

Social Sciences

Contemporary problems are global. They can only be understood in context, and only when viewed from multiple perspectives and using varied strategies. The Foundation Phase fosters the ability to evaluate these problems—to sort fact from opinion, to develop innovative potential solutions, to communicate one’s views, and, ultimately, to lead. By expanding the domain of inquiry from immediate experience to the wider world, the Social Sciences curriculum provides important opportunities for students to apply skills they have learned in English, Science, and Mathematics.

Topics and Themes

The Social Sciences apply directly to students confronted by the everyday challenges of living together on an increasingly interconnected, populated planet.

- **Living and Learning in a Global Community**
What brings cultures into contact? What implications emerge from this interaction?
- **Conflict and Accord**
How do we meet challenges to global harmony?
- **Rights and Equality**
What struggles for equality emerge in a globalized world?
- **Managing Common Resources**
How do local and global communities use and manage common resources?

Other topics include: trade, resources, the internet, religion, culture, politics, human rights.

Standards Addressed

CCSS-ELA-Literacy

RH.9-10.1-3,7-10; WHST.9-10.1-4,6-10

C3 Framework

D2.Eco.1-9,14-15; D2.Geo.1-12; D2.Civ.1-6,11-12;
D2.His.1,5,7-9,14-16

Key Skills

Students explore the world and human interaction from the perspective of civics, economics, history, and geography. Complex ideas, such as markets (viewing the world in terms of transactions governed by supply and demand), government (why people trade liberties for security), or citizenship (the tension between rights and duties), help students develop and apply a mindset centered on seeking evidence and providing explanation.

Take In

Engage

Employ basic strategies for noticing, observing, and preserving key information.

Make Connections

Marshal knowledge, interests, and other connections to enrich and understand a text or topic.

Discover

Investigate Causation

Investigate causes, influences, and chronology, distinguishing among related/unrelated phenomena.

Research

Read, summarize, and ask questions about a variety of sources on a given topic.

Argue

Identify Assumptions

Distinguish among argument, opinion, and fact. Examine the value judgments that play a role in others’ arguments.

Evaluate Evidence

Assess the quality and adequacy of evidence offered in support of an argument.

Produce

Organize

Develop and plan a work product that focuses on the process and result.

Create

Routinely create and present work in a variety of media, lengths, and degrees of formality.

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Featured Quests



6 Activities

Social Sciences

You Have the Right To...

How has the idea of human rights emerged and evolved?

📌 social sciences, history, human rights, equality, women's rights, global

1 Artifact



T-chart completed with points "for" and "against" the Internet as a human right.



5 Activities

Social Sciences

Geography of Coffee

What global issues are linked to our coffee consumption?

📌 Geography, Asia, South America, economy, coffee, agriculture, Africa, Central America, social sciences, introduction, Are You a Social Scientist?

1 Artifact



Map of the top ten coffee-producing countries.



5 Activities

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Venturing Vikings

Who decides how past events are remembered?

📌 history, social sciences, Give Reasons, bias, Vikings, Russia, Britain, England

1 Artifact



A one-page comparison of how you and a friend remember a shared experience.



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