

Grade Two – People Who Make a Difference

- *How do families remember their past?*
- *Why do people move?*
- *How can we best describe California?*
- *How do governments work?*
- *What makes someone heroic?*

Students in the second grade are ready to learn about people who make a difference in their own lives and who have made a difference in the past. They develop their own identities as people who have places in their communities. Students start their study of people who make a difference by studying the families and people they know. Students themselves can make a difference by engaging in service-learning to improve their schools or communities. Teachers should also work collaboratively with their colleagues who teach kindergarten and grades one and three to avoid repetition, as the content themes they begin in kindergarten, such as understanding of and appreciation for American culture and government, geographic awareness, and starting in grade one, economic reasoning, serve as a multi-grade strand that can allow for an extended and relatively in-depth course of study.