

## Content Standards – Social Studies

What should students know and do? When should they learn it?

### Grade 7 and 8

#### ANALYTICAL SKILLS

- Explain how major events are related to each other in time.
- Construct various time lines of key events, people, and periods of the historical era being studied.
- Use a variety of maps and documents to identify physical and cultural features of neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries to explain the historical migration of people, expansion and disintegration of empires, and the growth of economic systems.
- Frame questions that can be answered by historical study and research.
- Distinguish fact from opinion in historical narratives and stories.
- Distinguish relevant from irrelevant information, essential from incidental information, and authentic from unauthentic information in historical narratives and stories.
- Assess the credibility of primary and secondary sources and draw sound conclusions from them.
- Detect different historical points of view on historical events and determine the ways different points of view are developed.
- Explain the central issues and problems of the past, placing people and events correctly in time and place.
- Understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and relationship in historical events, including the long-and short-term casual relations.
- Explain the ways historical events affect each other.
- Evaluate the role of chance, oversight, and error in history.
- Explain how interpretations of history change as new information is uncovered.
- Interpret basic indicators of economic performance and recognize the costs benefits in economic and political issues.

### Grade 7

#### WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY: MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES

- Analyze and explain the causes and effects of the vast expansion and ultimate disintegration of the Roman Empire.
- Analyze and explain the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the following during the Middle Ages: Islamic civilizations, China, Sub-Saharan civilizations of Ghana and Mali, Japan, and Europe.
- Compare and contrast the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Mesoamerican and Andean civilizations.
- Analyze and explain the origins, accomplishments, and geographic spread of the Renaissance.
- Analyze and explain the historical developments of the Reformation.
- Analyze and explain the historical developments of the Scientific Revolution and its lasting effects on past and current religious, political, and cultural institutions.
- Analyze and explain the political and economic changes in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries (i.e., Age of Exploration, the Enlightenment, and the Age of Reason).

## Grade 8

### UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY: GROWTH AND CONFLICT

---

- Analyze and explain the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and the powers of the federal government.
  - Describe the foundation of the American political system and the ways in which citizens participate in it.
  - Explain the aspirations and ideals of the people of the new nation.
  - Analyze and explain the foreign policy of the early Republic.
  - Describe the divergent paths of the American people from 1800 to the mid-1800's and the challenges they faced.
  - Analyze and explain the early and steady attempts to abolish slavery and realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.
  - Outline the multiple causes, key events and complex consequences of the Civil War.
  - Analyze the character and lasting consequences of Reconstruction.
  - Analyze and explain the transformation of the American economy and the changing social and political conditions in the United States in response to the Industrial Revolution.
- 

## Grades 9-12

*Note: Social Studies is not a required class for grade 9.*

### ANALYTICAL SKILLS

---

- Compare the present with the past, evaluate the consequences of past events and decisions and determine the lessons learned.
  - Assess how change happens at different rates at different times.
  - Use a variety of maps and documents to interpret human movement, including major patterns of domestic and international migration; changing environmental preferences and settlement patterns; the frictions that develop between population groups; and the speed of ideas, technological innovations, and goods.
  - Relate current events to the characteristics of places and regions.
  - Distinguish between valid and invalid arguments.
  - Identify bias and prejudice.
  - Assess major debates among historians concerning alternative interpretations of the past, including an analysis of authors' use of evidence and the distinctions between sound and misleading arguments.
  - Build and test hypotheses; collect, evaluate and employ information from primary and secondary sources; and apply it in oral and written presentations.
  - Show the connections between particular historical events and larger social, economic and political trends and developments.
  - Investigate and explain the complexity of historical causes and effects, including the limitations on determining cause and effect.
  - Explain past events and issues as those events were viewed at the time of the event rather than solely in terms of present day norms and values.
  - Compare and contrast how historical events actually happened with how they might have happened under other circumstances.
  - Interpret the meaning, implication, and impact of historical events.
  - Analyze our modifications of landscapes and examine the resulting environmental policy issues.
  - Conduct cost/benefit analyses and apply basic economic indicators to analyze the aggregate economic behavior of the U.S. economy.
-

## Grade 10

### WORLD HISTORY, CULTURE, AND GEOGRAPHY: THE MODERN WORLD

---

- Trace the rise of Democratic ideas from Ancient Greece and Rome through the Democratic Revolutions of the 1700's.
  - Describe the impact on individualism and democracy of the Glorious Revolution of England, the American Revolution, and the French Revolution.
  - Analyze the effects of the Industrial Revolution in England, France, Germany, Japan, and the United States.
  - Analyze and explain the effects of Imperialism in at least two of the following regions or countries: Africa, Southeast Asia, China, India, Latin America, and the Philippines.
  - Analyze and explain the causes and course of World War I, lasting effects of World War I, and the rise of totalitarianism following World War I.
  - Analyze and explain the causes and consequences of World War II.
  - Investigate and explain the international developments in the post-World War II era.
  - Describe the building of nations in the contemporary world in two of the following regions or countries: Mexico and other parts Latin America, the Middle East, China, or Africa.
  - Investigate and explain the inclusion of countries into the world economy, and the information, technological, and communications revolutions (e.g., television, satellites, computers).
  - In the course of studying the regions of Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East, and the Americas, use various maps to demonstrate a knowledge of the location of important historical events.
- 

## Grade 11

### UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

---

- Analyze and explain the significant events surrounding the founding of the nation and its attempts to realize the philosophy of government described in the Declaration of Independence.
  - Analyze the relationships among the rise of industrialization, large scale rural to urban migration, and massive immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe.
  - Describe the role religion played in the founding of America and its lasting moral, social, and political impacts.
  - Analyze the principles of religious liberty found in the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment, and the issues arising from these principles.
  - Trace the rise of the U.S. to its role as a world power in the 20th century.
  - Analyze and explain the major political, social, economic, technological, and cultural developments of the 1920's.
  - Analyze and describe the different explanations for the Great Depression and how the New Deal fundamentally changed the role of the federal government.
  - Describe America's role in World War II.
  - Analyze and explain the economic boom and social transformation of post-World War II America.
  - Investigate and explain United States foreign policy since World War II.
  - Analyze and explain federal civil rights and voting rights development.
  - Investigate and describe the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.
  - Describe the role of modern-day technology (e.g., automobile, television, computer) in shaping social, political, and cultural trends in 20th century American society.
-

## Grade 12

### PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

- Analyze and explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents (e.g., Declaration of Independence, *Federalist Papers*, etc.).
- Evaluate, and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.
- Evaluate, take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are (i.e., the autonomous sphere of voluntary personal, social, and economic relations not part of government), their interdependence, and importance for a free society.
- Analyze and explain the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.
- Summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the U. S. Constitution and its amendments.
- Evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective office.
- Compare and contrast the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.
- Evaluate, take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.
- Analyze the origins, characteristics, and development of different political systems across time, with emphasis on the quest for political democracy, its advances and obstacles.
- Formulate questions about, and defend their analyses of, tensions within the U.S. constitutional democracy and the importance of maintaining a balance between these concepts (e.g., majority rule and individual rights, liberty and equality, state and national authority in a federal system, civil disobedience and the rule of law, freedom of the press and right to a fair trial, the relationship of religion and government).

### PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS

- Explain common economic terms, concepts, and economic reasoning.
- Analyze the elements of the United States market economy in a global setting.
- Analyze and explain the influence of the U.S. government on the American economy.
- Investigate and describe the elements of the United States labor market in a global setting.
- Analyze the aggregate economic behavior of the United States economy.
- Analyze issues of international trade, and explain how the U.S. economy affects, and is affected by, economic forces beyond its borders.

These state standards have been established by the California Board of Education and adopted by the Santa Barbara School Districts Board of Education. A complete set of standards is available at the District Office.

Created by the Office of Special Projects and Communication, Santa Barbara School Districts,  
720 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, (805) 963-4338, ext. 206.