

Iowa Core – Davenport Schools
Priority Essential Concepts and Skills for 1st Grade Social Studies
with Details and Examples

Introduction

Social studies is the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence. Within the school program, social studies provides coordinated, systematic study drawing upon such disciplines as anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology, as well as appropriate content from the humanities, mathematics, and natural sciences. The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world.

*Definition of Social Studies
National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)*

The founders of our country emphasized that the vitality and security of a democracy depends upon the education and willingness of its citizens to participate actively in society. This level of participation requires civic competence. In other words, it is imperative that our future generations gain an understanding of the core concepts of social studies. Life in the United States within our democratic system is constantly changing which creates varying social circumstances. As a result, citizens need to adapt to such changes in order to sustain vital democratic traditions. Meeting this need is the mission of the social studies.

In social studies, students develop knowledge, skills, and dispositions, including but not limited to:

- Possessing basic knowledge and ways of thinking drawn from many academic disciplines
- Expressing ideas in written form
- Reading reflectively and critically
- Analyzing their own and others' opinions on social issues
- Becoming motivated to participate in civic and community life as active and informed citizens

As we work to carry on the ideals of the founders, we are compelled to revisit our fundamental beliefs and institutions and to construct new social contexts and relationships. The Iowa Core for Social Studies reflects the belief that the informed social studies student comprehends and applies to personal and public experiences the core content perspectives of the many academic fields of the social studies. Our entire social experiences, as well as our republic, are established upon the principles of individual citizenship. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to the education of those future citizens.

For that reason, the Iowa Core for Social Studies has been structured around five core social studies content areas. They are:

- Behavioral Sciences
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Political Science/Civic Literacy

For each area, knowledge and skills have been identified and defined in terms of detailed understandings that students should be able to apply. It is of key importance that students possess the knowledge and skills associated with the economic, political, and social forces that make up the human systems in which they live. In addition, they must possess the historical knowledge which created the spatial, temporal, and cultural perspectives present in our world.

The Iowa Core for Social Studies is premised upon a rigorous and relevant K – 12 social studies program. Engaging students in the pursuit of active informed citizenship will require a broad range of understandings and skills. It will also require an articulated curriculum which connects students to the social world through informed instructional experiences led by teachers who are committed to active civic participation. This represents a bold step toward a vision of social and civic literacy for all of Iowa’s students.

Behavioral Sciences

Behavioral sciences include, but are not limited to, the areas of sociology, anthropology and psychology. In addressing these disciplines the actions and reactions of humans are studied through observational and experimental methods.

Grade 1 Priorities - Details and Example

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the relationship of the individual to the components of society and culture.*

Examples:

- Understand that different groups may have different rules and patterns of acceptable behavior.
- Understand that people belong to some groups because they are born into them and some because they join them.
- Understand that groups influence one's thoughts and actions.
- Understand that a community is a group to which a person may belong.
- Understand that people tend to live in families in which individuals have different roles.
- Understand the features of nuclear and extended families.

Economics

Economics addresses the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. The concept of scarcity is understood to mean that available resources are insufficient to satisfy the wants and needs of everyone. Economics is therefore founded upon the alternative use of available resources and the study of choices.

Grade 1 Priorities - Details and Example

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the role of scarcity and economic trade-offs and how economic conditions impact people's lives.*

Examples:

- Understand people are both consumers and producers.
- Understand that a cost is what you give up when you decide to do something, and a benefit is something that satisfies your wants.
- Understand that since people cannot have everything they want, they must make choices about using goods and services to satisfy wants.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand that the basic nature of economics is an exchange of resources.*

Examples:

- Understand the role of money in everyday life.
- Understand that a price is the amount of money people pay for a good or service.
- Understand that people sell resources to businesses to earn income.
- Understand that in an exchange people trade goods and services for other goods and services or for money.
- Understand that money is a good that can be used to buy all other goods and services.
- Understand that barter is trading goods and services for other goods and services without using money.
- Understand natural resources are from nature; capital resources are made by humans; human resources (labor) are the efforts of people who produce goods and services.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand that changes in technology impact individuals, the economy and society.*

Examples:

- Understand that the types of jobs and goods and services change over time.
- Understand the technological developments that influenced changes in communication and transportation.
- Understand that people are always inventing new ways to solve problems and accomplish work.
- Understand that manufacturing technology creates a design of a product and then produces the product in quantity.

Geography

Geography is the study of the interaction between people and their environments. Geography therefore looks at the world through the concepts of location, place, human-environmental interaction, movement, and region.

Grade 1 Priorities - Details and Example

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.*

Examples:

- Understand representations of the earth such as maps, globes and photographs.
- Understand representations of locales and regions on maps and globes.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand how geographic and human characteristics create culture and define regions.*

Examples:

- Understand human and physical characteristics of places. (Ex. rural, urban, forest, desert, etc.).
- Understand the concept of regions according to physical and human criteria.
- Understand the concept of culture.
- Understand the concepts of urban and suburban.
- Understand that different people living in the same region maintain different ways of life.

History

History is the study and analysis of the past. Built upon a foundation of historical knowledge, history seeks to analyze the past in order to describe the relationship between historical facts, concepts, and generalizations. History draws upon cause and effect relationships within multiple social narratives to help explain complex human interactions. Understanding the past provides context for the present and implications for the future.

Grade 1 Priorities - Details and Example

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand people construct knowledge of the past from multiple and various types of sources.*

Examples:

- Understand past, present, and future time in relation to historical events.
- Understand that primary sources such as artifacts, photographs, and documents are used to learn about the past.
- Understand timelines.
- Understand that people in different times and places view the world differently.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand culture and how cultural diffusion affects the development and maintenance of societies.*

Examples:

- Understand cultures influence society and government.
- Understand reasons groups of people moved into and within the United States long ago and today.
- Understand the different roles of majority and minority groups in society.

Political Science/Civic Literacy

NOTE: The Essential Concepts and Skills listed in Social Studies – Political Science/Civic Literacy are the same as the Essential Concepts and Skills listed in 21st Century Skills – Civic Literacy.

Political science is the study of power and authority through the examination of political processes, governmental institutions, and human behavior in a civil society. In this context the study of civics is understood to include the form and function of government. Civic literacy encompasses civics but also addresses the individual's social and political participation.

Grade 1 Priorities - Details and Example

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand how government affects citizens and how citizens affect government.*

Examples:

- Understand the purpose of government.
- Understand the characteristics of a good leader.
- Understand respect for other's point of view.
- Understand the concepts of power and authority.

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