

Social Studies

Colorado Sample Graduation Competencies and Evidence Outcomes

Social Studies Graduation Competency 1

History

Analyze key historical periods, patterns of change over time within and across nations and cultures, and how people view, construct, and interpret history

Elementary School

- a. Analyze historical sources from multiple points of view to develop an understanding of historical context.
- b. Analyze key periods of North American (from exploration to the American Revolution) and Colorado history, including historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas, and themes and identify patterns of change over time.

Middle School

- a. Select and evaluate multiple historical sources with different points of view to investigate a historical question and to formulate and defend a thesis with evidence.
- b. Analyze the historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas, themes and their relationships within United States and World History.

High School

- a. Use the historical method of inquiry to ask questions, evaluate primary and secondary sources, critically analyze and interpret data, and develop interpretations defended by evidence.
- b. Analyze key concepts of continuity and change, cause and effect, complexity, unity and diversity over time.
- c. Evaluate the significance of ideas as powerful forces throughout history.



Social Studies Graduation Competency 2

Geography

Examine places and regions and the connections among them to develop spatial understanding, perspectives, and personal connections to the world

Elementary School

- a. Use various geographic tools and sources to answer questions about the geography of the United States and Colorado.
- b. Draw conclusions about the causes and consequences of movement.

Middle School

- a. Use geographic tools to analyze patterns in human and physical systems by gathering data, making inferences and predictions.
- b. Analyze examples of conflict and cooperation resulting from different geographic perspectives.

High School

- a. Use different types of maps and geographic tools to analyze features on Earth to investigate and solve geographic questions.
- b. Explain and interpret geographic variables that influence the interactions of people, places and environments.
- c. Investigate the interconnected nature of the world, its people and places.



Social Studies Graduation Competency 3

Economics

Acquire the knowledge and economic reasoning skills to make sound financial decisions and understand the allocation of scarce resources in societies through analysis of individual choice, market interaction, and public policy

Elementary School

- a. Describe how government and market structures influence financial institutions.
- b. Identify how financial institutions are used to manage personal finances (PFL).

Middle School

- a. Analyze the role of supply, demand, and economic freedom in different economic systems.
- b. Examine how the distribution of resources influences economic production and individual choices, including credit and debt.

High School

- a. Analyze and evaluate how choices are made about how individuals, businesses, governments, and societies allocate resources.
- b. Evaluate how governmental economic decisions and business competition affect markets.
- c. Design, analyze, and apply a financial plan based on short- and long-term financial goals including spending, saving and investment options and evaluate risk-management strategies.



Social Studies Graduation Competency

Civics

Analyze and practice rights, roles, and responsibilities of citizens and the structure and function of governments.

Elementary School

- a. Identify the rights, roles, and responsibilities of citizens that form the foundation of citizenship in the United States.
- b. Identify and explain the origins, structure, and functions of the United States and Colorado government.

Middle School

- a. Compare how various nations (including the United States) define the rights, responsibilities, and roles of citizens.
- b. Compare different forms of government and their influence on the world community.

High School

- a. Research, formulate positions, and engage in appropriate civic participation to address local, state, and national issues or policies.
- b. Evaluate the purpose of and limitations on the foundations, structures, and functions of government.
- c. Analyze how public policy - domestic and foreign - is developed at the local, state, and national levels and compare how policy-making occurs in other forms of government.

