

Classroom Procedure:

1. Introduce the topic by asking students to define Social Studies. Write their responses on the whiteboard. Ask students what their opinion of Social Studies is. Do they like it? Why or why not? Do they think it is useful as Math or Science? Why or why not? Explain to students the lesson they will be working on is about why studying Social Studies matters.
2. Distribute *Social Studies: What is Social Studies* and *Social Studies: The 10 Themes*. Read and review the information with students. Use additional resources to enhance understanding.
3. Distribute the *Activity* page. Organize your classroom in groups. Assist students in completing the activity. Discuss with the whole class why some students place some things in different categories than other students.
4. Distribute the *Practice* page. Check and review student answers.
5. Distribute the *Homework* page. The next day, review with the whole class the responses.
6. In closing, ask students to explain why it is important to study Social Studies? Did the students know there were so many different fields under the category of Social Studies? Did their opinion of Social Studies change or remain the same? Why or why not?

Lesson Title:

The 10 Themes of Social Studies

Subject: Social Studies

Approximate Grade Level: 3 - 5

Objectives: Students are introduced and will learn there are 10 themes in the study of Social Studies (National Council for the Social Studies - NCSS). Students will define Social Studies and why the study of Social Studies is useful in their daily lives. Students will learn how to read a Social Studies text, cull out important information, and apply the knowledge to current problems.

State Educational Standards* NCSS. SS.D1.2.3 – 5, NCSS.SS.D2.2.3 – 5, LB.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.3 – 5.3

Class Sessions (45 minutes): 2 Class Class Sessions.

Teaching Materials/Worksheets: Content pages (2), Activity Page (2), Practice Page (2), and Homework Page (2)

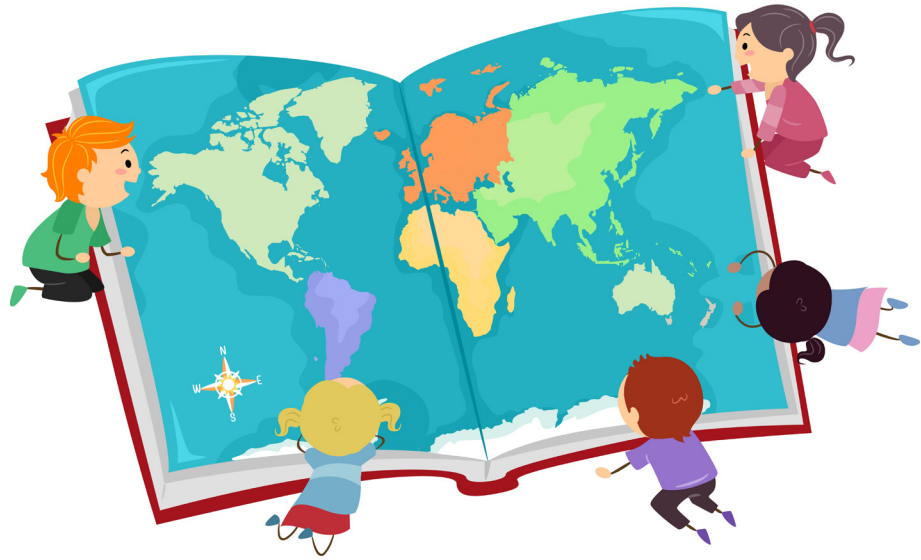
Student Supplies: Pencils, highlighters, pens

Prepare Ahead of Time: Copies of Worksheets

Options for Lesson: A great introduction to this lesson is to use computers and have the students go to the following website: **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics** <https://www.bls.gov/k12/students/> In the Career Exploration or STEM Occupations, have students look up careers by the list of fields in the lesson. Have the students make a presentation on the Social Studies career choices.

*Lessons are aligned to meet the education objectives and goals of most states. For more information on your state objectives, contact your local Board of Education or Department of Education in your state.

The 10 Themes of Social Studies



What is Social Studies?

When you hear the term ‘Social Studies,’ what is the first thing that pops into your mind? Is it, oh no – History? Is it why we are studying something that has nothing to do with me? Or do you not know exactly what Social Studies is?

You probably have studied History during Social Studies class. But did you know that History is only one of several subjects under the subject of Social Studies? Social Studies deals with all sorts of relationships. For example, one field of Social Studies is geography, which is the study of how people relate to the places they live in. If you live in the desert, your life is far different than if you live in a rainforest. Geography explains how people survive in various climates and why they choose to live where they do.



Another field you probably have studied is Civics. Civics is the study of our rights and responsibilities as citizens. You probably already know in the United States there are three branches of government; legislative, executive, and judicial branches. We elect people to represent our ideas and manage government services like education, healthcare, or streets, for example. You may have heard your teacher say you have specific responsibilities as a citizen. For instance, you should obey all of the laws or work to keep parks clean or assist others who are in need.

Here is a list of some of the fields covered under Social Studies. Do you know what each one does? With your teacher, complete the chart.

Field	Definition
Economics	
Political Science	
Sociology	
Anthropology	
Law	
Environmental Science	
Archaeology	
Psychology	

The 10 Themes of Social Studies

On the last page, you learned that there are several fields included in the study of Social Studies. Social Studies is divided into 10 themes or ideas organizing Social Studies. Themes are a way to think about how we can experience Social Studies and make it applicable to our own experiences. Here are the 10 Themes of Social Studies.



Culture: We learn about patterns of behavior shared by a society or group of people. This includes food, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religion.

Time, Continuity, & Change: We learn by studying the past to understand the human story across time. Understanding history helps us to place current events in context.

People, Place, & Environment: We learn by studying people, places, and environments to understand how we relate to the physical world.

Individual Development & Identity: We become aware of how humans learn, grow, and relate to another. Are our experiences different from others?

Individuals, Groups, and Institutions: We learn how governments function, the role of citizens, and how conflicts are resolved by individuals and institutions.

Power, Authority, & Governance: We learn what is the purpose of governments, how people make a change in their community, and what are our individual rights.

Production, Distribution, & Consumption: We learn what influences the products made, distributed, and consumed by society. How are resources shared?

Science, Technology, & Society: We learn how science and technology influence everyday life. Science and technology change society in many different ways.

Global Connections: We learn we are a globally interdependent society. What happens in other parts of the world has ripple effects across the globe.

Civic Ideals & Practices: We learn what it means to be a good citizen in our democratic form of government. We learn what the term “common good” means.



Instructions: With a partner, cut out the 10 Themes in Social Studies and the Field of Study Cards. Next to the 10 Themes, place a Field of Study Card next to the 10 Themes description, you think the Field of Study best fits. Discuss with your class why you think it is a good fit.

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Economics Definition:	Political Science Definition:
Geography Definition:	History Definition:
Sociology Definition:	Anthropology Definition:
Culture Definition:	Government Definition:
Law Definition:	Philosophy Definition:
Civics Definition:	Environmental Science Definition:
Psychology Definition:	Archaeology Definition:



Practice

Name _____ Date _____



Instructions: Next to each Theme, write one job, career, or how a person might use the theme on a daily basis. An example is done for you.

Culture: A person might study someone's culture to learn about their language and customs. For example, a diplomat would need to learn about the country they were going to as a representative or the United States.

Time, Continuity, & Change: _____

People, Place, & Environment: _____

Individual Development & Identity: _____

Individuals, Groups, and Institutions: _____

Power, Authority, & Governance: _____

Production, Distribution, & Consumption: _____

Science, Technology, & Society: _____

Global Connections: _____

Civic Ideals & Practices: _____



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Time, Continuity, & Change: A historian has an interest in time, change, and continuity. They would need to know about the past so they can compare the past with today.

People, Place, & Environment: Environmental scientists are interested in learning about the different environmental impacts changes in the environment have on people and where they live.

Individual Development & Identity: Knowing about our own heritage and history helps us to connect with our own culture and understand how we interact with others.

Individuals, Groups, and Institutions: Most people want to be part of a group that represents our interests, hobbies, or friends. Being part of a sports team or club is an example.

Power, Authority, & Governance: To understand our civic responsibilities, everyone should understand the basics of how governments work and the kinds of services citizens can expect from the government. A politician is an example.

Production, Distribution, & Consumption: Everyone buys and consumes products. Understanding how economic systems work means we can better manage resources like money. An economist uses this information.

Science, Technology, & Society: We use technology almost every minute of every waking hour! An engineer, scientist, or doctor is an example.

Global Connections: The products we buy and consume come from every part of the world. Someone who works in the shipping industry would want to have some knowledge about how things are imported and exported across the globe.

Civic Ideals & Practices: Every person needs to have a working knowledge of what it means to be a good citizen so that we can be role models for our community.



Homework

Name _____ Date _____



Instructions: In the boxes, write when you might use what you learn in Social Studies. An example is done for you.

I use what I learn in Social Studies when I use Geography...

- 1) *When I travel somewhere on vacation.*
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

I use what I learn in Social Studies when I use History...

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

I use what I learn in Social Studies when I use Economics...

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)



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I use what I learn in Social Studies when I use Geography...

- 1) *When I travel somewhere on vacation.*
- 2) When I am going on a field trip at school.
- 3) When I am looking at maps.
- 4) When I am giving someone directions.

I use what I learn in Social Studies when I use History...

- 1) When I am visiting a museum.
- 2) When I learning about the past.
- 3) When I am reading a story about someone important.
- 4) When I am learning about my older relatives.
- 5) When I am learning about my relatives.

I use what I learn in Social Studies when I use Economics...

- 1) When I am choosing a career.
- 2) When I trying to find the best time to buy something.
- 3) When I am saving money.
- 4) When I am trying to earn money.