
Social Studies: Contemporary Issues

Standards Introduction:	Students of Contemporary Issues examine contemporary world problem areas. Emphasis is placed upon the role of the United States in these areas. Shaping of United States foreign policy, in addition to studying the relationship among the superpowers, is studied in detail. Students will study about world crises and problems (population, poverty, famine, and environmental degradation).
SK – Skills	SK1: The students will acquire information from a variety of sources: SK1a: Gather and organize information about a given contemporary event/issue from a variety of sources. SK1b: Show relationships between historical events and contemporary events/ issues. SK1c: Compare and contrast different interpretations of key contemporary events/issues. SK1d: Evaluate documents related to a contemporary event or issue in terms of reliability, credibility, authority, authenticity, and completeness. SK1e: Establish a plan to detect bias, distortion of the facts, and propaganda by omission, suppression, or invention of facts.
SK – Skills	SK2: The students will use information for problem solving, decision-making, and planning: SK2a: Pose analytical questions or hypotheses that suggest solutions for an issue. SK2b: Formulate conclusions or generalizations that suggest solutions for an issue. SK2c: Evaluate a decision by raising new questions or issues for further investigation.
SK – Skills	SK3: The students will develop skills in constructive interpersonal relationships and in social participation: SK3a: Develop an ability to listen actively and critically. SK3b: Use questioning techniques to understand personal thoughts, develop ideas, or evaluate an event or issue. SK3c: View contemporary events/issues through the eyes of those who experience them. SK3d: Investigate the roles and contributions of individuals and groups in relation to key contemporary events/issues.
SK – Skills	SK4: The students will participate effectively in civic affairs: SK4a: Take, defend, and evaluate positions about attitudes that facilitate thoughtful and effective participation in public affairs. SK4b: Prioritize the solutions based on established criteria. SK4c: Propose an action plan to address the issue or to resolve the problem. SK4d: Evaluate the consequences for each solution or course of action proposed in an action plan.

The issues will be studied under the 10 Themes of Social Studies.