

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

The state education department has developed five standards in social studies that are reflected on the state assessments given in grade 5, 8, 10 and 11.

Standard 1: History of the United States and New York

Standard 2: World History

Standard 3: Geography

Standard 4: Economics

Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship and Government.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Watch with your child one news program a night and encourage discussion
- Read the newspaper or newspapers on-line with your child
- Pay special attention to maps, graphs and charts
- When helping students read primary source documents have them use a highlighter to help them answer constructed response and document-based questions

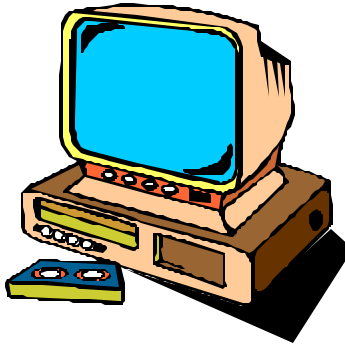
WEB SITES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

For those students who are interested in social studies, they can explore and find out more by researching these history web sites.

www.pbs.org - This web site provides students with access to information from the PBS web site. If you click on the history section, it provides students with information, games and interesting historical facts.

www.historychannel.com -A nice feature of the history channel is to list what happened this day in history as well as a wealth of information about various historical topics.

www.loc.gov This is the official web site of the Library of Congress. Students can search the collection to find pictures, primary sources and information about virtually any topic. They also have this day in history and a “wise guy” section that provides students with interesting historical facts and information.



EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SOCIAL STUDIES: A PARENT GUIDE

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K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES AN OVERVIEW

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE FIVE

On the elementary level, students begin to learn about social studies in Kindergarten as they examine information about themselves and others. As they move through first and second grade, they learn about their families and other families from long ago as well as their own communities. Students understand the features of a community and the people who work doing various jobs within their communities. In the third grade, students explore communities around the world and compare life at home to other cultures and societies. Students celebrate other cultures, customs and holidays around the world. In fourth grade, students learn about their local history and government systems. By grade five, students study the history of the United States, Canada, and Latin America, thereby laying the foundation for a more in-depth study of social studies as they continue throughout their school career.

GRADES SIX THROUGH EIGHT

In the middle school, students examine the history and cultures of the Eastern Hemisphere in grade six. As they move into seventh and eighth grade, they study a chronological history of the United States beginning with Native American cultures and culminating in modern history.

GRADE NINE THROUGH TWELVE

Once the students reach high school they study global history and geography for two years. This is a chronological study of world history beginning with early man and culminating in world issues of today that face all nations. In grade eleven, students study the chronological history of the United States from Native Americans to modern history. Students finish their high school career with a study of economic systems and government. It is our hope that students understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States.

“Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government; that whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights.” - Thomas Jefferson

ASSESSMENTS

Students are expected to complete four state assessments during their school career in social studies. The first state assessment is given in November of fifth grade. Students are asked to complete thirty-five multiple-choice questions, three or four constructed response questions and a document based question. Students are given two ninety-minute sessions spread over two days to complete their assessment. The assessment tests skills and content from kindergarten through grade four. In grade eight students complete their second state assessment. This exam is also a two-day exam that asks students to complete forty-five multiple-choice questions, constructed response questions and a document based question as well. This exam is administered in June and students are also given two ninety-minute sessions to complete their exam. This exam is a culmination of course work from grades seven and eight. In grade ten students take their first Regents exam in Global History and Geography and United States History and Geography in grade eleven. Students are given three hours to complete the exam that consists of fifty multiple-choice questions, a thematic essay and a document-based essay. Both Regents exams are required for graduation from high school.