GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES at a glance

World History: Societies of the Past

This *Grade 8 Social Studies at a Glance* can be used in designing, planning, and assessing student learning for the year. It can be used to preview the content of the Grade 8 Social Studies curriculum.

It organizes the knowledge and values specific learning outcomes into thematic groups referred to as **clusters** or **essential ideas**. Together with the *Grade 8 Social Studies Curriculum Overview: General Learning Outcomes with Grade 8 Specific Learning Outcomes*, this document can be used to plan student learning and to develop cross-curricular connections.

Social Studies SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Social studies involves the development of inquiry and research skills and methods, historical thinking, and geographic thinking. The skills and competencies learning outcomes are integrated throughout each cluster and are developed, refined, and applied across the grades. These skills and competencies are outlined in detail in the *Social Studies Foundation for Implementation* documents.

ACTIVE DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP
MANAGING INFORMATION AND IDEAS
CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING
COMMUNICATION

UNDERSTANDING SOCIETIES PAST AND PRESENT

▶ **What is a world view?**
KI-005 KI-006 VI-004

▶ **Origins of human societies**
KI-010 KI-011 KI-012

▶ **Societies and civilizations**
KI-007 KI-008 KI-009
KL-022 VL-008

▶ **Knowing the past**
KH-027 KH-028

EARLY SOCIETIES OF MESOPOTAMIA, EGYPT, OR THE INDUS VALLEY

▶ **Overview of early civilizations**
KG-038 VH-009

▶ **Interaction with the natural environment**
KL-023 KL-024 KE-054
VE-017

▶ **Living in an early society**
KI-013 KH-029 KP-045

▶ **Communication and art in an early society**
KI-014 KH-030 VH-010

ANCIENT SOCIETIES OF GREECE AND ROME

▶ **Overview of antiquity**
KI-017 KG-039 VI-006

▶ **Culture of ancient Greece**
KC-001 KI-015 KI-016
KH-031 VH-011

▶ **Democracy in ancient Greece**
KC-002 KC-003 VC-001
VP-016

▶ **Roman Empire**
KL-025 KH-031 KP-047
KP-048 KE-055

▶ **Legacy of ancient Greece and Rome**
KH-032 KP-046 KE-056
VI-005

TRANSITION TO THE MODERN WORLD (CIRCA 500 TO 1400)

▶ **Overview of the Middle Ages**
KH-033 KG-040 VG-015

▶ **Life in medieval Europe**
KH-034 KH-035 KP-050
KP-052 KE-057

▶ **The rise of Islam and the Ottoman Empire**
KI-018 KG-041 KP-049
KP-053

▶ **China and the Mongol Empire**
KI-019 KP-051 VH-012

▶ **Legacy of the Middle Ages**
KG-040 KG-042 KE-058
VG-014 VG-015

SHAPING THE MODERN WORLD (CIRCA 1400 TO 1850)

▶ **World overview (1400 to 1850)**
KC-004 KG-043 VC-002
VC-003

▶ **Global exploration**
KI-021 KL-026 KG-044
VH-013

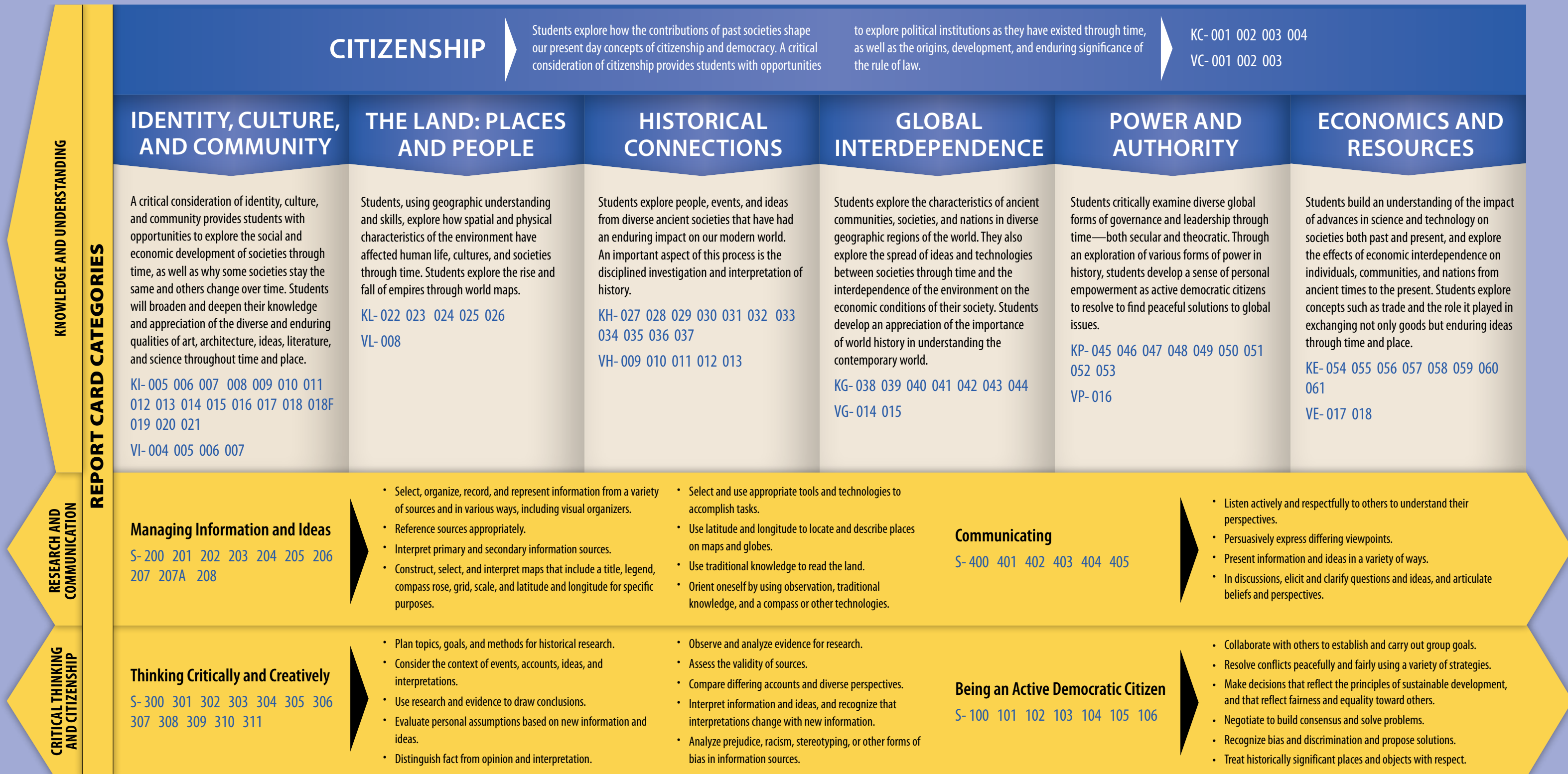▶ **Renaissance and Reformation**
KI-020 KH-036 KH-037
VI-007

▶ **Industrial Revolution**
KE-059 KE-060 KE-061
VE-018

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GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES

Curriculum Overview: General Learning Outcomes with Grade 8 Specific Learning Outcomes

Grade 8 students explore world civilizations of the past up to the nineteenth century. They study early hunter-gatherer societies, ancient societies, and the influences that have shaped the modern world. They explore the interactions of cultures and consider the enduring influence of the past on the present.

In social studies, six general learning outcomes (GLOs) provide the broad conceptual structure from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Each general learning outcome is expressed as an **essential learning** for the grade level. Overarching all six GLOs is the core concept of Citizenship. The skills and competencies are interwoven throughout the clusters as shown below.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

REPORT CARD CATEGORIES

CITIZENSHIP

Students explore how the contributions of past societies shape our present day concepts of citizenship and democracy. A critical consideration of citizenship provides students with opportunities to explore political institutions as they have existed through time, as well as the origins, development, and enduring significance of the rule of law.

KC- 001 002 003 004

VC- 001 002 003

IDENTITY, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY

A critical consideration of identity, culture, and community provides students with opportunities to explore the social and economic development of societies through time, as well as why some societies stay the same and others change over time. Students will broaden and deepen their knowledge and appreciation of the diverse and enduring qualities of art, architecture, ideas, literature, and science throughout time and place.

KI- 005 006 007 008 009 010 011 012 013 014 015 016 017 018 018F 019 020 021

VI- 004 005 006 007

THE LAND: PLACES AND PEOPLE

Students, using geographic understanding and skills, explore how spatial and physical characteristics of the environment have affected human life, cultures, and societies through time. Students explore the rise and fall of empires through world maps.

KL- 022 023 024 025 026

VL- 008

HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS

Students explore people, events, and ideas from diverse ancient societies that have had an enduring impact on our modern world. An important aspect of this process is the disciplined investigation and interpretation of history.

KH- 027 028 029 030 031 032 033 034 035 036 037

VH- 009 010 011 012 013

GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE

Students explore the characteristics of ancient communities, societies, and nations in diverse geographic regions of the world. They also explore the spread of ideas and technologies between societies through time and the interdependence of the environment on the economic conditions of their society. Students develop an appreciation of the importance of world history in understanding the contemporary world.

KG- 038 039 040 041 042 043 044

VG- 014 015

POWER AND AUTHORITY

Students critically examine diverse global forms of governance and leadership through time—both secular and theocratic. Through an exploration of various forms of power in history, students develop a sense of personal empowerment as active democratic citizens to resolve to find peaceful solutions to global issues.

KP- 045 046 047 048 049 050 051 052 053

VP- 016

ECONOMICS AND RESOURCES

Students build an understanding of the impact of advances in science and technology on societies both past and present, and explore the effects of economic interdependence on individuals, communities, and nations from ancient times to the present. Students explore concepts such as trade and the role it played in exchanging not only goods but enduring ideas through time and place.

KE- 054 055 056 057 058 059 060 061

VE- 017 018

RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION

Managing Information and Ideas

S- 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 207A 208

- Select, organize, record, and represent information from a variety of sources and in various ways, including visual organizers.
- Reference sources appropriately.
- Interpret primary and secondary information sources.
- Construct, select, and interpret maps that include a title, legend, compass rose, grid, scale, and latitude and longitude for specific purposes.

- Select and use appropriate tools and technologies to accomplish tasks.
- Use latitude and longitude to locate and describe places on maps and globes.
- Use traditional knowledge to read the land.
- Orient oneself by using observation, traditional knowledge, and a compass or other technologies.

Communicating

S- 400 401 402 403 404 405

- Listen actively and respectfully to others to understand their perspectives.
- Persuasively express differing viewpoints.
- Present information and ideas in a variety of ways.
- In discussions, elicit and clarify questions and ideas, and articulate beliefs and perspectives.

CRITICAL THINKING AND CITIZENSHIP

Thinking Critically and Creatively

S- 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311

- Plan topics, goals, and methods for historical research.
- Consider the context of events, accounts, ideas, and interpretations.
- Use research and evidence to draw conclusions.
- Evaluate personal assumptions based on new information and ideas.
- Distinguish fact from opinion and interpretation.

- Observe and analyze evidence for research.
- Assess the validity of sources.
- Compare differing accounts and diverse perspectives.
- Interpret information and ideas, and recognize that interpretations change with new information.
- Analyze prejudice, racism, stereotyping, or other forms of bias in information sources.

Being an Active Democratic Citizen

S- 100 101 102 103 104 105 106

- Collaborate with others to establish and carry out group goals.
- Resolve conflicts peacefully and fairly using a variety of strategies.
- Make decisions that reflect the principles of sustainable development, and that reflect fairness and equality toward others.
- Negotiate to build consensus and solve problems.
- Recognize bias and discrimination and propose solutions.
- Treat historically significant places and objects with respect.

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GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies Skills and Competencies

ACTIVE DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship skills enable students to develop good relations with others, to work in cooperative ways toward achieving common goals, and to collaborate with others for the well-being of their communities. These interpersonal skills focus on cooperating, resolving conflict, taking responsibility, accepting differences, building consensus, negotiating, making decisions collaboratively, and learning to deal with dissent and disagreement.

MANAGING INFORMATION AND IDEAS

Information-management skills enable students to access, select, organize, and record information and ideas, using a variety of sources, tools, and technologies. These skills include inquiry and research skills that enhance historical and geographical thinking.

CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

Critical and creative thinking skills enable students to make observations and decisions, to solve problems, and to devise forward-thinking strategies. These skills involve making connections among concepts and applying a variety of tools. Critical thinking involves the use of criteria and evidence to make reasoned judgments. These judgments include distinguishing fact from opinion and interpretation, evaluating information and ideas, identifying perspectives and bias, and considering the consequences of decisions and actions. Creative thinking emphasizes divergent thinking, the generation of ideas and possibilities, and the exploration of diverse approaches to questions.

COMMUNICATION

Communication skills enable students to interpret and express ideas clearly and purposefully, using a variety of media. These skills include the development of oral, visual, print, and media literacy, and the use of information and communication technologies for the exchange of information and ideas.

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