in historic documents in Texas
- Explain how a democratic society works and the importance of effective leadership in that society
- Identify customs, symbols, and celebrations of Texas
- Continue to create, color, and label maps accurately
- Describe major political, economic, and social changes in Texas during the 19th and 20th centuries
- Create oral, written, or visual presentations (pictures, maps, charts, graphs, timelines) using social studies information
- Apply critical thinking skills to locate, organize, and use information from a variety of sources, including technology
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills using correct grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation
- Use problem-solving and decision-making skills, working as an individual and with others, in a variety of settings

Social Studies

Support at Home

As parents, provide opportunities for your 4th grader to:

- Use reference materials such as a dictionary, atlas, newspapers, magazines, and encyclopedias
- Use newspapers, magazines, and television as sources to talk about appropriate current events
- Use maps to practice locating places in the community and around the world
- Demonstrate ways to find answers to questions in written material
- Watch movies or documentaries of historical value
- Practice and play games to learn states and capitals
- Use the "Texas State Travel Information" to plan vacations in Texas (1-800-452-9292)
- Visit the public library and local museums
- Read non-fiction books and materials such as biographies
- Listen to family stories
- Visit the Institute of Texan Cultures, the Alamo, and the San Antonio Missions