

Framework for K-4 Social Studies from the NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association (September, 2012)

Our goal: the development of informed, engaged global citizens

Objective: Students will be able to identify issues, evaluate choices, make informed decisions based on reliable evidence and understand the consequences of individual and group decisions and take responsibility for our (individual and group) actions.

These are the overarching essential questions that guide the social studies standards through grade 12:

	1. Civics	2. Geography	3. Human Dignity	4. Economics	5. History	6. Cultural Diversity
Essential Questions from NJCCC Social Studies standards	How do citizens, civic ideals, and government institutions interact to balance the needs of individuals and the common good?	How do physical geography, human geography, and the human environment interact to influence or determine the development of cultures, societies, and nations?	How have economic, political, and cultural decisions promoted or prevented the growth of personal freedom, individual responsibility, equality, and respect for human dignity?	How can individuals, groups, and societies apply economic reasoning to make difficult choices about scarce resources? What are the possible consequences of these decisions for individuals, groups, and societies?	How do our interpretations of past events inform our understanding of cause and effect, and continuity and change, and how do they influence our beliefs and decisions about current public policy issues?	How can the study of multiple perspectives, beliefs systems, and cultures provide a context for understanding and challenging public actions and decisions in a diverse and interdependent world?

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GRADE						
K	<p>What are rules?</p> <p>Why do we need rules?</p> <p>Why do we need leaders to make decisions?</p> <p>What is fairness?</p> <p>How can I make my classroom a better place?</p>	<p>Where do I live?</p> <p>Where do animals live?</p> <p>How do I find places (maps, globes, google earth)?</p> <p>How does weather affect daily activities?</p>	<p>How should I treat others? Why? (People have the right to be happy)</p> <p>How can I show respect for others?</p> <p>Who am I and how and I special?</p> <p>How are we the same and how are we different?</p>	<p>What do my family and I need to survive?</p> <p>How do we obtain what we need to survive?</p> <p>What are resources?</p> <p>Where does my food come from (production)?</p> <p>Why can't we always have everything we want (scarcity)?</p>	<p>How do we measure time (clocks, calendars)?</p> <p>How have I changed over time?</p> <p>How are events connected (sequence)?</p> <p>What are the holidays that we celebrate? How do we celebrate them?</p>	<p>What is a family? Why is it important?</p> <p>How are families alike and different (needs, homes, foods, clothes, games)?</p> <p>How do family members (around the world) help take care of one another?</p> <p>How is our classroom a diverse place?</p> <p>Why should we celebrate diversity?</p>

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GRADE 1	<p>How do we make good choices in how we treat others?</p> <p>Why do we need rules?</p> <p>How can rules help us resolve conflicts?</p> <p>What is the role of a leader and/or authority figure?</p> <p>What are my rights and responsibilities as a member of my family/school class?</p> <p>How can I make my school a better place?</p> <p>What is the difference between power and authority?</p> <p>How do we make decisions/choices in a community (democracy)?</p>	<p>What can maps, globes and other sources tell us about places and their characteristics?</p> <p>What are the characteristics of local rural, urban and suburban communities?</p> <p>How do climate and geography affect daily life?</p> <p>What is the geography of my neighborhood (intro to five themes of geography)?</p>	<p>How should people in my school/ community be treated and why?</p> <p>What are fair/unfair actions/behaviors (bullying)?</p> <p>What should I do in response to unfair actions/behaviors?</p> <p>Why is it important to respect others?</p> <p>How do we show respect for others?</p>	<p>What is the difference between a want and a need?</p> <p>How do families satisfy needs and wants?</p> <p>What are the resources that we have available in our community?</p> <p>How can we make good choices with limited resources (scarcity)?</p> <p>What are the trade-offs in any decision (opportunity cost)?</p> <p>How do we obtain the goods and services that we need and/or want?</p> <p>What is money/bartering? Why do we need it?</p>	<p>How were families different long ago (ancestors)?</p> <p>How were homes and schools different long ago?</p> <p>How have actions of people in the past affected the present? (Presidents, MLK, etc.)</p> <p>What are the significance of American holidays and symbols?</p>	<p>How does diversity make our world a better place? How is our community a diverse place (food, holidays, activities)? (How does each family contribute to the diversity of our community?)</p> <p>How are families around the world similar and different?</p> <p>How are schools around the world similar and different?</p> <p>How can understanding the ways I am similar and different to others help me to resolve conflicts?</p>

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GRADE 2	<p>Who makes the rules and how and why?</p> <p>How can I be a good citizen?</p> <p>How do we balance the needs and wants/rights of individuals and community?</p> <p>What are my rights and responsibilities within my community?</p> <p>How can I make my community a better place?</p> <p>What is the common good in my community and how can I contribute to it?</p> <p>What are good/bad choices and what are the consequences of my/our choices?</p>	<p>What is a natural resource?</p> <p>What are the characteristics of rural, urban and suburban communities around the world? How do those characteristics influence how people live, work and play?</p> <p>What is the geography of my community (intro to five themes of geography)?</p> <p>What can maps, globes and other sources tell us about the world (water/land) and their characteristics?</p>	<p>How can I better understand another person's perspective?</p> <p>How can I respect the rights and dignity of others, and also encourage others to do the same?</p> <p>How does understanding another person's perspective or culture help us to get along?</p> <p>What are fair/unfair actions/behaviors?</p> <p>What should I do in response to unfair actions/behaviors?</p>	<p>How do people in different communities (rural, urban, suburban) get the things they need?</p> <p>Do people in different communities have different wants and needs? Why (not)?</p> <p>Are some needs universal?</p> <p>How can people in communities work together to make sure people have their needs met (specialization, interdependence)?</p> <p>What are the roles of consumers and producers?</p> <p>What is the purpose/role of money and savings?</p>	<p>How were communities different long ago?</p> <p>What were important decisions people in the past had to make (that influenced the present)?</p> <p>How do our decisions influence the future?</p> <p>What is our common American heritage and how do we recognize it?</p>	<p>What is culture and how and why are cultures around the world similar and different? (cultural universals)</p> <p>How does understanding cultural differences help us to resolve conflicts?</p> <p>What is my culture? What influences my culture? How does my culture influence me?</p>

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GRADE 3	<p>Why do we need government?</p> <p>What is the common good (local-global) and how can individuals contribute to it?</p> <p>What is a good leader and how do they make decisions?</p> <p>Why do we have a democratic form of government?</p> <p>What are my rights and responsibilities as a citizen?</p>	<p>How do people make choices about using natural resources?</p> <p>How do people's choices about how they use natural resources modify the environment?</p> <p>How does the type of community you live in (rural, urban, suburban) affect the way you interact with environment (five themes of geography)?</p> <p>What can maps, globes and other geographical resources tell us about the states and regions of the U.S.?</p> <p>What are the causes and effects of human movement around the world?</p> <p>Why is it important to take care of the earth?</p>	<p>How do people make positive change in their communities?</p> <p>How can communities make decisions that respect the rights and dignity of all its members?</p> <p>How do the choices that I make impact the well-being of others?</p> <p>What is the majority/minority group in a community, and how do they interact?</p>	<p>How can I be a responsible consumer?</p> <p>What is scarcity and opportunity cost, and how do those concepts influence my economic decision-making?</p> <p>How are producers and consumers around the world interconnected (markets)?</p> <p>What makes prices go up and down (supply and demand, productivity)?</p>	<p>How and why have communities changed over time?</p> <p>How has migration and immigration changed communities?</p> <p>When we retell the past (history), who's story are we telling?</p> <p>What are primary sources and how do we use them to learn about history?</p>	<p>How have various cultures around the world utilized or adapted their environment to address needs and wants?</p> <p>How does where you live affect how you live?</p> <p><i>How and why have cultures changed over time?</i></p> <p>What is an American?</p> <p>What has influenced the development of American culture (immigration)?</p> <p>Is America a melting pot, salad bowl or wok?</p>

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GRADE 4	<p>How are the N.J. and U.S. governments organized and why?</p> <p>How do national and state government share power in a federal system of government?</p> <p>How does the Constitution limit the power of the government?</p> <p>What fundamental rights are protected in the Bill of Rights?</p> <p>How do the rights contribute to the improvement of American democracy?</p> <p>How are you a member/citizen of your town, state, country and world?</p>	<p>What impact do decisions at the local and state level on how to use land and resources have on the environment and on how people live?</p> <p>How has the use of land and resources changed over time, and what has the impact been on the environment?</p> <p>How can I affect or influence positive changes to the ways we interact with the environment?</p> <p>How can I use information from maps, globes and other sources of information to understand the past and to make better decisions about the present?</p>	<p>How do (can) governments promote the dignity and rights of all people?</p> <p>How have individuals or groups taken actions to promote the dignity and rights of people (ML. King)?</p> <p>How can I influence others to make good decisions that will uphold the dignity and rights of others?</p> <p>Why is it important to understand multiple perspectives (in history or today)?</p>	<p>What is an economic system?</p> <p>How do economic systems and decisions affect peoples' lives and communities (local/global)?</p> <p>How do people in different places and times make decisions about how to utilize their resources?</p> <p>How and why are the economies of places/times different?</p> <p>What influences the development and change within economies (innovation, communication, transportation, entrepreneurship, etc.)</p> <p>Why explore?</p>	<p>How have events of the past shaped the present?</p> <p>How did the decisions of individuals and groups influence the creation of New Jersey and the United States?</p> <p>How and why are American ideals such as equality, liberty and consent of the governed embodied in key historic documents (Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights)?</p> <p>How do we know what happened in the past?</p> <p>What are primary sources and how do we use them to learn about history?</p>	<p>Why do people from diverse cultures have different perspectives?</p> <p>Why might people from diverse cultures experience conflict?</p> <p>How can people from diverse cultures cooperate and coexist?</p> <p>How does understanding multiple perspectives help us to make more informed decisions?</p>