

7th Grade American Online School

SOCIAL SCIENCES CURRICULUM

Citizenship, Culture, and the Changing World

Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of Social Sciences Education in 7th Grade

The 7th Grade Social Studies curriculum explores the development of human societies, institutions, and values through an interdisciplinary approach to history, geography, civics, and cultural studies. Students examine political systems, world religions, technological change, and global issues to understand human rights, responsibility, and interconnectedness. By fostering critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and global awareness, this curriculum empowers students to become informed citizens and reflective changemakers.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Analyze the foundations and functions of government systems.
- ✓ Explore the geography, culture, and history of South America.
- ✓ Examine how technological innovations shape societies.
- ✓ Trace the development of the modern world and key revolutions.
- ✓ Compare world religions and their impact on cultural identity.
- ✓ Investigate human rights movements across history and today.
- ✓ Use maps, tools, and models to interpret physical and political geography.

2. Core Competence Areas

SoSCI.1 Government and Civic Foundations

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Describe different types of government and their characteristics.
- ✓ Analyze the role of citizenship and civic responsibility in democratic systems.
- ✓ Compare the U.S. Constitution with other global frameworks.

Competencies

SoSCI.1.A.1 – Understanding governmental structures and principles.

- Explain the roles of branches of government, rule of law, and individual rights.
- Compare systems such as democracy, monarchy, dictatorship, and republic.

SoSCI.1.A.2 – Exploring citizenship and participation.

- Describe the responsibilities of active citizens, including voting, public service, and community action.
- Debate current civic issues using evidence-based arguments.

SoSCI.2 Geography and the Human-Environment Connection

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Interpret physical, political, and thematic maps.
- ✓ Analyze the impact of geography on culture, economy, and development.
- ✓ Understand the role of humans in shaping and protecting Earth's systems.

Competencies

SoSCI.2.A.1 – Applying geographic tools and skills.

- Use latitude/longitude, scale, and map symbols to interpret spatial information.
- Identify major landforms, biomes, and climate zones.

SoSCI.2.A.2 – Exploring geography in human context.

- Analyze how geography influences settlement, migration, and culture.
 - Investigate environmental challenges such as deforestation, pollution, and climate change.
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SoSCI.3 South America: Cultures, History, and Identity

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Explore the cultural, historical, and geographic diversity of South America.**
- ✓ **Analyze indigenous heritage and colonial legacies.**
- ✓ **Examine present-day political and environmental issues in the region.**

Competencies

SoSCI.3.A.1 – Understanding South American civilizations and colonization.

- Describe the achievements of pre-Columbian societies (e.g., Inca).
- Evaluate the impact of European colonization and independence movements.

SoSCI.3.A.2 – Analyzing contemporary South America.

- Compare countries' economies, governments, and environmental issues.
 - Explore case studies on deforestation, urbanization, and indigenous rights.
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SoSCI.4 Technology and Society

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Analyze how technological change shapes human life.**
- ✓ **Evaluate ethical considerations of emerging technologies.**
- ✓ **Understand the historical impact of key innovations.**

Competencies

SoSCI.4.A.1 – Exploring the history of technology.

- Trace the development of tools from early civilizations to the Industrial Revolution.
- Investigate communication, transportation, and agricultural innovations.

SoSCI.4.A.2 – Examining modern technological impact.

- Assess digital citizenship and the social implications of the internet, AI, and biotechnology.
- Debate the influence of technology on education, labor, and privacy.

SoSCI.5 The Modern Era: Revolutions and Change

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Trace the origins of the modern era through global revolutions.**
- ✓ **Examine causes and effects of major political, social, and scientific changes.**
- ✓ **Evaluate historical continuity and change over time.**

Competencies

SoSCI.5.A.1 – Investigating global revolutions.

- Analyze the Enlightenment, American, French, and Latin American Revolutions.
- Identify key figures, events, and ideas that shaped modern democracies.

SoSCI.5.A.2 – Connecting the past to today.

- Compare revolutionary ideals with contemporary movements.
 - Explore the legacy of revolutions on governance, rights, and culture.
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SoSCI.6 World Religions and Cultural Origins

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Identify the origins, beliefs, and practices of major world religions.**
- ✓ **Understand the role of religion in culture, identity, and conflict.**
- ✓ **Promote respectful interreligious dialogue.**

Competencies

SoSCI.6.A.1 – Understanding foundational religious systems.

- Describe core beliefs of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.
- Locate regions of origin and global distribution.

SoSCI.6.A.2 – Exploring religion and society.

- Analyze how religion influences art, law, and community.
 - Debate the role of religious tolerance and freedom in diverse societies.
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SoSCI.7 Human Rights and Social Justice Movements

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Define human rights and their historical development.**
- ✓ **Evaluate the struggles and successes of global rights movements.**
- ✓ **Develop informed opinions on social justice issues.**

Competencies

SoSCI.7.A.1 – Tracing the history of human rights.

- Explore key documents (e.g., Universal Declaration of Human Rights).
- Study abolitionism, suffrage, civil rights, and labor movements.

SoSCI.7.A.2 – Engaging in modern advocacy.

- Examine youth-led movements and local/global activism.
- Design a project or campaign around a chosen social issue.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Dialogue and Reflection

- ✓ Timeline building and interactive maps.
- ✓ Structured debates and Socratic seminars.
- ✓ Exit tickets and short response questions.

Summative Assessments – Evidence-Based Mastery

- ✓ Source-based essays and document analyses.
- ✓ Country or region presentations.
- ✓ Thematic unit tests and comparative essays.

Performance-Based Assessments – Civic and Cultural Application

- ✓ Community issue proposal or advocacy plan.
 - ✓ Virtual cultural fair or world religions showcase.
 - ✓ Geo-inquiry or technology impact project.
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4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Inquiry-Based and Case Study Learning

- ✓ Use historical dilemmas, biographies, and global simulations.
- ✓ Develop critical questions and independent investigation paths.

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

- ✓ Comparative studies of government systems
- ✓ Create a digital museum of revolutions or rights movements.
- ✓ Global Issues roundtable discussion.

Technology-Integrated Learning

- ✓ Padlet or Canva timelines and visuals.
- ✓ Google Earth for interactive geography.
- ✓ Primary source archives and digital storytelling platforms.