

New York State K-12 Social Studies Framework

The [Framework](#) emphasizes a balance of **CONTENT** and ***SKILLS*** (indicated in *italics*).

Inquiry Arc

1. *Developing questions and planning inquiries;*
2. *Applying disciplinary concepts and tools;*
3. *Evaluating sources and using evidence; and*
4. *Communicating conclusions and taking informed action*



Unifying Themes

1. Individual Development and Cultural Identity
2. Development, Movement, and Interaction of Cultures
3. Time, Continuity, and Change
4. Geography, Humans, and the Environment
5. Development and Transformation of Social Structures
6. Power, Authority, and Governance
7. Civic Ideals and Practices
8. Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems
9. Science, Technology, and Innovation
10. Global Connections and Exchange

New York State Common Core Learning Standards

Social Studies Practices

1. *Gathering, Using, and Interpreting Evidence*
2. *Chronological Reasoning and Causation*
3. *Comparison and Contextualization*
4. *Geographic Reasoning*
5. *Economics and Economics Systems*
6. *Civic Participation*

Key Ideas

- Aligned to the standards and represent enduring understandings that should be the focus of teaching and learning
- Designed to address larger social studies perspectives, trends, and issues
- Each grade level comprised of eight to twelve Key Ideas, so statements are intentionally rich and substantial.

Conceptual Understandings

- More specific statements designed to support each Key Idea
- Approximately two to seven conceptual understandings designed to support each Key Idea
- Key Ideas and Conceptual Understandings represent the concepts that should be the focus of teaching and learning

Content specifications,

- Crafted as “Students will...” statements
- Articulate specific content that can be taught to illuminate Conceptual Understanding
- Work in tandem with Conceptual Understandings to support larger Key Ideas.

How to Read the Social Studies Framework

The Key Ideas are the central organizing feature for each grade. Key Ideas represent the essential and enduring content understandings that should be the focus of teaching and learning for each grade.

Content Specifications identify particular social studies content that helps to illuminate the conceptual understandings, providing examples within the context of "Student will. . ." statements in order to suggest broad instructional activities.

6.5 Comparative Classical Civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere (ca. 600 B.C.E. – ca. 600 C.E.)

As complex societies and civilizations change over time, the political and economic structures evolve. A golden age may be indicated when there is an extended period of time that is peaceful, prosperous, and demonstrates great cultural achievements. (Standards: 2, 3, 5; Themes: ID, TCC, GEO, SOC, GOV, CIV)*

6.5a Geographic factors influenced the development of classical civilizations and their political structures.

- Students will locate the classical civilizations on a map and identify geographic factors that influenced the extent of their boundaries; locate their cities on a map and identify their political structures.
- Students will compare and contrast the similarities and differences of the Chinese (Qin, Han) and Greco-Roman classical civilizations by examining religion, job specialization, cities, government, language/record keeping system, technology, and social hierarchy.

Conceptual Understandings are more specific statements that support each Key Idea. Conceptual Understandings scaffold toward robust understanding of the key idea.

*After each key idea, the corresponding Social Studies Standard(s) and the Unifying Theme(s) appear.

1. Individual Development and Cultural Identity (ID)
2. Development, Movement, and Interaction of Cultures (MOV)
3. Time, Continuity, and Change (TCC)
4. Geography, Humans, and the Environment (GEO)
5. Development and Transformation of Social Structures (SOC)
6. Power, Authority, and Governance (GOV)
7. Civic Ideals and Practices (CIV)
8. Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems (ECO)
9. Science, Technology, and Innovation (TECH)
10. Global Connections and Exchange (EXCH)