

Virtual Field Trips

Exploring Cuba

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Social Studies

Grade 3 - Adopted: 2010

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.1.	'Culture' refers to the behaviors, beliefs, values, traditions, institutions, and ways of living together of a group of people.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.2.	Concepts such as: similarities, differences, beliefs, values, cohesion, and diversity.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.4.	How culture may change in response to changing needs and concerns.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.6.	How peoples from different cultures develop different values and ways of interpreting experience.

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.2.2.	Explore and describe similarities and differences in the ways various cultural groups meet similar needs and concerns.
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THEME	NCSS.2.	TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PAST AND ITS LEGACY.
CATEGORY	2.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	2.1.5.	Key symbols and traditions that are carried from the past into the present by diverse cultures in the United States and world.
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THEME	NCSS.3.	PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS.
CATEGORY	3.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.5.	Physical changes in community, state, and region, such as seasons, climate, and weather, and their effects on plants and animals.
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THEME	NCSS.5.	INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERACTIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.
CATEGORY	5.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION 5.1.2. Concepts such as: community, culture, role, competition, cooperation, rules, and norms.

THEME	NCSS.9.	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE.
CATEGORY	9.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION 9.2.4. Describe examples in which language, art, music, belief systems, and other cultural elements can facilitate global understanding or cause misunderstanding.

National Geography Standards (NGS)
Social Studies
Grade 3 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PR.	Places and Regions
STANDARD	PR.4.	The physical and human characteristics of places
STRAND	PR.4.2.	The Characteristics of Places: Places have physical and human characteristics
BENCHMARK	PR.4.2.A	Describe and compare the physical characteristics of places at a variety of scales, local to global, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PR.4.2.A. 3. Describe and compare the physical environments and landforms of different places in the world (e.g., mountains, islands, valleys or canyons, mesas).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.1.	Components of Earth's Physical Systems: There are four components of Earth's physical systems (the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere)
BENCHMARK	PS.7.1.A	Identify attributes of Earth's different physical systems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.7.1.A. 1. Identify different attributes of physical systems in photographs (e.g., sky, clouds, plants, soil, oceans, lakes, mountains).

EXPECTATION PS.7.1.A. 3. Identify examples of landforms on Earth's surface (e.g., mountains, volcanoes, valleys, plains).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.2.	Earth-Sun Relationships: Earth-Sun relationships affect conditions on Earth
BENCHMARK	PS.7.2.A	Describe how Earth's position relative to the Sun affects conditions on Earth, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	PS.7.2.A.1.	Describe the relationship between the cycle of seasons and months in the Northern and Southern hemispheres.
EXPECTATION	PS.7.2.A.2.	Describe the differences in seasons based on latitude (e.g., first and last frost in different locations, length of growing season, bird migrations).
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.ES.	Environment and Society
STANDARD	ES.15.	How physical systems affect human systems
STRAND	ES.15.1.	Environmental Opportunities and Constraints: The physical environment provides opportunities for and imposes constraints on human activities
BENCHMARK	ES.15.1.A.	Describe examples in which the physical environment provides opportunities for human activities, as exemplified by being able to
EXPECTATION	ES.15.1.A.2.	Identify and describe examples of places that offer vacation activities for people because of the physical environment (e.g., snow skiing, ocean beaches, boating, river rafting).
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.ES.	Environment and Society
STANDARD	ES.15.	How physical systems affect human systems
STRAND	ES.15.1.	Environmental Opportunities and Constraints: The physical environment provides opportunities for and imposes constraints on human activities
BENCHMARK	ES.15.1.B.	Describe examples in which the physical environment imposes constraints on human activities, as exemplified by being able to
EXPECTATION	ES.15.1.B.2.	Describe examples in which human activities are limited by different types of climates (e.g., cold or polar, rainy or dry, equatorial).
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.UG.	The Uses of Geography
STANDARD	UG.18.	How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future
STRAND	UG.18.3.	Perceptions of Geographic Contexts: People's perceptions of the world—places, regions, and environments—are constantly changing
BENCHMARK	UG.18.3.A.	Explain how people's perceptions of the world can change with new information and new experiences, as exemplified by being able to
EXPECTATION	UG.18.3.A.1.	Describe a recent trip and explain what preconceived thoughts were about the place compared with how it turned out to be in reality.

Virtual Field Trips

Exploring Cuba

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Social Studies

Grade 4 - Adopted: 2010

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.1.	'Culture' refers to the behaviors, beliefs, values, traditions, institutions, and ways of living together of a group of people.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.2.	Concepts such as: similarities, differences, beliefs, values, cohesion, and diversity.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.4.	How culture may change in response to changing needs and concerns.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.6.	How peoples from different cultures develop different values and ways of interpreting experience.

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.2.2.	Explore and describe similarities and differences in the ways various cultural groups meet similar needs and concerns.
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THEME	NCSS.2.	TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PAST AND ITS LEGACY.
CATEGORY	2.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	2.1.5.	Key symbols and traditions that are carried from the past into the present by diverse cultures in the United States and world.
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THEME	NCSS.3.	PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS.
CATEGORY	3.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.5.	Physical changes in community, state, and region, such as seasons, climate, and weather, and their effects on plants and animals.
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THEME	NCSS.5.	INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERACTIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.
CATEGORY	5.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION 5.1.2. Concepts such as: community, culture, role, competition, cooperation, rules, and norms.

THEME	NCSS.9.	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE.
CATEGORY	9.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION 9.2.4. Describe examples in which language, art, music, belief systems, and other cultural elements can facilitate global understanding or cause misunderstanding.

National Geography Standards (NGS)
Social Studies
Grade 4 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PR.	Places and Regions
STANDARD	PR.4.	The physical and human characteristics of places
STRAND	PR.4.2.	The Characteristics of Places: Places have physical and human characteristics
BENCHMARK	PR.4.2.A	Describe and compare the physical characteristics of places at a variety of scales, local to global, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PR.4.2.A. 3. Describe and compare the physical environments and landforms of different places in the world (e.g., mountains, islands, valleys or canyons, mesas).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.1.	Components of Earth's Physical Systems: There are four components of Earth's physical systems (the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere)
BENCHMARK	PS.7.1.A	Identify attributes of Earth's different physical systems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.7.1.A. 1. Identify different attributes of physical systems in photographs (e.g., sky, clouds, plants, soil, oceans, lakes, mountains).

EXPECTATION PS.7.1.A. 3. Identify examples of landforms on Earth's surface (e.g., mountains, volcanoes, valleys, plains).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.2.	Earth-Sun Relationships: Earth-Sun relationships affect conditions on Earth
BENCHMARK	PS.7.2.A	Describe how Earth's position relative to the Sun affects conditions on Earth, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	PS.7.2.A.1.	Describe the relationship between the cycle of seasons and months in the Northern and Southern hemispheres.
EXPECTATION	PS.7.2.A.2.	Describe the differences in seasons based on latitude (e.g., first and last frost in different locations, length of growing season, bird migrations).
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.ES.	Environment and Society
STANDARD	ES.15.	How physical systems affect human systems
STRAND	ES.15.1.	Environmental Opportunities and Constraints: The physical environment provides opportunities for and imposes constraints on human activities
BENCHMARK	ES.15.1.A.	Describe examples in which the physical environment provides opportunities for human activities, as exemplified by being able to
EXPECTATION	ES.15.1.A.2.	Identify and describe examples of places that offer vacation activities for people because of the physical environment (e.g., snow skiing, ocean beaches, boating, river rafting).
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.ES.	Environment and Society
STANDARD	ES.15.	How physical systems affect human systems
STRAND	ES.15.1.	Environmental Opportunities and Constraints: The physical environment provides opportunities for and imposes constraints on human activities
BENCHMARK	ES.15.1.B.	Describe examples in which the physical environment imposes constraints on human activities, as exemplified by being able to
EXPECTATION	ES.15.1.B.2.	Describe examples in which human activities are limited by different types of climates (e.g., cold or polar, rainy or dry, equatorial).
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.UG.	The Uses of Geography
STANDARD	UG.18.	How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future
STRAND	UG.18.3.	Perceptions of Geographic Contexts: People's perceptions of the world—places, regions, and environments—are constantly changing
BENCHMARK	UG.18.3.A.	Explain how people's perceptions of the world can change with new information and new experiences, as exemplified by being able to
EXPECTATION	UG.18.3.A.1.	Describe a recent trip and explain what preconceived thoughts were about the place compared with how it turned out to be in reality.

Virtual Field Trips

Exploring Cuba

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Social Studies

Grade 5 - Adopted: 2010

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.1.	'Culture' refers to the socially transmitted behaviors, beliefs, values, traditions, institutions, and ways of living together of a group of people.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.3.	How culture influences the ways in which human groups solve the problems of daily living.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.6.	That culture may change in response to changing needs, concerns, social, political, and geographic conditions.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.7.	How people from different cultures develop different values and ways of interpreting experience.

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.2.1.	Ask and find answers to questions related to culture.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.2.7.	Draw inferences from data about the ways in which given cultures respond to persistent human issues, and how culture influences those responses.

THEME	NCSS.2.	TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PAST AND ITS LEGACY.
CATEGORY	2.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	2.1.6.	The origins and influences of social, cultural, political, and economic systems.
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THEME	NCSS.3.	PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS.
CATEGORY	3.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.1.	The theme of people, places, and environments involves the study of the relationships between human populations in different locations and geographic phenomena such as climate, vegetation, and natural resources.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.3.	Past and present changes in physical systems, such as seasons, climate, and weather, and the water cycle, in both national and global contexts.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.5.	The concept of regions identifies links between people in different locations according to specific criteria (e.g., physical, economic, social, cultural, or religious).

THEME	NCSS.5.	INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERACTIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.
CATEGORY	5.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.1.2.	Concepts such as: mores, norms, status, role, socialization, ethnocentrism, cultural diffusion, competition, cooperation, conflict, race, ethnicity, and gender.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.1.9.	That groups and institutions influence culture in a variety of ways.

THEME	NCSS.5.	INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERACTIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.
CATEGORY	5.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.2.4.	Understand examples of tensions between belief systems and governmental actions and policies.
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THEME	NCSS.7.	PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF HOW PEOPLE ORGANIZE FOR THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES.
CATEGORY	7.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	7.2.1.	Ask and find answers to questions about the production and distribution of goods and services in the state and nation, and in a global context.
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THEME	NCSS.9.	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE.
CATEGORY	9.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.1.2.	Global factors such as cultural, economic, and political connections are changing the places in which people live (e.g., through trade, migration, increased travel, and communication).
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THEME	NCSS.9.	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE.
CATEGORY	9.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.2.3.	Investigate and explain the ways in which aspects of culture, such as language, beliefs, and traditions, may facilitate understanding, or lead to misunderstanding between cultures.
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LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.2.7.	Describe and explain the relationships and tensions between national sovereignty and global interests in such matters as territorial rights, natural resources, trade, the different uses of technology, and the welfare of people.
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National Geography Standards (NGS)

Social Studies

Grade 5 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.WST .	The World in Spatial Terms
STANDARD	WST.2.	How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context
STRAND	WST.2.3 .	Using Mental Maps: Mental maps are used to answer geographic questions about locations, characteristics, and patterns of places and regions
BENCHMARK	WST.2.3 .A.	Identify from memory and describe the locations, characteristics, and patterns of places and regions to answer geographic questions, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	WST.2.3. A.3.	Identify from memory the distribution, pattern, and characteristics of major world deserts and mountain ranges that can be barriers to travel or settlement.
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.WST .	The World in Spatial Terms
STANDARD	WST.3.	How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface
STRAND	WST.3.3 .	Spatial Models: Models are used to represent spatial processes that shape human and physical systems
BENCHMARK	WST.3.3 .A.	Describe the processes that shape human and physical systems (e.g., diffusion, migration, and plate tectonics) using models, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	WST.3.3. A.1.	Describe a model that illustrates the diffusion of cultural characteristics (e.g., music styles, clothing styles, fast-food preferences).
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PR.	Places and Regions
STANDARD	PR.6.	How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions
STRAND	PR.6.2.	Changes in the Perception of Places and Regions: Perceptions of places and regions change by incorporating multiple direct and indirect experiences
BENCHMARK	PR.6.2.A .	Analyze the ways in which people change their views of places and regions as a result of media reports or interactions with other people, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	PR.6.2.A. 2.	Analyze the way in which traveling to a new place (city, state, or country) may change prior views of that place to more informed and developed views based on the experiences there (e.g., travel for sporting contests at schools, travel for outdoor recreational activities, travel for historical interests or visiting museums).
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EXPECTATION	PR.6.2.A. 3.	Analyze the effects of different sources of information that may cause people to change their views of a place or region (e.g., travel brochures or guidebooks, cable travel channels or documentaries, information from friends or family).
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface

STRAND	PS.8.3.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Biomes: Climate primarily determines the characteristics and geographic distribution of biomes
BENCHMARK	PS.8.3.A.	Describe and explain how climate (temperature and rainfall) primarily determines the characteristics and geographic distribution of biomes, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.3.A.3. Explain how biomes do not always follow lines of latitude by identifying the influences of oceans and mountain ranges on the distribution of climate and vegetation.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.HS.	Human Systems
STANDARD	HS.10.	The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
STRAND	HS.10.3.	Cultural Diffusion and Change: Changes in cultural characteristics and the distribution of cultures result from migration of people and the diffusion of ideas and technology
BENCHMARK	HS.10.3.A.	Describe and explain the processes of cultural diffusion, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION HS.10.3.A.3. Identify the origins of different music genres and describe the spatial role of music in cultural diffusion (e.g., Latin Salsa music, Jazz and Blues music, rock and roll music).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.ES.	Environment and Society
STANDARD	ES.15.	How physical systems affect human systems
STRAND	ES.15.2.	Environmental Hazards: The types, causes, and characteristics of environmental hazards occur at a variety of scales from local to global
BENCHMARK	ES.15.2.B.	Explain the causes and locations of various types of environmental hazards, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION ES.15.2.B.1. Describe the physical environmental conditions that create or result in different environmental hazards (e.g., plate tectonics causing earthquakes, sea surface temperatures contributing to hurricane development in the Atlantic, strong frontal systems in thunderstorms spawning tornadoes).

Virtual Field Trips

Exploring Cuba

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)
 Social Studies
 Grade 6 - Adopted: 2010

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.1.	'Culture' refers to the socially transmitted behaviors, beliefs, values, traditions, institutions, and ways of living together of a group of people.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.3.	How culture influences the ways in which human groups solve the problems of daily living.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.6.	That culture may change in response to changing needs, concerns, social, political, and geographic conditions.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.7.	How people from different cultures develop different values and ways of interpreting experience.

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.2.1.	Ask and find answers to questions related to culture.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.2.7.	Draw inferences from data about the ways in which given cultures respond to persistent human issues, and how culture influences those responses.

THEME	NCSS.2.	TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PAST AND ITS LEGACY.
CATEGORY	2.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	2.1.6.	The origins and influences of social, cultural, political, and economic systems.
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THEME	NCSS.3.	PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS.
CATEGORY	3.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.1.	The theme of people, places, and environments involves the study of the relationships between human populations in different locations and geographic phenomena such as climate, vegetation, and natural resources.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.3.	Past and present changes in physical systems, such as seasons, climate, and weather, and the water cycle, in both national and global contexts.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.5.	The concept of regions identifies links between people in different locations according to specific criteria (e.g., physical, economic, social, cultural, or religious).

THEME	NCSS.5.	INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERACTIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.
CATEGORY	5.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.1.2.	Concepts such as: mores, norms, status, role, socialization, ethnocentrism, cultural diffusion, competition, cooperation, conflict, race, ethnicity, and gender.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.1.9.	That groups and institutions influence culture in a variety of ways.

THEME	NCSS.5.	INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERACTIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.
CATEGORY	5.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.2.4.	Understand examples of tensions between belief systems and governmental actions and policies.
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THEME	NCSS.7.	PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF HOW PEOPLE ORGANIZE FOR THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES.
CATEGORY	7.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	7.2.1.	Ask and find answers to questions about the production and distribution of goods and services in the state and nation, and in a global context.
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THEME	NCSS.9.	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE.
CATEGORY	9.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.1.2.	Global factors such as cultural, economic, and political connections are changing the places in which people live (e.g., through trade, migration, increased travel, and communication).
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THEME	NCSS.9.	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE.
CATEGORY	9.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.2.3.	Investigate and explain the ways in which aspects of culture, such as language, beliefs, and traditions, may facilitate understanding, or lead to misunderstanding between cultures.
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LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.2.7.	Describe and explain the relationships and tensions between national sovereignty and global interests in such matters as territorial rights, natural resources, trade, the different uses of technology, and the welfare of people.
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National Geography Standards (NGS)

Social Studies

Grade 6 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.WST.	The World in Spatial Terms
STANDARD	WST.2.	How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context
STRAND	WST.2.3.	Using Mental Maps: Mental maps are used to answer geographic questions about locations, characteristics, and patterns of places and regions
BENCHMARK	WST.2.3.A.	Identify from memory and describe the locations, characteristics, and patterns of places and regions to answer geographic questions, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	WST.2.3.A.3.	Identify from memory the distribution, pattern, and characteristics of major world deserts and mountain ranges that can be barriers to travel or settlement.
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.WST.	The World in Spatial Terms
STANDARD	WST.3.	How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface
STRAND	WST.3.3.	Spatial Models: Models are used to represent spatial processes that shape human and physical systems
BENCHMARK	WST.3.3.A.	Describe the processes that shape human and physical systems (e.g., diffusion, migration, and plate tectonics) using models, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	WST.3.3.A.1.	Describe a model that illustrates the diffusion of cultural characteristics (e.g., music styles, clothing styles, fast-food preferences).
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PR.	Places and Regions
STANDARD	PR.6.	How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions
STRAND	PR.6.2.	Changes in the Perception of Places and Regions: Perceptions of places and regions change by incorporating multiple direct and indirect experiences
BENCHMARK	PR.6.2.A.	Analyze the ways in which people change their views of places and regions as a result of media reports or interactions with other people, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	PR.6.2.A.2.	Analyze the way in which traveling to a new place (city, state, or country) may change prior views of that place to more informed and developed views based on the experiences there (e.g., travel for sporting contests at schools, travel for outdoor recreational activities, travel for historical interests or visiting museums).
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EXPECTATION	PR.6.2.A.3.	Analyze the effects of different sources of information that may cause people to change their views of a place or region (e.g., travel brochures or guidebooks, cable travel channels or documentaries, information from friends or family).
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface

STRAND	PS.8.3.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Biomes: Climate primarily determines the characteristics and geographic distribution of biomes
BENCHMARK	PS.8.3.A.	Describe and explain how climate (temperature and rainfall) primarily determines the characteristics and geographic distribution of biomes, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.3.A.3. Explain how biomes do not always follow lines of latitude by identifying the influences of oceans and mountain ranges on the distribution of climate and vegetation.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.HS.	Human Systems
STANDARD	HS.10.	The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
STRAND	HS.10.3.	Cultural Diffusion and Change: Changes in cultural characteristics and the distribution of cultures result from migration of people and the diffusion of ideas and technology
BENCHMARK	HS.10.3.A.	Describe and explain the processes of cultural diffusion, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION HS.10.3.A.3. Identify the origins of different music genres and describe the spatial role of music in cultural diffusion (e.g., Latin Salsa music, Jazz and Blues music, rock and roll music).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.ES.	Environment and Society
STANDARD	ES.15.	How physical systems affect human systems
STRAND	ES.15.2.	Environmental Hazards: The types, causes, and characteristics of environmental hazards occur at a variety of scales from local to global
BENCHMARK	ES.15.2.B.	Explain the causes and locations of various types of environmental hazards, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION ES.15.2.B.1. Describe the physical environmental conditions that create or result in different environmental hazards (e.g., plate tectonics causing earthquakes, sea surface temperatures contributing to hurricane development in the Atlantic, strong frontal systems in thunderstorms spawning tornadoes).

Virtual Field Trips

Exploring Cuba

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Social Studies

Grade 7 - Adopted: 2010

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.1.	'Culture' refers to the socially transmitted behaviors, beliefs, values, traditions, institutions, and ways of living together of a group of people.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.3.	How culture influences the ways in which human groups solve the problems of daily living.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.6.	That culture may change in response to changing needs, concerns, social, political, and geographic conditions.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.7.	How people from different cultures develop different values and ways of interpreting experience.

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.2.1.	Ask and find answers to questions related to culture.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.2.7.	Draw inferences from data about the ways in which given cultures respond to persistent human issues, and how culture influences those responses.

THEME	NCSS.2.	TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PAST AND ITS LEGACY.
CATEGORY	2.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	2.1.6.	The origins and influences of social, cultural, political, and economic systems.
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THEME	NCSS.3.	PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS.
CATEGORY	3.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.1.	The theme of people, places, and environments involves the study of the relationships between human populations in different locations and geographic phenomena such as climate, vegetation, and natural resources.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.3.	Past and present changes in physical systems, such as seasons, climate, and weather, and the water cycle, in both national and global contexts.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.5.	The concept of regions identifies links between people in different locations according to specific criteria (e.g., physical, economic, social, cultural, or religious).

THEME	NCSS.5.	INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERACTIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.
CATEGORY	5.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.1.2.	Concepts such as: mores, norms, status, role, socialization, ethnocentrism, cultural diffusion, competition, cooperation, conflict, race, ethnicity, and gender.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.1.9.	That groups and institutions influence culture in a variety of ways.

THEME	NCSS.5.	INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERACTIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.
CATEGORY	5.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.2.4.	Understand examples of tensions between belief systems and governmental actions and policies.
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THEME	NCSS.7.	PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF HOW PEOPLE ORGANIZE FOR THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES.
CATEGORY	7.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	7.2.1.	Ask and find answers to questions about the production and distribution of goods and services in the state and nation, and in a global context.
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THEME	NCSS.9.	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE.
CATEGORY	9.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.1.2.	Global factors such as cultural, economic, and political connections are changing the places in which people live (e.g., through trade, migration, increased travel, and communication).
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THEME	NCSS.9.	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE.
CATEGORY	9.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.2.3.	Investigate and explain the ways in which aspects of culture, such as language, beliefs, and traditions, may facilitate understanding, or lead to misunderstanding between cultures.
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LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.2.7.	Describe and explain the relationships and tensions between national sovereignty and global interests in such matters as territorial rights, natural resources, trade, the different uses of technology, and the welfare of people.
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National Geography Standards (NGS)

Social Studies

Grade 7 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.WST	The World in Spatial Terms
STANDARD	WST.2.	How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context
STRAND	WST.2.3	Using Mental Maps: Mental maps are used to answer geographic questions about locations, characteristics, and patterns of places and regions
BENCHMARK	WST.2.3.A.	Identify from memory and describe the locations, characteristics, and patterns of places and regions to answer geographic questions, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	WST.2.3.A.3.	Identify from memory the distribution, pattern, and characteristics of major world deserts and mountain ranges that can be barriers to travel or settlement.
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.WST	The World in Spatial Terms
STANDARD	WST.3.	How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface
STRAND	WST.3.3	Spatial Models: Models are used to represent spatial processes that shape human and physical systems
BENCHMARK	WST.3.3.A.	Describe the processes that shape human and physical systems (e.g., diffusion, migration, and plate tectonics) using models, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	WST.3.3.A.1.	Describe a model that illustrates the diffusion of cultural characteristics (e.g., music styles, clothing styles, fast-food preferences).
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PR.	Places and Regions
STANDARD	PR.6.	How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions
STRAND	PR.6.2.	Changes in the Perception of Places and Regions: Perceptions of places and regions change by incorporating multiple direct and indirect experiences
BENCHMARK	PR.6.2.A	Analyze the ways in which people change their views of places and regions as a result of media reports or interactions with other people, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	PR.6.2.A.2.	Analyze the way in which traveling to a new place (city, state, or country) may change prior views of that place to more informed and developed views based on the experiences there (e.g., travel for sporting contests at schools, travel for outdoor recreational activities, travel for historical interests or visiting museums).
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EXPECTATION	PR.6.2.A.3.	Analyze the effects of different sources of information that may cause people to change their views of a place or region (e.g., travel brochures or guidebooks, cable travel channels or documentaries, information from friends or family).
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface

STRAND	PS.8.3.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Biomes: Climate primarily determines the characteristics and geographic distribution of biomes
BENCHMARK	PS.8.3.A.	Describe and explain how climate (temperature and rainfall) primarily determines the characteristics and geographic distribution of biomes, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.3.A.3. Explain how biomes do not always follow lines of latitude by identifying the influences of oceans and mountain ranges on the distribution of climate and vegetation.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.HS.	Human Systems
STANDARD	HS.10.	The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
STRAND	HS.10.3.	Cultural Diffusion and Change: Changes in cultural characteristics and the distribution of cultures result from migration of people and the diffusion of ideas and technology
BENCHMARK	HS.10.3.A.	Describe and explain the processes of cultural diffusion, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION HS.10.3.A.3. Identify the origins of different music genres and describe the spatial role of music in cultural diffusion (e.g., Latin Salsa music, Jazz and Blues music, rock and roll music).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.ES.	Environment and Society
STANDARD	ES.15.	How physical systems affect human systems
STRAND	ES.15.2.	Environmental Hazards: The types, causes, and characteristics of environmental hazards occur at a variety of scales from local to global
BENCHMARK	ES.15.2.B.	Explain the causes and locations of various types of environmental hazards, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION ES.15.2.B.1. Describe the physical environmental conditions that create or result in different environmental hazards (e.g., plate tectonics causing earthquakes, sea surface temperatures contributing to hurricane development in the Atlantic, strong frontal systems in thunderstorms spawning tornadoes).

Virtual Field Trips

Exploring Cuba

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Social Studies

Grade 8 - Adopted: 2010

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.1.	'Culture' refers to the socially transmitted behaviors, beliefs, values, traditions, institutions, and ways of living together of a group of people.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.3.	How culture influences the ways in which human groups solve the problems of daily living.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.6.	That culture may change in response to changing needs, concerns, social, political, and geographic conditions.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.1.7.	How people from different cultures develop different values and ways of interpreting experience.

THEME	NCSS.1.	CULTURE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.
CATEGORY	1.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.2.1.	Ask and find answers to questions related to culture.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	1.2.7.	Draw inferences from data about the ways in which given cultures respond to persistent human issues, and how culture influences those responses.

THEME	NCSS.2.	TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PAST AND ITS LEGACY.
CATEGORY	2.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	2.1.6.	The origins and influences of social, cultural, political, and economic systems.
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THEME	NCSS.3.	PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS.
CATEGORY	3.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.1.	The theme of people, places, and environments involves the study of the relationships between human populations in different locations and geographic phenomena such as climate, vegetation, and natural resources.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.3.	Past and present changes in physical systems, such as seasons, climate, and weather, and the water cycle, in both national and global contexts.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	3.1.5.	The concept of regions identifies links between people in different locations according to specific criteria (e.g., physical, economic, social, cultural, or religious).

THEME	NCSS.5.	INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERACTIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.
CATEGORY	5.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.1.2.	Concepts such as: mores, norms, status, role, socialization, ethnocentrism, cultural diffusion, competition, cooperation, conflict, race, ethnicity, and gender.
LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.1.9.	That groups and institutions influence culture in a variety of ways.

THEME	NCSS.5.	INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERACTIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.
CATEGORY	5.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	5.2.4.	Understand examples of tensions between belief systems and governmental actions and policies.
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THEME	NCSS.7.	PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF HOW PEOPLE ORGANIZE FOR THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES.
CATEGORY	7.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	7.2.1.	Ask and find answers to questions about the production and distribution of goods and services in the state and nation, and in a global context.
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THEME	NCSS.9.	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE.
CATEGORY	9.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.1.2.	Global factors such as cultural, economic, and political connections are changing the places in which people live (e.g., through trade, migration, increased travel, and communication).
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THEME	NCSS.9.	GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE.
CATEGORY	9.2.	PROCESSES - Learners will be able to:

LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.2.3.	Investigate and explain the ways in which aspects of culture, such as language, beliefs, and traditions, may facilitate understanding, or lead to misunderstanding between cultures.
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LEARNING EXPECTATION	9.2.7.	Describe and explain the relationships and tensions between national sovereignty and global interests in such matters as territorial rights, natural resources, trade, the different uses of technology, and the welfare of people.
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National Geography Standards (NGS)

Social Studies

Grade 8 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.WST	The World in Spatial Terms
STANDARD	WST.2.	How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context
STRAND	WST.2.3	Using Mental Maps: Mental maps are used to answer geographic questions about locations, characteristics, and patterns of places and regions
BENCHMARK	WST.2.3.A.	Identify from memory and describe the locations, characteristics, and patterns of places and regions to answer geographic questions, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	WST.2.3.A.3.	Identify from memory the distribution, pattern, and characteristics of major world deserts and mountain ranges that can be barriers to travel or settlement.
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.WST	The World in Spatial Terms
STANDARD	WST.3.	How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface
STRAND	WST.3.3	Spatial Models: Models are used to represent spatial processes that shape human and physical systems
BENCHMARK	WST.3.3.A.	Describe the processes that shape human and physical systems (e.g., diffusion, migration, and plate tectonics) using models, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	WST.3.3.A.1.	Describe a model that illustrates the diffusion of cultural characteristics (e.g., music styles, clothing styles, fast-food preferences).
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PR.	Places and Regions
STANDARD	PR.6.	How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions
STRAND	PR.6.2.	Changes in the Perception of Places and Regions: Perceptions of places and regions change by incorporating multiple direct and indirect experiences
BENCHMARK	PR.6.2.A.	Analyze the ways in which people change their views of places and regions as a result of media reports or interactions with other people, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	PR.6.2.A.2.	Analyze the way in which traveling to a new place (city, state, or country) may change prior views of that place to more informed and developed views based on the experiences there (e.g., travel for sporting contests at schools, travel for outdoor recreational activities, travel for historical interests or visiting museums).
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EXPECTATION	PR.6.2.A.3.	Analyze the effects of different sources of information that may cause people to change their views of a place or region (e.g., travel brochures or guidebooks, cable travel channels or documentaries, information from friends or family).
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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface

STRAND	PS.8.3.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Biomes: Climate primarily determines the characteristics and geographic distribution of biomes
BENCHMARK	PS.8.3.A.	Describe and explain how climate (temperature and rainfall) primarily determines the characteristics and geographic distribution of biomes, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.3.A.3. Explain how biomes do not always follow lines of latitude by identifying the influences of oceans and mountain ranges on the distribution of climate and vegetation.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.HS.	Human Systems
STANDARD	HS.10.	The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
STRAND	HS.10.3.	Cultural Diffusion and Change: Changes in cultural characteristics and the distribution of cultures result from migration of people and the diffusion of ideas and technology
BENCHMARK	HS.10.3.A.	Describe and explain the processes of cultural diffusion, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION HS.10.3.A.3. Identify the origins of different music genres and describe the spatial role of music in cultural diffusion (e.g., Latin Salsa music, Jazz and Blues music, rock and roll music).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.ES.	Environment and Society
STANDARD	ES.15.	How physical systems affect human systems
STRAND	ES.15.2.	Environmental Hazards: The types, causes, and characteristics of environmental hazards occur at a variety of scales from local to global
BENCHMARK	ES.15.2.B.	Explain the causes and locations of various types of environmental hazards, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION ES.15.2.B.1. Describe the physical environmental conditions that create or result in different environmental hazards (e.g., plate tectonics causing earthquakes, sea surface temperatures contributing to hurricane development in the Atlantic, strong frontal systems in thunderstorms spawning tornadoes).