

# Grade 7 Social Studies Standards and Expectations

## 1. Civics

1. Knows the world is divided into nation-states that claim sovereignty over a defined territory and jurisdiction over everyone within it, and understands why the nation-state is the most powerful form of political organization at the international level
2. Knows the purposes and functions of major governmental international organizations (e.g., UN, NATO, OAS, World Court) and non governmental international organizations, e.g., International Red Cross, Amnesty International
3. Knows the most important powers the United States Constitution gives to the Congress, President, and Federal Judiciary in foreign affairs (e.g., Congress can declare war, President is Commander in Chief and can make treaties and appoint ambassadors)
4. Understands the impact of major demographic trends on the United States (e.g., population growth, increase in immigration and refugees)
5. Understands the impact that current political developments around the world have on the United States (e.g., conflicts within and among other nations, efforts to establish democratic governments)

## 2. Economics

1. Knows that exports are goods and services produced in one nation, but sold to buyers in another nation
2. Knows that imports are goods and services bought from sellers in another nation
3. Knows that despite the advantages of international trade, (e.g., broader range of choices in buying goods and services) many nations restrict the free flow of goods and services through a variety of devices known as “barriers to trade”

## 3. Geography

1. Uses the tools and concepts of geography including technology-related resources, e.g., variety of internet resources available
2. Understands the patterns and processes of migration and diffusion (spread of language, religion, and customs from one culture to another; spread of a contagious disease through a population; global migration patterns of plants and animals)
3. Understands distributions of physical and human occurrences with respect to spatial patterns, arrangements, and associations (e.g., why some areas are more densely settled than others, relationships and patterns in the kind and number of links between set)
4. Knows the human and physical characteristics of places
5. Understands the criteria that give a region identity (e.g., its central focus, such as Amsterdam as a transportation center)
6. Knows how places and regions serve as cultural symbols (e.g., Tower Bridge in London)
7. Knows the ways in which human movement and migration influence the character of a place (e.g., the impact of Indians settling in South Africa)
8. Understands the primary geographic causes for world trade
9. Knows similarities and differences in various settlement patterns of the world (e.g., agricultural settlement types such as plantations, urban settlement types such as governmental centers, port cities)
10. Understands the factors that affect the cohesiveness and integration of countries (e.g., language and religion in Belgium, the elongated shapes of Italy and Chile)
11. Knows how the physical environment affects life in different regions
12. Knows world patterns of resource distribution and utilization (e.g., petroleum, coal, diamonds, gold)
13. Knows how physical and human geographic factors have influenced major historic events and movements, (e.g., the forced transport of Africans to North and South America)

## 4. Historical Understanding

1. Understands patterns of change and continuity in the historical succession of related events
2. Knows how to periodize events of the nation into broadly defined eras
3. Understands that specific individuals, ideas, events, and decisions had a great impact on history
4. Understands cultural and ecological interactions resulting from early European exploration and colonization and/or ancient civilizations
5. Understands the basic patterns of human settlement and their causes