

Foundations of Social Studies

Social Science

Grade(s) 9th - 12th, Duration 1 Semester, .5 Credits
Required Course

Course Overview

This course will provide a fundamental background for all the various disciplines of social studies. Objectives will vary between geography, history, economics, politics, and sociology. We will approach the topics of social studies from an integrated point of view. Emphasis will be on the organization and functioning of human society.

Individual readings, individual and group projects, and research activities will all be a part of the class. Textbooks will not be used. The integrated nature of this class will result in the incorporation of a variety of creative and interactive exchanges.

Scope And Sequence

Timeframe	Unit	Instructional Topics
4 Week(s)	Outcome 1	1. Why do you live here? 2. The Role of Resources in Societies 3. Human Societies 4. Developed or Undeveloped Nations
4 Week(s)	Outcome 2	1. Cultural Collage 2. What is American Culture? 3. Movement and Interaction 4. Human-Environment Interaction
4 Week(s)	Outcome 3	1. Why is the same? What is different? 2. How do we get culture? 3. Levels of Development in American Culture 4. Conformity and Deviance

Materials and Resources

Teacher-selected materials, student-selected materials.

Course Details

Unit: Outcome 1

Duration: 4 Week(s)

Unit Overview

Students will examine why people live where they do as well as why some civilizations are more successful than others.

Summative Assessment

Students will construct an imaginary city within the United States. Students will explain the placement of the city based on the four factors that influence where people live. Students will also explain why their city would be classified as a highly developed civilization.

Topic: Why do you live here?

Duration: 2 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Students will analyze how the four characteristics have impacted human civilizations throughout history.

Learning Targets

Students will identify factors that have impacted why they live in this region of the world.

Students will identify factors influencing where human civilizations exist today.

Students will explain how the four factors have impacted the creation of human societies throughout history.

Topic: The Role of Resources in Societies

Duration: 3 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Students will gain an understanding of how resources are used to establish a quality of life in a society.

Learning Targets

Students will identify the four categories of resources that exist in societies.

Students will examine how the four categories of resources are used to establish a quality of life within a society.

Students will analyze how scarcity of resources influences choices countries make and the impact opportunity costs have on nations based off those choices.

Topic: Human Societies

Duration: 1 Day(s)

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Topic Overview

Students will identify characteristics of societies that have existed in history.

Learning Targets

Students will identify different types of resources available to ancient civilizations.

Students will describe how these resources were used to satisfy the needs and wants of members of the society.

Topic: Developed or Undeveloped Nations

Duration: 3 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Students will identify characteristics of societies to determine if the nation would be classified as a developed or undeveloped nation.

Students will develop a presentation of characteristics that qualify a nation as an undeveloped society currently in the world.

Unit: Outcome 2

Duration: 4 Week(s)

Unit Overview

Students will gain an understanding of the similarities and differences between cultures of the world. Students will gain an understanding of how movement/interaction promote the evolution of society throughout regions of the world.

Summative Assessment

Students will write a fictional letter to an exchange student explaining concepts classified as American culture.

Topic: Cultural Collage

Duration: 2 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Students will identify several terms related to culture. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how these terms are identified in American culture.

Learning Targets

Students will demonstrate terms associated with cultures such as: Material, Non-Material, Beliefs, Values, Norms, Ideology, Taboos, Folkways, Mores.

Students will provide a visual representation of these terms as they relate to American culture today.

Topic: What is American Culture?

Duration: 3 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Students will identify how American culture has developed in American society. Students will identify how cultures are shared with other nations throughout the world.

Learning Targets

Students will define the terms cultural universals and cultural diffusion. Students will identify examples of cultural universals and cultural diffusion present in American culture today.

Topic: Movement and Interaction

Duration: 3 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Through the use of the 5 themes of geography, students will gain an understanding of movement and interaction has impacted the development of cultures in the world through the 5 categories of movement.

Learning Targets

Students will define the 5 themes of geography.

Students will identify examples historically of the 5 vehicles of movement that impacts the spread of cultures in the world.

Students will explain the impact historical and current immigration trends to the US have impacted the development of American culture.

Students will describe the impact trade and war have had on the spread of cultures throughout the world.

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Topic: Human-Environment Interaction

Duration: 2 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Students will gain an understanding of how human activity has impacted the environment.

Learning Targets

Students will identify examples of natural and human impacts on the environment.

Based on American culture, students will describe how activities Americans participate in can lessen the effect on the environment.

Students will describe current impacts humans are having on the environment and how the impacts can be changed to lessen the negative impact the events are having on the environment.

Unit: Outcome 3

Duration: 4 Week(s)

Unit Overview

Students will gain an understanding of how societal characteristics are maintained from one generation to the next. Students will examine the role social institutions have on the development of culture within a country.

Summative Assessment

Students will construct an essays explaining the role one social institution has had on the development of the United States. Within the essay, students will identify different groups that were impacted by events influencing the social institution during a specific point in history.

Topic: Why is the same? What is different?

Duration: 1 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Students will gain an understanding of what traits in American culture have stayed consistent and have changed through the decades.

Learning Targets

Students will examine cultural traits existing in different decades from the 1950s - 2010s. Students will identify characteristics of similarities and differences between the decades. Students will hypothesize why some characteristics have stayed the same as well as why some characteristics have changed.

Topic: How do we get culture?

Duration: 6 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Students will gain an understanding of the seven social institutions that are present in cultures around the world. Students will gain an understanding of the role each institution has on society.

Learning Targets

Students will describe the role family has on the development of culture.

Students will describe the role education has on the development of culture. Students will identify and describe how the role of education is often limited by factors within the culture.

Students will describe the role sports have on the development of culture.

Students will describe the role media has on the development of culture. Students will identify pros/cons of current media options within American culture.

Students will identify the role business has on the development of culture.

Topic: Levels of Development in American Culture

Duration: 6 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Students will gain an understanding of how status and roles change as individuals move from one level of development to another in American culture.

Learning Targets

Students will examine the different status and roles present in each of the different levels of development of Americans.

Students will examine the role of adults in various social institutions within American culture.

Students will describe the impact the decisions adults make in these institutions in relation to the development of the United States.

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Topic: Conformity and Deviance

Duration: 1 Day(s)

Topic Overview

Students will gain an understanding of how actions by individuals within a society are viewed as conforming or deviant.

Learning Targets

Students will define conformity and deviance.

Students will identify factors that determine whether actions are classified as conforming or deviant in a culture.

Students will examine examples of individuals and groups within cultures to determine if they were conformist or deviants.
