

# Social Studies

Students learn about the physical environment in their Social Studies curriculum. Basic principles of geography, including recognition of various landforms, directionality and map reading are incorporated into weekly instructional goals. In addition, students discuss and read about how our physical environment affects the way we live. Students in second grade extend and refine their knowledge and familiarity with American symbols and shared values, beliefs and responsibilities of American citizens.

# Science

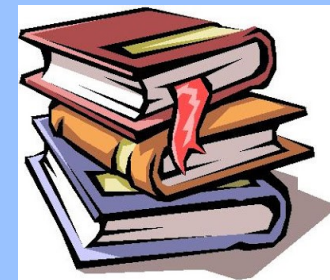
Students in second grade explore two topics in Science in depth: Habitats of Earth's Life Forms and Insect and Plant Cells. These topics align with the NGSS standards that address Biological Unity and Diversity and the interrelationship between the environment and cells. Through both in class and lab experiences, students understand and make connections between their habitats and those of other living things and identify the elements of habitats that are needed to sustain life. They study the structures and functions of living organisms; the growth and development of organisms and the interactions of organisms with their environment. They become knowledgeable about the layers of the rainforest and the life cycle of plants. Whenever possible, students make cross curricular connections to math, social studies and art.

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ישיבת בית הלל

**YBH**  
OF PASSAIC

Second Grade  
General Studies  
Curriculum





### Literacy

In Literacy, students apply basic phonics and word analysis strategies to aid in decoding words. They learn increasingly more complex vowel patterns, prefixes and suffixes and words that do not follow conventional rules of pronunciation. Students read text compatible with their decoding levels with fluency and learn to self monitor their reading for accuracy and understanding. Since the goal of all reading is comprehension, students read both fiction and nonfiction selections and various genres of literature in order to build understanding on literal and inferential levels. They read purposefully to identify key details; analyze characters, plot, main ideas, cause and effect relationships and to build vocabulary. Students continue to use the grade level anthology in our core program, **Reading Street**, which is supplemented by leveled readers at students' "just right" difficulty range. In small leveled guided reading groups, students focus on reading text for meaning, while building fluency and word knowledge.

In the area of Writing, students in second grade use their knowledge of sound symbol relationships when writing original short narratives, fairy tales or entries in their daily journals. They learn to expand ideas and articulate them in an order that makes sense. Students learn the structure of a sentence and then learn how to write a paragraph including statement of a main idea or topic sentence, supporting details and a closing sentence. With teacher support and feedback, they learn to edit their work so that it conforms to the conventions of written language.

### Overview

Students in second grade at YBH build on the foundational skills acquired in the early childhood and first grades and transition to become more autonomous learners. They enter the second formal year of instruction with a greater familiarity with the concept of being "a student" who takes responsibility for his/her belongings, organizes materials with teacher guidance and support and interacts with peers in collaborative groups throughout the day.



### Mathematics

Our second grade math curriculum, which uses the **Go Math** program as its primary resource, establishes deep understanding of our base ten numeric system, place value as a basis for building number sense and computational strategies for numbers within 1000. Students develop automaticity for addition and subtraction facts and begin conceptual understanding of multiplication. Students learn how to use their mathematical understandings to solve real world problems. YBH second graders also represent data in various ways and learn how to describe objects' properties such as shape, lines, angles, figures and position in space. These concepts and skills are taught using a variety of manipulatives so that students learn through a multi-sensory approach geared towards the diverse learning styles of our students.