

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

K-2.SSI Grades K-2 Social Studies: Inquiry

K-2.SSI.1 Question Development

K-2.SSI.1.A Recognize that a question is important to understanding the world around us.

K-2.SSI.2 Plan Inquiry

K-2.SSI.2.A Develop a question(s) in order to learn more about a situation.

K-2.SSI.3 Gathering & Evaluating Applicable Resources

K-2.SSI.3.A Determine valuable resources to answer a question.

K-2.SSI.4 Developing Claims

K-2.SSI.4.A With prompting and support, state a claim to answer a question.

K-2.SSI.5 Citing Evidence

K-2.SSI.5.A Recognize that evidence should be used when answering a question.

K-2.SSI.6 Communicating Conclusions

K-2.SSI.6.A Present findings and respond effectively to others' questions and feedback.

K-2.SSB Grades K-2 Social Studies: Behavioral Sciences

K-2.SSB.1 Individual Perception and Behavior

K-2.SSB.1.A Recognize that an adult might react differently than a child to a situation.

K-2.SSB.2 Personal Identity and Empathy

K-2.SSB.2.A Understand that people may have different reactions to the same situation.

K-2.SSB.3 Relationship of People and Groups

K-2.SSB.3.A Understand how groups of people are alike and different.

K-2.SSB.4 Cultural Patterns

K-2.SSB.4.A Recognize ways people change and adapt to new situations.

K-2.SSB.5 Social Interactions

K-2.SSB.5.A Compare a belief and/or tradition in one culture to another culture (e.g., celebrating Holidays).

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

K-2.SSE Grades K-2 Social Studies: Economics

K-2.SSE.1 Choices and Decision-Making

K-2.SSE.1.A Understand the difference between a want and a need.

K-2.SSE.1.B Identify what is important to you, your family, community, and country.

K-2.SSE.2 Incentives

K-2.SSE.2.A Given a real-world situation, identify a potential reward.

K-2.SSE.3 Consumers, Producers, and Markets

K-2.SSE.3.A Understand the difference between buyers and sellers (consumers and producers).

K-2.SSE.4 Supply, Demand, and Competition

K-2.SSE.4.A Understand how products are priced.

K-2.SSE.5 Cost of Production

K-2.SSE.5.A Understand how resources are used to make goods.

K-2.SSE.6 Economic Indicators

K-2.SSE.6.A Understand the cost of everyday goods.

K-2.SSE.7 Money

K-2.SSE.7.A Understand why money is used and should be saved.

K-2.SSE.9 Allocation of Resources

K-2.SSE.9.A Understand how a good gets to a local community or market.

K-2.SSE.10 Institutions

K-2.SSE.10.A Identify different jobs people have and how they help each other.

K-2.SSE.11 Role of Government

K-2.SSE.11.A Identify goods and services that the government provides and how they help people.

K-2.SSE.12 Specialization, Trade, and Interdependence

K-2.SSE.12.A Understand how people can benefit themselves and others.

K-2.SSE.12.B Understand why people in different countries trade goods.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

K-2.SSG Grades K-2 Social Studies: Geography

K-2.SSG.1 Tools of Geography

K-2.SSG.1.A Understand the difference between maps and globes.

K-2.SSG.2 Spatial Thinking

K-2.SSG.2.A Recognize physical and human characteristics of a place using maps, graphs, photographs, and other representations.

K-2.SSG.3 Mental Mapping

K-2.SSG.3.A Create a map of a familiar and an unfamiliar place, using title, compass rose, and symbols.

K-2.SSG.4 Population and Place

K-2.SSG.4.A Understand why people live in certain places, including local and global communities.

K-2.SSG.5 Impact of Movement

K-2.SSG.5.A Understand that the movement of people impacts communities (e.g., physical, social, geographic, economic, religious, etc.)

K-2.SSG.6. Urbanization

K-2.SSG.6.A Understand the differences between rural and urban areas.

K-2.SSG.7 Distribution of Resources

K-2.SSG.7.A Understand what a resource is and how it affects a community.

K-2.SSG.8 Transportation of People and Ideas

K-2.SSG.8.A Understand how transportation and communication have changed over time.

K-2.SSG.9 Characteristics of Place

K-2.SSG.9.A Identify the physical and nonphysical characteristics of a place.

K-2.SSG.10 Human Environment Interaction

K-2.SSG.10.A Understand how humans change the physical environment.

K-2.SSG.11 Interdependence

K-2.SSG.11.A Understand that people share and trade products and resources.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

K-2.SSH Grades K-2 Social Studies: History

K-2.SSH.1 Cause and Effect

K-2.SSH.1.A Identify the cause and effect on an event, issue, or problem.

K-2.SSH.2 Patterns of Historical Themes

K-2.SSH.2.A Identify and describe patterns of what stays the same and what changes to self, family, and community over time.

K-2.SSH.3 Contextualization

K-2.SSH.3.A Recognize how something happening outside of your home can affect your family.

K-2.SSH.4 Connections

K-2.SSH.4.A Describe a person or event from the past that is similar to your life.

K-2.SSH.5 Perspective

K-2.SSH.5.A Understand that two people can talk about an event from different viewpoints.

K-2.SSH.6 Current Implications

K-2.SSH.6.A Explain how something from the past can affect your life now.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

K-2.SSP Grades K-2 Social Studies: Political Science

K-2.SSP.1 American Democracy

K-2.SSP.1.A Understand traditions that identify our state and country.

K-2.SSP.1.B Understand why rules and laws are important.

K-2.SSP.2 Origins of U.S. Government

K-2.SSP.2.A Identify historical figures who influenced the foundation of the United States.

K-2.SSP.3 Human and Civil Rights

K-2.SSP.3.A Compare rights and responsibilities within the classroom, school, and community.

K-2.SSP.4 Human and Civil Liberties

K-2.SSP.4.A Identify basic rights that all humans have.

K-2.SSP.5 Fundamentals of Citizenship

K-2.SSP.5.A Identify what makes a good citizen.

K-2.SSP.6 Government Participation

K-2.SSP.6.A Describe and explain the effect an action has on members of a group.

K-2.SSP.7 Government & Media Awareness

K-2.SSP.7.A Identify different types of media and sources that inform the public.

K-2.SSP.8 Power in Government

K-2.SSP.8.A Recognize the roles government plays in the lives of people.

K-2.SSP.9 Public Policy

K-2.SSP.9.A Understand that there are different ways to solve a problem.

K-2.SSP.10 Argumentation

K-2.SSP.10.A Compare and contrast points of view on the same topic.

K-2.SSP.11 Consensus Building

K-2.SSP.11.A Understand how to compromise.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

3-5.SSI Grades 3-5 Social Studies: Inquiry

- 3-5.SSI.1 Question Development
 - 3-5.SSI.1.A Create a list of open- and closed-ended questions on a topic or issue.
- 3-5.SSI.2 Plan Inquiry
 - 3-5.SSI.2.A Develop questions that support the research, discussion, and investigation.
- 3-5.SSI.3 Gathering & Evaluating Applicable Resources
 - 3-5.SSI.3.A Gather and evaluate resources to determine which best answer the question.
- 3-5.SSI.4 Developing Claims
 - 3-5.SSI.4.A Create a thesis statement based on evidence found in sources to make a claim.
- 3-5.SSI.5 Citing Evidence
 - 3-5.SSI.5.A Select appropriate evidence from sources to support a claim.
- 3-5.SSI.6 Communicating Conclusions
 - 3-5.SSI.6.A Evaluate the strength of a claim and its evidence.

3-5.SSB Grades 3-5 Social Studies: Behavioral Sciences

- 3-5.SSB.1 Individual Perception and Behavior
 - 3-5.SSB.1.A Understand that a reaction is affected by prior experiences.
- 3-5.SSB.2 Personal Identity and Empathy
 - 3-5.SSB.2.A Understand that culture, ethnicity, race, age, religion, and social class can affect someone's life.
- 3-5.SSB.3 Relationship of People and Groups
 - 3-5.SSB.3.A Understand how people from different cultures solve common problems.
- 3-5.SSB.4 Cultural Patterns
 - 3-5.SSB.4.A Understand how people from different cultures develop different values and viewpoints.
- 3-5.SSB.5 Social Interactions
 - 3-5.SSB.5.A Understand how similarities and differences in cultures may lead to understandings and misunderstandings.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

3-5.SSE Grades 3-5 Social Studies: Economics

3-5.SSE.1 Choices and Decision-Making

3-5.SSE.1.A Compare and contrast the costs and benefits of a decision.

3-5.SSE.1.B Be able to categorize limited resources (e.g., money, materials, time, labor).

3-5.SSE.2 Incentives

3-5.SSE.2.A Understand how similarities and differences in cultures may lead to understandings and misunderstandings.

3-5.SSE.3 Consumers, Producers, and Markets

3-5.SSE.3.A Understand that supply and demand affects products, availability, and the workforce.

3-5.SSE.3.B Understand the difference between goods and services.

3-5.SSE.4 Supply, Demand, and Competition

3-5.SSE.4.A Assess the roles of consumers, producers, prices, non-price factors (e.g., fad items, natural disasters), and competition.

3-5.SSE.5 Cost of Production

3-5.SSE.5.A Identify the factors of production (e.g., location, materials, equipment, expertise, motivation) in order to make a profit.

3-5.SSE.6 Economic Indicators

3-5.SSE.6.A Understand how the cost of goods and services change over time.

3-5.SSE.7 Money

3-5.SSE.7.A Describe the role of money, banking, and savings in everyday life, including why people borrow money and the role of interest.

3-5.SSE.8 Economic Fluctuations

3-5.SSE.8.A Identify the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP).

3-5.SSE.9 Allocation of Resources

3-5.SSE.9.A Identify the chain of supply for a basic need (food, clothing, shelter).

3-5.SSE.10 Institutions

3-5.SSE.10.A Understand the role of economic institutions (e.g. banks, government) in helping individuals and society.

3-5.SSE.11 Role of Government

3-5.SSE.11.A Understand why governments tax and the impact on the economy.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

3-5.SSE Grades 3-5 Social Studies: Economics - continued

3-5.SSE.12 Specialization, Trade, and Interdependence

3-5.SSE.12.A Identify goods and services that vary between two or more regions.

3-5.SSE.12.B Identify examples of U.S. imports and exports.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

3-5.SSG Grades 3-5 Social Studies: Geography

3-5.SSG.1 Tools of Geography

3-5.SSG.1.A Understand how absolute and relative location affects people, places, and environment (e.g. absolute and relative).

3-5.SSG.2 Spatial Thinking

3-5.SSG.2.A Evaluate patterns in a variety of maps, charts, and graphs to display geographic information.

3-5.SSG.3 Mental Mapping

3-5.SSG.3.A Locate regions, and physical and cultural features throughout the world.

3-5.SSG.4 Population and Place

3-5.SSG.4.A Understand types of communities and their populations, including local and global communities.

3-5.SSG.5 Impact of Movement

3-5.SSG.5.A Understand and explain how the movement of people impacts communities (e.g., physical, social, geographic, economic, religious, etc.)

3-5.SSG.6 Urbanization

3-5.SSG.6.A Understand the relationships between rural and urban areas.

3-5.SSG.7 Distribution of Resources

3-5.SSG.7.A Understand how the access to various resources impacts the patterns of human settlement.

3-5.SSG.8 Transportation of People and Ideas

3-5.SSG.8.A Identify how people, products, and ideas move between places.

3-5.SSG.9 Characteristics of Place

3-5.SSG.9.A Understand the physical and nonphysical characteristics of a place related to its culture.

3-5.SSG.10 Human Environment Interaction

3-5.SSG.10.A Understand the effects of human actions on the physical environment over time.

3-5.SSG.11 Interdependence

3-5.SSG.11.A Understand that the distribution of resources creates systems of commerce between groups.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

3-5.SSH Grades 3-5 Social Studies: History

3-5.SSH.1 Cause and Effect

3-5.SSH.1.A Use evidence to draw conclusions about probable cause and effect of an event, issue, or problem.

3-5.SSH.2 Patterns of Historical Themes

3-5.SSH.2.A Using multiple sources, evaluate patterns of what stays the same and what changes over time.

3-5.SSH.3 Contextualization

3-5.SSH.3.A Understand how a historical event influences continuity or change.

3-5.SSH.4 Connections

3-5.SSH.4.A Compare events in history to a current issue or event.

3-5.SSH.5 Perspective

3-5.SSH.5.A Apply historical perspectives to describe different viewpoints of current and past events.

3-5.SSH.6 Current Implications

3-5.SSH.6.A Explain how historical events have possible implications on the present.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

3-5.SSP Grades 3-5 Social Studies: Political Science

3-5.SSP.1 American Democracy

3-5.SSP.1.A Understand majority rule and minority rights.

3-5.SSP.1.B Understand that laws are based on the Constitution.

3-5.SSP.2 Origins of U.S. Government

3-5.SSP.2.A Identify the Founding Fathers and their role in the development of the U.S. Government.

3-5.SSP.2.B Understand contributions to the development of political culture.

3-5.SSP.3 Human and Civil Rights

3-5.SSP.3.A Understand the rights and responsibilities to people found in the Constitution.

3-5.SSP.4 Human and Civil Liberties

3-5.SSP.4.A Identify people and their actions have influenced basic human and civil liberties.

3-5.SSP.5 Fundamentals of Citizenship

3-5.SSP.5.A Develop an opinion about an issue in your school and community based on the responsibilities of good citizenship.

3-5.SSP.6 Government Participation

3-5.SSP.6.A Identify reasons why citizens participate in government.

3-5.SSP.7 Government & Media Awareness

3-5.SSP.7.A Identify how media influences public opinions.

3-5.SSP.8 Power in Government

3-5.SSP.8.A Understand the basic structure, functions and powers of government.

3-5.SSP.9 Public Policy

3-5.SSP.9.A Compare and contrast how various government entities solve problems.

3-5.SSP.10 Argumentation

3-5.SSP.10.A Form an argument by taking multiple points of view into account.

3-5.SSP.11 Consensus Building

3-5.SSP.11.A Understand the factors that influence how political groups work towards consensus

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

6-8.SSI Grades 6-8 Social Studies: Inquiry

- 6-8.SSI.1 Question Development
 - 6-8.SSI.1.A Create open-ended questions for further research.
- 6-8.SSI.2 Plan Inquiry
 - 6-8.SSI.2.A Identify relevant sources that support student-led inquiry.
- 6-8.SSI.3 Gathering & Evaluating Applicable Resources
 - 6-8.SSI.3.A Determine usefulness and credibility of primary and secondary sources.
- 6-8.SSI.4 Developing Claims
 - 6-8.SSI.4.A Develop a debatable and defensible claim based on the analysis of sources.
- 6-8.SSI.5 Citing Evidence
 - 6-8.SSI.5.A Support claim with evidence from multiple reliable sources representing a range of mediums.

- 6-8.SSI.6 Communicating Conclusions
 - 6-8.SSI.6.A Evaluate the logic, relevance, and accuracy of claims, taking into consideration personal bias.

6-8.SSB Grades 6-8 Social Studies: Behavioral Sciences

- 6-8.SSB.1 Individual Perception and Behavior
 - 6-8.SSB.1.A Identify factors that influence a person's cognition, perception, and behavior.
- 6-8.SSB.2 Personal Identity and Empathy
 - 6-8.SSB.2.A Understand the effects of ethnic and/or gender discrimination on identity.
- 6-8.SSB.3 Relationship of People and Groups
 - 6-8.SSB.3.A Understand how elements of culture can unify or divide a group of people.
- 6-8.SSB.4 Cultural Patterns
 - 6-8.SSB.4.A Understand how individuals learn the elements of their culture and of other cultures.
- 6-8.SSB.5 Social Interactions
 - 6-8.SSB.5.A Understand how individuals, groups, and institutions can influence people, events, and cultures.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

6-8.SSE Grades 6-8 Social Studies: Economics

6-8.SSE.1 Choices and Decision-Making

6-8.SSE.1.A Analyze how the opportunity costs of decisions might vary based on the situation.

6-8.SSE.1.B Evaluate how limited resources impact the choices of individuals, households, communities, businesses, and countries.

6-8.SSE.2 Incentives

6-8.SSE.2.A Evaluate how incentives determine what is produced and distributed in a competitive market system.

6-8.SSE.3 Consumers, Producers, and Markets

6-8.SSE.3.A Understand how individuals, businesses, and governments are both consumers and producers.

6-8.SSE.3.B Understand the roles of consumers and producers of the market for goods and services.

6-8.SSE.4 Supply, Demand, and Competition

6-8.SSE.4.A Evaluate the extent to which competition exists and how it can affect price, quantity, and variety.

6-8.SSE.5 Cost of Production

6-8.SSE.5.A Evaluate factors of production and how they are combined to provide goods and/or services for a profit.

6-8.SSE.6 Economic Indicators

6-8.SSE.6.A Analyze how inflation, deflation, and unemployment affect different groups.

6-8.SSE.7 Money

6-8.SSE.7.A Understand the functions of money and how interest rates influence borrowing and investing.

6-8.SSE.8 Economic Fluctuations

6-8.SSE.8.A Analyze the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to assess the state of an economy.

6-8.SSE.9 Allocation of Resources

6-8.SSE.9.A Understand how different economic systems meet the needs of their consumers.

6-8.SSE.10 Institutions

6-8.SSE.10.A Understand rules and laws that protect consumers, workers, businesses, and institutions.

6-8.SSE.11 Role of Government

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

6-8.SSE.11.A Evaluate types of taxes (e.g., progressive, regressive) and earned benefits with eligibility criteria (e.g. Social Security, Medicare).

6-8.SSE.12 Specialization, Trade, and Interdependence

6-8.SSE.12.A Identify the role of specialization in trade.

6-8.SSE.12 Specialization, Trade, and Interdependence - continued

6-8.SSE.12.B Understand the benefits and costs of trade policies to individuals, businesses, societies, and among countries.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

6-8.SSG Grades 6-8 Social Studies: Geography

6-8.SSG.1 Tools of Geography

6-8.SSG.1.A Demonstrate understanding of the appropriate features of a variety of maps (e.g., distortion, area, distance, direction).

6-8.SSG.2 Spatial Thinking

6-8.SSG.2.A Evaluate purposes of and differences among maps, globes, aerial photographs, charts, and satellite images.

6-8.SSG.3 Mental Mapping

6-8.SSG.3.A Understand that mental maps are shaped by individual perceptions of people, places, regions, and environments.

6-8.SSG.4 Population and Place

6-8.SSG.4.A Understand the distribution and movement of populations on a local and global scale.

6-8.SSG.5 Impact of Movement

6-8.SSG.5.A Understand and evaluate the global impacts of population shifts over a period of time.

6-8.SSG.6 Urbanization

6-8.SSG.6.A Understand and explain the interdependence of rural and urban areas on a global scale.

6-8.SSG.7 Distribution of Resources

6-8.SSG.7.A Understand the relationship between the distribution of various resources and patterns of human settlement.

6-8.SSG.8 Transportation of People and Ideas

6-8.SSG.8.A Understand the patterns of transportation and communication used in local and global communities.

6-8.SSG.9 Characteristics of Place

6-8.SSG.9.A Understand and evaluate the ways culture and the characteristics of a place can change over time.

6-8.SSG.10 Human Environment Interaction

6-8.SSG.10.A Analyze the intentional and unintentional impacts humans have on the environment over time.

6-8.SSG.11 Interdependence

6-8.SSG.11.A Hypothesize how changes in human behavior can result in changes that have effects on a global scale.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

6-8.SSH Grades 6-8 Social Studies: History

6-8.SSH.1 Cause and Effect

6-8.SSH.1.A Use multiple perspectives to analyze and explain the cause and effect of events within and across time periods, events, or cultures.

6-8.SSH.2 Patterns of Historical Themes

6-8.SSH.2.A Evaluate the trustworthiness and bias of multiple sources to analyze patterns of what stays the same and what changes over time.

6-8.SSH.3 Contextualization

6-8.SSH.3.A Understand how a historical event influences the process or nature of continuity or change.

6-8.SSH.4 Connections

6-8.SSH.4.A Hypothesize how significant historical periods influence present and future issues and events.

6-8.SSH.5 Perspective

6-8.SSH.5.A Evaluate historical perspective to create arguments with evidence concerning current events.

6-8.SSH.6 Current Implications

6-8.SSH.6.A Evaluate and justify predictions of potential outcomes of current events based on the past.

Diocese of Madison
Social Studies Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades K-8
Updated September 2019

6-8.SSP Grades 6-8 Social Studies: Political Science

6-8.SSP.1 American Democracy

6-8.SSP.1.A Understand how the Preamble and Bill of Rights protects freedoms and rights.

6-8.SSP.1.B Understand the interdependence of the three branches of government on the Constitution (e.g., checks and balances).

6-8.SSP.2 Origins of U.S. Government

6-8.SSP.2.A Identify the Founding Fathers and understand their role in the development of the principles of the Constitution.

6-8.SSP.2.B Understand how government documents and court decisions affect the general welfare.

6-8.SSP.3 Human and Civil Rights

6-8.SSP.3.A Understand the limits of individual rights and protections found in the Constitution.

6-8.SSP.4 Human and Civil Liberties

6-8.SSP.4.A Understand the impact of individuals, groups, and movements on the development of human and civil liberties for different groups.

6-8.SSP.5 Fundamentals of Citizenship

6-8.SSP.5.A Understand the skills necessary to participate in the election process (e.g., registering to vote, evaluating candidates and issues, casting a ballot).

6-8.SSP.6 Government Participation

6-8.SSP.6.A Evaluate solutions to increase participation in government.

6-8.SSP.7 Government & Media Awareness

6-8.SSP.7.A Evaluate the trustworthiness and bias of multiple sources to analyze patterns of what is true and untrue in political action.

6-8.SSP.8 Power in Government

6-8.SSP.8.A Analyze the structure, functions, powers, and limitations of government.

6-8.SSP.9 Public Policy

6-8.SSP.9.A Evaluate the effectiveness of public policy actions and processes.

6-8.SSP.10 Argumentation

6-8.SSP.10.A Create arguments by researching and interpreting claims and counterclaims.

6-8.SSP.11 Consensus Building

6-8.SSP.11.A Analyze the effects of a political compromise or an absence of a political compromise with major historical impact.