

**Social Studies Core  
Behavioral Sciences**

Grades 6-8

Essential Concepts and Skills

Definition

Examples

SS.6-8.BS.1	Understand the changing nature of society	Various institutions influence people, elements of culture	Technology is important in spreading ideas, values, and behavior patterns within a society.	Means by which individuals, groups and institutions may contribute to social continuity and change within a community.
SS.6-8.BS.2	Understand how personality and socialization impact the individual	Ways family, gender, ethnicity nationality, socioeconomic factors and institutional affiliations contribute to personal identity.	Influence perception, attitudes, values and beliefs on personal identity	
SS.6-8.BS.3	Influences on individual and group behavior and group decision making.	Various factors affect decisions that individuals make.	Media may influence behavior and decision making of individuals and groups.	Each culture has distinctive patterns of behavior that are usually practiced by most of the people who grow up in it
SS.6-8.BS.4	Process how humans develop, learn, adapt to their environment, and internalize their culture.	Behavior is affected by both inheritance and experience.	Values, language, beliefs contribute to transmission of culture.	Language and tools enable human beings to learn complicated and varied things from others. Technology is important in spreading ideas, values, and behavior patterns of society.

SS.6-8.BS.5	Current social issues to determine how the individual is able to formulate opinions and respond to those issues	Personal values influence the types of conclusions people make.	Concepts of bias, prejudice, stereotyping, power, role, status, justice.	Group and institutional influences on people, events and elements of culture.
SS.6-8.BS.6	How to evaluate social research and information	Human behavior is studied using scientific methods.	Basic distinctions between information that is based on fact and information that is based on opinion.	
<b>Economics</b> <u>Essential Concepts and Skills</u>				
SS.6-8.E.1	Role of scarcity and economic trade-offs and how economic conditions impact people's lives.	Cost and benefit of economic trade-offs and how scarcity of resources affect costs and benefits.	Economic trade-offs at different levels (personal, business, local government).	Short term and long term impact of economic trade-offs on society.
SS.6-8.E.2	Functions of economic institutions	Services that are available at banks and credit unions.	Process of interests and payments for goods. Role banks play among savers, borrowers, and investors.	Types of specialized economic institutions found in market economies (corporations, partnerships, cooperatives, labor unions, banks and non-profit organizations).

SS.6-8.E.3	How governments throughout the world influence economic behavior	Goods and services that the government provides. Governments purpose in preventing monopolies	How taxes are used, revenues, and expenditures in the federal budget. Process of filing personal tax returns.	Concept of a balanced budget, budget deficit, budget surplus, and national debt. Role of the Federal Reserve on the economy.
SS.6-8.E.4	Factors that create patterns of interdependence in the world economy	Impact of imported and exported goods and services on the local economy.	Free trade and trade barriers.	Increased interdependence of the world market causes economic conditions in one country to affect others.
SS.6-8.E.5	Impact of advancing in technologies on the global economy.	Evolution of technology over time.	Role of technologies that interlock the global economy	Role of investment and government support in advancing technologies.
SS.6-8.E.6	Universal economic concepts present themselves in various types of economies throughout the world.	How laws of supply and demand affect price and consumers responses to prices.	Understand unemployment, role of profit in motivating entrepreneurs in starting new businesses.	Causes of inflation, deflation, and recessions and who gains or loses from them. Change of price for one good or service can affect the price for other goods and services.
SS.6-8.E.7	Function of common financial instruments	Checking accounts	Understand that bank accounts, loans and other services vary from one bank to another.	

<b>Geography</b> <u>Essential Concepts and Skills</u>				
SS.6-8.G.1	Use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.	Characteristics and purposes of geographic tools and representations of earth such as maps, globes, graphs, GIS.	Understand mental maps of locales, regions, and the world.	Understand geographical relationships such as population density and spatial distribution patterns.
SS.6-8.G.2	Use of geographic and human characteristics create culture and define regions.	Human and physical characteristics of place. Concept of region	Physical environment affects life in different regions.	Communities reflect the cultural backgrounds of their inhabitants. Patterns of cultural diffusion.
SS.6-8.G.3	Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of society and the movement of populations	World patterns of resource distribution and utilizations	Interactions of land use, settlement patterns, cultural transmission of customs and ideas and ecosystem change	Development and widespread use of alternative energy sources have an impact on societies. Physical and human geographic factors have influenced major historic events and movements.

SS.6-8.G.4	<u>Physical processes and human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans</u>	<u>Human systems develop in response to conditions in the physical environment.</u>	<u>Environmental consequences of both the unintended and intended outcomes of major technological changes in human history.</u>	<u>Environmental consequences of people changing the physical environment. Technology influences the human capacity to modify the physical environment.</u>
<b>History</b> <u>Essential Concept and Skills</u>				
SS.6-8.H.1	Historical patterns, periods of time and the relationships among these elements	Understand concepts such as chronology, causality, change, conflict and complexity	Historical periods and patterns of change within and across cultures, such as the rise of civilizations, transportation systems, etc.	
SS.6-8.H.2	Understand how and why people create, maintain or change systems of power, authority and governance.	Understand political events that shaped the development of governments	Understand patterns of nationalism, state-building, religious and social reform	
SS.6-8.H.3	Understand the role of culture and cultural diffusion on the development and maintenance of societies	Understand ways groups, societies, and cultures have met human needs and concerns in the past.	How information and experiences from the past may be interpreted by people from diverse cultural perspectives and frames of reference.	Language, literature, the arts, architecture, other artifacts, traditions, beliefs values and behaviors have contributed to the development and transmission of culture.

SS.6-8.H.4	Understand the role of individuals and groups within a society as promoters of change or the status quo.	Specific individuals and the values of those individuals held had an impact on history.	Significant events and people, including women and minorities in the major eras of history
SS.6-8.H.5	Understand the effect of economic needs and wants on individual and group decisions.	Economic concepts that help explain historical and current developments and issues in local, national, or global contexts.	Reform, revolution, and social change in the world economy.
SS.6-8.H.6	Understand the effects of geographic factors on historical events	Historical events have been influenced by and have influenced physical and human geographic factors in local, regional, national and global settings.	Forces of cooperation and conflict that shaped the divisions of Earth's surface Geography is used to interpret the past.

SS.6-8.H.7	Understand the role of innovation on the development and interaction of societies	<p>Technology has influenced the course of history through revolutions in agriculture, manufacturing, sanitation, medicine warfare transportation, information processing, and communications</p> <p>Impact of new inventions and technological developments in various regions of the world.</p>
SS.6-8.H.8	Cause and effect relationships and other historical thinking skills in order to interpret events and issues	<p>Processes such as using a variety of sources, providing, validating and weighing evidence for claims</p> <p>Relationships between and among significant events. Facts and concepts drawn from history to inform decision making about and action taking on public issues.</p> <p>How and why events may be interpreted differently depending upon the perspectives of participants, witnesses, reporters and historians.</p>
<p><b>Political Science/Civic Literacy</b>  <u>Essential Concepts and Skills</u></p> <p>SS.6-8.PSCL.1</p>	<p><u>Definition</u>  Rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.</p>	<p><u>Examples</u></p> <p>Issues regarding personal, political and economic rights</p> <p>Functions of political leadership and why leadership is a vital necessity in a democracy.</p> <p>Importance of voluntarism as a characteristic of American society</p>

SS.6-8.PSCL.2	Government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy and republicanism	Ideas of American government are expressed in the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and other documents.	Characteristics of limited and unlimited governments. Basic concepts of a federal system of government.	Type of citizenry needed to establish and maintain constitutional government.
SS.6-8.PSCL.3	Purpose and function of each of the three branches of government established by the Constitution.	Primary responsibilities of each branch of government in a system of shared powers and ways in which each branch shares the powers and functions of the other branches.	Understand how the legislative, executive and judicial branches use checks and balances.	
SS.6-8.PSCL.4	Similarities and differences among the complex levels of local, state and national government	Understand the relationship between state and local governments and the national government	Understand the powers and responsibilities of local, state and national governments	
SS.6-8.PSCL.5	Understand the strategies for effective political action that impacts local, state and national governance	Concept of civic responsibility.	Importance of political leadership, public service, and a knowledgeable citizenry in American democracy.	Concept of political leadership in the student's own school, community, state, and the nation.

SS.6-8.PSCL.6	Understand how laws are established at the local, state and national levels	Concept of public policy	Understand the sources, purposes, and functions of law and the importance of rule of law for the protection of individual rights and the common good.
SS.6-8.PSCL.7	Understand how various political systems throughout the world define the rights and responsibilities of the individual.	Understand constitutions protect individual rights and promote the common good	Understand the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited governments.
SS.6-8.PSCL.8	Understand the role of the United States in current world affairs	Understand conditions, actions, and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among nations.	Understand current foreign policy issues and the means the United States is using to deal with them.