

ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS AND SKILL SETS OF THE IOWA CORE CURRICULUM

SOCIAL STUDIES

PROVIDED BY THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

Social studies is the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence. Within the school program, social studies provides coordinated, systematic study drawing upon such disciplines as anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology, as well as appropriate content from the humanities, mathematics, and natural sciences. The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world.

Definition of Social Studies

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

The founders of our country emphasized that the vitality and security of a democracy depends upon the education and willingness of its citizens to participate actively in society. This level of participation requires civic competence. In other words, it is imperative that our future generations gain an understanding of the core concepts of Social Studies. Life in the United States within our democratic system is constantly changing which creates varying social circumstances. As a result, citizens need to adapt to such changes in order to sustain vital democratic traditions. Meeting this need is the mission of the social studies. In social studies, students develop knowledge, skills, and dispositions, including but not limited to:

- Possessing basic knowledge and ways of thinking drawn from many academic disciplines
- Expressing ideas in written form
- Reading reflectively and critically
- Analyzing their own and others' opinions on social issues
- Becoming motivated to participate in civic and community life as active and informed citizens

As we work to carry on the ideals of the founders, we are compelled to revisit our fundamental beliefs and institutions and to construct new social contexts and relationships. The Iowa Core Curriculum for Social Studies reflects the belief that the informed social studies students comprehend and apply to personal and public experiences the core content perspectives of the many academic fields of the social studies. Our entire social experiences,

as well as our republic, are established upon the principles of individual citizenship. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to the education of those future citizens. For that reason, the Iowa Core Curriculum for Social Studies has been structured around five core social studies content areas. They are:

- Behavioral Sciences
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Political Science/Civic Literacy

For each area, knowledge and skills have been identified and defined in terms of detailed understandings that students should be able to apply. It is of key importance that students possess the knowledge and skills associated with the economic, political, and social forces that make up the human systems in which they live. In addition, they must possess the historical knowledge which created the spatial, temporal, and cultural perspectives present in our world.

The Iowa Core Curriculum for Social Studies is premised upon a rigorous and relevant K — 12 social studies program. Engaging students in the pursuit of active informed citizenship will require a broad range of understandings and skills. It will also require an articulated curriculum which connects students to the social world through informed instructional experiences led by teachers who are committed to active civic participation. This represents a bold step toward a vision of social and civic literacy for all of Iowa's students.

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Behavioral sciences include, but are not limited to, the areas of sociology, anthropology and psychology. In addressing these disciplines the actions and reactions of humans are studied through observational and experimental methods.

GRADES K-2

- BS1 ⇒ Understand the changing nature of society.
- BS2 ⇒ Understand all people have individual traits.
- BS3 ⇒ Understand interactions between self and the peer group.
- BS4 ⇒ Understand the relationship of the individual to the components of society and culture.

GRADES 3-5

- BS1 ⇒ Understand the changing nature of society.
- BS2 ⇒ Understand the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision making.
- BS3 ⇒ Understand how personality and socialization impact the individual.
- BS4 ⇒ Understand the process of how humans develop, learn, adapt to the environment, and internalize their culture. (#5)
- BS5 ⇒ Understand current social issues to determine how the individual formulates opinions and responds to issues. (#4)
- BS6 ⇒ Understand how to evaluate social research and information. (#3)

GRADES 6-8

- BS1 ⇒ Understand the changing nature of society.
- BS2 ⇒ Understand how personality and external social forces impact the individual.
- BS3 ⇒ Understand the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision making.
- BS4 ⇒ Understand the process of how humans develop, learn, adapt to the environment, and internalize their culture.
- BS5 ⇒ Understand current social issues to determine how the individual is able to formulate opinions and respond to those issues.
- BS6 ⇒ Understand how to evaluate social research and information.

GRADES 9-12

- BS1 ⇒ Understand the historical development of the behavioral sciences and the changing nature of society
- BS2 ⇒ Understand the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision making
- BS3 ⇒ Understand the appropriate research procedures and skills of the behavioral scientist
- BS4 ⇒ Understand current social issues to determine how the individual is able to formulate opinions and responds to those issues
- BS5 ⇒ Understand how social status, social groups, social change and social institutions influence individual and group behaviors
- BS6 ⇒ Understand the process of how humans develop, learn, adapt to their environment, and internalize their culture
- BS7 ⇒ Understand how personality and agents of socialization impact the individual

ECONOMICS

Economics addresses the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. The concept of scarcity is understood to mean that available resources are insufficient to satisfy the wants and needs of everyone. Economics is therefore founded upon the alternative use of available resources and the study of choices.

GRADES K-2

- E1 ⇒ Understand the role of scarcity and economic trade-offs and how economic conditions impact people's lives.
- E2 ⇒ Understand that the basic nature of economics is an exchange of resources.
- E3 ⇒ Understand how governments throughout the world influence economic behavior.
- E4 ⇒ Understand people in all parts of the world trade with one another.
- E5 ⇒ Understand that changes in technology impact individuals, the economy and society.
- E6 ⇒ Understand the universal economic concept of needs and wants.

GRADES 3-5

- E1 ⇒ Understand the role of scarcity and economic trade-offs and how economic conditions impact people's lives.
- E2 ⇒ Understand the functions of economic institutions.
- E3 ⇒ Understand how governments throughout the world influence economic behavior.
- E4 ⇒ Understand factors that create patterns of interdependence in the world economy.
- E5 ⇒ Understand that advancing technologies impact the global economy.
- E6 ⇒ Understand that all economies throughout the world rely upon universal concepts.

GRADES 6-8

- E1 ⇒ Understand the role of scarcity and economic trade-offs and how economic conditions impact people's lives.
- E2 ⇒ Understand the functions of economic institutions.
- E3 ⇒ Understand how governments throughout the world influence economic behavior.
- E4 ⇒ Understand factors that create patterns of interdependence in the world economy.
- E5 ⇒ Understand the impact of advancing technologies on the global economy.
- E6 ⇒ Understand how universal economic concepts present themselves in various types of economies throughout the world.
- E7 ⇒ Understand the function of common financial instruments.

GRADES 9-12

- E1 ⇒ Understand the function of common financial instruments
- E2 ⇒ Understand the role of scarcity and economic trade-offs and how economic conditions impact people's lives.
- E3 ⇒ Understand the functions of economic institutions
- E4 ⇒ Understand how governments throughout the world influence economic behavior
- E5 ⇒ Understand how universal economic concepts present themselves in various types of economies throughout the world.
- E6 ⇒ Understand the local, state, regional, national and international factors that create patterns of interdependence in the global economy
- E7 ⇒ Understand the impact of advancing technologies on the global economy

GEOGRAPHY

Geography is the study of the interaction between people and their environments. Geography therefore looks at the world through the concepts of location, place, human-environmental interaction, movement, and region.

GRADES K-2

- G1 ⇒ Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.
- G2 ⇒ Understand how geographic and human characteristics create culture and define regions.
- G3 ⇒ Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of communities and the movement of populations.
- G4 ⇒ Understand how geographic processes and human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans.

GRADES 3-5

- G1 ⇒ Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.
- G2 ⇒ Understand how geographic and human characteristics create culture and define regions.
- G3 ⇒ Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development society and the movement of populations.
- G4 ⇒ Understand how physical processes and human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans.

GRADES 6-8

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G2 ⇒ Understand how geographic and human characteristics create culture and define regions.

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GRADES 9-12

G1 ⇒ Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments

G2 ⇒ Understand how physical and human characteristics create and define regions

G3 ⇒ Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of society and the movement of populations

G4 ⇒ Understand how physical and human processes shape the earth's surface and major ecosystems

G5 ⇒ Understand how human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans

G6 ⇒ Understand how culture affects the interaction of human populations through time and space

G7 ⇒ Understand how cultural factors influence the design of human communities

HISTORY

History is the study and analysis of the past. Built upon a foundation of historical knowledge, history seeks to analyze the past in order to describe the relationship between historical facts, concepts, and generalizations. History draws upon cause and effect relationships within multiple social narratives to help explain complex human interactions. Understanding the past provides context for the present and implications for the future.

GRADES K-2

- H1 ⇒ Understand people construct knowledge of the past from multiple and various types of sources.
- H2 ⇒ Understand how and why people create and participate in governance.
- H3 ⇒ Understand culture and cultural diffusion affects the development and maintenance of societies.
- H4 ⇒ Understand individuals and groups within a society may promote change or the status quo.
- H5 ⇒ Understand economic needs and wants affect individual and group decisions.
- H6 ⇒ Understand relationships between geography and historical events.
- H7 ⇒ Understand cause and effect relationships and other historical thinking skills in order to interpret events and issues.

GRADES 3-5

- H1 ⇒ Understand historical patterns, periods of time, and the relationships among these elements.
- H2 ⇒ Understand how and why people create, maintain, or change systems of power, authority, and governance.
- H3 ⇒ Understand the role of culture and cultural diffusion on the development and maintenance of societies.
- H4 ⇒ Understand the role of individuals and groups within a society as promoters of change or the status quo.
- H5 ⇒ Understand the effect of economic needs and wants on individual and group decisions.
- H6 ⇒ Understand the effects of geographic factors on historical events.
- H7 ⇒ Understand the role of innovation on the development and interaction of societies.
- H8 ⇒ Understand cause and effect relationships and other historical thinking skills in order to interpret events and issues.

GRADES 6-8

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POLITICAL SCIENCE/CIVIC LITERACY

NOTE: The Essential Concepts and Skills listed in Social Studies - Political Science/Civic Literacy are the same as the Essential Concepts and Skills listed in 21st Century - Civic Literacy

Political science is the study of power and authority through the examination of political processes, governmental institutions, and human behavior in a civil society. In this context the study of civics is understood to include the form and function of government. Civic literacy encompasses civics but also addresses the individual's social and political participation.

GRADES K-2

PS/CL1 ⇒ Understand the basic concepts of government and democracy and that the U.S. Constitution defines the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

PS/CL2 ⇒ Understand how government affects citizens and how citizens affect government.

PS/CL3 ⇒ Understand the United States has a role in current world affairs.

GRADES 3-5

PS/CL1 ⇒ Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

PS/CL2 ⇒ Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the enduring values and principles of democracy and republicanism.

PS/CL3 ⇒ Understand the purpose and function of each of the three branches of government established by the U.S. Constitution.

PS/CL4 ⇒ Understand the differences among local, state, and national government.

PS/CL5 ⇒ Understand the role of the United States in current world affairs.

GRADES 6-8

PS/CL1 ⇒ Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

PS/CL2 ⇒ Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy.

PS/CL3 ⇒ Understand the purpose and function of each of the three branches of government established by the U.S. Constitution.

PS/CL4 ⇒ Understand the similarities and differences among the complex levels of local, state, and national government.

PS/CL5 ⇒ Understand strategies for effective political action that impacts local, state, and national governance.

PS/CL6 ⇒ Understand how laws are established at the local, state, and national levels.

PS/CL7 ⇒ Understand how various political systems throughout the world define the rights and responsibilities of the individual.

PS/CL8 ⇒ Understand the role of the United States in current world affairs.

GRADES 9-12

PS/CL1 ⇒ Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action

PS/CL2 ⇒ Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies

the enduring values and principles of democracy and republicanism

PS/CL3 ⇒ Understand the purpose and function of each of the three branches of government established by the Constitution

PS/CL4 ⇒ Understand the differences among the complex levels of local, state and national government and their inherent, expressed and implied powers

PS/CL5 ⇒ Understand strategies for effective political action that impacts local, state and national governance

PS/CL6 ⇒ Understand how law and public policy are established at the local, state and national levels

PS/CL7 ⇒ Understand how various political systems throughout the world define the rights and responsibilities of the individual

PS/CL8 ⇒ Understand the role of the United States in current world affairs.