

SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICLUM FRAMEWORK FOR GRADES 6-8

STRANDS STANDARDS	BENCHMARKS	6	7	8
Historical Time and Chronology	Construct and interpret timelines of people and events from the history of Michigan and the U.S. through the era of Reconstruction and from the history of other regions of the world.			
	Describe major factors that characterize the following eras in U.S. history: The Meeting of the Three Worlds (beginnings to 1620), Colonization and Settlement (1585-1763), Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1815), Expansion and Reform (1801-1861) and Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877).			
	Select a contemporary condition in Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, and Latin America and trace some of the major historical origins of each.			
Historical Comprehending The Past	Use narratives and graphic data to describe the settings of significant events that shaped the development of Michigan as a state and the U.S. as a nation during the eras prior to reconstruction.			
	Identify and explain how individuals in history demonstrated good character and personal virtue.			
	Select conditions in various parts of the world and describe how they have been shaped by events from the past.			
	Use historical biographies to explain how events from the past affected the lives of individuals and how some individuals influenced the course of history.			
Historical Analyzing and Interpreting the Past	Use primary and secondary records to analyze significant events that shaped the development of Michigan as a state and the United States as a nation prior to the end of the era of Reconstruction.			
	Analyze interpretations of major events selected from African, Asian, Canadian, European and Latin American history to reveal the perspectives of the authors.			
	Show that historical knowledge is tentative and subject to change by describing interpretations of the past that have been revised when new information was discovered.			
	Compare narratives of events from the history of Michigan and of the United States prior to the era of Reconstruction.			
Historical Judging Decisions from the Past	Identify major decisions in Michigan and the U.S. history prior to the end of the era of Reconstruction, analyze contemporary factors contributing to the decisions and consider alternative courses of action.			
	Select historic decisions and evaluate them in light of core democratic values and resulting costs and benefits as viewed from a variety of perspectives.			
Geographic People, Places, And Cultures	Locate and describe the diverse places, cultures and communities of major world regions.			
	Describe and compare characteristics of major world cultures including language, religion, belief systems, gender roles, and traditions.			
	Explain why people live and work as they do in different regions.			

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Geographic Human/ Environment Interaction	Locate, describe, and compare the ecosystems, resources, and human environment interactions of major world religions.			
	Locate major ecosystems, describe their characteristics, and explain the process that created them.			
	Explain the importance of different kinds of ecosystems to people.			
	Explain how humans modify the environment and describe some of the possible consequences of those modifications.			
	Describe the consequences of human/environment interactions in several different types of environment.			
Geographic Location, Movement and Connection	Locate and describe major economic activities and occupations of major world religions and explain the reasons for their locations.			
	Explain how government has divided land and sea areas into different regions.			
	Describe how and why people, goods and services, and information move within world regions and between regions.			
	Describe the major economic and political connections between the U. S. and different world regions and explain their causes and consequences.			
Geographic Regions, Patterns, and Processes	Draw a sketch map of the world from memory.			
	Locate and describe major cultural, economic, political and environmental features of Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, and N. and S. America and the processes that created them.			
	Describe major patterns of world population, physical features, ecosystems, cultures and explain some of the factors causing the patterns.			
	Compare major world religions with respect to cultures, economy, governmental systems, environment and communications.			
Geographic Global Issues And Events	Describe how social and scientific changes in regions may have global consequences.			
	Describe the geographic aspects of events taking place in different world regions.			
	Explain how elements of the physical geography, culture, and history of the region may be influencing current events.			
Civic Purposes of Government	Describe how the federal government in the U.S. serves the purposes set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution.			
	Distinguish between representative democracy in the U.S. and other forms of government.			
	Explain how the rule of law protects individual rights and serves the common good.			
	Explain the importance of limited government to protect political and economic freedom.			
Civic Ideals of American Democracy	Identify the essential ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the origin of those ideas, and explain how they set the foundation for civic life, politics, and government in the United States.			

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	Describe provisions for the U.S. Constitution which delegate to government the powers necessary to fulfill the purposes for which it was established			
	Explain means for limiting the power of government established by the U.S. Constitution			
Civic Democracy in Action	Distinguish between civil and criminal procedure.			
	Identify disparities between American Ideals and realities and propose ways to reduce them.			
Civic American Government and Politics	Evaluate information and arguments from various sources in order to evaluate candidates for public office.			
	Explain how the constitution is maintained as the supreme law of the land.			
Civic American Government and World Affairs	Describe the purposes and functions of major international governmental organizations.			
	Describe means used by the U.S. to resolve international conflicts.			
Economic Individual and Household Choices	Use economic reasoning when comparing price, quality and features of goods and services.			
	Evaluate employment and career opportunities in light of economic trends.			
	Analyze the reliability of information when making economic decisions.			
Economic Business Choices	Using a real example, describe how business practices, profit, and a willingness to take risks enabled an entrepreneur to operate.			
	Compare various methods for the production and distribution of goods and services.			
	Describe the effects of a current public policy on businesses.			
	Examine the historical and contemporary role an industry has played and continues to play in a community.			
Economic Role of Government	Distinguish between public and private goods using contemporary examples.			
	Identify and describe different forms of economic measurement.			
	Use case studies to assess the role of government in the economy.			
	Distinguish different forms of taxation and describe their effects			
Economic Economic Systems	Compare the historical record of market economies in solving the problems of scarcity.			
	Describe the roles of the various economic institutions, which comprise the American economic system such as governments, business firms, labor unions, banks and households.			
	Analyze how purchasers obtain information about goods and services from advertising and other sources.			
Economic Trade	Identify the current and potential contributions of national and world regions to trade.			
	Examine the role of the U.S. government in regulating commerce as stated in the U.S. Constitution.			

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	Describe the historical development of the different means of payment such as barter, precious metals, or currency to facilitate exchange.			
Inquiry Information Processing	Locate and interpret information about the natural environments and cultures of countries using a variety of primary and secondary sources and electronic technologies, including computers and telecommunications where appropriate.			
	Use traditional and electronic means to organize social science information and to make maps, graphs, and tables.			
	Interpret social science information about the natural environment and cultures of countries from a variety of primary and secondary sources.			
	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 results of their investigation including procedures followed and possible alternative conclusions.			
Public Discourse and Decision Making Identifying and Analyzing Issues	State public policy issues and their related ethical, definitional, and factual issues as questions.			
	Trace the origins of a public issue.			
	Explain how culture and experiences shape positions that people take on an issue.			
Public Discourse and Decision Making Group Discussion	Engage each other in conversations which attempt to clarify and resolve national and international policy issues.			
Public Discourse and Decision Making Persuasive Writing	Compose essays expressing decisions on national and international issues.			
Citizen Involvement Responsible Personal Conduct	Use laws and other ethical rules to evaluate their own conduct and the conduct of others.			
	Engage in activities intended to contribute to solving a national and international problem they have studied.			

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