



Quarter 1	
Skills	Activities
Reading Maps	<p>Draw a United States Map. Label state names and state capitals.</p> <p>Create directions from one destination to another using north, east, south, and west.</p> <p>Match state abbreviations with state names.</p>
Culture	<p>Discuss your family history and cultural background. Include your family traditions, foods, celebrations, and values.</p> <p>Discuss how cultural beliefs can influence our laws and decision making. Example: Native Americans value the land and environment.</p>
Determine bias	<p>Have your child read an article and determine the author's point of view. What are they trying to convince you of? They should write an article with their point of view (bias) and then rewrite it to oppose their point of view.</p>
Free market	<p>Recently banks gave loans to people that couldn't afford to pay the loans back. Discuss when it is appropriate for the government to step in to help the American people in a free market society (A free market is a <u>market</u> in which <u>economic intervention</u> and <u>regulation</u> by the <u>state</u> is limited to tax collection, and enforcement of private ownership and contracts).</p>
Future financial planning	<p>Discuss with your child what you might be doing in order to prepare for retirement.</p> <p>Help your child create a budget based on their allowance. Discuss how their budget would change with increases in pay (hourly position versus salaried position)</p>

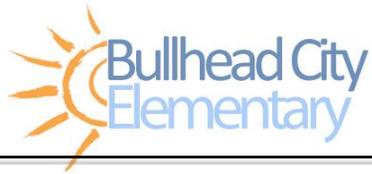


Parent Learning Calendar

**Eighth Grade
Social Studies Essential Skills**



Quarter 2	
Skills	Activities
How are current events affecting the United States?	<p>How are the wars in battles in other countries affecting the United States?</p> <p>Have your child convince you why America should or shouldn't go to war. List how it could affect them.</p> <p>Discuss differences between modern wars and past wars (American Revolution, Civil War, World War I, etc.) in terms of weapons, casualties, cost, etc.</p>
Create a time line	<p>Create a timeline of Presidents and when they served. http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/odmdhtml/pptime.html</p> <p>Create a timeline of America's wars and include important battles from each.</p> <p>Select an important historical figure. Create a timeline that compares major events in their life with major events in your child's life.</p>
Current events	<p>Watch the news with your child and discuss it. Pay special attention to elections, court cases, new legislation, and the workings of each branch of government.</p>
Civic Involvement	<p>Discuss the importance of political involvement: voting, being informed on political issues, how your family's values affect your political decisions.</p> <p>Discuss what would happen if you didn't vote. How would that affect you and your family?</p> <p>Discuss the levels of government participation: local, state, and federal.</p>



Parent Learning Calendar

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Quarter 3	
Skills	Activities
Events of World War II	<p>Tell your child if you have any family members that fought in WWII. If possible, have them talk with the veteran about their view of the war.</p> <p>Discuss how World War II provided opportunities to minorities. Examples: women, Native Americans, and African Americans.</p> <p>Discuss how the United States got involved in World War II. Compare the causes of World War II with other US conflicts.</p>
Types of Government	<p>Discuss different types of government. Identify countries that have these types of government. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each type.</p> <p>Compare democracy to dictatorships. How can a single strong leader be beneficial? How does it hurt? How does allowing the people to vote help a country? How does it hurt?</p>
Ethical Issues of World War II	<p>Do you think it was correct for America to place Japanese-Americans in internment camps? Find someone with an opposing view and have them debate their point of view.</p> <p>Should the atomic bomb have been used to end World War II? Discuss pros and cons of this decision. Today, should money and research still be contributed to the creation of weapons of mass destruction?</p> <p>Is it ever okay to break the law? If your child was in Nazi Germany, would he/she have followed the law? How can a citizen fight unfair laws?</p>
Civil Rights	<p>Have your child brainstorm forms of protest. Do protests need to be violent to be effective?</p> <p>Many children were involved in the Civil Rights Movement. What can children do today to be involved in the political process?</p> <p>Many important figures of the Civil Rights Movement are considered heroes. Discuss with your child what qualities a hero possesses. Have your child defend their choice of a hero.</p> <p>Identify examples of racism in the school community or across the nation. Discuss the negative effects of racism.</p>



Quarter 4	
Skills	Activities
Cold War	<p>Compare communism and democracy. Discuss the advantages/disadvantages of both.</p> <p>Discuss the use of weapon stockpiling during the Cold War. Is this an effective means of preventing war? How can the actions of past presidents be applied to current situations?</p>
Korea and Vietnam	<p>Compare the two wars (causes, effects, styles of fighting, etc.) Compare the Vietnam War to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.</p> <p>Who should make the decision to go to war?</p> <p>The men who returned from Vietnam were sometimes ridiculed. Is it important to support the soldiers, even if you don't support the war?</p>
The Middle East	<p>Why do so many conflicts occur in the Middle East? Think about religious, political, and economic reasons.</p> <p>What effect does US reliance on foreign oil have on the economy. Is it important to develop other sources for our energy needs?</p>
Modern Presidencies	<p>Discuss qualities and characteristics that are important in a president. Have your child evaluate the current president based on these qualities.</p> <p>Create a T-chart that shows the strengths and weaknesses of a modern president.</p> <p>Have your child pick their favorite president of the last 50 years, then have your child defend their choice.</p>