

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 14, 2024

7:15 PM

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM with the following members in attendance:

- I. Call Meeting to Order
  - I.A. Committee on American Civics Statute 79-724
  - I.B. Accept Public Comment on the topic of American Civics
  - I.C. District Policies Related to the topic of American Civics
  - I.D. Review of the K-12 Social Studies Curriculum
  - I.E. Patriotic Exercises
  - I.F. Requirements (8th & 12th Grade) Related to the American Civics Statute
- II. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

Dana Dorn: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Dr Chris Proski: yes, David Zimmerman: yes  
yes: 4, no: 0

BY

President of the Board of Education

Of this School District

ATTEST

Secretary of the Board of Education

of this School District



# 1 NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

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## Nebraska Revised Statute 79-724

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### Chapter 79

#### 79-724.

**Committee on American civics; created; duties; school board, State Board of Education, and superintendent; duties.**

It is the responsibility of society to ensure that youth are given the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens to ensure a strong, stable, just, and prosperous America. Such a citizenry necessitates that every member thereof be knowledgeable of our nation's history, government, geography, and economic system. The youth in our state should be committed to the ideals and values of our country's democracy and the constitutional republic established by the people. Schools should help prepare our youth to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good. Civic competence is necessary to sustain and improve our democratic way of life and must be taught in all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools. A central role of schools is to impart civic knowledge and skills that help our youth to see the relevance of a civic dimension for their lives. Students should be made fully aware of the liberties, opportunities, and advantages we possess and the sacrifices and struggles of those through whose efforts these benefits were gained. Since young people are most susceptible to the acceptance of principles and doctrines that will influence them throughout their lives, it is one of the first duties of our educational system to conduct its activities, choose its textbooks, and arrange its curriculum in such a way that the youth of our state have the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil American citizens.

(1) The school board of each school district shall, at the beginning of each calendar year, appoint from its members a committee of three, to be known as the committee on American civics, which shall:

- (a) Hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one when public testimony is accepted;
- (b) Keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed;
- (c) Examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum used in the district is aligned with the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section [79-760.01](#) and teaches foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography;
- (d) Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role in the achievement of national independence, establishment of our constitutional government, and preservation of the union and includes the incorporation of multicultural education as set forth in sections [79-719](#) to [79-723](#) in order to instill a pride and respect for the nation's institutions and not be merely a recital of events and dates;
- (e) Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and contains a reference to this section;
- (f) Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative, interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section [79-760.01](#);
- (g) Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district incorporates one or more of the following for each student:
  - (i) Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the individual score from each test for each student made available to a parent or guardian of such student; or
  - (ii) Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body as defined by section [84-1409](#) followed by the completion of a project or paper in which each student demonstrates or discusses the personal learning experience of such student related to such attendance or participation; or



(iii) Completion of a project or paper and a class presentation between the commencement of eighth grade and the completion of twelfth grade on a person or persons or an event commemorated by a holiday listed in subdivision (6) of this section or on a topic related to such person or persons or event; and

(h) Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

(2) All social studies courses approved for grade levels as provided by this section shall include and adequately stress contributions of all ethnic groups to (a) the development and growth of America into a great nation, (b) art, music, education, medicine, literature, science, politics, and government, and (c) the military in all of this nation's wars.

(3) All grades of all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools, below the sixth grade, shall devote at least one hour per week to exercises or teaching periods for the following purpose:

(a) The discussion of noteworthy events pertaining to American history or the exceptional acts of individuals and groups of Americans;

(b) The historical background, memorization, and singing of patriotic songs such as the Star-Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful;

(c) The development of respect for the American flag as a symbol of freedom and the sacrifices of those who secured that freedom; and

(d) Instruction as to proper conduct in the presentation of the American flag.

(4) In at least two of the three grades from the fifth grade to the eighth grade in all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools, time shall be set aside for the teaching of American history from the social studies curriculum, which shall be taught in such a manner that all students are given the opportunity to (a) become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens who possess a deep understanding of and respect for both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Nebraska and (b) prepare to preserve, protect, and defend freedom and democracy in our nation and our world.

(5) In at least two courses in every high school, time shall be devoted to the teaching of civics and American history as outlined in the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section [79-760.01](#), during which specific attention shall be given to the following matters:

(a) The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Nebraska, and the structure and function of local government in this state;

(b) The benefits and advantages of representative government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our government, and the dangers and fallacies of forms of government that restrict individual freedoms or possess antidemocratic ideals such as, but not limited to, Nazism and communism;

(c) The duties of citizenship, which include active participation in the improvement of a citizen's community, state, country, and world and the value and practice of civil discourse between opposing interests; and

(d) The application of knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography to address societal issues.

(6) Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public, private, denominational, and parochial school on George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session.

(7) Every school board, the State Board of Education, and the superintendent of each school district in the state shall be held directly responsible in the order named for carrying out this section. Neglect thereof by any employee may be considered a cause for dismissal.

## Source

Laws 1949, c. 256, § 19, p. 697;

Laws 1969, c. 705, § 1, p. 2705;

Laws 1971, LB 292, § 3;

R.S.1943, (1994), § 79-213;

Laws 1996, LB 900, § 398;

[Laws 1999, LB 272, § 86](#);

[Laws 2011, LB544, § 1](#);

[Laws 2019, LB399, § 1](#).

**Effective Date: September 1, 2019**

## Cross References



- Flag display requirements**, see section [79-707](#).
- Violation**, penalty, see section [79-727](#).

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO SPEAK:  
This is the portion of the meeting when members of the public may speak to the board about matters of public concern.

- **Getting Started:** When you have been recognized, please identify yourself, including an address and the name of any organization you represent. The board may waive the address requirement to protect the security of the individual.
- **Time Limit:** The board will generally allow a total of 30 minutes for the presentation of all public comments. Individuals may speak only one time, and must limit comments to around 5 minutes. If there are more than 6 individuals who wish to address the board, the 30 minutes will be divided equally between the number of speakers. These time limits may be changed by a majority vote of the board members in attendance to extend the time for a specific item or speaker.
- **Personnel or Student Topic:** If you are planning to speak about a personnel or a student matter involving an individual, please understand that the district has a complaint policy and/or procedures to resolve such complaints and concerns. The Board requests that you follow the policy and procedures before addressing these matters with the Board. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments about individual staff members or students.
- **General Rules:** This is a public meeting for the conduct of business. Comments from the audience while others are speaking will not be tolerated. Lewd, obscene, profane, slanderous, threatening and hostile conduct or statements and fighting words (words whose mere utterance entails a call to violence) will not be tolerated.
- **No Action by the Board:** The board will not act on any matter unless it is on the published agenda.

# NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT

**84-1407. Act, how cited.** Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

**84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public.** It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret.

Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

**84-1409. Terms, defined.** For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders, and (iii) the Judicial Resources Commission or subcommittees or subgroups of the commission;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

**84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.**

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1)(a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

**84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; virtual conferencing authorized; requirements; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.**

(1) Until January 1, 2025:

(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in

subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee or the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, such notice shall be published by:

(A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website; or

(B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city, village, or district. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1) (b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(iv) In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to timely publish the notice, the public body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, and (B) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting. The record of such posting shall be evidence that such posting was done as required and shall be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b) (i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) Beginning January 1, 2025:

(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committees, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting to a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village, any advisory committee of such governing body, or the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper;

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(C)(III) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city, village, or district. Such notice shall be posted by the public body in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (2) (b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(iv) In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to publish the notice, the public body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, (B) submit a post on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (C) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting. The record of such posting shall be evidence that such posting was done as required and shall be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

(3)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (3)(b) of this section are met:

(i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;

(ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;

(iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(v) An educational service unit;

(vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;

(vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;

(viii) A community college board of governors;

(ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee;

(x) A local public health department;

(xi) A metropolitan utilities district;

(xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority; and

(xiii) A natural resources district.

(b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows:

(i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference;

(ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used;

(iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and

(iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of (a) an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas, (b) an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, (C) a governing body of a risk management pool and any advisory committee of such governing body, or (D) any advisory committee of any state entity created in response to the Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act, such organization, governing body, or committee may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing.

(4) Virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(5) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(6) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by virtual conferencing. The provisions of subsection (5) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(7) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(8)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (3) and (6) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body.

(b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (5) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings.

(c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of section 84-1413.

(9) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (3)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if:

(a) The purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted upon at a subsequent non-virtual open meeting of the public body;

(b) No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and

(c) The public body complies with subdivisions (3)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section.

#### **84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.**

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing. Except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, a public body shall allow members of the public an opportunity to speak at each meeting.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and

(f) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) Each public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at a meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting, either in paper or electronic form. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

#### **84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when; agenda and minutes; required on website; when.**

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written or kept as an electronic record and shall be available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing or keeping the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months.

#### **84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.**

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Revised 07/2024

**2002**  
**Organization of the Board, Board Officers, Check Signing, and**  
**Committees**

1. Membership, Term and Election

- a. The Board of Education shall be comprised of six members who will be elected at large.
- b. Those who wish to serve on the board shall file, be elected, and serve terms of office on the board according to law.

2. Internal Organization and Officers

a. President

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.
- ii. The president shall preside at all board meetings, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law or by action of the board.

b. Vice President

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a vice president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.
- ii. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president, and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the board.

c. Secretary

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect a secretary who need not be a member of the board. The secretary shall serve in that capacity for one year. If the secretary is a member of the board, an assistant secretary may be named and his or her duties and compensation set by the board.

- ii. The secretary shall see that an accurate record of the proceedings of the board is kept, that a copy of the proceedings is provided to each board member and to the superintendent, and that a concise summary of each month's meeting is published along with a list of all approved claims. The secretary shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by law and assigned by the board.

d. Treasurer

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect, employ, or appoint a treasurer who need not be a member of the board if permitted by law. The treasurer shall serve in that capacity for one year, unless the board designates a longer term for the treasurer.
- ii. The treasurer may be designated to sign checks and certain other documents. The treasurer is the custodian of the monies of the district.
- iii. The treasurer shall give bond or equivalent insurance coverage payable to the district as prescribed by law with the cost of the bond being paid by the district.
- iv. The treasurer shall issue no warrant of payment of claim against the district until such claim has been duly authorized.

3. Signing and Authorizing Checks, Warrants, and other Instruments.

- a. Unless otherwise delegated by the board, the president and secretary of the board shall sign checks, warrants, and other instruments of the district.
- b. The board may delegate another person to sign and validate any checks, warrants, and other instruments. Facsimile signatures of board members may be used.
- c. The board delegates that the vice president or treasurer may sign any warrant in the absence of either the president or the secretary.

#### 4. Board Officer Voting and Tie Breakers

- a. The vote to elect board officers may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.
- b. In the event any officer cannot be elected by a majority after 10 votes; no votes occur after ten motions fail for lack of a "second,"; or no member volunteers to serve as an officer for a particular position, the tie will be broken by the applicable method:
  - i. If the board is split between two members, the officer will be determined by coin flip. The winning member will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.
  - ii. If the board is split between more than two members who wish to serve as the officer, any member wanting to serve as the officer will put his or her name into a drawing. The name drawn out will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.
  - iii. If no member is willing to serve as an officer for a position which is required to be a member of the board, all non-officers' names will be put into a drawing. The name drawn out will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.

#### 5. Committees

- a. The board shall authorize such special committees as it deems necessary. The board president shall appoint members to the committee, and designate its function, tasks it is to perform, and a completion date for its work.
- b. On or before the beginning of each calendar year, the board shall appoint three members to form a Committee on American Civics. The committee's duties shall be those prescribed by Nebraska statutes, which include:
  - i. Hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one where public testimony is accepted;

- ii. Keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed;
- iii. Examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum used in the district is aligned with the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01 and teaches foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography;
- iv. Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role in the achievement of national independence, establishment of our constitutional government, and preservation of the union and includes the incorporation of multicultural education as set forth in sections 79-719 to 79-723 in order to instill a pride and respect for the nation's institutions and not be merely a recital of events and dates;
- v. Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and contains a reference to this section;
- vi. Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative, interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01;
- vii. Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district incorporates one or more of the following for each student:
  - 1. Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the individual score from each test for each student made available to a parent or guardian of such student; or
  - 2. Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body as defined by section 84-1409 followed by the completion of a

project or paper in which each student demonstrates or discusses the personal learning experience of such student related to such attendance or participation; or

3. Completion of a project or paper and a class presentation between the commencement of eighth grade and the completion of twelfth grade on a person or persons or an event commemorated by a holiday listed in section 79-724(6) or on a topic related to such person or persons or event;
- viii. Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

## 6. Vacancies

- a. A vacancy on the board of education shall exist when any one of the following occurs:
  - i. A member submits his or her formal resignation from the board.
  - ii. A member removes himself or herself from the district or is absent from the district for a continuous period of sixty days.
  - iii. A member misses more than two consecutive regular board meetings unless excused by a majority of the remaining members.
  - iv. Such other reasons as are set forth in Nebraska statutes.
- b. The board shall make note the vacancy in its minutes and shall give notice of the date the vacancy occurred, the office vacated, and the length of the unexpired term to (1) the election commissioner or county clerk, and (2) the public by published notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the district.
- c. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner set forth in Nebraska statutes.

Adopted on: 7-9-2018  
Revised on: 6-8-2020  
Reviewed on: 2-10-2020

**6012**  
**Flag Display and Patriotic Observances**

The district shall display the flags of the United States of America and the State of Nebraska prominently on the grounds of every school building each day that school is in session.

Each building principal shall be responsible for the care and display of the flags at his/her assigned building, and shall adhere to the rules and customs pertaining to the use and display of the flags as set forth in the United States Code.

Each day, at the time designated by the building administrator, staff shall ensure that students in grades K-12 will be led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the presence of the flag of the United States of America. Pupil participation in the recitation of pledge shall be voluntary. Pupils who elect not to participate shall sit or stand silently and must respect the rights of those students choosing to participate.

Adopted on: 2-11-2019

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6032**  
**Constitution Day Education**

Each year on September 17, designated as Constitution Day, the school district will conduct a program designed to highlight the historic and continuing importance of the United States Constitution. When September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the district will provide this program during the preceding or following week.

The program shall be implemented within the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Education and in accordance with any other applicable laws and/or regulations.

Adopted on: 3-11-2019

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6041**  
**Malcolm X Day Education**

Each year on May 19<sup>th</sup>, designated as El-Hajj Malik ElShabazz, Malcolm X Day, the school district will hold suitable exercises in recognition of the sacrifices of the late Nebraska Hall of Fame inductee El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, Malcolm X, and his contributions to the betterment of society. When May 19<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the district will provide the suitable exercises during the preceding or following week. The program shall be implemented within any applicable laws and/or regulations.

Adopted on: 6-10-2024

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

# STANDARDS REVISION TIMELINE FOR ALL CONTENT AREAS

For more information about the implementation of content standards, please see the [Nebraska Content Area Standards Implementation Framework](#)

## Content Areas (Assessed by Summative Statewide)

Content Area	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039
English Language Arts	FALL	SSA SPRING				SPRING	FALL	FALL	SSA				SPRING	FALL	FALL	SSA		
Mathematics	FALL	FALL	SSA SPRING				SPRING	FALL	FALL	SSA				SPRING	FALL	FALL	SSA	
Science		SPRING	FALL	FALL	SSA				SPRING	FALL	SSA					SPRING	FALL	FALL

## Content Areas (Not Assessed by Summative Statewide)

Content Area	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039
Fine Arts				SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING
Physical Education				SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING
Social Studies				SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING
World Languages				SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING
Ag, Food, & Natural Resources		FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL	
Business, Marketing, & Management		FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL	
Communication & Information Systems		FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL	
Computer Science		SPRING	FALL		FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL	
Health Sciences		FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL	
Human Sciences & Education		FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL	
Skilled & Technical Sciences		FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL			FALL	FALL	FALL	

# NEBRASKA SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS



# Nebraska Social Studies Standards

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## Content Area Standards

The Nebraska Social Studies Standards describe the knowledge and skills that students should learn, but they do not prescribe particular curriculum, lessons, teaching techniques, or activities. These standards create a framework for teaching and learning, and they articulate a trajectory for knowledge acquisition across all grade levels. This ensures that student learning builds on prior knowledge and becomes more in-depth over time. Standards describe what students are expected to know and be able to do, while the local curriculum and instructional materials are used to help students master the standards. Decisions about curriculum and instructional materials are made locally by individual school districts and classroom teachers. The Nebraska Department of Education does not mandate the curriculum or instructional materials used within a local school.

## Organization and Structure of Nebraska’s Social Studies Standards

The overall structure of Nebraska’s Social Studies Standards reflects the two-tier structure common across all Nebraska content area standards. The two levels include standards and indicators. At the broadest level, standards include broad, overarching content-based statements that describe the basic cognitive, affective, or psychomotor expectations of student learning. The standards, across all grade levels, reflect long-term goals for learning. Indicators further describe what students must know and be able to do to meet the standard and provide guidance related to classroom instruction. Additionally, the indicators provide guidance related to the assessment of student learning. In addition to standards and indicators, the Nebraska Social Studies standards provide examples. The “For example...” statements provide guidance relative to topics that may be included in the locally determined curriculum. These suggestions may be used to meet the learning expectations of the standards and indicators.

For grades K-8, the standards and indicators are written at grade level. The K-8 standards and indicators are organized within four **disciplines**: Civics, Economics, Geography, and History. Within those disciplines, standards and indicators are grouped by **big ideas**. Big ideas are concepts, themes, or issues that give meaning and connection to facts and skills (Wiggins and McTighe, 2005, p. 5). The high school standards and indicators are written within one grade band (HS = 9-12), and they are also organized by discipline and big ideas. Prior to each grade level and the high school grade band, a summary statement and theme are included. This provides a high-level overview of what students are expected to learn at that grade level.

In addition to a common structure for content area standards, a consistent numbering system is used for content area standards. The Nebraska Social Studies Standards numbering system is as follows:



## Kindergarten

### **Grade Level Summary and Theme**

*Myself and Others:* In kindergarten, students begin their investigation of the world using perspectives, concepts, and skills from social studies. The context for social studies learning at this grade level is the student's interaction with classroom and school. The classroom serves as a microcosm of society in which decisions are made with respect to rights, rules, and responsibilities. Students begin to learn the basic concepts of fairness and respect for the rights and opinions of others.

### **Civics**

#### ***Forms and Functions of Government***

SS K.1.1 Communicate the purpose of rules and the roles within learning and living environments.

SS K.1.1.a Describe a rule and analyze its purpose.

For example: safety, to make learning possible, to protect freedoms, to ensure consistency for all

SS K.1.1.b Identify roles in a family structure and explain their importance.

For example: head of household, primary caregiver, parent/guardian, elders, siblings

#### ***Civic Participation***

SS K.1.2 Demonstrate positive and productive citizenship skills.

SS K.1.2.a Model citizenship skills.

For example: respect, courtesy, honesty, voting, cultural virtues

SS K.1.2.b Communicate patriotic symbols, songs, actions, and cultural celebrations.

For example: U.S. Flag, Pledge of Allegiance, "Star-Spangled Banner," and "America the Beautiful," cultural songs

SS K.1.2.c Communicate historical background and significance of national holidays.

For example: George Washington's Birthday, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day

### **Economics**

#### ***Economic Decision Making***

SS K.2.1 Differentiate between wants and needs in decision-making.

SS K.2.1.a Classify wants and needs and explain subsequent choices.

**Financial Literacy**

SS K.2.2 Recognize money is used to purchase goods and services to satisfy economic wants and needs.

SS K.2.2.a Explain the purposes of money.

**Exchange and Markets**

SS K.2.3 Not addressed at this level

**National Economy**

SS K.2.4 Not addressed at this level

**Global Economy**

SS K.2.5 Not addressed at this level

**Geography**

**Location and Place**

SS K.3.1 Explore where (spatial) and why people, places and environments are organized in the world.

SS K.3.1.a Communicate personal directions to describe relative locations of people and objects.

For example: next to, over there, close to

SS K.3.1.b Identify locations in the school and around the classroom.

For example: left/right, up/down, front/back, over/under, near/far-supplies, trash can, pencil sharpener, other students, library, gym, office, restroom, cafeteria

SS K.3.1.c Identify geographic tools as representations of local and distant places.

For example: maps, globes, photographs, GPS (Global Positioning System)

SS K.3.1.d Identify the difference between land and water on a globe.

**Regions**

SS K.3.2 Explore places and regions.

SS K.3.2.a Identify physical characteristics of place.

For example: landforms, bodies of water, weather

SS K.3.2.b Identify human characteristics of place.

For example: cities, buildings, farms, roads, highways

**Human-Environment Interaction**

SS K.3.3 Explore the relationship between humans and their physical environment.

SS K.3.3.a Identify types of weather and the impact of weather on everyday life.

For example: rainy, snowy, sunny, cloudy, foggy - choice of clothing, rainouts

SS K.3.3.b Identify the four seasons.

SS K.3.3.c Inquire about how people prepare for and respond to severe weather.

For example: weather forecasting, tornado drills, winter clothing

**Movement**

SS K.3.4 Recognize that people belong to different groups and live in different settings.

SS K.3.4.a Identify students as members of various groups.

For example: scouts, sports, classrooms, families

SS K.3.4.b Identify places in the community where people may live.

For example: farms, houses, apartments

**Geospatial Skills and Geo-literacy**

SS K.3.5 Use geographic skills to make connections to students' lives.

SS K.3.5.a Apply geographic knowledge and techniques to navigate the classroom.

For example: Locate people or places in relation to each other, or make a fire evacuation plan for your home.

**History**

**Change, Continuity, and Context**

SS K.4.1 Recognize patterns of continuity and change over time in themselves and others.

SS K.4.1.a Identify concepts of time and chronology.

For example: yesterday, today, tomorrow

SS K.4.1.b Identify the sequence of personal events and their impact.

For example: daily schedule, timelines

**Multiple Perspectives**

SS K.4.2 Recognize different perspectives of events.

SS K.4.2.a Compare perspectives of self and others.  
For example: events that occurred on the playground

**Historical Analysis and Interpretation**

SS K.4.3 Identify historical people, events, and symbols.

SS K.4.3.a Recognize historical people from a variety of cultures.  
For example: George Washington, Harriet Tubman, Crazy Horse, Martin Luther King, Jr.

SS K.4.3.b Identify symbols of the United States.  
For example: American flag, bald eagle, Washington Monument, Statue of Liberty

SS K.4.3.c Differentiate between stories from the present and the past.  
For example: literary and informational, history vs. historical fiction, past and present including different cultural perspectives

**Historical Inquiry and Research**

SS K.4.4 Develop historical inquiry and research skills.

SS K.4.4.a Construct questions about personal history.  
For example: "How did my family come to live in this place?" "Where were other members of my family born?"

SS K.4.4.b Identify and cite appropriate sources when conducting historical research.  
For example: "My family member gave me this picture."

SS K.4.4.c Gather and communicate historical information.  
For example: pictures, posters, and oral narratives

## Grade 1

### **Grade Level Summary and Theme**

*Families - Living, Learning, and Working Together:* In first grade, students develop their understanding of basic concepts and ideas from civics, economics, geography, and history. The context for social studies learning in first grade is the family and the ways they choose to live and work together. To develop students' understanding of the basic social studies concepts, students are asked to think about families nearby and those far away.

### **Civics**

#### ***Forms and Functions of Government***

SS 1.1.1 Analyze the relationship between roles and rules within learning and living environments

SS 1.1.1.a Explain how rules reduce and help resolve conflicts between people with different perspectives.

For example: classroom rules, playground rules, school rules, family rules

SS 1.1.1.b Identify leaders within a school community and explain the importance of their roles.

For example: teachers, administrators, nurse, playground supervisor, support staff

#### ***Civic Participation***

SS 1.1.2 Demonstrate positive and productive citizenship skills.

SS 1.1.2.a Model and communicate citizenship skills.

For example: responsibility, voting or decision-making within a family structure, obeying civic laws, obeying family rules, cultural virtues

SS 1.1.2.b Identify patriotic symbols, songs, actions, holidays, and cultural celebrations.

For example: U.S. Flag, bald eagle, Pledge of Allegiance, national holidays, cultural songs

SS 1.1.2.c Communicate historical background and significance of national holidays.

For example: George Washington's Birthday, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, and the roles that different cultures played in our community/nation

SS 1.1.2.d Compare and contrast historical and current government figures that exemplify civic engagement.

For example: governors, civic leaders of marginalized groups such as Susan B. Anthony, Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Chief Standing Bear

## **Economics**

### ***Economic Decision Making***

SS 1.2.1 Explain how scarcity necessitates making choices.

SS 1.2.1.a Identify gains and losses when choices are made.  
For example: tradeoff, opportunity cost

### ***Financial Literacy***

SS 1.2.2 Compare spending and saving opportunities.

SS 1.2.2.a Give examples of situations where students and families could choose to save for future purchases.

### ***Exchange and Markets***

SS 1.2.3 Explain that resources are used to produce goods and services.

SS 1.2.3.a Categorize human and natural resources used to create goods and services.  
For example: iron ore (a natural resource) is made into steel, which the factory worker (a human resource) uses to build a bike (a good)

### ***National Economy***

SS 1.2.4 Not addressed at this level

### ***Global Economy***

SS 1.2.5 Not addressed at this level

## **Geography**

### ***Location and Place***

SS 1.3.1 Explore where (spatial) and why people, places, and environments are organized in the world.

SS 1.3.1.a Identify the four cardinal directions.

SS 1.3.1.b Identify and describe locations in schools and homes and explain reasons for the locations.

For example: Why is the cafeteria next to the kitchen? Why is the office by the front door? Why is the nurse's office often located near the main office? Why is the water fountain near the restroom?

SS 1.3.1.c Create and use maps.

For example: maps of the home and school

SS 1.3.1.d Distinguish between continents and oceans.

**Regions**

SS 1.3.2 Explore places and regions.

SS 1.3.2.a Identify and differentiate between physical features on maps, globes, graphics, and in the physical world.

For example: mountains, plains, islands, hills, oceans, rivers, lakes

SS 1.3.2.b Identify and differentiate between human features.

For example: cities, farms, buildings, bridges, streets

SS 1.3.2.c Explain how places change over time.

For example: new building, a bigger road

**Human-Environment Interaction**

SS 1.3.3 Explore the relationship between humans and their physical environment.

SS 1.3.3.a Interpret the impact of environmental hazards and severe weather on everyday life.

For example: tornado drills, snow days, floods

SS 1.3.3.b Identify Earth's natural resources.

For example: minerals, air, land, water, soil

SS 1.3.3.c Describe how people adapt to their physical environment.

For example: housing, reservations, land use, recreational activities, soil conservation, build dams

**Movement**

SS 1.3.4 Describe the characteristics of culture.

SS 1.3.4.a Identify cultural traits.

For example: languages, religions, foods, music, sports, clothing

SS 1.3.4.b Describe the characteristics of individual culture.

For example: foods, languages, celebrations

**Geospatial Skills and Geo-literacy**

SS 1.3.5 Use geographic skills to make connections to students' lives.

SS 1.3.5.a Apply geographic knowledge and techniques to navigate the school.

For example: Make a map of the school or playground.

## History

### ***Change, Continuity, and Context***

SS 1.4.1 Recognize patterns of continuity and change over time in families.

SS 1.4.1.a List and describe life events over time.

For example: weekly, monthly, yearly, seasonal celebrations from different cultural perspectives

SS 1.4.1.b Compare and contrast family life from earlier times and today.

For example: "How was life different for earlier generations?"

### ***Multiple Perspectives***

SS 1.4.2 Identify multiple perspectives of diverse family traditions.

SS 1.4.2.a Compare and contrast family traditions across cultures.

For example: holidays, celebrations, milestones

### ***Historical Analysis and Interpretation***

SS 1.4.3 Describe historical people, events, and symbols.

SS 1.4.3.a Identify the contributions of historical people.

For example: Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Standing Bear, Willa Cather, Susan LaFlesche

SS 1.4.3.b Identify symbols of the United States.

For example: national anthem, other patriotic songs

SS 1.4.3.c Describe how oral traditions, books, letters, and other artifacts help us to understand the past.

For example: show and tell of an artifact from the past, visiting a museum

### ***Historical Inquiry and Research***

SS 1.4.4 Develop historical inquiry and research skills.

SS 1.4.4.a Construct and answer questions about family history.

For example: "Where was I born?" "What do my family members remember from when I was a small child?"

SS 1.4.4.b Identify and cite appropriate texts, letters, and other artifacts for research.

For example: the title and author of the text from which information was taken

SS 1.4.4.c Gather and communicate historical information about families.

For example: picture, posters, and oral narratives

## Grade 2

### **Grade Level Summary and Theme**

*Neighborhood:* In second grade, students apply their emerging understanding of civics, economics, geography, and history to their communities and others around the world. Students learn about how their community works as well as the variety of ways that communities organize themselves. To develop conceptual understanding, students examine the geographic and economic aspects of life in their own neighborhoods and compare them to those of people long ago.

### **Civics**

#### ***Forms and Functions of Government***

SS 2.1.1 Investigate and defend the responsibilities and rights of citizens in their communities.

SS 2.1.1.a Contribute to developing rules by considering multiple points of view.

For example: classroom meetings, voting, consensus building activities

SS 2.1.1.b Demonstrate conflict management strategies as individuals, groups, and communities.

For example: respectful conversations, active participation, restating others' views, checking for understanding

#### ***Civic Participation***

SS 2.1.2 Contribute to making decisions using democratic traditions based on established rules.

SS 2.1.2.a Identify and apply civic responsibilities that are important to individuals and their communities.

For example: voting, obeying laws, justice, equality, decision-making process in different cultures

SS 2.1.2.b Explain how patriotic symbols, songs, actions, celebrations, and holidays reflect democratic traditions.

For example: what the colors of the U.S. Flag represent, symbolism of the bald eagle, reasons for reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, why national holidays were established and celebrated, the origination of tribal songs, how cultural songs and symbols unify communities

SS 2.1.2.c Communicate historical background and significance of national holidays.

For example: George Washington's Birthday, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Presidents Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day

SS 2.1.2.d Investigate ways to be actively engaged to improve family, school, and community.

For example: volunteerism, participation in school clubs and organizations, classroom jobs, following rules, bully prevention

SS 2.1.2.e Model and communicate characteristics of good citizenship.

For example: establishing beliefs and justice, truth, equality, personal responsibilities for the common good, respect for diversity of opinions, cultural virtues

## **Economics**

### ***Economic Decision Making***

SS 2.2.1 Evaluate choices about how to use scarce resources that involve prioritizing wants and needs.

SS 2.2.1.a. Justify a decision made by providing evidence of possible gains and losses.

For example: tradeoff, opportunity cost, delayed gratification, savings

### ***Financial Literacy***

SS 2.2.2 Demonstrate knowledge of currency, its denominations, and use.

SS 2.2.2.a Make transactions using currency emphasizing its use as a medium of exchange.

For example: via school store, buying pencils, purchases via debit card or Apple pay as a way to make transactions (medium of exchange)

### ***Exchange and Markets***

SS 2.2.3 Describe how producers deliver products/services, earn an income, and satisfy economic needs and wants.

SS 2.2.3.a. Explain the role of goods and services and supply and demand in a community.

For example: meet wants and needs

SS 2.2.3.b. Describe how people in their communities earn income/wages through work.

For example: babysitter, teacher, firefighter, grocery store clerk, librarian, banker, lawyer, rancher, farmer, laborer

### ***National Economy***

SS 2.2.4 Identify the goods and services governments provide.

SS 2.2.4.a Identify goods and services that local governments provide.

For example: water, fire department, police, educational programs

SS 2.2.4.b Explain how the local government uses taxes to pay for goods and services it provides.

For example: roads, fire and law enforcement, libraries, schools

### ***Global Economy***

SS 2.2.5 Not addressed at this level

## **Geography**

### **Location and Place**

SS 2.3.1 Explore where (spatial) and why people, places, and environments are organized in the world.

SS 2.3.1.a Compare and contrast maps and globes.

For example: The shape of a globe makes it look more realistic. You can't see all of the continents and oceans on the globe like you can on a map unless you turn it. Maps can be transported more easily. Globes might have texture for landforms that maps do not have.

SS 2.3.1.b Identify and describe locations in neighborhoods.

For example: home, the park, friend's house, fire station, grocery store

SS 2.3.1.c Identify and apply map elements.

For example: title, symbols, legend, and cardinal directions

SS 2.3.1.d Locate communities, Nebraska, and the United States on maps and globes.

SS 2.3.1.e Explain why things are located where they are in neighborhoods.

For example: Why are stores on a main street?

### **Regions**

SS 2.3.2 Compare places and regions.

SS 2.3.2.a Identify and differentiate between physical and human features of neighborhoods and communities.

For example: vegetation, ravines, housing, streets, sewers, road signs

SS 2.3.2.b Describe local places and regions.

For example: prairie, forest, farm land, ranch land, local community

SS 2.3.2.c Explain how places and regions change over time.

### **Human-Environment Interaction**

SS 2.3.3 Describe relationships between humans and the physical environment.

SS 2.3.3.a Identify examples of Earth's physical processes.

For example: wind and water erosion/deposition

SS 2.3.3.b Describe how seasonal weather patterns, natural hazards, and natural resources affect human activities.

For example: seasonal jobs (landscaping, street/grounds maintenance, construction), seasonal foods, drought causing water shortages

SS 2.3.3.c Match resources to their sources.

For example: food from farms, wood from trees, minerals from the ground, fish from bodies of water

SS 2.3.3.d Describe how people adapt to their physical environment.

For example: soil conservation, build levees, grow plants and raise animals

### **Movement**

SS 2.3.4 Describe different groups of people and the different settings where they live.

SS 2.3.4.a Describe cultures of the local community and other communities.

For example: foods, languages, celebrations, religions, music, sports

SS 2.3.4.b Identify examples of cultural markers in the community.

For example: religious or institutional structures, names of streets, types of businesses, buildings

### **Geospatial Skills and Geo-literacy**

SS 2.3.5 Use geographic skills to make connections to students' lives.

SS 2.3.5.a Apply geographic knowledge and techniques to navigate students' homes and neighborhoods.

For example: Use navigation tools to map out shortest route to school; Map the route of a school field trip to multiple destinations.

## **History**

### **Change, Continuity, and Context**

SS 2.4.1 Recognize patterns of continuity and change over time in neighborhoods.

SS 2.4.1.a Describe how a neighborhood has changed over the course of time using maps and other artifacts.

For example: pictures from school library/media center

SS 2.4.1.b Compare and contrast how different neighborhoods have changed over time.

For example: photographs of school building, materials from local historical society

### **Multiple Perspectives**

SS 2.4.2 Compare multiple perspectives of events within neighborhoods.

SS 2.4.2.a Compare and contrast perspectives from multiple sources regarding the same event.

For example: Compare and contrast different holiday displays in your neighborhood.

**Historical Analysis and Interpretation**

SS 2.4.3 Determine past and current events, issues, and people relevant to a neighborhood.

SS 2.4.3.a Describe historical people, events, ideas, and symbols (including various cultures and ethnic groups) that impacted a neighborhood.

For example: library, police station, schools, local monuments, city hall, and tribal headquarters

**Historical Inquiry and Research**

SS 2.4.4 Develop historical inquiry and research skills.

SS 2.4.4.a Construct and answer questions about neighborhood history.

For example: What parks or community buildings are there? When were they built?

SS 2.4.4.b Identify, obtain, and cite appropriate primary and secondary sources for research.

For example: identifying titles and authors of texts where students located information

SS 2.4.4.c Gather and present historical information about a neighborhood.

For example: Ask questions of a guest speaker in the classroom.

## Grade 3

### **Grade Level Summary and Theme**

*Communities Near and Far:* In third grade, students begin to explore more complex concepts and ideas from civics, economics, geography, and history as they study the varied backgrounds of people living in Nebraska and how they relate to other regions of the United States. Emphasis is on cultures in the United States, including the study of Native Americans and other indigenous people (such as Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, Native Alaskans). Students examine these cultures from the past and in the present and the impact they have had in shaping our contemporary society. They begin to look at issues and events from more than one perspective.

### **Civics**

#### **Forms and Functions of Government**

SS 3.1.1 Analyze the structure and function of local governments.

SS 3.1.1.a Compare and contrast the structure and function of roles commonly found in local governments.

For example: mayor, city manager, city council, village board, tribal council

SS 3.1.1.b Communicate how and why a community creates laws.

For example: civil discourse, active participation, apply knowledge to address meaningful issues within our society

SS 3.1.1.c Investigate and summarize the roles that leaders and other citizens serve in local communities.

For example: city council, mayor, city manager, village clerk, county commissioner, sheriff's office, school board, neighborhood associations, PTA, tribal council

SS 3.1.1.d Justify the importance of roles that leaders and citizens serve in local government.

For example: creation of local laws, safety, transportation (roads department), economic development, management of public funds, enforcement of laws

#### **Civic Participation**

SS 3.1.2 Describe the impact of individual and group decisions at the community level.

SS 3.1.2.a Identify and model rights and responsibilities of citizens at the community level.

For example: voting, public service, service learning projects

SS 3.1.2.b Explain how patriotic symbols, songs, actions, celebrations, and holidays are recognized in local communities.

For example: flag etiquette, bald eagle, Pledge of Allegiance, national holidays

SS 3.1.2.c Communicate the background of national holidays or historical events, their significance, and how they are recognized in the local community.

For example: George Washington's Birthday, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Presidents Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Patriots' Day (Recognition of 9/11)

SS 3.1.2.d Identify and engage in opportunities to serve the local community.

For example: volunteerism, service learning, participation in community clubs and organizations

SS 3.1.2.e Engage in discourse that demonstrates respect and consideration of multiple points of view.

For example: class meetings, observe a city council meeting, school board meeting, class debate

SS 3.1.2.f Describe the decisions of local leaders and how they affect public policy.

For example: recycling/trash hauling plan, city snow removal, disaster relief

## **Economics**

### ***Economic Decision Making***

SS 3.2.1 Explain that people choose and decide what services they ask their local and state government to provide and pay for.

SS 3.2.1.a Identify goods and services funded through state or local taxes.

For example: snow removal, waste management, law enforcement

### ***Financial Literacy***

SS 3.2.2 Evaluate choices and consequences for spending and saving.

SS 3.2.2.a Given a budget, make choices as to what to purchase, what to give up, and what to save.

### ***Exchange and Markets***

SS 3.2.3 Explain that markets are places where buyers and sellers exchange goods and services.

SS 3.2.3.a Indicate various markets where buyers and sellers meet.

For example: grocery store, buy things online, mall, fast food places

**National Economy**

SS 3.2.4 Describe how the local community trades with other communities.

SS 3.2.4.a Identify local goods and services that could be traded with people everywhere.

For example: corn, soybeans, beef, irrigation systems, dry edible beans, art, buffalo hides, fish

**Global Economy**

SS 3.2.5 Not addressed at this level

**Geography**

**Location and Place**

SS 3.3.1 Explore where (spatial) and why people, places, and environments are organized in the world.

SS 3.3.1.a Identify and apply map elements.

For example: title, scale, symbols, legend, and cardinal and intermediate directions

SS 3.3.1.b Use a map to identify location and distribution of physical and human features.

For example: rivers/roads, cities/towns, bodies of water, landforms

SS 3.3.1.c Determine why things are located where they are in the community.

For example: Why are stores located on main streets? Why are schools near homes? What might be a better location for a school?

SS 3.3.1.d Locate specific places on maps and globes.

For example: Missouri River, Platte River, Rocky Mountains, Nebraska, the student's community

SS 3.3.1.e Identify the continents, oceans, and hemispheres.

**Regions**

SS 3.3.2 Compare the characteristics of places and regions.

SS 3.3.2.a Identify and differentiate between physical and human features of neighborhoods and communities.

For example: vegetation, hills, waterways, housing, streets, business/residential areas

SS 3.3.2.b Compare and contrast local places and regions with other places and regions.

For example: prairie and forest, local community with another community, life on and off a reservation, products from Nebraska and another state, crops grown in Nebraska and another state

SS 3.3.2.c Explain how and why places and regions change over time.

For example: population growth (more housing, schools), demolition/renovation of old/unsafe structures, flood control measures

**Human-Environment Interaction**

SS 3.3.3 Explain relationships between humans and the physical environment.

SS 3.3.3.a Describe how the environment influences human activities and how humans alter the environment to suit their needs.

For example: climate, water cycle, soil fertility impact agricultural production, usage of land and energy - land formation impacts transportation and communication, agriculture, transportation, industry, use of natural resources, regulations/practices to protect the environment

SS 3.3.3.b Identify ecosystems.

For example: forests, deserts, grasslands

SS 3.3.3.c Explain the importance of Earth's natural resources.

For example: minerals, air, water, land

SS 3.3.3.d Describe how humans develop communities in local settings.

For example: roads, landfills, utilities, land use patterns

**Movement**

SS 3.3.4 Compare and contrast the characteristics of local cultures.

SS 3.3.4.a Compare and contrast cultural traits within a community.

For example: languages, religions, foods, music, sports

SS 3.3.4.b Describe examples of how and why cultures change in a community.

For example: technology, education, employment, migration

**Geospatial Skills and Geo-literacy**

SS 3.3.5 Use geographic skills to make connections to issues and events.

SS 3.3.5.a Identify and evaluate how changes in human and physical geography have shaped the community.

For example: placement of schools/hospitals, building of roads, access to water sources, suitable soil for farming

**History**

**Change, Continuity, and Context**

SS. 3.4.1 Detect and apply patterns of continuity and change over time in communities (town or city).

SS 3.4.1.a Describe community events over time using maps and other artifacts.

For example: weekly, monthly, yearly, seasonal happenings

SS 3.4.1.b Compare and contrast how different communities have changed over time.

For example: parks and playground equipment, different economic communities, different kinds of schools, compare rural and urban communities

**Multiple Perspectives**

SS 3.4.2 Describe and explain multiple perspectives of events within a community.

SS 3.4.2.a Describe the role of diverse groups of people, events, and ideas in the development of a community.

For example: local cultural figures, landmarks, celebrations, cultural events

SS 3.4.2.b Compare and contrast conflicting perspectives about a past event in a community.

For example: widening a street, where to construct a park or building

**Historical Analysis and Interpretation**

SS 3.4.3 Select past and current events and people relevant to the community.

SS 3.4.3.a Determine factual information about community historical events through use of a variety of sources such as artifacts, pictures, and documents.

For example: local cultural figures, landmarks, celebrations, cultural events

SS 3.4.3.b Identify how decisions affected events in a community.

For example: decisions on location, growth, etc.

**Historical Inquiry and Research**

SS 3.4.4 Develop historical inquiry and research skills.

SS 3.4.4.a Construct and answer questions about multiple community histories from viewpoints of that community.

For example: How does the founding of a town differ for different groups? Why?

SS 3.4.4.b Identify, obtain, and cite appropriate primary and secondary sources for research about the local community.

For example: Local newspapers, town charters, and local treaties

SS 3.4.4.c Gather and communicate historical information about the community.

For example: Interview a community member, find community resources

## Grade 4

### **Grade Level Summary and Theme**

*Nebraska Studies:* In fourth grade, students use their understanding of social studies concepts and skills to explore Nebraska in the past and present. Students learn about the state's unique geography and key eras in early Nebraska history, particularly the treaty-making period. They use this historical perspective to help them make sense of the state's geography, economy, and government today. The cognitive demand of many grade level expectations begins to include analysis and asks students to look at issues and events from multiple perspectives.

### **Civics**

#### ***Forms and Functions of Government***

SS 4.1.1 Synthesize and justify the structure and function of Nebraska's government.

SS 4.1.1.a Investigate and summarize the historical foundation and events that led to the formation and structure of Nebraska's Constitution and government.

For example: modeled from U.S. government, three branches of government

SS 4.1.1.b Analyze the origin, structure, and function of Nebraska's state government.

For example: Unicameral vs. Bicameral structure, journey from territory status to statehood, state services/responsibilities vs. national or local services/responsibilities, three branches of Nebraska government

SS 4.1.1.c Communicate how a bill becomes a law in the Nebraska unicameral.

For example: introduction of a bill, committee hearings, legislative debate, governor approval/veto, ratification

SS 4.1.1.d Investigate and summarize the roles that leaders and other citizens serve in Nebraska to equitably represent all residents in the state.

For example: legislative districts, cultural advocacy groups

SS 4.1.1.e Justify the importance of roles that leaders and citizens serve in Nebraska government.

For example: governor, state senators, judiciary, tribal leaders, advocacy group participants

#### ***Civic Participation***

SS 4.1.2 Investigate how different perspectives impact government decisions at the state level.

SS 4.1.2.a Identify and model rights and responsibilities of citizens at the state level.

For example: voting, public service, service learning projects

SS 4.1.2.b Investigate the meaning of state symbols, songs, and holidays.

For example: Nebraska state flag, "Beautiful Nebraska," state and national holidays

SS 4.1.2.c Communicate background of Nebraska state holidays or historical events, their significance, and how they are recognized.

For example: Arbor Day, George Norris Day and Nebraska Statehood Day, Native American Heritage Day

SS 4.1.2.d Identify and engage in opportunities to serve the state.

For example: volunteerism, service learning, participation in state clubs and organizations

SS 4.1.2.e Explain how individuals and groups influence the way a state issue is viewed and resolved.

For example: lobbying, petitions, media, social media

SS 4.1.2.f Analyze the decisions of state leaders and how they impact public policy.

For example: seatbelt law, state testing, speed limits, state parks

## **Economics**

### ***Economic Decision Making***

SS 4.2.1 Describe how scarcity requires the consumer and producer to make choices and identify costs associated with them.

SS 4.2.1.a Predict how consumers would react if the price of a good or service changed.

For example: Price of gasoline increases; price of haircuts increases; price of milk/bread/sugar increases - would buy less or start to change behavior toward buying less, i.e., plan a carpool and get hair cut less often. Price of something decreases and buy more of it.

SS 4.2.1.b Predict how producers would react if the profit from selling a good or service changed.

For example: You produce widgets and they have become very popular and the price is rising, what would you do – produce more. In a natural disaster, because of scarcity prices tend to rise for things like water and lumber, if you produced water and/or lumber, the increased price would incentivize you to get more of things where they were needed.

**Financial Literacy**

SS 4.2.2 Investigate various financial institutions in Nebraska and the reasons for people's spending and saving choices.

SS 4.2.2.a Identify financial institutions in the community and their purposes.

For example: a field trip to a bank/credit union or a representative to discuss how banks ensure your money is safe and how they loan money to help businesses grow and help people buy housing among other things

**Exchange and Markets**

SS 4.2.3 Investigate how resources are used to make other goods and produce services.

SS 4.2.3.a Give examples of human, natural, capital, and entrepreneurial resources used in making goods and services in Nebraska and the United States.

For example: human resources (labor), tools used in agriculture, laboratories, equipment, and machinery, game/video designers

**National Economy**

SS 4.2.4 Identify and explain specialization and trade and why different regions produce different goods and services.

SS 4.2.4.a Compare Nebraska with different regions and the goods and services each region produces.

For example: beef, wheat, telemarketing, cotton, coal, beekeeping, tribal traditional art (beading)

SS 4.2.4.b Discuss how technology has affected the specialization of Nebraska's economy and surrounding states.

For example: irrigation, agriculture and farm equipment, online trading, geospatial technology (GIS [Geographic Information Systems] and GPS [Global Positioning System])

**Global Economy**

SS 4.2.5 Not addressed at this level

**Geography**

**Location and Place**

SS 4.3.1 Explore where (spatial) and why people, places, and environments are organized in the state and around the world.

SS 4.3.1.a Use local and state maps and atlases to locate physical and human features in Nebraska.

For example: major cities, bodies of water, landforms, interstate/highways, railroads, state parks, tribal reservations

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SS 4.3.1.b Apply map skills to analyze physical/political maps of the state.

For example: Utilize grid systems to find locations, identify the location and purpose of time zones, and identify and locate cities using relative and absolute locations.

SS 4.3.1.c Determine why things are located where they are in Nebraska.

For example: Why are large cattle ranches found in the Sandhills? Why are major airports located near large cities? What determined the route of I-80?

SS 4.3.1.d Differentiate between classifications of bodies of water, cities, and land masses.

For example: lakes, rivers, capital city, county seats, major urban centers, plains, river valleys, Sandhills

### **Regions**

SS 4.3.2 Compare the characteristics of places and regions and their impact on human decisions.

SS 4.3.2.a Identify criteria used to define regions in the state of Nebraska and the United States.

For example: soil, climate, precipitation, population, natural vegetation, land and agricultural usage

SS 4.3.2.b Classify regions and places within the state of Nebraska using physical and human features.

For example: Sandhills, Pine Ridge, Loess Hills, Platte River Valley, rural/urban/suburban, counties and cities

### **Human-Environment Interaction**

SS 4.3.3 Explain how human and natural forces have modified different environments in Nebraska and how humans have adapted.

SS 4.3.3.a Identify physical processes that shape Nebraska's features and patterns.

For example: weathering, erosion, deposition, drought

SS 4.3.3.b Identify examples of ecosystems in Nebraska and describe related environmental issues.

For example: forests, wetlands, grasslands, and rivers, runoff, flooding, erosion, wildfires

SS 4.3.3.c Describe the impact of extreme natural events on the human and physical environment in Nebraska.

For example: tornadoes, floods, dust storms, insect infestations result in changes to agricultural/construction/public safety practices

SS 4.3.3.d Describe how humans have adapted to Nebraska's physical environment and use available natural resources.

For example: progression of home construction materials, agriculture, irrigation, introduction of trees, soil conservation, soil, timber, surface water and ground water

### **Movement**

SS 4.3.4 Compare and contrast the characteristics of culture statewide.

SS 4.3.4.a Compare and contrast patterns of culture within the state of Nebraska.

For example: languages, religions, foods, music, sports, celebrations

SS 4.3.4.b Compare and contrast population characteristics of the state of Nebraska.

For example: density, distribution, growth rates due to available jobs, resources

### **Geospatial Skills and Geo-literacy**

SS 4.3.5 Use geographic skills to make connections to issues and events.

SS 4.3.5.a Identify and evaluate how changes in human and physical geography have shaped Nebraska.

For example: map major tornado paths, blizzards, floods, or droughts; how the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad and Interstate Highway system have impacted the way Nebraskans live, locations and reasons for tribal reservations

SS 4.3.5.b Explain the interrelationships of human or physical geographic characteristics of places in Nebraska.

For example: A community is located on a river floodplain with fertile soil and water for transportation, irrigation, and human consumption.

## **History**

### **Change, Continuity, and Context**

SS 4.4.1 Investigate patterns of continuity and change over time in Nebraska.

SS 4.4.1.a Analyze the chronology of key state and/or regional events and communicate their impact on the past, present, and future.

For example: timelines, before and after statehood

### **Multiple Perspectives**

SS 4.4.2 Analyze and explain multiple perspectives of events in Nebraska, including historically marginalized and underrepresented groups.

SS 4.4.2.a Compare and contrast primary and secondary sources to better understand multiple perspectives of the same event.

For example: The Homestead Act, Oregon Trail diaries, military journal of Ponca Removal, Standing Bear testimony

SS 4.4.2.b Identify and describe how various sources relate their perspectives of Nebraska history.

For example: texts and primary documents, primary documents from differing groups of people

***Historical Analysis and Interpretation***

SS 4.4.3 Analyze past and current events throughout Nebraska history.

SS 4.4.3.a Analyze key sources in Nebraska history to determine credibility and context.

For example: accounts from settlers and Nebraska tribes, foundational documents in Nebraska

SS 4.4.3.b Identify key events in American history that shaped or were shaped by Nebraskans.

For example: Kansas-Nebraska Act, Homestead Act, Ponca Trail of Tears, Santee Exile and Winnebago Removal, North Platte Canteen, Orphan Train, Native American Boarding Schools, World War I, Will Brown, World War II, Tuskegee Airmen, Great Depression, Cold War, Civil Rights Movement, September 11, 2001

***Historical Inquiry and Research***

SS 4.4.4 Develop historical inquiry and research skills.

SS 4.4.4.a Construct and answer questions about Nebraska history.

For example: Why did people migrate and/or relocate to Nebraska?

SS 4.4.4.b Identify and cite primary and secondary sources to research the history of Nebraska.

For example: document archives, newspapers, interviews

SS 4.4.4.c Gather, analyze, and communicate historical information about Nebraska.

For example: collect oral histories from community members, research newspaper archives

## Grade 5

### **Grade Level Summary and Theme**

*U.S. Studies:* In fifth grade, students use their understanding of social studies concepts and cause and effect relationships to study Pre-Columbian cultures, the development of the American colonies, and the creation of the United States through the writing of the U.S. Constitution. By applying what they know from civics, economics, and geography, students learn the ideals, principles, and systems that shaped this country's founding. They conclude the fifth grade by applying their understanding of the country's founding and the ideals in the nation's fundamental documents to issues of importance to them today. This learning forms the foundation and understanding of social studies concepts that will provide students with the ability to examine their role in the community, state, nation, and world.

### **Civics**

#### ***Forms and Functions of Government***

SS 5.1.1 Synthesize and justify the structure and function of the United States government.

SS 5.1.1.a Investigate and summarize contributions that resulted in the historical foundation and formation of the United States constitutional government.

For example: early state constitutions, Declaration of Independence, and the Articles of Confederation, Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, tribal constitutions

SS 5.1.1.b Identify and explain the structure and functions of the three branches of government.

For example: legislative, executive, judicial

SS 5.1.1.c Analyze how colonial and new states' governments' laws affected majority groups and marginalized groups within their population.

For example: citizens, enslaved persons, Native American tribes, immigrants, women, class systems

SS 5.1.1.d Evaluate how the decisions of the national government affect local and state government and citizens of diverse backgrounds.

For example: three-fifths clause, treaties, voting requirements, slavery

SS 5.1.1.e Justify the principles of the American Republic.

For example: liberty, representative democracy, United States Constitution, Bill of Rights

SS 5.1.1.f Analyze and contrast forms of government.

For example: Tribal, British monarchy, early American colonial governments

**Civic Participation**

SS 5.1.2 Analyze democratic principles that are the foundation of the United States government systems in daily life.

SS 5.1.2.a Explore and communicate the constitutional rights and civic responsibilities of U.S. citizens.

For example: freedom of speech, voting, staying informed of issues, respecting the rights, opinions, and beliefs of others, joining a civic group

SS 5.1.2.b Communicate origins of national and state holidays including historical background and significance.

For example: George Washington's Birthday, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Presidents Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Citizenship Day, tribal flag songs, Native American Day

SS 5.1.2.c Interpret and communicate the significance of patriotic symbols, songs, and activities.

For example: significance of the flag, Fourth of July, Constitution Day, George Washington's birthday, military songs from the Revolutionary War, tribal songs, the Liberty Bell

SS 5.1.2.d Explore models of group and individual actions that illustrate civic ideas in the founding of the United States.

For example: George Washington, Boston Tea Party, Continental Congress, Federalist Papers, Sons of Liberty, *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine, Mayflower Compact

SS 5.1.2.e Examine how cooperation and conflict among people have contributed to political, economic, and social events and situations in the United States.

For example: communication through civil discourse historically and presently, constitutional compromises, Continental Congress

SS 5.1.2.f Determine how the roles of individuals and groups influenced government.

For example: George Washington, John Adams, Abigail Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, sovereign Native Americans, Patriots, Loyalists, European governments,

**Economics**

**Economic Decision Making**

SS 5.2.1 Not addressed at this level

**Financial Literacy**

SS 5.2.2 Not addressed at this level

**Exchange and Markets**

SS 5.2.3 Explain how human capital can be improved by education and training and thereby increase standards of living.

SS 5.2.3.a List examples of how additional education/training improves productivity and increases standards of living.

For example: On the job training, education can all lead to higher wages.

SS 5.2.4 Explain how specialization, division of labor, and technology increase productivity and interdependence.

SS 5.2.4.a Describe the historical role of innovation and entrepreneurship in a market economy.

For example: apprentice, journeyman, early inventors and entrepreneurs

**National Economy**

SS 5.2.5 Summarize characteristics of economic institutions in the United States.

SS 5.2.5.a Describe the importance of financial institutions to households and businesses.

For example: loans to agriculture, business, and individuals in order to provide capital; importance of rule of law to enforce contracts and provide for private property

SS 5.2.5.b Explain the rules and laws that protect and support consumers.

For example: contracts, agreements, and product safety

SS 5.2.5.c Identify goods and services funded through federal taxes.

For example: military and armed forces, parks

**Global Economy**

SS 5.2.6 Summarize how specialization and trade impact the global market and relationships with other countries.

SS 5.2.6.a Describe how international trade promotes specialization and division of labor and increases the productivity of labor, output, and consumption.

For Example: New England specialized in ship building and fishing, South Carolina grew rice, the Middle Colonies had grain, and the Upper South grew tobacco and got finished goods like books from Great Britain.

SS 5.2.6.b Explain how trade impacts relationships between countries.

For example: fur, tobacco, cotton, lumber, triangle trade, tribal trading with settlers

## **Geography**

### **Location and Place**

SS 5.3.1 Explore where (spatial) and why people, places, and environments are organized in the United States.

SS 5.3.1.a Use maps and atlases to locate major human and physical features in the United States.

For example: states, capitals and major cities, Rocky Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, Great Lakes

SS 5.3.1.b Apply map skills to analyze physical/political maps of the United States.

For example: Identify latitude/longitude and the global grid, and the ocean currents, trade winds.

SS 5.3.1.c Determine why things are located where they are in the United States.

For example: Why were the 13 colonies located on the eastern side of the United States? Why was corn raised in Pennsylvania and Ohio and cotton in Virginia and Georgia?

### **Regions**

SS 5.3.2 Compare the characteristics of places and regions and draw conclusions on their impact on human decisions.

SS 5.3.2.a Identify criteria used to define regions within the United States.

For example: location, climate, industry, landforms, bodies of water

SS 5.3.2.b Identify and classify regions and places within the United States using physical and human features.

For example: Tidewater, New England, Hudson Valley, congressional districts

### **Human-Environment Interaction**

SS 5.3.3 Explain how human and natural forces have modified different environments in the United States and how humans have adapted.

SS 5.3.3.a Identify examples of ecosystems and analyze issues related to the natural setting in the United States.

For example: forests, deserts, grasslands, deforestation, wildfires, urban sprawl, flooding, erosion, strip mining

SS 5.3.3.b Describe the impact of extreme natural events in the United States on the human and physical environment.

For example: lightning, blizzards, floods, drought, hurricanes, tornadoes result in changes to agricultural/construction/public safety practices

SS 5.3.3.c Examine patterns of resource distribution and utilization in the United States.

For example: fisheries, forests, agricultural development, manufacturing regions

**Movement**

SS 5.3.4 Compare, contrast, and draw conclusions about the characteristics of culture and migration in the United States.

SS 5.3.4.a Compare and contrast patterns of culture within the United States over time and space.

For example: languages, religions, foods, music, sports, celebrations

SS 5.3.4.b Compare and contrast population characteristics of the United States.

For example: density, distribution, growth rates

SS 5.3.4.c Explain reasons for historical and present day migrations to and within the United States.

For example: economic opportunity, war, famine, natural disasters, persecution

**Geospatial Skills and Geo-literacy**

SS 5.3.5 Use geographic skills to interpret issues and events.

SS 5.3.5.a Explain the influences of physical and human geographic features on events in the United States.

For example: Developing major settlements around natural East Coast harbors such as New York City (New Amsterdam), building the Boston Post Road to improve connections and communications within the colonies, migrating through the Cumberland Gap into the Kentucky bluegrass region

SS 5.3.5.b Analyze aspects of human and physical geography that have shaped the settlement and development of Early America.

For example: latitude and longitude in the role of early navigation, groundwater and irrigation, westward expansion of European immigrants, seeds, fertile soils, agriculture, transportation systems, water power

## History

### ***Change, Continuity, and Context***

SS 5.4.1 Investigate patterns of continuity and change over time from the Pre-Columbian era through the Constitution.

SS 5.4.1.a Examine the chronology of key events in the United States and communicate their impact on various groups in the past, present, and future.

For example: Development of civilizations in America before Columbus, founding of colonies, Native American responses to colonization, coming of American Revolution, founding of United States, creation of the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, the gradual abolition of slavery in the northern states

### ***Multiple Perspectives***

SS 5.4.2 Describe and explain multiple perspectives of historical events in the Pre-Columbian era through the Constitution including marginalized and underrepresented groups.

SS 5.4.2.a Compare and contrast primary and secondary sources to better understand multiple perspectives of the same event.

For example: The Boston Massacre, Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, historical biographies

SS 5.4.2.b Identify and describe how multiple perspectives facilitate the understanding of US history.

For example: Battle for the Old Northwest, Atlantic Slave Trade

### ***Historical Analysis and Interpretation***

SS 5.4.3 Analyze past and current events and challenges from the Pre-Columbian era through the Constitution.

SS 5.4.3.a Compare the impact of people, events, ideas, and symbols on various cultures and ethnic groups in the Pre-Columbian era through the Constitution.

For example: Native American cultures, exploration, conflict, colonization, the emergence of democratic institutions, the Revolution, founders and founding documents, the unique nature of the creation of the United States leading to a nation based upon personal freedom, inalienable rights, and democratic ideals, and other patriotic national symbols

### ***Historical Inquiry and Research***

SS 5.4.4 Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.

SS 5.4.4.a Construct and answer questions about the Pre-Columbian era through the Constitution based on multiple sources.

For example: Why did people migrate to the Americas?

SS 5.4.4.b Evaluate and cite appropriate primary and secondary sources to research the Pre-Columbian era through the Constitution.

For example: use of appropriate citation format; determine the credibility, contextualization, and corroboration of sources

SS 5.4.4.c Gather, analyze, and communicate historical information from the Pre-Columbian era through the Constitution from multiple sources.

For example: document archives, artifacts, newspapers, interviews, pictures, posters, oral/written narratives, and electronic presentation

## Nebraska Social Studies Standards

**Middle School Standards Introduction:** The purpose of Nebraska's 6-8 Social Studies Standards is to integrate important subject matter and skills, and to provide students a robust understanding of grade-specific concepts. The standards should not be viewed in isolation, but as a unifying approach to social studies curriculum and instruction.

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<b>Civics</b>		
SS 6.1.1 Investigate the foundations, structures, and functions of governmental institutions.	SS 7.1.1 Analyze the foundations, structures and functions of governmental institutions.	SS 8.1.1 Investigate and analyze the foundation, structure, and functions of the United States government.
SS 6.1.2 Investigate the roles, responsibilities, and rights of citizens.	SS 7.1.2 Analyze the roles, responsibilities, and rights of citizens and groups in international societies.	SS 8.1.2 Evaluate the roles, responsibilities, and rights as local, state, national, and international citizens.
<b>Economics</b>		
SS 6.2.1 Investigate how economic decisions affect the well-being of individuals and society.	SS 7.2.1 Not addressed at this level	SS 8.2.1 Not addressed at this level
SS 6.2.2 Not addressed at this level	SS 7.2.2 Not addressed at this level	SS 8.2.2 Understand personal and business financial management.
SS 6.2.3 Explain the interdependence of producers and consumers.	SS 7.2.3 Not addressed at this level	SS 8.2.3 Not addressed at this level
SS 6.2.4 Not addressed at this level	SS 7.2.4 Investigate how varying economic systems impact individuals in a civilization/society.	SS 8.2.4 Justify and debate economic decisions made by North American societies.
SS 6.2.5 Not addressed at this level	SS 7.2.5 Analyze information using appropriate data to draw conclusions about the total production, income, and economic growth in various economies.	SS 8.2.5 Illustrate how international trade impacts individuals, organizations, and nations.
SS 6.2.6 Not addressed at this level	SS 7.2.6 Illustrate how international trade impacts individuals, organizations, and nations/societies.	

Nebraska Social Studies Standards

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<b>Geography</b>		
SS 6.3.1 Identify where (spatial) and why people, places, and environments are organized on the Earth's Surface.	SS 7.3.1 Not addressed at this level	SS 8.3.1 Not addressed at this level
SS 6.3.2 Not addressed at this level	SS 7.3.2 Evaluate how regions form and change over time.	SS 8.3.2 Examine how regions form and change over time.
SS 6.3.3 Identify how the natural environment is changed by natural and human forces, and how humans adapt to their surroundings.	SS 7.3.3 Determine how the natural environment is changed by natural and human forces and how humans adapt to their surroundings.	SS 8.3.3 Determine how the natural environment is changed by natural and human forces and how humans adapt to their surroundings.
SS 6.3.4 Interpret and summarize patterns of culture around the world.	SS 7.3.4 Examine and interpret patterns of culture around the world.	SS 8.3.4 Not addressed at this level
SS 6.3.5 Not addressed at this level	SS 7.3.5 Compare issues and/or events using geographic knowledge and skills to make informed decisions.	SS 8.3.5 Not addressed at this level
<b>History</b>		
6.4.1 Analyze patterns of continuity and change over time in world history.	SS 7.4.1 Compare patterns of continuity and change over time in world history.	SS 8.4.1 Analyze patterns of continuity and change over time in United States history.
SS 6.4.2 Use multiple perspectives to identify the historical, social, and cultural context of past and current events.	SS 7.4.2 Use multiple perspectives to examine the historical, social, and cultural context of past and current events.	SS 8.4.2 Use multiple perspectives to evaluate the historical, social, and cultural context of past and current events.
SS 6.4.3 Examine historical events from the perspectives of marginalized and underrepresented groups.	SS 7.4.3 Examine historical events from the perspectives of marginalized and underrepresented groups.	SS 8.4.3 Examine historical events from the perspectives of marginalized and underrepresented groups.
SS 6.4.4 Interpret and evaluate sources for historical context.	SS 7.4.4 Analyze and interpret sources for perspective and historical context.	SS 8.4.4 Evaluate and interpret sources for perspective and historical context.
SS 6.4.5 Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.	SS 7.4.5 Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.	SS 8.4.5 Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.

**Grade Level Summary and Theme**

*World Studies I:* In sixth grade, students are ready to deepen their understanding of the Earth and its peoples through the study of history, geography, politics, culture, and economic systems. Students examine the world by exploring the location, place, and spatial organization of the world's ancient civilizations. In this way, students develop higher levels of critical thinking by considering why civilizations developed, where and when they did, and why they declined. Students will have multiple opportunities to employ maps and timelines, to compare the foundations of economic and political systems, and to engage in content-driven research and inquiry. Students will explore the connections between ancient and classical societies and contemporary civic ideas and issues. Students analyze the interactions among the various cultures, emphasizing their enduring contributions and the link between the contemporary and ancient worlds.

**Civics**

***Forms and Functions of Government***

SS 6.1.1 Investigate the foundations, structures, and functions of governmental institutions.

SS 6.1.1.a Analyze the different forms of government through the study of early civilizations.

For example: tribal, monarchy, democracy, republic, theocracy, tyranny and oligarchy

SS 6.1.1.b Identify the development of written laws and artifacts.

For example: Code of Hammurabi, Greek Democracy, Asumite, Confucius, Ten Commandments, Indian deities

SS 6.1.1.c Communicate the various ways governmental decisions have impacted people, places, and history.

For example: invasions, conquests, laws, public works, religious tolerance, censorship, hierarchy

SS 6.1.1.d Investigate important government principles.

For example: democracy, rule of law, justice, equality, toleration

***Civic Participation***

SS 6.1.2 Investigate the roles, responsibilities, and rights of citizens.

SS 6.1.2.a Describe ways individuals participate in the political process.

For example: tribal/family institutions, city-state, voting, contacting officials, civic engagement, decision making, leadership

SS 6.1.2.b Compare and contrast the roles and rights of individuals in Ancient Civilizations to those in the United States today.

For example: military service, voting, civic engagement, decision making, leadership

## **Economics**

### ***Economic Decision Making***

SS 6.2.1 Investigate how economic decisions affect the well-being of individuals and society.

SS 6.2.1.a Compare the benefits and costs of economic decisions made by Ancient Civilizations.

For example: marginal benefits of the migration of the Swahili people throughout southern Africa, Constantine the Great's decision to convert the Roman Empire to Christianity, Ancient Mesopotamians that settled along the Tigris and Euphrates to sustain life in a desert

SS 6.2.1.b Examine how social and governmental decisions impact economic well-being.

For example: Under constant invasion, Chinese dynasties built the Great Wall. Europeans and Asians were able to establish trade through the Silk Road to attain resources not native to their own continents. The caste system of Ancient India established order in the government but at the sake of the liberty of those in lower castes. Use democratic process established in Greece to make a classroom decision.

### ***Financial Literacy***

SS 6.2.2 Not addressed at this level

### ***Exchange and Markets***

SS 6.2.3 Explain the interdependence of producers and consumers.

SS 6.2.3.a Identify producers and consumers for Ancient civilizations.

For example: Examine the independence and interdependence of social classes in ancient societies. List items sold and traded among various medieval societies.

SS 6.2.3.b Explain how the interaction between producers and consumers satisfied economic wants and needs.

For example: Research the various resources that were utilized as mediums of exchange like animals, cowry shells, gold, and porcelain. Examine how societies without currency differed from those with currency.

### ***National Economy***

SS 6.2.4 Not addressed at this level

### ***Global Economy***

SS 6.2.5 Not addressed at this level

## **Geography**

### ***Location and Place***

SS 6.3.1 Identify where (spatial) and why people, places, and environments are organized on the Earth's surface.

SS 6.3.1.a Identify and illustrate the locations of the first cities, civilizations, and empires and the reasoning for their locations.

For example: river civilizations (Tigris/Euphrates, Yellow, Indus, Nile, Mesopotamia), early cities (Memphis, Ur, Babylon)

Nebraska Social Studies Standards

SS 6.3.1.b Investigate the human and physical characteristics of early patterns of civilizations and empires.

For example: agricultural societies (agricultural hearths for crops and livestock), deposits of copper and iron

**Regions**

SS 6.3.2 Not addressed at this level

**Human Environment Interaction**

SS 6.3.3 Identify how the natural environment is changed by natural and human forces, and how humans adapt to their surroundings.

SS 6.3.3.a Describe the impact of natural processes on the human and physical environments.

For example: precipitation, drought, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, mudslides

SS 6.3.3.b Summarize how early humans utilized and adapted to their physical environment.

For example: irrigation, levees, terraces, fertile soils, mechanized agriculture, changes in land use, clothing, sewage systems, scarcity of resources

**Movement**

SS 6.3.4 Interpret and summarize patterns of culture around the world.

SS 6.3.4.a Compare and contrast characteristics of groups of people/settlements.

For example: characteristics of river civilizations

SS 6.3.4.b Explain how cultural diffusion occurs.

For example: trade routes, migration, conquest/empire building

**Geospatial Skills and Geo-literacy**

SS 6.3.5 Not addressed at this level

**History**

**Change, Continuity, and Context**

SS 6.4.1 Analyze patterns of continuity and change over time in world history.

SS 6.4.1.a Examine the impact of people, events, and ideas, including various cultures and ethnic groups, on the world.

For example: Chavin, Zapotec, Olmec, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus, Greco-Roman, early Chinese and Japanese dynasties, Hinduism, Taoism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam

SS 6.4.1.b Analyze the impact of historical events in the world using symbols, maps, documents, and artifacts.

For example: Hammurabi's Code, symbols of world religions

**Multiple Perspectives**

SS 6.4.2 Use multiple perspectives to identify the historical, social, and cultural context of past and current events.

SS 6.4.2.a Identify evidence from multiple perspectives and sources to better understand the complexities of world history.

For example: Macedonian Empire, Persian Empire

SS 6.4.2.b Explain the use of primary and secondary sources to better understand multiple perspectives of the same event.

For example: foundational texts of world religions

SS 6.4.3 Examine historical events from the perspectives of marginalized and underrepresented groups.

SS 6.4.3.a Identify how differing experiences can lead to the development of perspectives.

For example: religious, ethnic and racial groups

SS 6.4.3.b Interpret perspectives of marginalized and underrepresented regions around the world.

For example: inclusion of non-Eurasian civilizations

**Historical Analysis and Interpretation**

SS 6.4.4 Interpret and evaluate sources for historical context.

SS 6.4.4.a Compare and contrast primary and secondary sources of history.

For example: Compare Lascaux cave paintings with a historian's interpretation of the Paleolithic Era.

SS 6.4.4.b Analyze the relationships among historical events in the world and relevant contemporary issues.

For example: agriculture, technology, written laws

**Historical Inquiry and Research**

SS 6.4.5 Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.

SS 6.4.5.a Construct and answer inquiry questions using multiple historical sources.

For example: What defines an empire?

SS 6.4.5.b Identify and cite appropriate sources for research about world history, including primary and secondary sources.

For example: Hammurabi's Code, Twelve Tables

SS 6.4.5.c Gather, analyze, and communicate historical information about the world from multiple sources.

For example: document archives, artifacts, newspapers, interviews, pictures, posters, oral/written narratives, and electronic presentation

## Grade 7

### **Grade Level Summary and Theme**

*World Studies II:* In seventh grade, students become more proficient with the core concepts in social studies. This grade level focuses on a regional examination of geography, civics, economics, and history of post-classical societies. The purpose of studying these different regions and eras is to develop an understanding of major factors influencing our world today.

The course guides students in exploring the connection between historical developments and contemporary global issues. Students will have multiple opportunities to use geographic concepts and processes, develop economic reasoning, examine specific historical ideas, beliefs, and themes, and analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time. Students will further develop fundamental concepts and processes of authority, power, and influence with particular emphasis on the democratic skills and attitudes necessary to become responsible citizens.

### **Civics**

#### **Forms and Functions of Government**

SS 7.1.1 Analyze the foundations, structures, and functions of governmental institutions.

SS 7.1.1.a Describe different forms and structures of government around the world and how they address the needs of the citizens.

For example: republic, monarchy, authoritarian/dictatorship, how nation-states interact, unlimited forms of government, limited forms of government, imperialism

SS 7.1.1.b Identify and report significant historic events and documents that have influenced governmental institutions and their function.

For example: any governments of major societies from post-classical societies up to present that could include French Revolution, Justinian's Code, Iroquois Confederacy, Communist Manifesto, United States Constitution, Magna Carta, Native American treaties with federal government, trade agreements, arms control

SS 7.1.1.c Analyze how governmental systems have changed over time and how those developments influence civic life and ideals around the world.

For example: increased role and influence of technology on society, impact of global conflicts on local communities

#### **Civic Participation**

SS 7.1.2 Analyze the roles, responsibilities, and rights of citizens and groups in international societies.

SS 7.1.2.a Examine ways in which individuals and groups participate in the political process in different regions of the globe.

For example: interconnected nature of world events/relationships, recognize multiple perspectives on issues, demonstrate ethical use of information, service learning, volunteerism, social movements, voting

SS 7.1.2.b Evaluate how cooperation and conflict among people around the world have contributed to political, economic, and social events and situations.

For example: treaties, aftermath of global conflicts and the rise of international organizations (United Nations, NATO, League of Nations, World Health Organization)

SS 7.1.2.c Explain the roles and influence of individuals, groups, and the media on governments in an interdependent society.

For example: printing press, right to petition, media literacy, media conglomerates, social media platforms, cyber security concerns

## **Economics**

### ***Economic Decision Making***

SS 7.2.1 Not addressed at this level

### ***Financial Literacy***

SS 7.2.2 Not addressed at this level

### ***Exchange and Markets***

SS 7.2.3 Not addressed at this level

### ***National Economy***

SS 7.2.4 Investigate how varying economic systems impact individuals in a civilization/society.

SS 7.2.4.a Compare and contrast characteristics of different socio-economic groups in economic systems.

For example: traditional, market, command/communism, socialism, feudal, or caste systems - Examine the daily life of the indigenous people of Guatemala as opposed to those in urban areas.

SS 7.2.4.b Identify the relationships between diverse socio-economic groups and their economic systems in the modern world.

For example: Compare tax structures in various countries and how the people are impacted.

SS 7.2.5 Analyze information using appropriate data to draw conclusions about the total production, income, and economic growth in various economies.

SS 7.2.5.a Define the government's role in various economic systems.

For example: democratic governments' impact on capitalism and dictators' impact on command economies, tobacco industry and how rules come about in the US vs. tobacco industry in Cuba

SS. 7.2.5.b Identify various economic indicators that governments use to measure modern world societies, nations, and cultures.

For example: Explore consumption, government spending, business investment, balance of trade, exports, imports, life expectancy, literacy rates, income, etc.

Nebraska Social Studies Standards

SS 7.2.5.c Categorize goods and services provided in modern societies, nations, and cultures into the four factors of production.

For example: Identify the four factors of production (land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurship) and how they manifest in a diverse way from culture to culture and over time.

**Global Economy**

SS 7.2.6 Illustrate how international trade impacts individuals, organizations, and nations/societies.

SS 7.2.6.a Explain how individuals gain through specialization and voluntary trade and how international trade affects the domestic economy.

For example: Business owners are able to explore the world to find labor sources that help maximize profit. Many of the economies of the Americas owe their establishment and success to the development and processing of sugar cane. Corporations chartered for colonial settlement: Dutch East India Company, Virginia Company, etc.

**Geography**

**Location and Place**

SS 7.3.1 Not addressed at this level

**Regions**

SS 7.3.2 Evaluate how regions form and change over time.

SS 7.3.2.a Classify physical and human characteristics of places and regions.

For example: climate, landforms, languages, religions

SS 7.3.2.b Interpret the impact of land and water features on human decisions.

For example: location of settlements and transportation with respect to physical features

SS 7.3.2.c Identify how humans construct major world regions and the impact on human societies.

For example: geographic factors that influence international relationships and economic development-trade, communication, transportation, infrastructure

**Human Environment Interaction**

SS 7.3.3 Determine how the natural environment is changed by natural and human forces and how humans adapt to their surroundings.

SS 7.3.3.a Explain the impact of natural processes on human and physical environments.

For example: temperature, precipitation, drought, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, mudslides

Nebraska Social Studies Standards  
SS 7.3.3.b Research and describe how humans have utilized and adapted to their physical environment.

For example: rivers, floods, precipitation, drought, use of natural resources

### **Movement**

SS 7.3.4 Examine and interpret patterns of culture around the world.

SS 7.3.4.a Compare and contrast characteristics of groups of people/settlements.

For example: elements of culture including languages, religions, foods, arts, clothing, education, etc.

SS 7.3.4.b Develop a logical process to describe how cultural diffusion occurs and how the diffusion of ideas impacts cultures.

For example: migration, conquering, trade

### **Geospatial Skills and Geo-literacy**

SS 7.3.5 Compare issues and/or events using geographic knowledge and skills to make informed decisions.

SS 7.3.5.a Classify the physical or human factors that explain the geographic patterns of world events.

For example: Use maps/charts/diagrams/timelines/mapping technology to track and analyze historical changes over space and time (spread of religious groups, spatial connections through trade or political arrangement).

SS 7.3.5.b Develop geographic representations and analyze the role of geographic physical and human factors in determining the arrangement of economic activity and patterns of human settlement.

For example: geographic concentration of manufacturing, banking, or industries, urbanization, availability of arable land, water and suitable climate for farming, access to resources for development

## **History**

### **Continuity, Change, and Context**

SS 7.4.1 Compare patterns of continuity and change over time in world history.

SS 7.4.1.a Analyze the impact of people, events, and ideas, including various cultures and ethnic groups, on the world.

For example: Songhai, Mali, Gupta Empire, Han Dynasty, Hinduism, Taoism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Silk Road, Trans-Saharan Trade, Incas, Mayans, Aztecs

SS 7.4.1.b Analyze the impact of historical events in the world using symbols, maps, documents, and artifacts.

For example: trade routes

**Multiple Perspectives**

SS 7.4.2 Use multiple perspectives to examine the historical, social, and cultural context of past and current events.

SS 7.4.2.a Analyze evidence from multiple perspectives and sources to better understand the complexities of world history.

For example: caste system, partition of India, Ibn Battuta, Zheng He, Marco Polo, Mansa Musa, Mongol Empire, Berlin Conference, Arab-Israeli Conflict, Latin American revolutions, Columbian Exchange

SS 7.4.2.b Compare and contrast primary and secondary sources to better understand multiple perspectives of the same event.

For example: foundational texts of world religions

SS 7.4.3 Examine historical events from the perspectives of marginalized and underrepresented groups.

SS 7.4.3.a Identify how differing experiences can lead to the development of perspectives.

For example: religious, ethnic and racial groups

SS 7.4.3.b Interpret perspectives of marginalized and underrepresented regions around the world.

For example: civilizations from all regions of the world

**Historical Analysis and Interpretation**

SS 7.4.4 Analyze and interpret sources for perspective and historical context.

SS 7.4.4.a Compare and contrast primary and secondary sources of history.

For example: Compare eyewitness accounts of the Black Death with contemporary medical understandings.

SS 7.4.4.b Identify the cause and effect relationships among historical events in the world and relevant contemporary issues.

For example: migrations, declarations of war, treaties, alliances, epidemics

**Historical Inquiry and Research Skills**

SS 7.4.5 Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.

SS 7.4.5.a Construct and answer inquiry questions using multiple historical sources.

For example: Students engage in inquiry and gather evidence to provide a response.

SS 7.4.5.b Evaluate and cite appropriate sources for research about world history, including primary and secondary sources.

For example: Interpret primary and secondary sources to address the inquiry. Demonstrate ethical use of information and copyright guidelines by appropriately quoting or paraphrasing from a text and citing the source using available resources.

Nebraska Social Studies Standards

SS 7.4.5.c Gather, analyze, and communicate historical information about the world from multiple sources.

For example: document archives, artifacts, newspapers, interviews, pictures, posters, oral/written narratives, and electronic presentation

## Grade 8

### **Grade Level Summary and Theme**

*United States History:* In eighth grade, students develop a new, more abstract level of understanding of social studies concepts. The context for developing this understanding is U.S. history and government. After reviewing the Colonial foundations of what became the United States, students explore the ideas, issues, and events from the adoption of the United States Constitution through the Gilded Age. Study of the founding of the United States allows students to explore the development of the United States' unique institutions of government, civic ideals, geography and economy.

### **Civics**

#### ***Forms and Functions of Government***

SS 8.1.1 Investigate and analyze the foundation, structure, and functions of the United States government.

SS 8.1.1.a Identify and describe the different systems of government.  
For example: Monarchy, Federal, Confederate, Unitary, Tribal, corporate

SS 8.1.1.b Analyze the structure and roles of the United States government in meeting the needs of the citizens governed, managing conflict, and establishing order and security.  
For example: Chinese Exclusion Act, Fugitive Slave Laws, 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments, antitrust laws, Homestead Act, Indian Removal Act

SS 8.1.1.c Examine the development of foundational laws and other documents in the United States government.  
For example: Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Preamble, Bill of Rights

SS 8.1.1.d Evaluate how various United States government decisions impact people, place, and history.  
For example: taxation, distribution of resources, acquisition of territories, Trail of Tears, Indian Removal Act, Dred Scott decision, treaties, Louisiana Purchase, census, Civil War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War

SS 8.1.1.e Describe how important government principles are shown in American government.  
For example: freedom, individual rights, representative democracy, equality, rule of law, popular sovereignty, justice, tribal sovereignty

SS 8.1.1.f Analyze the development and significance of political parties in the United States.  
For example: Federalists and Antifederalists

**Civic Participation**

SS 8.1.2 Evaluate the roles, responsibilities, and rights as local, state, national, and international citizens.

SS 8.1.2.a Demonstrate ways individuals participate in the political process.

For example: registering and voting, elections, contacting government officials, campaign involvement, demonstrating ethical use of information

SS 8.1.2.b Analyze the significance of patriotic symbols, songs and activities in terms of historical, social, and cultural contexts.

For example: Pledge of Allegiance, "The Star-Spangled Banner," "America the Beautiful," recognition of Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Constitution Day, Patriot's Day - 9/11, Native American Heritage Day, tribal flag songs

SS 8.1.2.c Demonstrate civic engagement.

For example: engaging in service learning projects, volunteerism, student government participation, participation in simulations of democratic processes (mock trials, elections, etc.), USCIS Citizenship test, communicating through civil discourse

SS 8.1.2.d Describe how cooperation and conflict among people have contributed to political, economic, and social events and situations in the United States.

For example: Louisiana Purchase, Civil War, Civil Disobedience, NAACP movement, women's movement, slave rebellions, Jim Crow laws

SS 8.1.2.e Compare and contrast the roles and influences of individuals, groups, and the media on American government.

For example: Seneca Falls Convention, Underground Railroad, Horace Greeley, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Jane Addams, Muckrakers, Booker T. Washington, Chief Standing Bear, Susan La Flesche

**Economics**

**Economic Decision Making**

SS 8.2.1 Not addressed at this level

**Financial Literacy**

SS 8.2.2 Understand personal and business financial management.

SS 8.2.2.a Identify skills for future financial success.

For example: Identify key terms associated with budgeting, credit, savings, credit score, investing, fraud, and risk management.

SS 8.2.2.b Understand tools, strategies, and systems used to maintain, monitor, control, and plan the use of financial resources.

For example: Analyze the impact of credit on an individual's ability to acquire goods and services, charitable contributions.

**Exchange and Markets**

SS 8.2.3 Not addressed at this level

### **National Economy**

SS 8.2.4 Justify and debate economic decisions made by North American societies.

SS 8.2.4.a Research the origins and development of the economic system, banks, and financial institutions in the United States.

For example: Examine the work of Alexander Hamilton and his influence on the banking system in the U.S. economy.

SS 8.2.4.b Explain how tax revenues are collected and distributed.

For example: Review the Constitution to understand the roles of each branch in establishing a national budget and how the separation of powers is structured.

SS 8.2.4.c Describe the progression of money and its role in early United States history.

For example: Identify what forms of currency/bartering were used as a medium for exchange among various Native American tribes. Examine what services and regulations were established during the Progressive Era as urban areas' populations boomed. Examine the National Banking Act of 1863.

### **Global Economy**

SS 8.2.5 Illustrate how international trade impacts individuals, organizations, and nations.

SS 8.2.5.a Explain that currency must be converted to make purchases in other countries.

For example: Trace the conversion of products and currency between the French and the indigenous tribes of the Midwest.

SS 8.2.5.b Recognize how trade barriers impact the prices and quantity of goods.

For example: Examine the impact of the Sugar and Molasses Act of 1733 and the Stamp Act of 1765.

### **Geography**

#### **Location and Place**

SS 8.3.1 Not addressed at this level

#### **Regions**

SS 8.3.2 Examine how regions form and change over time.

SS 8.3.2.a Evaluate physical and human characteristics of places and regions.

For example: climate, landforms, religious groups, ethnic groups

SS 8.3.2.b Determine the impact of land and water features on human decisions.

For example: location of settlements and transportation with respect to physical features

SS 8.3.2.c Identify and justify how humans develop major world regions and the impact on human societies.

For example: geographic factors that influence international relationships and economic development-trade, communication, transportation, infrastructure

**Human Environment Interaction**

SS 8.3.3 Determine how the natural environment is changed by natural and human forces and how humans adapt to their surroundings.

SS 8.3.3.a Interpret the impact of natural processes on human and physical environments.

For example: precipitation, drought, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, mudslides

SS 8.3.3.b Analyze how humans have utilized and adapted to their physical environment.

For example: rivers, wetlands, forests, treeless plains, precipitation, drought

**Movement**

SS 8.3.4 Not addressed at this level

**Geospatial Skills and Geo-literacy**

SS 8.3.5 Not addressed at this level

**History**

**Continuity, Change, and Context**

SS 8.4.1 Analyze patterns of continuity and change over time in United States history.

SS 8.4.1.a Evaluate the impact of people, events, and ideas, including various cultures and ethnic groups, on the United States.

For example: Columbian Exchange, European colonization and Native American response, Colonial America, Great Awakening, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, establishing a nation, Manifest Destiny, Indian Removal Act, slavery, expansion and reform, Dred Scott decision, secession, Abraham Lincoln, Civil War and Reconstruction, Standing Bear, rise of corporations, growth of organized labor, assembly line, immigration, industrialization John Deere, Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, George Washington Carver, democratic ideals, patriotism, citizen's rights

SS 8.4.1.b Evaluate the impact of historical events in the United States using symbols, maps, documents, and artifacts.

For example: founders and founding documents, national symbols

**Multiple Perspectives**

SS 8.4.2 Use multiple perspectives to evaluate the historical, social, and cultural context of past and current events.

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SS 8.4.2.a Compare and interpret evidence from multiple perspectives and sources to better understand the complexities of US history.

For example: Dawes Act, Santee Mankato Executions (Dakota Uprising), Chinese Exclusion Act, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Reconstruction Acts and Amendments, The Emancipation Proclamation, organized labor, Women's Suffrage Movement

SS 8.4.2.b Evaluate the relevancy, accuracy, and completeness of primary and secondary sources to better understand multiple perspectives of the same event.

For example: The Bill of Rights, slavery, Gettysburg Address, "The New Colossus" poem

SS 8.4.3 Examine historical events from the perspectives of marginalized and underrepresented groups.

SS 8.4.3.a Identify how differing experiences can lead to the development of perspectives.

For example: Compare primary accounts by American Indian peoples and American settlers regarding the expansion of the United States.

SS 8.4.3.b Interpret how and why marginalized and underrepresented groups and/or individuals might understand historical events similarly or differently.

For example: Compare how differing Native American groups and Spanish-speaking peoples responded to the Indian Removal Act and the Mexican-American War.

***Historical Analysis and Interpretation***

SS 8.4.4 Evaluate and interpret sources for perspective and historical context.

SS 8.4.4.a Compare and contrast primary and secondary sources of history.

For example: Compare what texts say about Wounded Knee Massacre to Black Elk's account of the same event.

SS 8.4.4.b Evaluate the relationships among historical events in the United States and relevant contemporary issues.

For example: political party platforms, continuing debates about role of government

***Historical Inquiry and Research Skills***

SS 8.4.5 Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.

SS 8.4.5.a Identify areas of inquiry by using student-generated questions about multiple historical sources.

For example: Why is the Gettysburg Address considered an important statement of American national ideals?

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SS 8.4.5.b Locate, analyze, and cite appropriate sources for research about United States history, including primary and secondary sources.

For example: classroom texts, Gettysburg Address, tribal treaties, major online historical archives like Library of Congress, National Archives, and local and state archives

SS 8.4.5.c Gather, analyze, and communicate historical information about United States history from multiple sources.

For example: primary sources, secondary sources, popular media, scholarly perspectives

## High School Civics

### **Summary**

In a constitutional republic, productive civic engagement requires knowledge about the functions of state and local government, courts and legal systems, the U.S. Constitution, other nations' systems and practices, and international institutions. Civics is not limited to the study of politics and society; it also encompasses participation in classrooms and schools, neighborhood, groups, and organizations using civic virtues and principles to guide that participation (which includes the discussion of issues and making choices and judgments with information and evidence, civility and respect, and concern for fair procedures). Civics enables students not only to study how others participate but also to practice participating and taking informed action themselves.

### ***Forms and Functions of Government***

SS HS.1.1 Analyze the foundation, structures, and functions of the United States government as well as local, state, and international governments.

SS HS.1.1.a Examine the historical foundation that influenced the creation of the United States Constitution.

For example: philosophers, social contract theory, natural rights, Constitutional Convention, Federalist, and Anti-Federalist Papers, Iroquois Confederation, and the imbalance of representation

SS HS.1.1.b Evaluate the structure of American constitutional government.

For example: federalism, democracy, representative government, branches of the government, separation of powers, checks and balances, amendment process, concurrent/enumerated/implied powers, electoral college, Bill of Rights, Reconstruction amendments, Prohibition, women's vote

SS HS.1.1.c Analyze the functions of United States government and its outcomes.

For example: national security, legislative law-making, executive implementation, judicial interpretation, constitutionalism, taxation, naturalization of citizens, environmental implications

SS HS.1.1.d Analyze the foundation, structures, and functions of local government and its outcomes.

For example: city council, school board, county government, regional boards, grassroots, local organizations, community organizations

SS HS.1.1.e Analyze the foundation, structures, and functions of state government and its outcomes.

For example: bicameral/unicameral, reapportionment/redistricting, branches of government, judiciary process, penal system

SS HS.1.1.f Analyze the foundation, structures, and functions of supranational organizations.

For example: United Nations, NATO, European Union, treaties, trade organizations, Native American Treaties

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SS HS.1.1.g Analyze the roles that political parties have played in the United States.

For example: Republican Party - Civil War, Populist Party - Progressive movement, Democratic Party - New Deal, Southern Strategy- Dixiecrats, emergence of the Tea Party Movement, hyperpartisanship

SS HS.1.1.h Analyze United States foreign policy issues.

For example: methods, approaches, events, and their outcomes on various groups of people

**Civic Participation**

SS HS.1.2 Demonstrate meaningful civic participation by analyzing local, state, national, or international issues and policies.

SS HS.1.2.a Investigate how individuals and groups can effectively use the structure and functions of various levels of government to shape policy.

For example: lobbying, voting, contacting government officials, petitioning, civil disobedience, tribal voting, tribal government officials, analyze past voting patterns and discuss methods to increase participation in voting

SS HS.1.2.b Analyze and communicate the significance and impacts of patriotic symbols, songs, holidays, and activities in terms of historical, social, and cultural contexts.

For example: Pledge of Allegiance, "The Star-Spangled Banner," "America the Beautiful," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and "I Have a Dream" speech, George Washington's Birthday, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Presidents Day, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, 4th of July, Hispanic Heritage month, tribal flag songs

SS HS.1.2.c Engage and reflect on participation in civic activities.

For example: discussing current issues, advocating for personal rights and the rights of others, influencing governmental actions, participating in civil discourse, registering for selective service, registering to vote, and voting when reaching the age of majority, participating in community improvement activities, service learning

SS HS.1.2.d Investigate an issue and communicate which level of government is most appropriate to utilize in addressing the issue.

For example: students communicate through an editorial, public service announcement, pamphlet, public presentation, tribal council, community entities

SS HS.1.2.e Demonstrate how individuals, groups, and the media check governmental practices.

For example: Watergate, Civil Rights movement, Suffrage movement

SS HS.1.2.f Analyze various media sources for accuracy and perspective.

For example: news media literacy, online civic reasoning

Nebraska Social Studies Standards  
**High School Economics**

**Summary**

Effective economic decision making requires that students have a keen understanding of the ways in which individuals, businesses, governments, and societies make decisions to allocate human capital, physical capital, and natural resources among alternative uses. This economic reasoning process involves the consideration of costs and benefits with the ultimate goal of making decisions that will enable individuals and societies to be as well-off as possible. The study of economics provides students with the concepts and tools necessary for an economic way of thinking and helps students understand the interaction of buyers and sellers in markets, workings of the national economy, and interactions within the global marketplace. Economics is grounded in knowledge about how people choose to use resources. Economic understanding helps individuals, businesses, governments, and societies choose what resources to allocate to work, to school, and to leisure; how many dollars to spend, and how many to save; and how to make informed decisions in a wide variety of contexts. Economic reasoning and skillful use of economic tools draw upon a strong base of knowledge about human capital, land, investments, money, income and production, taxes, and government expenditures. To be effective participants in our representative democracy, students need an understanding of economics.

***Economic Decision Making***

SS HS.2.1 Apply economic concepts that support rational decision making.

SS HS.2.1.a Make decisions by systematically considering alternatives and consequences through the use of cost benefit analysis.

For example: PACED decision making model (Problem, Alternatives, Criteria, Evaluate, Decision); Some potential topics could include options for energy sources, center pivot irrigation, oil pipeline through Nebraska, use of pesticides and fertilizers. Decisions made by businesses and social issues including corporate social responsibility programs, green energy, living wage, paid parental leave, equal pay, social entrepreneurship (businesses that aim to solve social problems).

SS HS.2.1.b Assess the incentives for investing in personal education, skills, and talents.

For example: Research returns to education, look at cost of education, and compare to earnings; costs of returning to small towns vs. cities

***Financial Literacy***

SS HS.2.2 Develop a plan to support short- and long-term goals.

SS HS.2.2.a Develop a budget using a financial record keeping tool.

For example: Mint.com, spreadsheet, Quicken, journal on paper

SS HS.2.2.b Compare and contrast different types of banking accounts and features.

For example: checking, savings, money market, CDs

SS HS.2.2.c Assess the effects of taxes on personal income.

For example: state income tax, federal income tax, social security, property tax, sales tax, etc.

SS HS.2.2.d Compare and contrast possible career choices.

SS HS.2.3 Critique strategies used to establish, build, maintain, monitor, and control credit.

SS HS.2.3.a Compare and contrast the costs and benefits of different types and sources of credit and debt.

For example: credit card interest rates, personal loans rates, mortgage rates, student loan rates, etc.

SS HS.2.3.b Investigate strategies to effectively manage debt and factors that influence credit ratings.

For example: Credit cards, auto loans, mortgages, extended warranties

SS HS.2.4 Evaluate savings, investment, and risk management strategies to achieve financial goals.

SS HS.2.4.a Explain the importance of saving and investing early to ensure financial security.

For example: compound interest, use rule of 72, time value of money

SS HS.2.4.b Develop an investment strategy to achieve short- and long-term goals utilizing a variety of investment vehicles.

For example: stocks, bonds, mutual funds, retirement plans, investment in education including analysis of student loans, average income of job, and repayment of loan, investment in homeownership vs. rental

SS HS.2.4.c Examine appropriate and cost effective risk management strategies.

For example: health, disability, life, auto insurance, personal identity protection, extended warranties, fraud protection

### **Exchange and Markets**

HS.2.5 Explain the role of markets in determining prices and allocating scarce goods and services.

SS HS.2.5.a Summarize the role of competition, markets, and prices.

For example: Use product and factor market/circular flow; compare market structures (perfect competition to monopoly)

SS HS.2.5.b Illustrate how markets determine changing equilibrium prices through supply and demand analysis.

For example: changes in demand and supply, changes in quantity demanded and quantity supplied

SS HS.2.5.c Hypothesize how competition between sellers could result in lower prices, higher quality products, and better customer service.

For example: Look at businesses in the monopolistic market structure - competing for consumer dollars, trying to earn your business.

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SS HS.2.5.d Investigate possible causes and consequences of shortages and surpluses.

For example: use current events and public policy - rent control and minimum wage, etc.

**National Economy**

SS HS.2.6 Explain how economic institutions impact different individuals and various groups.

SS HS.2.6.a Explain how various economic institutions have played a role in United States economic policy and practice.

For example: corporations, labor unions, financial institutions, stock markets, cooperatives, small business and entrepreneurs, and business partnerships

SS HS.2.6.b Calculate and describe the impact of economic indicators.

For example: trends and business cycles using GDP, unemployment rates including frictional, structural, cyclical, inflation/deflation rates

SS HS.2.6.c Describe the functions and role of the Federal Reserve System and its influence through monetary policy.

For example: balancing inflation and unemployment, and how banks and a sound monetary system are critical to a functioning economy

SS HS.2.7 Assess the roles of institutions such as clearly defined property rights and the rule of law in a market economy.

SS HS.2.7.a Assess how property rights are defined, enforced, and limited by government.

For example: contracts and the rule of law, zoning laws, eminent domain, Homestead Act, copyright laws, patents, and intellectual property

SS HS.2.8 Compare and contrast the roles and responsibilities of government and differing outcomes from various economic systems: command/communism, mixed, socialism, market, and traditional economic systems.

SS HS.2.8.a Examine how governments utilize taxation to provide goods and services to society.

For example: disaster relief, flood control, military and armed forces, ownership of resources

SS HS.2.8.b Evaluate the effectiveness of government policies altering market outcomes.

For example: Use economic theory to analyze current events and public policy. Compare and contrast farm subsidies and corporate incentives.

SS HS.2.8.c Critique government policies and regulations in areas of market failure.

For example: monopolies, externalities, non-enforcement of property rights

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SS HS.2.9 Examine the government's influence on economic systems through fiscal policy.

SS HS.2.9.a Explore various forms of taxation including income, sales, and capital gains and examine how governments can use taxing and spending policies to influence behavior.

For example: alcohol tax, home mortgage interest deduction, sales tax, etc.

SS HS.2.9.b Examine the impact of fiscal policy on budget deficits/surpluses and national debt.

For example: Spending resources to service the debt impacts opportunities for using the funds for other needs.

**Global Economy**

SS HS.2.10 Investigate how international trade affects individuals, organizations, the domestic economy, and other nations.

SS HS.2.10.a Explore comparative advantage among different countries.

For example: research on what different countries produce when they specialize in those products

SS HS.2.10.b Analyze the impact on prices and quantities of various trade policies, both domestically and internationally.

For example: tariffs, quotas, protectionist policies, and the resulting changes in price and quantity; research NAFTA and/or Brexit.

Nebraska Social Studies Standards  
**High School Geography**

**Summary**

To succeed in an increasingly interconnected world, Nebraska's next generation of citizens will need to be fluent in spatial knowledge. Geography at the high school level prepares students to understand the world and their place in it. Beyond merely knowing "Where?" the geographically minded person will be better equipped to answer the question of "Why there?" An integrative study of our planet's human and physical features will involve 21st century technologies and inquiry-based research methods. This approach will expand students' geographic knowledge and enable them to think critically about problems. Through analysis of spatial patterns and relationships over time and place, students will be better able to make sense of both the past and present, and be well equipped to address society's future needs.

***Location and Place***

SS HS.3.1 Evaluate where (spatial) and why people, places, and environments are organized on the Earth's surface.

SS HS.3.1.a Determine spatial organization of human settlements in relation to natural features.

For example: population density and distribution, world climate regions, city categorization, natural resource deposits, agricultural hearths, croplands, structure of communities, highway and rail networks

SS HS.3.1.b Analyze and explain changes in spatial patterns as a result of the interactions among human and physical processes.

For example: major world physical features (mountains, seas, rivers), patterns of human settlement on local, regional, national, and global scale, governmental systems, economic systems, site and situation, Weber's Least Cost Theory, Von Thunen Model of Land Use

***Regions***

SS HS.3.2 Evaluate how regions form and change over time.

SS HS.3.2.a Analyze physical and human processes that shape places and regions.

For example: historical influences, current events, natural disasters, climate change, conflicts, natural processes (erosion, plate tectonics), relationships and connections

SS HS.3.2.b Examine the importance of places and regions to individual and social identity and how identities change over space and time.

For example: popular cultural traits, folk cultural traits, national monuments and folklore, nationalism, ethnicity, migration, urbanization, demographic transition model, industrial development, toponymy (place names), regional identity (Corn Belt, Heartland, Homeland)

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### SS HS.3.2.c Evaluate the interdependence of places and regions.

For example: models of industrial and economic development, new international division of labor, supranational organizations (The United Nations, Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN], or The European Union), globalization, popular culture, international trade agreements, patterns of human migration, alliances, Paris Climate Agreement, central place theory

### **Human-Environment Interactions**

SS HS.3.3 Analyze how the natural environment and cultural landscape are transformed by natural and human forces and interpret how humans adapt to their surroundings.

SS HS.3.3.a Explain components of Earth's physical systems and evaluate the impact of natural processes on human environments.

For example: atmosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and hydrosphere, plate tectonics/continental drift, global ocean systems, atmospheric systems, natural disasters, Earth's orbit, seasonal changes in ice coverage, greenhouse effect

SS HS.3.3.b Evaluate how humans have utilized and adapted to their physical environment.

For example: renewable and non-renewable resources, the cultural landscape, natural disasters (hurricanes, wildfires), environmental technological adaptations (air conditioning, skyways, insulation), synthetic materials, human modifications to physical environment, conservation and environmentalism, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), agricultural revolutions, transportation networks, industrial revolutions, Von Thunen Model of Land Use, deforestation, desertification

### **Movement**

SS HS.3.4 Compare and contrast patterns of human populations and culture over space and time on a local, national, and global scale.

SS HS.3.4.a Compare trends in human migration, urbanization, and demographic composition at a local, national, and global scale over time and short-term and long-term causes and effects.

For example: urban models, Demographic Transition Model, rural organization (long lot, metes and bounds, township and range), rural to urban migration, Human Development Index, Borchert's Epochs, trends locally, nationally, and globally over time, migration push and pull factors, effects of migration on both the source regions and destinations, More Developed Countries (MDCs) and Less Developed Countries (LDCs), demography

SS HS.3.4.b Examine the spread of cultural traits and the potential benefits and challenges of cultural diffusion, economic development, and globalization.

For example: cultural convergence and divergence, universalizing and ethnic religions, competition between multinational corporations and local businesses, folk cultures and popular cultures, spread of ideas (such as economic ideals, ideas on government, gender norms), diffusion of medical knowledge and impact on demographics, agricultural and industrial revolutions, models of economic development, the cultural landscape, Third Agricultural Revolution (Green Revolution), internet connectivity and cell phone networks, lingua franca, hypernationalism

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SS HS.3.4.c Analyze the relationships of sovereign nations and the role of multinational organizations on conflict and cooperation both between and within countries.

For example: impacts of membership in multinational organizations and agreements, treaties, resource and technology exchanges, Heartland and Rimland Theory, demarcation of borders, territorial morphology

**Geospatial Skills and Geo-literacy**

SS HS.3.5 Evaluate issues and/or events using geographic knowledge and geospatial skills to make informed decisions.

SS HS.3.5.a Apply geographic knowledge and skills to interpret the past and present in order to plan for the future.

For example: developing a geographic question, acquiring and organizing data/information, performing analysis, presenting findings, and developing action plan

SS HS.3.5.b Analyze how geospatial skills and geo-literacy are applied to improve standards of living and solve problems.

For example: Examine how geospatial technologies (such as GIS [Geographic Information Systems] and remote sensing) and geographic knowledge (such as geopolitics) can be applied to better understand the world, address issues, and make spatial decisions (such as determining market potential, optimum usage of irrigation and fertilizers, or mapping public health outbreaks to determine source).

SS HS.3.5.c Evaluate geographical information sources for applications, credibility, and appropriateness in displaying spatial data.

For example: use maps (paper, digital, and mental), atlases, Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and forms of quantitative/qualitative data, analyze a map to determine appropriate use of scale, evaluate strengths and weaknesses of different map projections

Nebraska Social Studies Standards  
**High School History**

**Summary**

History involves acquiring knowledge about significant events, developments, individuals, groups, documents, places, and ideas to support investigations about the past. Acquiring relevant knowledge requires assembling information from a wide variety of sources in an integrative process. Developing historical knowledge in connection with historical investigations not only helps students better remember the content because it has meaning, but also allows students to become better critical thinkers. High school history courses emphasize historical thinking. Historical thinking requires understanding and evaluating change and continuity over time, and making appropriate use of historical evidence in answering questions and developing arguments about the past. It involves going beyond simply asking, "What happened when?" to evaluating why and how events occurred and developments unfolded. It involves locating and assessing historical sources of many different types to understand the contexts of given historical eras and the perspectives of different individuals and groups within geographic units that range from the local to the global. Historical thinking is a process of chronological reasoning, which means wrestling with issues of causality, connections, significance, and context with the goal of developing credible explanations of historical events and developments based on reasoned interpretation of evidence.

**United States History (Progressive Era – Present)**

***Change, Continuity and Context***

HS.4.1 (US) Analyze and evaluate patterns of continuity and change over time in American history.

SS HS.4.1.a (US) Evaluate the cause and effect of historical events on various groups in the United States.

For example: To which conditions were Progressives responding? Why did the United States enter World War I? What caused the Great Depression? What caused the interpretation of "separate but equal" to change over time?

SS HS.4.1.b (US) Select, record, and interpret key national events in chronological order.

For example: Progressive Era, Women's Suffrage, World War I, Great Migration, Great Depression and New Deal, Naziism, World War II, Holocaust, Cold War, Civil Rights Era, contemporary United States

SS HS.4.1.c (US) Evaluate the impact of people, events, and ideas, including various cultures and ethnic groups, on the United States.

For example: 19th Amendment, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, Dolores Huerta, desegregation of the military following WWII, March on Washington, Movement for the Restoration of Tribal Status, continuing struggle for equality

**Multiple Perspectives**

SS HS.4.2 (US) Analyze the complexity of the interaction of multiple perspectives to investigate causes and effects of significant events in the development of history.

SS HS.4.2.a (US) Identify and evaluate how considering multiple perspectives facilitates an understanding of history.

For example: Nineteenth Amendment, 1924 National Origins Act, Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, Bracero program, Civil Rights Movement

SS HS.4.2.b (US) Evaluate the relevancy, accuracy, and completeness of primary and secondary sources to better understand multiple perspectives of the same event.

For example: Theodore Roosevelt's New Nationalism and Woodrow Wilson's New Freedom, Indian Reorganization Act and responses from tribal leaders, differing strategies in the struggle to gain black equality

SS HS.4.3 (US) Examine historical events from the perspectives of marginalized and underrepresented groups.

SS HS.4.3.a (US) Identify how differing experiences can lead to the development of perspectives.

For example: religious, racial or ethnic groups, immigrants, women, LGBTQ persons, and Native American nations

SS HS.4.3.b (US) Interpret how and why marginalized and underrepresented groups and/or individuals might understand historical events similarly or differently.

For example: Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965, Stonewall Riots, American Indian Movement, Equal Rights Amendment, Civil Rights Act of 1964, *West Virginia v. Barnette*, United Farm Workers

**Historical Analysis and Interpretation**

SS HS.4.4 (US) Evaluate sources for perspective, limitations, accuracy, and historical context.

SS HS.4.4.a (US) Compare, contrast, and critique the central arguments in primary and secondary sources of history from multiple media.

For example: written documents, radio broadcasts, news broadcasts, film, newspapers, photographs, oral histories, virtual museum exhibits

SS HS.4.4.b (US) Evaluate strengths and limitations of a variety of primary and secondary historical sources.

For example: Jane Addams on settlement houses, Franklin Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" Speech, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Equal Rights Amendment

SS HS.4.4.c (US) Determine the relationship between multiple causes and effects of events and developments in the past.

For example: patterns of immigration and migration, presidential leadership strategies, tactics among different civil rights organizations

SS HS.4.4.d (US) Synthesize the relationships among historical events in the United States and relevant contemporary issues.

For example: voting behavior, political party platforms, economic trends, place relevant current events in historical context, the relationship between Native Americans living on and off the reservation

***Historical Inquiry and Research***

SS HS.4.5 (US) Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.

SS HS.4.5.a (US) Construct meaningful questions about topics in U.S. history.

For example: "Why did the United States enter World War I?"

SS HS.4.5.b (US) Locate, evaluate, and cite appropriate sources for research about selected topics in U.S. History, including primary and secondary sources.

For example: Examine speeches from President Woodrow Wilson leading up to World War I, examine internal communications within Wilson administration, examine press coverage of events leading up to American entry.

SS HS.4.5.c (US) Select, organize, and corroborate relevant historical information about selected topics in U.S. History.

For example: Compare the sources and determine an initial answer to the inquiry.

SS HS.4.5.d (US) Synthesize historical information to create new understandings.

For example: Compare the answer students have created to secondary sources and potentially revise students' answers.

SS HS.4.5.e (US) Communicate inquiry results within a historical context.

For example: Provide an evidence-based answer to the inquiry, "Why did the United States enter World War I?"

**World History (1500 CE – Present)**

***Change, Continuity, and Context***

HS.4.1 (WLD) Analyze and evaluate patterns of continuity and change over time in world history.

SS HS.4.1.a (WLD) Evaluate the cause and effect of historical events in the world.

For example: How did the rise of totalitarianism lead to war?

SS HS.4.1.b (WLD) Select, record, and interpret key global events in chronological order.

For example: emergence of new states and cultures, increased inter-regional trade, colonization and expansion, global interactions, Industrialization, Age of Revolutions, Imperialism, global conflict, Holocaust, globalization, decolonization, Cold War, contemporary events

SS HS.4.1.c (WLD) Evaluate the impact of people, events, and ideas, including various cultures and ethnic groups, on the world.

For example: trade networks, empires, revolutions, treaties, warfare, diplomacy, migration and immigration

***Multiple Perspectives***

SS HS.4.2 (WLD) Analyze the complexity of the interaction of multiple perspectives to investigate causes and effects of significant events in the development of history.

SS HS.4.2.a (WLD) Identify and evaluate how considering multiple perspectives facilitates an understanding of history.

For example: Scramble for Africa and indigenous response, Arab-Israeli Conflict, French Revolution, Haitian Revolution

SS HS.4.2.b (WLD) Evaluate the relevancy, accuracy, and completeness of primary and secondary sources to better understand multiple perspectives of the same event.

For example: compare accounts from colonizers and colonized, impact of trade on different population groups

SS HS.4.3 (WLD) Examine historical events from the perspectives of diverse groups.

SS HS.4.3.a (WLD) Identify how differing experiences can lead to the development of perspectives.

For example: diverse groups of historical figures and examples from political, religious, and ethnic groups

SS HS.4.3.b (WLD) Interpret how and why diverse groups and/or individuals might understand historical events similarly or differently.

For example: diverse groups of historical actors and examples from national, religious, and ethnic groups

**Historical Analysis and Interpretation**

SS HS.4.4 (WLD) Evaluate sources for perspective, limitations, accuracy, and historical context.

SS HS.4.4.a (WLD) Compare, contrast, and critique the central arguments in primary and secondary sources of history from multiple media.

For example: written documents, radio broadcasts, news broadcasts, film, newspapers, photographs, oral histories, virtual museum exhibits, works of art

SS HS.4.4.b (WLD) Evaluate strengths and limitations of a variety of primary and secondary historical sources.

For example: written and visual documents

SS HS.4.4.c (WLD) Determine the relationship between multiple causes and effects of events and developments in the past.

For example: patterns of migration and immigration, wars, diplomacy, government structures, religious movements

SS HS.4.4.d (WLD) Synthesize the relationships among historical events in the world and relevant contemporary issues.

For example: current events from various international news sources

**Historical Inquiry and Research**

SS HS.4.5 (WLD) Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.

SS HS.4.5.a (WLD) Construct meaningful questions that initiate an inquiry.

For example: "Can peace lead to war?"

SS HS.4.5.b (WLD) Locate, evaluate, and cite appropriate sources for research about selected topics in world history, including primary and secondary sources.

For example: Examine the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations founding documents, examine maps from before and after treaty, examine contemporary responses to the treaty from a variety of countries.

SS HS.4.5.c (WLD) Select, organize, and corroborate relevant historical information about selected topics in world history.

For example: Compare the sources and determine an initial answer to the inquiry.

SS HS.4.5.d (WLD) Synthesize historical information to create new understandings.

For example: Compare the answer students have created to secondary sources and potentially revise students' answers.

SS HS.4.5.e (WLD) Communicate inquiry results within a historical context.

For example: Provide an evidence-based answer to the inquiry, "How do countries make decisions about war and peace?"



## Civics (History and Government) Questions for the Naturalization Test

The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test are listed below. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. An applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test.

On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. As you study for the test, make sure that you know the most current answers to these questions. Answer these questions with the name of the official who is serving at the time of your eligibility interview with USCIS. The USCIS Officer will not accept an incorrect answer.

**Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to the 100 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided below.**

### AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

#### A: Principles of American Democracy

- 1. What is the supreme law of the land?**
  - *the Constitution*
- 2. What does the Constitution do?**
  - *sets up the government*
  - *defines the government*
  - *protects basic rights of Americans*
- 3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?**
  - *We the People*
- 4. What is an amendment?**
  - *a change (to the Constitution)*
  - *an addition (to the Constitution)*
- 5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?**
  - *the Bill of Rights*
- 6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?\***
  - *speech*
  - *religion*
  - *assembly*
  - *press*
  - *petition the government*
- 7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?**
  - *twenty-seven (27)*

\* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

8. **What did the Declaration of Independence do?**
  - *announced our independence (from Great Britain)*
  - *declared our independence (from Great Britain)*
  - *said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)*
9. **What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?**
  - *life*
  - *liberty*
  - *pursuit of happiness*
10. **What is freedom of religion?**
  - *You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.*
11. **What is the economic system in the United States?\***
  - *capitalist economy*
  - *market economy*
12. **What is the “rule of law”?**
  - *Everyone must follow the law.*
  - *Leaders must obey the law.*
  - *Government must obey the law.*
  - *No one is above the law.*

## **B: System of Government**

13. **Name one branch or part of the government.\***
  - *Congress*
  - *legislative*
  - *President*
  - *executive*
  - *the courts*
  - *judicial*
14. **What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?**
  - *checks and balances*
  - *separation of powers*
15. **Who is in charge of the executive branch?**
  - *the President*
16. **Who makes federal laws?**
  - *Congress*
  - *Senate and House (of Representatives)*
  - *(U.S. or national) legislature*
17. **What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?\***
  - *the Senate and House (of Representatives)*
18. **How many U.S. Senators are there?**
  - *one hundred (100)*

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19. **We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?**
  - *six (6)*
20. **Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?\***
  - *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories should answer that D.C. (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.]*
21. **The House of Representatives has how many voting members?**
  - *four hundred thirty-five (435)*
22. **We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?**
  - *two (2)*
23. **Name your U.S. Representative.**
  - *Answers will vary. [Residents of territories with nonvoting Delegates or Resident Commissioners may provide the name of that Delegate or Commissioner. Also acceptable is any statement that the territory has no (voting) Representatives in Congress.]*
24. **Who does a U.S. Senator represent?**
  - *all people of the state*
25. **Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?**
  - *(because of) the state's population*
  - *(because) they have more people*
  - *(because) some states have more people*
26. **We elect a President for how many years?**
  - *four (4)*
27. **In what month do we vote for President?\***
  - *November*
28. **What is the name of the President of the United States now?\***
  - *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name of the President of the United States.*
29. **What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?**
  - *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name of the Vice President of the United States.*
30. **If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?**
  - *the Vice President*
31. **If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?**
  - *the Speaker of the House*
32. **Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?**
  - *the President*
33. **Who signs bills to become laws?**
  - *the President*
34. **Who vetoes bills?**
  - *the President*
35. **What does the President's Cabinet do?**
  - *advises the President*

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**36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?**

- *Secretary of Agriculture*
- *Secretary of Commerce*
- *Secretary of Defense*
- *Secretary of Education*
- *Secretary of Energy*
- *Secretary of Health and Human Services*
- *Secretary of Homeland Security*
- *Secretary of Housing and Urban Development*
- *Secretary of the Interior*
- *Secretary of Labor*
- *Secretary of State*
- *Secretary of Transportation*
- *Secretary of the Treasury*
- *Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
- *Attorney General*
- *Vice President*

**37. What does the judicial branch do?**

- *reviews laws*
- *explains laws*
- *resolves disputes (disagreements)*
- *decides if a law goes against the Constitution*

**38. What is the highest court in the United States?**

- *the Supreme Court*

**39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?**

- *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the number of justices on the Supreme Court.*

**40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?**

- *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name of the Chief Justice of the United States.*

**41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?**

- *to print money*
- *to declare war*
- *to create an army*
- *to make treaties*

**42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?**

- *provide schooling and education*
- *provide protection (police)*
- *provide safety (fire departments)*
- *give a driver's license*
- *approve zoning and land use*

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43. **Who is the Governor of your state now?**
- *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a Governor.]*
44. **What is the capital of your state?\***
- *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. Residents of U.S. territories should name the capital of the territory.]*
45. **What are the two major political parties in the United States?\***
- *Democratic and Republican*
46. **What is the political party of the President now?**
- *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the political party of the President.*
47. **What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?**
- *Visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates) for the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### C: Rights and Responsibilities

48. **There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.**
- *Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).*
  - *You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.*
  - *Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)*
  - *A male citizen of any race (can vote).*
49. **What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?\***
- *serve on a jury*
  - *vote in a federal election*
50. **Name one right only for United States citizens.**
- *vote in a federal election*
  - *run for federal office*
51. **What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?**
- *freedom of expression*
  - *freedom of speech*
  - *freedom of assembly*
  - *freedom to petition the government*
  - *freedom of religion*
  - *the right to bear arms*
52. **What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?**
- *the United States*
  - *the flag*
53. **What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?**
- *give up loyalty to other countries*
  - *defend the Constitution and laws of the United States*
  - *obey the laws of the United States*
  - *serve in the U.S. military (if needed)*
  - *serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)*
  - *be loyal to the United States*

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- 54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?\***
- *eighteen (18) and older*
- 55. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?**
- *vote*
  - *join a political party*
  - *help with a campaign*
  - *join a civic group*
  - *join a community group*
  - *give an elected official your opinion on an issue*
  - *call Senators and Representatives*
  - *publicly support or oppose an issue or policy*
  - *run for office*
  - *write to a newspaper*
- 56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?\***
- *April 15*
- 57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?**
- *at age eighteen (18)*
  - *between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)*

## AMERICAN HISTORY

### A: Colonial Period and Independence

- 58. What is one reason colonists came to America?**
- *freedom*
  - *political liberty*
  - *religious freedom*
  - *economic opportunity*
  - *practice their religion*
  - *escape persecution*
- 59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?**
- *American Indians*
  - *Native Americans*
- 60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?**
- *Africans*
  - *people from Africa*
- 61. Why did the colonists fight the British?**
- *because of high taxes (taxation without representation)*
  - *because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)*
  - *because they didn't have self-government*

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- 62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?**
- *(Thomas) Jefferson*
- 63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?**
- *July 4, 1776*
- 64. There were 13 original states. Name three.**
- *New Hampshire*
  - *Massachusetts*
  - *Rhode Island*
  - *Connecticut*
  - *New York*
  - *New Jersey*
  - *Pennsylvania*
  - *Delaware*
  - *Maryland*
  - *Virginia*
  - *North Carolina*
  - *South Carolina*
  - *Georgia*
- 65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?**
- *The Constitution was written.*
  - *The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.*
- 66. When was the Constitution written?**
- *1787*
- 67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.**
- *(James) Madison*
  - *(Alexander) Hamilton*
  - *(John) Jay*
  - *Publius*
- 68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?**
- *U.S. diplomat*
  - *oldest member of the Constitutional Convention*
  - *first Postmaster General of the United States*
  - *writer of “Poor Richard’s Almanac”*
  - *started the first free libraries*
- 69. Who is the “Father of Our Country”?**
- *(George) Washington*
- 70. Who was the first President?\***
- *(George) Washington*

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## **B: 1800s**

**71. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?**

- *the Louisiana Territory*
- *Louisiana*

**72. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.**

- *War of 1812*
- *Mexican-American War*
- *Civil War*
- *Spanish-American War*

**73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.**

- *the Civil War*
- *the War between the States*

**74. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.**

- *slavery*
- *economic reasons*
- *states' rights*

**75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?\***

- *freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)*
- *saved (or preserved) the Union*
- *led the United States during the Civil War*

**76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?**

- *freed the slaves*
- *freed slaves in the Confederacy*
- *freed slaves in the Confederate states*
- *freed slaves in most Southern states*

**77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?**

- *fought for women's rights*
- *fought for civil rights*

## **C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information**

**78. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.\***

- *World War I*
- *World War II*
- *Korean War*
- *Vietnam War*
- *(Persian) Gulf War*

**79. Who was President during World War I?**

- *(Woodrow) Wilson*

**80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?**

- *(Franklin) Roosevelt*

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- 81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?**
- *Japan, Germany, and Italy*
- 82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?**
- *World War II*
- 83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?**
- *Communism*
- 84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?**
- *civil rights (movement)*
- 85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?\***
- *fought for civil rights*
  - *worked for equality for all Americans*
- 86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?**
- *Terrorists attacked the United States.*
- 87. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.**  
*[USCIS Officers will be supplied with a list of federally recognized American Indian tribes.]*
- *Cherokee*
  - *Navajo*
  - *Sioux*
  - *Chippewa*
  - *Choctaw*
  - *Pueblo*
  - *Apache*
  - *Iroquois*
  - *Creek*
  - *Blackfeet*
  - *Seminole*
  - *Cheyenne*
  - *Arawak*
  - *Shawnee*
  - *Mohegan*
  - *Huron*
  - *Oneida*
  - *Lakota*
  - *Crow*
  - *Teton*
  - *Hopi*
  - *Inuit*

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## INTEGRATED CIVICS

### A: Geography

88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

- *Missouri (River)*
- *Mississippi (River)*

89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

- *Pacific (Ocean)*

90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

- *Atlantic (Ocean)*

91. Name one U.S. territory.

- *Puerto Rico*
- *U.S. Virgin Islands*
- *American Samoa*
- *Northern Mariana Islands*
- *Guam*

92. Name one state that borders Canada.

- *Maine*
- *New Hampshire*
- *Vermont*
- *New York*
- *Pennsylvania*
- *Ohio*
- *Michigan*
- *Minnesota*
- *North Dakota*
- *Montana*
- *Idaho*
- *Washington*
- *Alaska*

93. Name one state that borders Mexico.

- *California*
- *Arizona*
- *New Mexico*
- *Texas*

94. What is the capital of the United States?\*

- *Washington, D.C.*

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?\*

- *New York (Harbor)*
- *Liberty Island*

*[Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]*

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## **B: Symbols**

- 96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?**
- *because there were 13 original colonies*
  - *because the stripes represent the original colonies*
- 97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?\***
- *because there is one star for each state*
  - *because each star represents a state*
  - *because there are 50 states*
- 98. What is the name of the national anthem?**
- *The Star-Spangled Banner*

## **C: Holidays**

- 99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?\***
- *July 4*
- 100. Name two national U.S. holidays.**
- *New Year's Day*
  - *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
  - *Presidents' Day*
  - *Memorial Day*
  - *Independence Day*
  - *Labor Day*
  - *Columbus Day*
  - *Veterans Day*
  - *Thanksgiving*
  - *Christmas*

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There are some requirements that we need to meet in our Social Studies Curriculum. September 17<sup>th</sup> is designated as Constitution Day. This is to highlight the historic and continuing importance of the United States Constitution. We had all students watch a video that was a refresher course covering the Constitution. We must also incorporate 1 of 3 items into the curriculum to meet requirements and this must be done prior to the completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and again prior to the completion of 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We have chosen to administer the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The score of this test must be made available to a parent or guardian of the student.

Sincerely,

Jeff Murphy  
7-12 Principal