

# Integrated Model Curriculum Source Set

## Ohio's Ecosystems



Kindergarten – Grade 5,  
Grade 8

March 2026 DRAFT



**Department of  
Education &  
Workforce**

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# Source Set Overview

The Integrated Model Curriculum Source Sets provide high-quality resources for integrating social studies content with English language arts materials. These source sets are broken down into grade bands of Kindergarten-grade 2, grades 3-5, and grade 8. Components of the source sets are as follows:

- **Links:** These links provide resources directly tied to the topic, aligned with the social studies standards, as well as connections to Ohio history and civics.
- **Key Vocabulary:** Identified key vocabulary provides domain-specific vocabulary necessary for comprehending the provided sources and texts.
- **Alignment to Ohio’s Learning Standards in Social Studies:** This section lists out the standards aligned to this topic from Ohio’s Learning Standards in Social Studies.
- **Alignment to Ohio’s Learning Standards in English Language Arts:** This section lists out the standards aligned to this topic from Ohio’s Learning Standards in English Language Arts.
- **Teaching Strategies:** This section includes social studies teaching strategies to provide instruction using the resources linked in each grade level.
- **Life Skills Connections:** Taken from the Professional Skills in the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal, this section demonstrates where life skills can be connected to the resources and topics selected for the Integrated Model Curriculum.

Additionally, the *Integrated Model Curriculum Appendix* provides cross-grade level **comprehension and writing strategies**, social studies **instructional strategies**, a **continuum of supports** from the Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports, and **assessment** opportunities that are based on the social studies content in the included sources.

## OHIO’S ECOSYSTEMS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ohio’s ecosystems vary across the state, ranging from hardwood forests and wetlands to prairies and freshwater lakes. These ecosystems support a wide array of plant and animal species, many of which are native to the region. The state’s rivers and Lake Erie shoreline provide important habitats for migratory birds and aquatic life. Human activity, including agriculture and urban development, continues to shape and impact these natural environments, including food chains and natural habitats.

# Kindergarten – Grade 2 Source Set

LINKS	SCIENCE OF READING CONNECTIONS
<p><b>Sources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Ecosystem   World Book Student - INFOhio</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Natural Resources   World Book Student - INFOhio</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Sanborn Insurance Maps   Ohio Web Library - INFOhio</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Environmental Education Resources   Ohio Department of Natural Resources</a></li></ul>	<p><b>Key Vocabulary</b></p> <p><i>Kindergarten:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical Environment</li><li>• Ecosystem</li></ul> <p><i>Grade 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Human Needs</li><li>• Physical Characteristics</li><li>• Human Characteristics</li><li>• Landforms</li><li>• Bodies of Water</li><li>• Structures</li><li>• Common Goals</li><li>• Accountability</li><li>• Responsibility</li></ul> <p><i>Grade 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Symbols</li><li>• Cardinal Directions</li><li>• Bar graphs</li><li>• Resources</li></ul>

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ALIGNMENT TO SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS	ALIGNMENT TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS
<p>Refer to <a href="#">Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies</a> for the text of the content statements.</p> <p>Refer to <a href="#">Ohio's Model Curriculum for Social Studies</a> for content elaborations and expectations for learning for the standards.</p> <p><i>Kindergarten:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K.7</li> </ul> <p><i>GRADE 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8</li> </ul> <p><i>GRADE 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.13, 2.14</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to <a href="#">Ohio's Learning Standards for English Language Arts</a> for the text of the content statements.</p> <p><i>Kindergarten:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI.K.1, RI.K.2, RI.K.3</li> <li>• W.K.2</li> <li>• L.K.4</li> </ul> <p><i>GRADE 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI.1.1, RI.1.2, RI.1.3</li> <li>• W.1.2</li> <li>• L.1.4</li> </ul> <p><i>GRADE 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI.2.1, RI.2.2, RI.2.3</li> <li>• W.2.2</li> <li>• L.2.4</li> </ul>
LIFE SKILLS CONNECTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teamwork/Collaboration:</b> Through a variety of activities, students may use teamwork and/or collaboration to brainstorm ideas and share background knowledge, investigate problems, and present findings.</li> <li>• <b>Critical Thinking/Problem-Solving:</b> Critical thinking can be an important skill when reviewing informational text, as students will need to move from explicit identification of ideas (key details and ideas) to implicit understanding of main ideas and overarching themes.</li> <li>• <b>Oral and Written Communication:</b> Integration of social studies instructional strategies with English language arts standards provide opportunities for students to communicate what they have learned, and new ideas formed based on this information, using both oral and written communication specific to the skills taught per grade level.</li> <li>• <b>Global/Intercultural Fluency:</b> Study of the people that live in your community, and those that came before, can help to build global and intercultural fluency.</li> </ul>	

## Grades 3 – 5 Source Set

LINKS	SCIENCE OF READING CONNECTIONS
<p><b>Sources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Sanborn Insurance Maps   Ohio Web Library- INFOhio</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Young Mine Runners with Jeffrey Mining Machine   Ohio Memory – Ohio History Connection</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Coal Mine Photograph   Ohio Memory – Ohio History Connection</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Black Swamp Photographs   Ohio Memory – Ohio History Connection</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Drainage Tile Factory Photograph   Ohio Memory – Ohio History Connection</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">‘Geology of Medina County’ Report   Ohio Memory – Ohio History Connection</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Oak Openings Preserve Metropark   Metroparks Toledo</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Vocabulary</b></p> <p><i>Grade 3:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• Natural Resources</li> <li>• Modification</li> <li>• Trade-Off</li> <li>• Scarcity</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade 4:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map Scale</li> <li>• Cardinal Directions</li> <li>• Intermediate Directions</li> <li>• Relative Location</li> <li>• Economy</li> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• Natural Resources</li> <li>• Consequences</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade 5:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration</li> <li>• Colonization</li> <li>• Geographic Tools</li> <li>• Cartographers</li> <li>• Latitude</li> <li>• Longitude</li> <li>• Landform</li> <li>• Climate</li> <li>• Population</li> </ul>

LINKS	SCIENCE OF READING CONNECTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Economy</li> <li>• Modification</li> <li>• Consequences</li> </ul>
ALIGNMENT TO SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS	ALIGNMENT TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS
<p>Refer to <a href="#">Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies</a> for the text of the content statements.</p> <p>Refer to <a href="#">Ohio's Model Curriculum for Social Studies</a> for content elaborations and expectations for learning for the standards.</p> <p><i>Grade 3:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.5, 3.6, 3.10, 3.16</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade 4:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade 5:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.14</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to <a href="#">Ohio's Learning Standards for English Language Arts</a> for the text of the content statements.</p> <p><i>Grade 3:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI.3.1, RI.3.2, RI.3.3</li> <li>• W.3.2</li> <li>• L.3.4</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade 4:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI.4.1, RI.4.2, RI.4.3</li> <li>• W.4.2</li> <li>• L.4.4</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade 5:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI.5.1, RI.5.2, RI.5.3</li> <li>• W.5.2</li> <li>• L.5.4</li> </ul>

## LIFE SKILLS CONNECTIONS

- **Teamwork/Collaboration:** Through a variety of activities, students may use teamwork and/or collaboration to brainstorm ideas and share background knowledge, investigate problems, and present findings.
- **Critical Thinking/Problem-Solving:** Critical thinking can be an important skill when reviewing informational text, as students will need to move from explicit identification of ideas (key details and ideas) to implicit understanding of main ideas and overarching themes.
- **Oral and Written Communication:** Integration of social studies instructional strategies with English language arts standards provide opportunities for students to communicate what they have learned, and new ideas formed based on this information, using both oral and written communication specific to the skills taught per grade level.
- **Global/Intercultural Fluency:** Study of the people that live in your community, and those that came before, can help to build global and intercultural fluency.

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## Grade 8 Source Set

LINKS	SCIENCE OF READING CONNECTIONS
<p><b>Sources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">East Palestine, Ohio Train Derailment   United States Environmental Protection Agency</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Barrel Along the Olentangy River   Ohio Memory – Ohio History Connection</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast   National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Ohio River   INFOhio Video, (25:13)</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Vocabulary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern Maps</li> <li>• Historical Maps</li> <li>• Geographical Tools</li> <li>• Natural Resources</li> <li>• Geographic Expansion</li> <li>• Economic Expansion</li> <li>• Unintended Consequences</li> </ul>
ALIGNMENT TO SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS	ALIGNMENT TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS
<p>Refer to <a href="#">Ohio’s Learning Standards for Social Studies</a> for the text of the content statements.</p> <p>Refer to <a href="#">Ohio’s Model Curriculum for Social Studies</a> for content elaborations and expectations for learning for the standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8.15, 8.16</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to <a href="#">Ohio’s Learning Standards for English Language Arts</a> for the text of the content statements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI.8.1, RI.8.2, RI.8.3</li> </ul>
LIFE SKILLS CONNECTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teamwork/Collaboration:</b> Through a variety of activities, students may use teamwork and/or collaboration to brainstorm ideas and share background knowledge, investigate problems, and present findings.</li> <li>• <b>Critical Thinking/Problem-Solving:</b> Critical thinking can be an important skill when reviewing informational text, as students will need to move from explicit identification of ideas (key details and ideas) to implicit understanding of main ideas and overarching themes.</li> <li>• <b>Oral and Written Communication:</b> Integration of social studies instructional strategies with English language arts standards provide opportunities for students to communicate what they have learned, and new ideas formed based on this information, using both oral and written communication specific to the skills taught per grade level.</li> <li>• <b>Global/Intercultural Fluency:</b> Study of the people that live in your community, and those that came before, can help to build global and intercultural fluency.</li> </ul>	