



Parent Guide to Kansas Standards for History, Government, and Social Studies for

7th Grade Social Studies

Mission Statement:

The Kansas Standards for History, Government, and Social Studies prepare students to be informed, thoughtful, engaged citizens as they enrich their communities, state, nation, world, and themselves.

- An informed citizen possesses the knowledge needed to understand contemporary political, economic, and social issues.
- A thoughtful citizen applies higher order thinking skills to make connections between the past, present, and future in order to understand, anticipate, respond to, and solve problems.
- An engaged citizen collaborates, contributes, compromises, and participates as an active member of a community.

History, Government, and Social Studies Standards

1. Choices have consequences
2. Individuals have rights and responsibilities
3. Societies are shaped by beliefs, ideas, and diversity
4. Societies experience continuity and change over time
5. Relationships between people, places, ideas, and environments are dynamic

These standards outline the expectations for Kansas students in all classes and courses in History/Government/Social Studies (HGSS). These standards and expectations lay out the skills and knowledge that are being developed through the curriculum and instruction of your local school district.

Topics that may be discussed . . .

Kansas History	Homesteading	Human Geography
Contrasting Cultures	Railroads	Physical Features
Settlement	Cowboys	Rotation/Revolution
Popular Sovereignty	Industrialization	Political Systems
Slavery/Abolition	Physical Geography	Natural Resources

At this grade level . . .

The social studies classes that students take will vary, but should include aspects of history, civics, geography and economics. Students should be challenged by their teachers daily to make judgements and draw connections to things going on in the world today. Students should be reading difficult books and articles. Students should be asked to do research and build their own knowledge about the particular social studies topic covered. Student should use primary source documents, evaluating, analyzing, and drawing conclusions in order to make a claim

Students should be learning to . . .

- Analyze and interpret a variety of texts and media
- Discuss the significance of the author of a document and communicate its importance in historical terms
- Discuss why the time and place a document was written is important in understanding history
- Demonstrate their understanding by categorizing the causes and impact of significant events
- Identify the relevance of sources to a particular inquiry
- Demonstrate the connection to personal interest, civic virtue, and democratic principles in their own lives
- Use a criteria to make judgments about particular issues and to take positions on those issues
- Clearly articulate their position on an issue and communicate that position, with argument, to policy makers
- Work cooperatively to build coalitions, negotiate, compromise, and build consensus
- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between local environment, and human political and economic activity
- Make reasoned judgments and analysis to solve authentic real life economic problems
- Answer questions and construct knowledge in order to make connection to the real world
- Make a claim and support it with evidence and argument