

SOCIAL STUDIES STATE CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR GRADES 3-5

STRAND STANDARD	BENCHMARK	3	4	5
Historical Time and Chronology	Measure Chronological time by decades and centuries.			
	Place major events in the development of their local community and the state of Michigan in chronological order.			
	Place major events in the early history of the United States in chronological order.			
Comprehending the Past	Summarize the sequence of key events in stories describing life from the past in their local community, the state of Michigan, and other parts of the U.S.			
	Use narratives and graphic data to compare the past of their local community, the state of Michigan and other parts of the U.S. with present day life in those places.			
	Recount the lives and characters of a variety of individuals from the past representing their local community, the state of Michigan, and other parts of the U.S.			
	Identify and explain how individuals in history demonstrated good character and personal virtue.			
Analyzing and Interpreting the Past	Use primary sources to reconstruct past events in their local community.			
	Interpret conflicting accounts of events in both Michigan and U.S. history and analyze the viewpoints of the authors.			
	Compose simple narratives of events from the history of the state of Michigan and the United States.			
Judging Decisions from the Past.	Identify problems from the past that divided their community, the state of Michigan, and the U.S. and analyze the interests and values of those involved.			
	Select decisions made to solve past problems and evaluate those decisions in terms of ethical considerations, the interests of those affected by the decisions, and long-term consequences of those actions.			
Geographic People, Places, and Culture	Locate and describe cultures and compare the similarities and differences among the roles of women, men, and families.			
	Locate and describe diverse kinds of communities and explain the reasons for their characteristics and locations.			
	Locate and describe the major places, cultures, and communities of the nation and compare their characteristics.			
Human Environment Interaction	Explain basic ecosystem concepts and processes.			
	Describe the location, use, and importance of different kinds of resources and explain how they are created and the consequences of their use.			
	Describe the major physical patterns, ecosystems, resources, and land uses of the state, region, and country and explain the processes that created them.			
	Explain how various people and cultures have adapted to and modified the environment.			

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Location, Movement, and Connection	Describe major kind of economic activity and explain the factors influence their location.			
	Describe the causes, consequences, routes, and movements of major migration to the United States.			
	Explain how transportation and communication link people and communities.			
	Describe some of the major movements of goods, people, jobs, and information within Michigan and the U.S. and explain the reasons for the movements.			
Regions, Patterns, and Processes	Draw sketch maps of the community, region, and nation.			
	Describe places, cultures, and communities in the U.S. and compare them with those in other regions and countries.			
	Describe the geography of Michigan at major times in its history and explain the reasons for its change.			
	Describe the physical, economic, and cultural geography of contemporary Michigan and its causes, advantages, and disadvantages			
	Describe the Great Lakes Ecosystem, and explain physical and human processes that act upon them.			
	Describe the geography of major U.S. regions, compare the regions, and explain the processes that created them.			
Global Issues and Events	Locate major world events and explain how they impact people and the environment.			
Civic Purposes of Government	Distinguish among local, state, and national government in the U.S. and describe the roles of government institutions at all three levels.			
	Give examples of authority and the use of power without authority.			
	Give reasons for limiting the power of government.			
Ideals of American Democracy	Interpret the development and summarize the main points in the Declaration of Independence.			
	Interpret the meaning of specific rights guaranteed by the Constitution including religious liberty, free expression, privacy, property, due process of law and equal protection of the law.			
	Explain responsibilities citizens have to uphold constitutional rights.			
Democracy in Action	Describe what state and federal courts are expected to do.			
	Describe issues that arise over constitutional rights.			
American Government and Politics	Distinguish between making, enforcing, and interpreting laws.			
	Explain how law is used to manage conflict in American society.			
	Explain the basic organization of the local, state, and federal government.			
	Describe how citizens participate in election campaigns			
American Government and World Affairs	Explain various ways that nations of the world interact with each other.			
	Describe events in other countries that have affected Americans and, conversely, events within the United States that have affected other countries.			
Economic Individual and Household Choices	Explain why people must face scarcity when making economic decisions			

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	Identify the opportunity costs in personal decision making situations.			
	Use a decision making model to explain a personal choice.			
	Analyze the costs, benefits, and alternatives to using consumer credit.			
Business Choices	Distinguish between natural resources, human capital, and capital equipment in the production of a good and service.			
	Distinguish among individual ownership, partnership, and corporation.			
	Examine the historical and contemporary role a major industry has played in the state of Michigan and the United States.			
Role of Government	Use a decision making model to explain a choice involving a public good or service.			
	Distinguish between the economic roles of local, state, and federal governments and cite examples of each.			
	Use a local example to assess the effectiveness of the government at providing public goods or resolving an economic dispute.			
Economic Systems	Explain how prices are determined in a market economy and how they serve as a means of allocating resources.			
	Describe how they act as a producer and a consumer.			
	Analyze how Michigan's location has impacted its economic development.			
Trade	Trace the national origin of common household items and trade flows which brought them to the U.S.			
	Describe benefits of international trade to consumers and producers.			
	Describe how businesses are involved in trade as producers, distributors, importers, and exporters.			
Inquiry Information Processing	Locate information about local, state and national communities using a variety of traditional sources, electronic, technologies, and direct observations.			
	Organize social science information to make maps, graphs, and tables.			
	Interpret social science information about local, state, and national communities from maps, graphs, and charts.			
Conducting Investigations	Pose a social science question about Michigan or the United States.			
	Gather and analyze information using appropriate information technologies to answer the question posed.			
	Construct an answer to the question posed and support their answer with evidence.			
	Report the result of their investigation including the procedures followed.			
Public Discourse and Decision Making Identifying and Analyzing Issues	Pose local, state, and national policy issues as questions.			
	Explain how particular public issue became a problem and why people disagree about it.			
	Evaluate possible resolutions of a public issue.			
Group Discussion	Engage each other in conversations which attempt to clarify and resolve issues pertaining to local, state, and national policy.			
Persuasive Writing	Compose a short essay expressing a position on a decision on a local, state, or national policy issue.			
Citizen Involvement Responsible Personal Involvement	Report how their behavior has been guided by concern for the law.			
	Engage in activities intended to contribute to solving a local, state, or national			

	problem they have studied.			
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