

The grades 6 and 7 social studies content descriptions are undergoing revisions to ensure alignment with the newly revised Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). For current information related to these newly revised standards and instructional frameworks, please view www.georgiastandards.org.

The revised content descriptions for social studies in these grades will be posted to the GaDOE website later this fall.

Social Studies

Grade: 8

Domain: History

Domain Description

History refers to analyzing Georgia’s role in the history of the United States from the development of Native American cultures to the present time.

Standards Associated with Domain

SS8H1	SS8H2	SS8H3	SS8H4
SS8H5	SS8H6	SS8H7	SS8H8
SS8H9	SS8H10	SS8H11	SS8H12

Associated Concepts, Skills, and Abilities

- Describe the evolution of Native American cultures (Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian) prior to European contact
- Evaluate the impact of European contact on Native American cultures; include Spanish missions along the barrier islands and the explorations of Hernando DeSoto
- Explain reasons for European exploration and settlement of North America, with emphasis on the interests of the French, Spanish, and British in the southeastern area
- Explain the importance of James Oglethorpe, the Charter of 1732, reasons for settlement (charity, economics, and defense), Tomochichi, Mary Musgrove, and the city of Savannah
- Evaluate the Trustee Period of Georgia's colonial history, emphasizing the role of the Salzburgers, Highland Scots, malcontents, and the Spanish threat from Florida
- Explain the development of Georgia as a royal colony with regard to land ownership, slavery, government, and the impact of the royal governors
- Explain the immediate and long-term causes of the American Revolution and their impact on Georgia; include the French and Indian War (i.e., Seven Years War), Proclamation of 1763, Stamp Act, Intolerable Acts, and the Declaration of Independence
- Analyze the significance of people and events in Georgia on the Revolutionary War; include Loyalists, Patriots, Elijah Clarke, Austin Dabney, Nancy Hart, Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton, Battle of Kettle Creek, and siege of Savannah
- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of both the Georgia Constitution of 1777 and the Articles of Confederation and explain how weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation led to a need to revise the Articles
- Describe the role of Georgia at the Constitutional Convention of 1787; include the role of Abraham Baldwin and William Few, and reasons why Georgia ratified the new constitution
- Explain the establishment of the University of Georgia, Louisville, and the spread of Baptist and Methodist churches

- Evaluate the impact of land policies pursued by Georgia; include the headright system, land lotteries, and the Yazoo land fraud
- Explain how technological developments, including the cotton gin and railroads, had an impact on Georgia's growth
- Analyze the events that led to the removal of Creeks and Cherokees; include the roles of Alexander McGillivray, William McIntosh, Sequoyah, John Ross, Dahlonega Gold Rush, Worcester v. Georgia, Andrew Jackson, John Marshall, and the Trail of Tears
- Explain the importance of key issues and events that led to the Civil War; include slavery, states' rights, nullification, Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850 and the Georgia Platform, Kansas-Nebraska Act, Dred Scott case, election of 1860, the debate over secession in Georgia, and the role of Alexander Stephens
- State the importance of key events of the Civil War; include Antietam, Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, the Union blockade of Georgia's coast, Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, Sherman's March to the Sea, and Andersonville
- Analyze the impact of Reconstruction on Georgia and other southern states, emphasizing Freedmen's Bureau, sharecropping and tenant farming, Reconstruction plans, 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution, Henry McNeal Turner and black legislators, and the Ku Klux Klan
- Evaluate the impact the Bourbon Triumvirate, Henry Grady, International Cotton Exposition, Tom Watson and the Populists, Rebecca Latimer Felton, the 1906 Atlanta Riot, the Leo Frank Case, and the county unit system had on Georgia during this period
- Analyze how rights were denied to African Americans through Jim Crow laws, Plessy v. Ferguson, disenfranchisement, and racial violence
- Explain the roles of Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, John and Lugenia Burns Hope, and Alonzo Herndon
- Give reasons for World War I and describe Georgia's contributions
- Describe the impact of the boll weevil and drought on Georgia
- Explain economic factors that resulted in the Great Depression
- Discuss the impact of the political career of Eugene Talmadge
- Discuss the effect of the New Deal in terms of the impact of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Agricultural Adjustment Act, rural electrification, and Social Security
- Describe the impact of events leading up to American involvement in World War II; include Lend-Lease and the bombing of Pearl Harbor

- Evaluate the importance of Bell Aircraft, military bases, the Savannah and Brunswick shipyards, Richard Russell, and Carl Vinson
- Explain the impact of the Holocaust on Georgians
- Discuss the ties to Georgia that President Roosevelt had and his impact on the state
- Analyze the impact of the transformation of agriculture on Georgia's growth
- Explain how the development of Atlanta, including the roles of mayors William B. Hartsfield and Ivan Allen, Jr., and major league sports, contributed to the growth of Georgia
- Discuss the impact of Ellis Arnall
- Describe major developments in civil rights and Georgia's role during the 1940s and 1950s; include the roles of Herman Talmadge, Benjamin Mays, the 1946 governor's race and the end of the white primary, Brown v. Board of Education, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the 1956 state flag
- Analyze the role Georgia and prominent Georgians played in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s; include such events as the founding of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Sibley Commission, admission of Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter to the University of Georgia, Albany Movement, March on Washington, Civil Rights Act, the election of Maynard Jackson as mayor of Atlanta, and the role of Lester Maddox
- Discuss the impact of Andrew Young on Georgia
- Evaluate the consequences of the end of the county unit system and reapportionment
- Describe the role of Jimmy Carter in Georgia as state senator, governor, president, and past president
- Analyze the impact of the rise of the two-party system in Georgia
- Evaluate the effect of the 1996 Olympic Games on Georgia
- Evaluate the importance of new immigrant communities to the growth and economy of Georgia

Social Studies

Grade: 8

Domain: Geography

Domain Description

Geography refers to describing Georgia's physical features and location and to determining the importance of Georgia's modern transportation systems.

Standards Associated with Domain

SS8G1

SS8G2

Associated Concepts, Skills, and Abilities

- Locate Georgia in relation to region, nation, continent, and hemispheres
- Describe the five geographic regions of Georgia; include the Blue Ridge Mountains, Valley and Ridge, Appalachian Plateau, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain
- Locate and evaluate the importance of key physical features on the development of Georgia; include the Fall Line, Okefenokee Swamp, Appalachian Mountains, Chattahoochee and Savannah rivers, and barrier islands
- Evaluate the impact of climate on Georgia's development
- Explain how the three transportation systems(interstate highways, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, and ports) interact to provide domestic and international goods to the people of Georgia
- Explain how the three transportation systems (interstate highways, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, and ports) interact to provide producers and service providers in Georgia with national and international markets
- Explain how the three transportation systems (interstate highways, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, and ports) provide jobs for Georgians

Social Studies

Grade: 8

Domain: Government/Civics

Domain Description

Government/Civics refers to examining Georgia's state and local governments to explaining the role of the individual citizen in Georgia government and the juvenile justice system.

Standards Associated with Domain

SS8CG1

SS8CG2

SS8CG3

SS8CG4

SS8CG5

SS8CG6

Associated Concepts, Skills, and Abilities

- Explain the basic structure of the Georgia state constitution
- Explain the concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
- Explain voting requirements and elections in Georgia. Items may include primary, runoff, and general elections and special elections.
- Explain the role of political parties in government
- Explain the qualifications, term, election, and duties of members of the General Assembly
- Describe the organization of the General Assembly, with emphasis on leadership and the committee system
- Trace the steps in the legislative process for a bill to become a law in Georgia
- Explain the qualifications, term, election, and duties of the governor and lieutenant governor
- Describe the organization of the executive branch, with emphasis on major policy areas of state programs
- Explain the structure of the court system in Georgia, to include trial and appellate procedures and how judges are selected
- Explain the difference between criminal law and civil law
- Describe the adult justice system, emphasizing the different jurisdictions, terminology, and steps in the criminal justice process
- Describe ways to avoid trouble and settle disputes peacefully
- Explain the origins, functions, purposes, and differences of county and city governments in Georgia
- Compare and contrast the weak mayor-council, the strong mayor-council, and the council-manager forms of city government
- Describe the functions of special-purpose governments
- Explain the difference between delinquent behavior and unruly behavior and the consequences of each
- Describe the rights of juveniles when taken into custody
- Describe the juvenile justice system, emphasizing the different jurisdictions, terminology, and steps in the juvenile justice process
- Explain the seven delinquent behaviors that can subject juvenile offenders to the adult criminal justice processes, how the decision to transfer to adult court is made, and the possible consequences

Social Studies

Grade: 8

Domain: Economics

Domain Description

Economics refers to evaluating how Georgia’s economy has been affected by historical events and how free trade, Georgia-based corporations, and the activities of state and local governments affect it today.

Standards Associated with Domain

SS8E1

SS8E2

SS8E3

SS8E4

SS8E5

Associated Concepts, Skills, and Abilities

- Give examples of the kinds of goods and services produced in Georgia in different historical periods
- Describe how Georgians have engaged in trade in different historical time periods
- Explain Georgia's role in world trade today
- Define profit and describe how profit is an incentive for entrepreneurs
- Explain how entrepreneurs take risks to develop new goods and services to start a business
- Evaluate the importance of entrepreneurs in Georgia who developed such enterprises as Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines, Georgia-Pacific, and Home Depot
- Trace sources of state revenue such as sales taxes, federal grants, personal income taxes, and property taxes
- Explain the distribution of state revenue to provide services
- Evaluate how choices are made given the limited revenues of state and local governments
- Explain personal money management choices in terms of income, spending, credit, saving, and investing