

## **Social Studies**

Formal social studies instruction begins in the fourth grade at Gilbert Christian Elementary School. Over the course of fourth and fifth grade, students study about the state of Arizona and American History. The Arizona curriculum features geography lessons that take students on a journey through the five regions of the United States before bringing them home to Arizona's regions, rivers and lakes, and points of interest. Arizona history lessons feature primary and secondary sources, research projects and timelines. An Arizona writing project uses graphic organizers to help students organize ideas. The animal unit focuses on desert and high-country critters. Finally, students learn about Arizona government and economy. Arizona through the Great Depression and World War II are studied as well as Arizona's 5 Cs: Cattle, Cotton, Climate, Copper, and Citrus. Students in grade 4/5 will participate in several field trips in our beautiful state to bring their studies to life. After completing the Arizona Unit in year one of grade 4/5, students learn about early American history. Sixth graders study ancient civilizations using Bob Jones University Press materials. To view information on the fifth grade American History course and the sixth grade Ancient Civilizations course, go to Bob Jones's web site and look at their Heritage Studies:

<http://www.bjupress.com/category/Heritage+Studies+for+Conventional+Schools+CS?path=1296>