

## Content Modifications

**Grade Level:** 4

**Subject:** Social Studies

**Topic:** Early Societies

### Learning Goal:

Students will describe key aspects of daily life in an early society (e.g., Ancient Egypt, Early Inuit, Medieval Europe), including shelter, food, clothing, and tools.

### The Original Task (before modification)

*“Research an early society and write a detailed paragraph about how people lived, including information about their food, shelter, clothing, tools, religion and social structure.”*

### Challenge:

The task contains too many components at once, creating a high cognitive and language load for many Grade 4 students, especially English language learners or struggling writers.

### Modified Version (Same Learning Goal, Simplified Process)

**Task Title:** Life in an Early Society

**Instructions (in simplified, step-by-step format):**

**Step 1:** Choose your early society:

☐ Ancient Egypt    ☐ Early Inuit    ☐ Medieval Europe

**Step 2:** Learn about daily life using one focus at a time.

- Day 1: Watch a short video or read a simple article.
- Day 2: Focus on **shelter**.
- Day 3: Focus on **food**.
- Day 4: Focus on **clothing and tools**.

**Step 3:** Use the **Life in Early Societies** worksheet.

- Fill in the boxes with keywords or pictures for each category:

What did they eat?	Where did they live?	What did they wear and/or use?

**Step 4:** Write 3-5 sentences to describe what you learned.

- Use sentence starters like:  
“People in \_\_\_\_\_ lived in \_\_\_\_\_.”  
“They used \_\_\_\_\_ to cook or hunt.”

**Step 5 (optional extension):**

Draw a scene showing what life looked like for someone in that society.

### **Additional Supports**

- Word bank with visuals
- Short, leveled text or teacher-read summary
- Sentence frames and checklist to guide writing
- Graphic organizer provided to reduce cognitive load

### **Why It Works**

This version keeps the learning goal (understanding daily life in early societies) but makes the task clearer, more focused, and more achievable for all learners. It also builds confidence by breaking the work into manageable steps.