

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Essential Discipline Goals

- Demonstrate commitment to human dignity, justice, and democratic process.
- Work cooperatively and accept group decisions while respecting individual rights.
- Develop a common culture.
- Examine political, economic, social, and geographic aspects of national and international affairs to better understand present and future events.
- Develop a capacity to understand viewpoints of other nations and cultures with objective and logical analysis.
- Recognize that seemingly insolvable problems exist in the modern world and that compromise in dealing with these complexities is a necessity.
- Discuss political, economic, and social issues in a comprehensive and coherent manner.

## NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Elective — Grades 11 and 12

### **SS.NGI.05 Domestic Policy**

In this unit students will identify, analyze and evaluate various domestic policy issues. They will explore a variety of issues and discuss the relevance of each on American society. They will discuss how these decisions are made and evaluate the process as well as the outcome.

- SS.NGI.05.01 Identify major focus areas of domestic policy.
  - SS.NGI.05.01.a List the main issues of the current domestic policy agenda.
  - SS.NGI.05.01.b Identify and research major political positions on the major focus areas of domestic policy.
- SS.NGI.05.02 Identify differing domestic policy issues among nations.
  - SS.NGI.05.02.a Research other nation's domestic policy issues.
  - SS.NGI.05.02.b Compare and contrast various domestic policies among nations.
- SS.NGI.05.03 Identify factors that influence the formation of domestic policy.
  - SS.NGI.05.03.a Evaluate, which should have greatest impact.
- SS.NGI.05.04 Identify the limiting factors on domestic policy initiatives.
  - SS.NGI.05.04.a Analyze geographic differences on domestic policy issues.
  - SS.NGI.05.04.b Identify opportunity costs of specific domestic policy issues.
- SS.NGI.05.05 Content to be discussed in this unit should include: social security, taxation, education, healthcare, budgets, welfare, disease control, reproductive rights, employment opportunities, and population growth.

### **SS.NGI.10 Human Rights**

In this unit students will examine issues surrounding basic fundamental freedoms of all people.

- SS.NGI.10.01 Identify human rights issues around the world.
  - SS.NGI.10.01.a Use a variety of sources to compile information about current human rights issues around the world.
- SS.NGI.10.02 Research roots, causes and current status of a human rights abuse around the world
  - SS.NGI.10.02.a Analyze tradeoffs and compare solutions to those of other times and places on human rights.
- SS.NGI.10.03 Brainstorm solutions to human rights issues.
- SS.NGI.10.04 Content to be discussed in this unit should include: population growth, food scarcity, and lack of adequate medical care, political prisoners.

## **SS.NGI.15 International Relations**

In this unit students will examine issues surrounding the creation and implementation of foreign policy. The students will discuss a variety of issues related to America's relationship with other nations.

- SS.NGI.15.01 Identify social, economic, political, and security interests of nations.
  - SS.NGI.15.01.a Describe the constitutional position of the executive and legislative branches in foreign policy.
  - SS.NGI.15.01.b Explain and evaluate the constitutional positions of the president and Congress in defense policy.
- SS.NGI.15.02 Identify factors that influence a nation's foreign policy and help determine interactions with other nations.
  - SS.NGI.15.02.a Assess the impact of public opinion on American foreign policy.
  - SS.NGI.15.02.b Analyze the factors that impact international relationships using the selected set of nations
  - SS.NGI.15.02.c Analyze relationships among nations, looking for instances of cause and effect
  - SS.NGI.15.02.d Select sets of example nations and use multiple sources to gather information about how they interact
- SS.NGI.15.03 List the new foreign policy challenges facing the U.S. during the current administration.
- SS.NGI.15.04 Examine differing U.S. positions toward the United Nations.
- SS.NGI.15.05 Identify and describe several foreign policy strategies.

## **SS.NGI.20 Economic Development**

In this unit students will examine the market forces that move people and nations toward greater cooperation and conflict in dealing with scarce resources. Students will look at how nations develop economically. They will discuss the challenges the world faces between economically powerful nations and the developing world. We will examine the issues of a developing nation using its resources to the fullest extent.

- SS.NGI.20.01 Analyze problems resulting from economic differences among nations in technology, natural resources, manufacturing, and trade.
- SS.NGI.20.02 Identify problems resulting from unequal distribution of wealth and resources around the world.
- SS.NGI.20.03 Examine the geographic factors that contribute to economic development.
- SS.NGI.20.04 Categorize nations as developed or developing or underdeveloped.
  - SS.NGI.20.04.a Analyze data including charts and graphs of economic indicators of selected countries.
- SS.NGI.20.05 Describe possible solutions to some of these economic problems.
- SS.NGI.20.06 Examine the impact of trade agreements among nations.
  - SS.NGI.20.06.a Describe the implications of World Bank and International Monetary Fund on both the developed world and the developing world.

## **SS.NGI.25 Violence and Conflict**

In this unit students will examine conflicts around the globe including wars, civil wars, and terrorism.

- SS.NGI.25.01 Identify areas of the world in which war, terrorism or civil strife are occurring
  - SS.NGI.25.01.a Create a map identifying areas of the world in which war, terrorism, or civil strife are occurring.
  - SS.NGI.25.01.b Research roots, causes, and current status of selected conflicts
- SS.NGI.25.02 Analyze reasons why groups resort to terrorism, war or civil strife to settle disputes.
- SS.NGI.25.03 Evaluate the use of violence as a solution to disputes.
  - SS.NGI.25.03.a Brainstorm a list of alternative strategies for conflict resolution.
  - SS.NGI.25.03.b Analyze and debate alternative strategies in terms of trade-offs for factions involved.

### **SS.NGI.30 Competing Ideologies**

In this unit students will examine differing views of political and economic solutions. The students will discuss differing positions and how and why nations have developed different solutions to their nation's problems.

- SS.NGI.30.01 Identify economic, religious and political ideologies.
- SS.NGI.30.02 Define and classify ideologies such as capitalism, communism, democracy, and totalitarianism.
- SS.NGI.30.03 Analyze how ideologies have been used to justify a group's actions
- SS.NGI.30.04 Compare and contrast competing ideologies and their effects
  - SS.NGI.30.04.a Select and research competing ideologies for study
  - SS.NGI.30.04.b Chart the outcomes of competing ideologies and conclude which systems best meet the needs of its followers.

### **SS.NGI.35 Environmental Issues**

In this unit students will examine the political, economic and social issues and their impact on the planet's resources. Students will look at environmental issues in the United States and around the world and synthesize possible solutions to some of the world environmental problems. The students will debate the balance of protecting the environment with economic concerns.

- SS.NGI.35.01 Identify major environmental issues
- SS.NGI.35.02 Use a variety of sources to compile information about environmental issues
- SS.NGI.35.03 Prioritize the importance of environmental issues
- SS.NGI.35.04 Offer solutions for environmental challenges
- SS.NGI.35.05 Examine the opportunity costs of the use of natural resources

### **SS.NGI.40 Social Institutions**

In this unit students will examine the impact of major social institutions in American society and the world community.

- SS.NGI.40.01 Identify the social institutions of a culture.
  - SS.NGI.40.01.a Define social institution.
  - SS.NGI.40.01.b Compile a list of social institutions.
- SS.NGI.40.02 Analyze the cause and effect relationship between a social institution and an issue of concern in the community.
  - SS.NGI.40.02.a Have students select an issue of concern to the community
  - SS.NGI.40.02.b Predict possible reactions of the institution to the issue and discuss resulting outcomes.
- SS.NGI.40.03 Evaluate the impact of a social institution on the community.
- SS.NGI.40.04 Compare the impact of the social institutions in other cultures.

### **SS.NGI.45 Political Discourse**

In this unit students will examine the current political climate. The students will discuss politics on a federal, state and local level. They will examine the positions of politicians in an attempt to understand the national debate on a variety of issues. Students will study election patterns. Discuss various topics pertinent to current elections. Compare and contrast the positions of competing politicians.

- SS.NGI.45.01 Examine the current issues being discussed in the federal, state and local government
- SS.NGI.45.02 Analyze the differing positions of each political party on a variety of issues
- SS.NGI.45.03 Discuss the balance of power and differing positions of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.
- SS.NGI.45.04 Analyze current trends in the electoral process.

### **SS.NGI.50 Media Literacy**

In this unit students will examine the impact the media has on society. The students will read current news items from a variety of sources. The students will analyze the perspective of certain media sources and identify bias. Students will be exposed to various alternative news sources and analyze their positions. To discuss examples of current events in popular culture.

- SS.NGI.50.01 Read and discuss current news publications (newspapers and magazines)
- SS.NGI.50.02 Compare and contrast a variety of television news programs.
- SS.NGI.50.03 Look for differing perspectives from a variety of news sources
- SS.NGI.50.04 Analyze bias in the media
- SS.NGI.50.05 Examine several examples of political satire.
- SS.NGI.50.06 View and discuss a variety of political cartoons
- SS.NGI.50.07 Use the Internet to explore current events.