

Mirabelle's World: A Social Studies Adventure!

Materials Needed:

- One large piece of poster board or paper
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Child-safe scissors and a glue stick
- Old magazines for cutting out pictures (optional)
- One baby photo of Mirabelle (or she can draw one)
- A few small stickers (optional)

Overall Goal for this 2-Day Lesson:

To introduce Mirabelle to the four main areas of Social Studies (Geography, History, Civics, and Economics) by connecting them to her own world in a fun, creative way. By the end, she will be able to point to a part of her poster and explain what it represents in her own words.

Day 1: Where We Are & Who We Were (15-20 minutes)

Part 1: The Introduction (2 minutes)

- **Teacher says:** "Hi Mirabelle! This year, we're going on a big adventure called Social Studies! It sounds like a big, grown-up word, but it's really just about learning about the world and the people in it. Social Studies has four special parts, and we're going to learn about two of them today by creating a poster all about YOUR world!"

Part 2: Geography - The Science of Place (7 minutes)

- **Teacher says:** "The first part is called **Geography**. That's a fun word for learning about places! It's like being an explorer with a map. Let's make a map of a place you know really well... your room!"
- **Activity:** On one corner of the poster board, help Mirabelle draw a simple map of her room. She can draw her bed, her toy box, a window, and the door. As she draws, use geography words.
- **Teacher prompts:** "Your bed is *next to* the window. The toy box is *across from* the door. You are creating a map, just like a geographer!"
- Label this section of the poster "My Room Map (Geography)."

Part 3: History - The Story of the Past (5 minutes)

- **Teacher says:** "Great map! Now for our next part: **History**. History is the story of what happened a long, long time ago. You have a history, too! Let's add your history to the poster."
- **Activity:** Show Mirabelle her baby picture. Talk about how she was little and what she did back then (slept, drank from a bottle, couldn't walk).
- **Teacher says:** "This picture is from your past. It's part of your own personal history!"

- Glue the baby picture (or a drawing she makes of herself as a baby) onto another corner of the poster. Label it "Me as a Baby (History)."

Part 4: Day 1 Wrap-Up (1 minute)

- **Teacher says:** "Look at your amazing poster so far! Today we learned about **Geography**, which is about places and maps, and **History**, which is about the past. Tomorrow, we'll fill in the rest! Great job, explorer!"
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Day 2: Rules & Stuff (15-20 minutes)

Part 1: Review and Introduction (2 minutes)

- **Teacher says:** "Welcome back, Mirabelle! Let's look at our 'My World' poster. Can you point to the part that is about maps and places? (*Waits for her to point to Geography*). Right! And can you point to the part about the past? (*Waits for her to point to History*). Perfect! Today we'll add two more special parts."

Part 2: Civics - How We Live Together (7 minutes)

- **Teacher says:** "The next part is called **Civics**. Civics is all about being a good citizen and the rules that help us all be safe and fair. Our family has rules, right? What's one of our most important family rules?"
- **Activity:** Discuss one or two simple family rules (e.g., "We are kind to each other," or "We clean up our toys"). In a new section of the poster, help Mirabelle write or draw a picture of that rule. For example, she could draw two people smiling or a picture of her putting a toy in a box.
- **Teacher says:** "Rules help everyone in our family, our town, and our country get along. That's Civics!"
- Label this section "Our Family Rules (Civics)."

Part 3: Economics - Our Wants and Needs (5 minutes)

- **Teacher says:** "Last one! This is called **Economics**. Economics is about the things people make, buy, sell, and use. It's about our 'stuff'—the things we need and the things we want."
- **Activity:** In the final empty section of the poster, draw two columns. Label one "Things I Need" and the other "Things I Want." Help her draw or find a magazine picture of something she needs (like food or a house) and something she wants (like a specific toy or ice cream). You can use stickers here, too!
- **Teacher says:** "We all need food to live, but we might want a special toy to play with. Deciding how to get the things we need and want is all about economics!"
- Label this whole section "My Needs and Wants (Economics)."

Part 4: Final Wrap-Up & Review (1 minute)

- **Teacher says:** "Mirabelle, your 'My World' poster is complete! You are officially a Social Scientist! You have your map (**Geography**), your past (**History**), your rules (**Civics**), and your stuff (**Economics**). This poster shows how all these big ideas are a part of your life every single day. Amazing work!"
 - Hang the poster up somewhere she can see it to refer back to throughout the year.
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