

# Social Studies Curriculum for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum

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Teaching social studies requires educators to determine the needs of each student. Social studies curriculum typically requires reading and literacy skills, comprehension, prediction, and inference skills related to problem solving, and social understanding. Standards describe the basic skills and understandings that students will need to function effectively in the twenty-first century. Technology has also added a new dimension to teaching social studies. It is important to use curriculum and programs that are successful, and research based whenever possible.

Below is a listing of some examples of curriculum and programs that can be used to teach social studies to individuals on the autism spectrum. In addition to these programs, please be aware that there are many other supplemental programs, books, strategies, and resources that are not included but are available. Many of these resources can be accessed by Indiana residents via the [Library at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community](#). Inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement of any one program.

## Resource List

### Amazing Americans

- Grades: 4 to 8
- Description: Uses leveled biographies to teach students to evaluate information, make comparisons, and apply higher order thinking skills.
- Vendor/Company: McGraw-Hill Education
- <https://www.mheonline.com>

### Explore American History

- Grades: 6 to 12
- Description: Curriculum integrates social study tools like graphs, maps, timelines, and videos. It is heavily illustrated and adaptable for students with a variety of learning and communication preferences. Aligned to standards.
- Vendor/Company: Attainment Company
- <https://www.attainmentcompany.com>

### Explore Social Studies

- Grades: 6 to 12
- Description: Literature-based and written at 2 reading levels. Covers topics from Civics, Economics, American History, World History, and Geography.
- Vendor/Company: Attainment Company
- <https://www.attainmentcompany.com/>

### Explore World History

- Grades: 9 to 12

- Description: A standards-based curriculum that follows a timeline from early humans to modern times. Includes symbol-supported text.
- Vendor/Company: Attainment Company
- <https://www.attainmentcompany.com/>

#### **File Folder Games in Color: Social Studies**

- Grades: 1 to 2+
- Description: File folder games that build social studies concepts and vocabulary and early reading skills. Topics include neighborhood and community, community helpers, citizenship, transportation, how goods get to market, and more.
- Vendor/Company: Scholastic, Inc.
- <https://www.scholastic.com/home/>

#### **Khan Academy<sup>®</sup>**

- Grades: 9 to 12+
- Description: Supplemental online practice exercises and instructional videos to enhance economics curriculum. Includes interactive challenges, assessments, and videos from any computer with access to the web. Parents and teachers can view what their students are learning online.
- Vendor/Company: Khan Academy<sup>®</sup>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org>

#### **Pro-Ed, Inc.**

- Grades: Pre-K to 12+
- Description: Hundreds of adapted social studies program options that are adapted from basic to leveled texts. Program adaptations include visual formats, simple concepts, adapted reading levels, and hands-on activities. View vendor online for additional options.
- Vendor/Company: Pro-Ed, Inc.
- <https://www.proedinc.com>

#### **Read for Content: Social Studies**

- Grades: 9 to 12+
- Description: Supplemental curriculum that provides a resource for learning how to recognize facts and identify important ideas within reading material for U.S. History, World History, and Civics.
- Vendor/Company: Attainment Company
- <https://www.attainmentcompany.com>

#### **Social Studies Graphic Organizers and Mini-Lessons**

- Grades: 3 to 4+
- Description: Visual organizers to help students build background knowledge, synthesize information, and increase their overall understanding of social studies topics.
- Vendor/Company: Scholastic, Inc.
- <https://www.scholastic.com/home/>

#### **Social Studies Leveled Daily Curriculum**

- Grades: K to 6
- Description: This curriculum provides 3 levels of a year-long social studies curriculum that focuses on introducing basic concepts. There are 8 units included in each level plus a review unit. Each unit includes a pre-test, post-test, grading rubric, anchor chart, and 20 activities.
- Vendor/Company: The Autism Helper – TPT

- <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com>

### **STAR® Autism Support**

- Grades: K to 12+
- Description: Programs that are designed specifically for individuals with ASD and developmental delays. Uses ABA (applied behavior analysis) instructional methods of discrete trial training and pivotal response to teach functional routines and social studies. Includes detailed lesson plans, teaching materials, data systems and a curriculum-based assessment.
  - **FACTER® and Links®** Grades: 5 to 12+
- Teach everyday routines and skills for daily living. Promote independence in natural environment.
- Vendor/Company: STAR® Autism Support
- <https://starautismsupport.com>

### **Starfall®**

- Grades: Pre-K to Early Elementary+
- Description: Online reading resources and curriculum that integrates math, science, health, phonics, creative arts, social studies, physical movement, literacy, social-emotional development, and more.
- Vendor/Company: Starfall®
- <https://www.starfall.com/h/>

### **Unique Learning System® News2You**

- Grades: Pre-K to 12+
- Description: This online standards-based program is designed as a functional curriculum for individuals with ASD and developmental delays. Is divided into monthly thematic units with 30 lesson plans and downloadable materials. Uses SymbolStix® graphics. Includes three levels of differentiation for diverse learners.
- Vendor/Company: Unique Learning System®
- <https://www.n2y.com>

### **United States Geography Reader**

- Grades: 6 to 12+
- Description: Reading comprehension program covering interesting travel destinations that represent regions of the United States. Designed to be teen friendly.
- Vendor/Company: Attainment Company
- <https://www.attainmentcompany.com>