

7th Grade Social Studies

2016-17



Social Studies Skills

Independence Social Studies teachers understand that acquiring skills to make sense of information is more important than memorizing facts. Therefore, the content objectives below will be practiced and assessed through specific skills:

- Construct and use maps, graphs, and other representations to answer geographic questions.
- Construct, use, and evaluate timelines, charts, and other tools to answer historical questions.
- Locate, organize, evaluate, and compare evidence.
- Create and support a relevant claim based on available evidence.

The following learning targets represent the major concepts studied and assessed in this course.

Semester 1

Unit 1

1. Compare types of maps to understand their purpose and tools.
2. Describe the physical characteristics of North America and their effect on people.
3. Explain how the physical environment has contributed to the economic success of North America.
4. Identify important places in North America.
5. Compare and contrast USA, Canada, and Mexico

Unit 2

1. Identify major places in Europe.
2. Analyze the relationship between the physical environment and cultural traditions of Europe.
3. Analyze the legacy of the Greek civilization.
4. Analyze the historical events of Ancient Greece.
5. Analyze the legacy of the Roman Civilization.
6. Analyze the historical events of Ancient Rome.
7. Explain the origins, structure, and significant beliefs of Christianity.

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The following learning targets represent the major concepts studied and assessed in this course.

Semester 2

- Unit 2**
8. Evaluate the effectiveness of the feudal system in establishing order after the collapse of the Roman Empire.
 9. Explain how key ideas in the Magna Carta led to limited government.
 10. Analyze the Renaissance and Reformation to determine their impact on Europe.

- Unit 3**
1. Identify major places in Latin America
 2. Analyze the relationship between physical environment and the cultural traditions of Latin America.
 3. Analyze the legacies of the Mayas, Incas, and Aztecs.
 4. Evaluate the short and long-term impacts of European contact with Latin America.
 5. Evaluate the positive and negative impacts of economic growth in Latin America.
 6. Compare the success of Latin American nations after independence.

- Unit 4**
1. Analyze the relationship between the physical environment and cultural traditions of Russia.
 2. Explain how geography has affected Russia's interaction with other countries throughout history.