

**Social Studies Curriculum Checklist  
Diocese of Little Rock**

**Grade 8**

**History**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Describes the relationship of people and events, their effect of the past upon the present in the U.S. and the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. explorers and their economic, religious, and social reasons for exploration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. the European influence on American colonization and the effects of French, Spanish, and English exploration of North America.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. the causes and effects of the Revolutionary War.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrates a knowledge of our founding fathers and their contributions to American History.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. causes, effects, and major historical figures of the French and Indian War.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. causes, effects, and major events/figures of the Civil War.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrates an understanding of the Reconstruction Period, Industrial Period, and their effects (including politicians and reform).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrates a knowledge of the causes, effects, and major events of WWI.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develops an understanding of U.S. domestic affairs and foreign policy during WWI.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrates a knowledge of causes, effects, and major events of WWII.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develops understanding of the changes in domestic and foreign policy since WWII.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Defines and has an understanding of human rights and can give examples of prejudice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the major contributions of Ethnic groups (i.e. Afro-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Native-Americans).

**Political Science**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Becomes aware of happenings that occur locally, nationally, and in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develops awareness of duties of citizenship to school, community, and country.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes citizen's concern for common welfare.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develops an awareness of documents of identification (i.e. passport, birth certificate, and social security number).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Becomes aware of the freedoms Americans have.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes that laws are needed and enforced so that a citizen knows what can or cannot be done and that these laws protect a citizen's rights.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. actions and events that are challenging freedoms at this time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. the rights given to citizens by the Bill of Rights.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. ways citizenship can be attained, renounced, or lost.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrates knowledge of the importance of the voting system of the U.S. and uses all available sources of information I.D. candidates before making choices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the Constitution as a flexible document that can be changed to meet the needs of the people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ List and explains the three branches of the government and their functions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the purpose and origin of the United Nations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. and describes characteristics of the major governments of the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develops an understanding of how events affect foreign policies.

**Geography**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Able to construct simple maps which are correctly oriented.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Uses a map/globe to compute distance, direction, and degrees.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Interprets abbreviations, symbols, and legends found on maps and globes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Defines sea level, altitude, elevation, latitude, longitude, and other related terms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Understands relative and absolute location on maps and globes and uses appropriate terms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes effects of landforms, ocean currents, air currents, distance from the equator, etc. on weather and climate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Becomes aware of the differences in areas' ability to sustain life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. examples of geographic features which relate directly to economic activities.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrates recognition and knowledge of the effect of resources and location on the economic development of a nation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Understands the term culture and its characteristics: religion, politics, social structure, language, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Understands cultural characteristics of different countries worldwide.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Understands how culture causes conflict and recognizes areas of cultural conflict in the world.

### **Culture**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Develops an acceptance of and need for cooperation with others and their lifestyles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes that competition for resources between nations or groups of people often lead to conflict and the need for rules and social control.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develops an understanding of social institutions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develops an understanding of culture as socially learned and as a guide for human behavior in any given society.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develops an understanding of causes of change in culture brought by technology and economy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognize that all peoples' cultures and religions have contributed to our cultural heritage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes that art, music, architecture, food, and clothing of a people help produce a national or ethnic identity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Respects and values the achievements, heritage, and traditions of ethnic groups.

### **Economics**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. the reasons for working and recognizes that work contributes to self-fulfillment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develops an awareness of the various types of careers, of requirements for and characteristics of given career choices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the new technology and scientific knowledge continually open new job opportunities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the relationship between education (vocational training) and job opportunities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes that the wants of persons can be unlimited, whereas resources are limited.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the need to make choices-some will be met and others will be sacrificed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes that prices are determined by supply and demand.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Understands that in a free-enterprise system, the decision makes process functions through markets.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. the need for budgeting, saving, and investing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. the responsibilities and risks of credit and borrowing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the impact of advertising techniques on the consumer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes that as workers become more specialized in what they do, the need for interdependence is strengthened.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. economic problems i.e. poverty, crime, unemployment, and the role of governments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. the various forms of economic activities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrates the knowledge of the economics of capitalism.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognize the importance of government taxation and spending.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognize the importance of world trade.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the importance of natural disasters.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Understands that the economy of a region is related to available natural resources, human knowledge, and skills.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the difference between the agricultural-based and industrial-based societies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes that growth in population is accompanied by an increased demand for goods and services.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Compares and contrasts the major economic systems of the world i.e. capitalism, Communism, and socialism.

### **Peace and Justice**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes environmental problems and that actions taken for a better environment are part of one's mission.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the obligation Christians have to seek justice in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. belonging to a family of people; all have a duty to help others as part of the human family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Formulates Christian attitudes toward conflict and violence, and develops skills for conflict resolution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. and recognizes some of the human right's issues in the modern Church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Affirms the essential equality of people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. areas of discrimination (i.e. sex, age, race, religion, disabilities).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the family as a social institution with value and dignity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the value of the neighborhood, rural life and the social responsibility to care for them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. land as a precious human resource.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the Church as an important community builder.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognizes the need for world peace (moral implications of war).