



Middle School Social Studies Curriculum - Frequently Asked Questions

1. What can I expect in social studies classrooms now with the new standards?

Approach to learning in social studies has shifted from students memorizing specific facts to making connections across concepts. This new approach focuses on inquiry, critical thinking, and analysis, rather than reciting content. You can expect to see students engaging in more critical thinking and discussing topics in greater depth.

2. What is the reason for a different resource in 6th/7th grade versus 8th grade?

Grade level committees in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade reviewed resources for standards alignment. During the 60 day review, survey data from teachers and community indicated that National Geographic was the preferred resource for world history courses in 6th and 7th grade. 8th grade courses focus on civics content and survey data showed that McGraw Hill was the most preferred resource.

3. How were the units of study decided upon?

Topics for units of study were determined through consultations between vendors and curriculum staff. Teachers then created the unit plans to be implemented in classrooms, beginning in the 2019-20 school year. The scope and sequence reflects learning about diverse countries and cultures around the globe, while aligning to each of the required state standards. Skills developed and topic exposure in elementary school also guided the decision making process.

4. Will GATE students be learning the same thing?

All students will be exposed to the same topics of study and be applying the same standards. Classroom teachers will differentiate their instruction to provide GATE students with opportunities for acceleration and choice through the use of extension menus.