

Social Studies Notes

Core Concepts 1.1 – 1.6

CC 1.1 –

Throughout history, societies and cultures have organized time in different ways.

People have used a number of different calendars to measure time.

- A timeline is a line marked off with a series of events and dates.
- Historians use timelines to put events in a chronology, a list of events in the order in which they occurred. Order is written from left to right.
- A period is a length of time singled out because of a specific event or development that happened during that time. Also known as an era or an epoch. Used to organize and describe human activities.
- When organizing time it is often split into two parts, prehistory and history.
 - prehistory – the time before humans invented writing.
 - history – refers to written history, which began about 5,200 years ago.
 - Key events help calendars work because they provide a starting reference point.
 - For ex., Jesus’ birth as a key event. Years before the birth are labeled B.C. for before Christ. After Jesus’ birth it is labeled A.D. for anno Domini – “in the year of our Lord”.
 - The Jewish calendar counts the years since the creation of the world.
 - Maya and Aztec priests made calendars for farming and religious purposes.
 - Calendars are used to plan and predict time, help people trade, record history and grow crops.

CC 1.2 –

Historical sources can provide important information.

Historians must evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources.

- Primary sources: information that comes directly from a person who experienced an event. It can be expressed orally (speaking), writing, or something created about the event. These sources include letters, diaries, speeches, different forms of art such as photos and paintings.
- Secondary sources: information about an event that does not come from a person who experienced that event. Ex.: books, movies articles, and other sources that describe events.
- Bias is an unfair preference for or dislike of something. It can unfairly influence how people think about an event. It is often made up of someone’s personal opinions.
- Historian and students of history must evaluate sources to determine reliability.
 - Who created the source material?, Is the information fact or opinion?, Does the material seem to have a bias?

CC 1.3 –

Archeology and other historical sources offer clues to what life was like in the distant past.

- Archeology: the scientific study of ancient cultures through the examination of artifacts and other evidence. Explore the places people lived and worked, searching for tools, weapons and pottery. They study these objects.
 - artifact: a usually simple object (such as a tool or ornament) showing human workmanship.
It helps us identify sources of that time, how people used technology, and how they adapted to their environment.

- Anthropology: the study of humankind in all aspects , especially development and culture. To understand the origins of humans and the ways humans developed physically. They do study fossils – bones and other remains that have been preserved in rock and through oral traditions – a community’s cultural and historical background, passed down in spoken stories and songs..
 - They try to determine how human cultures formed and grew.
- Archeologists and anthropologists work together often since artifacts archeologists find help anthropologists gain information.

CC 1.4 - Geography’s Five Themes:

Geography is the study of human and non-human features of Earth. To study geography we use five different themes (ways of thinking).....

location, place, region, movement, human-environment interaction

Location - Where it is.

Absolute location - describes a place’s exact position on Earth in terms of longitude and latitude. Lines of latitude are east to west, while lines of longitude are north to south. It sets up location like a grid.

Relative location - the location of a place relative to another place.

Ex: Our school is located near near the Walgreens on Forest Avenue.

Place - refers to the mix of human and nonhuman features at a given location.

Ex: The amount of people in an area, the kind of work they do, the terrain (landform), the type of climate.

Region - to group places that have something in common; an area with at least one unifying physical or human feature such as climate, landforms, population or history.

Movement - explores how people, goods and ideas get from place to place.

Human-environment interaction - considers how people affect their environment or their natural surroundings, and how their environment affects them.

CC 1.5 - Understanding Maps:

Parts of a map -

Title: tells you the subject of the map.

Key: explains the symbols and shading on the map.

Compass Rose: a diagram of a compass showing direction.

Scale bar: shows how much space on the map represents a given distance.

Ex: 1 in = 500 mi

Some maps have a grid - showing lines of longitude and latitude that can help you find locations.

Maps may also have a locator map - it shows a larger area than the main map. It shows where the area on the map is located within a larger area.

Reading a map - You can read most maps using the key, scale bar, and the other map tools. The first step in reading a road map is to read the title and identify the area covered by the map. Find the location, route, distances that must be traveled.

A physical map shows features such as mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, etc.

CC 1.6 - Historical Maps:

Historical maps offer visual representations of historical information and they show information about places at certain times. It is a special purpose map that provides information about a place at a certain time in history.

Ex: It can show migration, trade patterns, and battles during a war.

They have similar features such as a title, key, and a compass rose.