

Social Studies Lesson Guide for Grades K-8



Lesson Guide Intro

Save prep time with these ready-to-teach lessons, activities, and videos specifically selected to boost learning in social studies by grade level and topic. You can do every lesson in a week or select just what you need. Lessons are designed to be delivered in a flexible format whether in-person, remote, or in-between. Use throughout the year to remediate key skills, reteach, or prep for testing.



At the beginning of the year

Bring students up to grade level and prepare them for the year ahead. Search by grade level and topic to meet students where they are based on beginning-of-the-year assessments.



Throughout the year

Reteach targeted concepts and skills as needed to introduce new or review previously taught content. Nearpod's formative assessments help identify concepts that students need to review. Activities are great for use in workstations.



Test-prep

Boost student engagement and reduce prep time with dynamic media & gamified review. Get real-time insight into student understanding at any point during a lesson, leveraging nine types of assessment to give students more ways to show what they know.

Select a grade level to get started:

[Grade K-2](#) [Grade 3-5](#) [Grade 6-8](#)

■ Lesson
 ■ Video
 ■ Activity

GRADES K-2 SS – TOPIC / DAY (Lesson / Video / Activity)

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Citizenship	• Good Citizenship • Matching Pairs: Citizenship Picture Match: K • Time to Climb: Characteristics of Good Citizenship: K-2 • Marching Pairs: Citizenship: Definitions: 2	• Community Helpers: K-1 • Draw It: Jobs in the Home & Community: K-2 • Drag & Drop: Jobs & Tools • Matching Pairs: Showing Good Citizenship: 2	• Why We Have Rules • Matching Pairs: Rules & Laws: Definitions: 1 • Matching Pairs: Rules & Laws: Pictures: 1	• Matching Pairs: Define United States Symbols: 1 • Matching Pairs: United States Symbols Definitions: 1 • Matching Pairs: United States Symbols Picture Match: 1	• Draw It: The US Flag: An American Symbol: K-2 • Matching Pairs: View United States Symbols: K • Time to Climb: Recognizing US Symbols: K-2 • Draw It: US Symbols: K-5
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Government	• What Is Voting?	• Matching Pairs: Government Services: Definitions: 2 • Matching Pairs: Government Services: Pictures: 2	• Matching Pairs: Public Services: Pictures: 2 • Matching Pairs: Public Services: Titles: 2	• Matching Pairs: United States Leaders: Definitions: 2 • Matching Pairs: United States Leaders: Pictures: 2	
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
History	• First Inhabitants of North America: 2 • Draw It: Native American Homes: K-2	• Ruby Bridges	• Time to Climb: Historical Figures: Part 1: K-2 • Time to Climb: Historical Figures: Part 2: K-2	• Matching Pairs: George Washington Facts: K • Matching Pairs: George Washington Important Dates: K	• Matching Pairs: Cesar Chavez: Pictures & Definitions: 2 • Matching Pairs: Cesar Chavez: Sentences: 2

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Geography	• Landforms: K • Draw It: Using a Map: Mountains & Rivers: K-2 • Matching Pairs: Bodies of Water & Continents: 2 • Matching Pairs: Bodies of Water & Continents: Definitions: 2 • Time to Climb: Landforms & Bodies of Water: K-2 • Draw It: US Landmarks: K-5 • Time to Climb: US Landmarks & Monuments	• Maps: K-2 • Map Skills • Draw It: Creating a Map: K-2 • Draw It: Global Map Skills: K-2 • Draw It: Using a Map: K-2 • Matching Pairs: Map Skills with Pictures: 1 • Matching Pairs: Map Skills: Directions with Pictures: 1 • Time to Climb: Map Skills: K-2 • Time to Climb: Maps of the United States: K-2 • Time to Climb: Maps vs. Globes: K-2	• Cardinal & Intermediate Directions • Draw It: Using a Compass Rose: K-2 • Matching Pairs: Cardinal Directions: K • Matching Pairs: Using Intermediate Directions: 2 • Time to Climb: Compass Rose: K-2 • Matching Pairs: Cardinal Directions: K	• Continents • Draw It: Continents: K-2 • Time to Climb: Continents K-5 • Oceans • Draw It: Oceans: K-2	• Matching Pairs: Environment Definitions: 1 • Matching Pairs: Environment Picture Match: 1 • Matching Pairs: Match Map Terms: K • Matching Pairs: Natural Resources: 2 • Time to Climb: Earth's Resources: K-2 • Time to Climb: Environmental Modifications: K-2
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Timeline	• Matching Pairs: Match Past & Present Pictures: K	• Matching Pairs: Past and Present: Activities: 1	• Draw It: Life in the Past vs. Life Today: K-2	• Draw It: Timelines: K-2	

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Economics	• Goods and Services: K-2 • Draw It: Goods & Services: K-2 • Drag & Drop: Goods & Services • Time to Climb: Goods and Services: K-2 • Matching Pairs: Goods & Services with Definitions: 1 • Matching Pairs: Goods & Services with Pictures: 1	• Wants and Needs: K-2 • Needs and Wants • Drag & Drop: Needs & Wants • Draw It: Wants & Needs: K-2 • Matching Pairs: Needs & Wants with Definitions: 1 • Matching Pairs: Needs & Wants with Pictures: 1 • Time to Climb: Identifying Wants and Needs: K-2	• Producers and Consumers: 2 • Draw It: Producers & Consumers: 1-5 • Draw It: Roles of Producers & Consumers: 1-5	• Matching Pairs: Key Terms about Money: 2 • Matching Pairs: Supply and Demand: Cause & Effect: 2 • Matching Pairs: Supply and Demand: Pictures: 2	• Drag & Drop: Earning, Spending & Saving • Matching Pairs: Spending & Saving: K • Matching Pairs: Spending and Saving: 1 • Matching Pairs: Spending and Saving: 2

GRADES 3-5 SS – TOPIC / DAY (Lesson / Video / Activity)

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Geography	• Maps • Drag & Drop: Interpreting Maps • Cardinal & Intermediate Directions • Latitude & Longitude: 3-4 • Time to Climb: Longitude and Latitude	• Drag & Drop: Continents • Draw It: Identifying Continents & Oceans: 3-5 • Draw It: Continent Facts: 2-5 • Draw It: Continents: 2-5 • Time to Climb: Continents: 3-5	• Oceans • Drag & Drop: Oceans • Draw It: Oceans: 2-5 • Draw It: Labeling the Oceans: 2-5 • Time to Climb: Oceans	• Regions of the US • Drag & Drop: US Regions: 3-5 • Draw It: U.S. Regions: 3-5 • Matching Pairs: Regions of North America: Maps: 3 • Matching Pairs: US Regions & States: 3	• Drag & Drop: Mapping the US: Part 1 • Drag & Drop: Mapping the US: Part 2 • Matching Pairs: Bordering the US: Descriptions: 3 • Matching Pairs: US and Surrounding Locations: 3

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
US History: Colonial Period & American Revolution	• Colonial Life: 4 • Matching Pairs: List the Thirteen Colonies • Drag & Drop: US Colonies Map • Time to Climb: Colonial America • Time to Climb: Early US Colonies: 3-5 • Pocahontas • Matching Pairs: Native Americans: Homes: 3 • Time to Climb: Native Americans	• Causes of the American Revolution: 4-5 • Draw It: Causes of the American Revolutionary War: 3-5 • Draw It: Events Leading to the Revolutionary War: 3-5	• Loyalists vs. Patriots: 4-5 • Drag & Drop: Timeline: The American Revolution: 3-5 • Matching Pairs: American Revolution: Battles: 4 • Matching Pairs: American Revolution: Dates: 4	• Women in the American Revolution: 4-5 • Drag & Drop: Patriot Heroes • Drag & Drop: The Founding Fathers: 3-5	• Articles of Confederation • Early US Government • Matching Pairs: Early US Government: 4 • Draw It: Matching the Bill of Rights: 3-5
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
US History: 1800 - Present	• The US Expands to the West • Draw It: The Louisiana Purchase: 3-5 • Drag & Drop: Westward Expansion • Draw It: Westward Expansion Timeline: 3-5 • Time to Climb: The Oregon Trail: 3-5 • Time to Climb: The Oregon Trail	• Matching Pairs: Industrial Revolution: Definitions: 4 • Matching Pairs: Industrial Revolution: Pictures: 4 • Draw It: The Transcontinental Railroad: 3-5	• Slavery in America • The Missouri Compromise • The Civil War • The Emancipation Proclamation • Women in the Civil War • Harriet Tubman	• US Immigration: 1880s–1920s • Draw It: Immigration & Tenement Housing: 3-5 • Drag & Drop: Timeline: The Great Depression & The New Deal: 3-5 • Drag & Drop: Timeline: WWI • Drag & Drop: Timeline: WWII	• Drag & Drop: The Civil Rights Movement • Time to Climb: The Civil Rights Movement: 3-5

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Civics and Government	• Matching Pairs: US Government: Branches: 4 • Matching Pairs: US Government Organization: 3 • Drag & Drop: The Branches of Government	• The Executive Branch: 3-5 • The Judicial Branch: 3-5 • The Legislative Branch: 3-5	• Drag & Drop: Local, State & National Government • Time to Climb: National & State Governments: 3-5	• Matching Pairs: US Leaders: Job Descriptions: 3 • Matching Pairs: US Leaders: Pictures: 3	• Matching Pairs: US Government Responsibilities: 3 • Matching Pairs: Roles of Citizens: 4
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Economics	• Matching Pairs: Economics: Definitions: 3 • Matching Pairs: Economics: Pictures: 3 • Drag & Drop: Sectors of the US Economy	• Economic Choices: 3-5 • Matching Pairs: Goods & Services with Pictures: 3 • Matching Pairs: Goods: Cause and Effect: 3	• Draw It: Supply & Demand: 2-5 • Drag & Drop: Supply & Demand • Time to Climb: Supply & Demand	• Draw It: Producers & Consumers: 1-5 • Draw It: Roles of Producers & Consumers: 1-5	• Drag & Drop: Creating a Budget • Time to Climb: Budgeting • Time to Climb: Needs & Wants
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Timelines, US Landmarks, and Historical Figures	• Landmarks of the United States • Draw It: US Symbols: K-5 • Draw It: US Landmarks: K-5 • Time to Climb: US Landmarks & Monuments • Time to Climb: Statue of Liberty	• Timelines and Chronology	• Drag & Drop: Historical Figures • Time to Climb: Historical Figures: Part 1: 3-5 • Time to Climb: Historical Figures: Part 2: 3-5	• Draw It: George Washington's Life and Legacy: 3-5 • Time to Climb: George Washington	• Ruby Bridges • Time to Climb: Ruby Bridges & Good Citizenship: 3-5

GRADES 6-8 SS – TOPIC / DAY (Lesson / Video / Activity)

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Primary & Secondary Sources, and Geography	Primary and Secondary Sources: 6-8 Primary vs. Secondary Sources Time to Climb: Primary & Secondary Sources	The Six Elements of Geography Five Themes of Geography Map Skills: Reviewing the Basics: 6-8 Matching Pairs: Settlements: Definitions: 5 Matching Pairs: Settlements: Pictures: 5	Map Skills: Advanced Latitude & Longitude Draw It: Longitude and Latitude: 6-8 Draw It: Finding the Longitude & Latitude: 6-8	Drag & Drop: Mapping Africa Drag & Drop: Mapping Europe Drag & Drop: Mapping Latin America Drag & Drop: Mapping Southern & Eastern Asia Drag & Drop: Mapping Southwest Asia	Regions of the US Drag & Drop: States & Capitals: Part 1 Drag & Drop: States & Capitals: Part 2 Drag & Drop: States & Capitals: Part 3 Drag & Drop: States & Capitals: Part 4 Drag & Drop: States & Capitals: Part 5
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
World History: Pre-History, Civilizations, Mesopotamia, Ancient India, Ancient Egypt, Classical and Post-Classical China	Matching Pairs: Hunter-Gatherer Societies: Definitions: 6 Matching Pairs: Hunter-Gatherer Societies: Sentences: 6	Characteristics of Civilizations: 6-8 Seven Wonders of the Ancient World What Is Culture? Matching Pairs: Civilization: Definitions: 6 Matching Pairs: Civilization: Sentences: 6	Early Mesopotamia: 6-9 Mesopotamia & the Fertile Crescent Early Empires of India: 6-12 The Caste System in India	Ancient Egypt Matching Pairs: Ancient Egypt: Definitions: 6 Matching Pairs: Ancient Egypt: Sentences: 6 Draw It: Contributions of Key Figures to Ancient Egypt: 5-8 Draw It: Key Figures of Ancient Egypt: 5-8	Classical China: Zhou, Qin & Han Dynasties Matching Pairs: The Great Wall of China: Definitions: 6 Matching Pairs: The Great Wall of China: Sentences: 6 The Three Pillars of Chinese Philosophy: Confucianism, Taoism & Buddhism Post-Classical China: Sui, Tang & Song Dynasties

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
World History: Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, The Middle Ages	• Ancient Greece: Geography and Culture • Greek Mythology • Matching Pairs: Ancient Greece: Definitions: 6-8 • Matching Pairs: Ancient Greece: Sentences: 6-8 • Time to Climb: Ancient Greece	• Athens, Sparta, and the Peloponnesian War: 6-12 • Matching Pairs: Athens: Complete the Sentence: 6 • Matching Pairs: Athens: Definitions: 6	• Democracy in Ancient Greece • Draw It: Ancient Greek Democracy & U.S. Democracy: 6-8 • Time to Climb: Ancient Greece & Democracy: 6-8 • Draw It: Key Greek Figures: 6-8	• The Roman Republic & Empire: 6-8 • Draw It: Ancient Rome: 5-8 • Draw It: The Roman Colosseum: 5-8 • Time to Climb: Ancient Rome • Byzantium	• Middle Ages & Systems of Government • England and the Magna Carta • The Crusades & the Inquisition • Matching Pairs: Medieval Feudal System: 6 • Matching Pairs: Medieval Times: 6 • Time to Climb: Medieval Times
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
World History: The Silk Road, The Renaissance, Colonization & Imperialism, World Religions, and Intro to US History	• The Silk Road and Marco Polo: 6-12 • The Silk Road	• The Italian Renaissance • Matching Pairs: The Renaissance: Individual Contributions: 6 • Matching Pairs: The Renaissance: Key Terms: 6 • Drag & Drop: Renaissance Artists & Thinkers	• Pre-Columbian Civilizations of South America: 6-12 • Spain Builds an Empire • Columbian Exchange • Colonization & Africa	• Islam: History, Beliefs, and Practices: 6-12 • World Religions: Christianity • World Religions: Judaism • Hinduism and Buddhism: 6-9 • Drag & Drop: Judaism, Christianity & Islam	• Time to Climb: Major Eras in US History: 6-8 • Time to Climb: Significant Dates in US History: 6-8 • Time to Climb: Landmark Supreme Court Cases: 6-8 • US Presidents

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
US History: Colonial America - Westward Expansion	• Colonial America • Pocahontas • The Lost Colony of Roanoke • Time to Climb: Thirteen Colonies • Matching Pairs: Thirteen Colonies: Definitions: 7-8 • Matching Pairs: Thirteen Colonies: Sentences: 7-8 • Matching Pairs: Thirteen Colonies: Regions: 8 • Matching Pairs: French and Indian War: Descriptions: 8 • Matching Pairs: French and Indian War: Sentences: 8	• Causes of the American Revolution: 4-5 • Matching Pairs: American Revolution: The Causes • Matching Pairs: Thirteen Colonies: Revolutionary War: 8 • Drag & Drop: Timeline: The American Revolution • Loyalists vs. Patriots: 4-5 • Thomas Paine's Common Sense: 5-9 • Time to Climb: Federalists & Anti-Federalists: 6-8	• The Purpose of the Preamble: 4-7 • The Declaration of Independence • Draw It: The Declaration of Independence: 6-8 • Matching Pairs: Thomas Jefferson: Definitions: 7 • Matching Pairs: Thomas Jefferson: Laws: 7 • Did the American Revolution Live Up to Its Ideals?	• Articles of Confederation • Time to Climb: The Articles of Confederation • Time to Climb: Articles of Confederation: 6-8 • Matching Pairs: Articles of Confederation: Definitions: 7 • Matching Pairs: Articles of Confederation: Sentences: 7 • The War of 1812: 5-8 • Drag & Drop: The War of 1812: Causes & Effects • Drag & Drop: Timeline: War of 1812	• The US Expands to the West • The Oregon Trail • Tecumseh • Drag & Drop: Westward Expansion • Matching Pairs: Manifest Destiny: Definitions: 8 • Matching Pairs: Manifest Destiny: Sentences: 8 • Matching Pairs: Trail of Tears: Descriptions: 8 • Matching Pairs: Trail of Tears: Sentences: 8 • Matching Pairs: Treatment of Native Americans: 8

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
US History: Industrial Revolution - Present	• Causes & Effects of the Industrial Revolution: 5-8 • Inventions & The Industrial Revolution: 5-8 • The Transcontinental Railroad	• Slavery in America • The Missouri Compromise • Harriet Tubman • Frederick Douglass • Matching Pairs: The Underground Railroad Key Terms: 7 • Matching Pairs: The Underground Railroad: Influential People: 7	• The Civil War • Drag & Drop: Timeline: The Civil War • Draw It: Key Individuals of the Civil War: 5-8 • Draw It: The Civil War: 5-8 • Time to Climb: The Civil War • Matching Pairs: The Civil War: Definitions: 7 • Matching Pairs: The Civil War: Definitions: 8 • Matching Pairs: The Civil War: Sentences: 8	• Matching Pairs: The Civil War: Battles: 7 • Draw It: President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: 6-8 • Draw It: The Battle of Gettysburg: 6-8 • The Emancipation Proclamation • Matching Pairs: The Reconstruction Era Laws: 7 • Matching Pairs: The Reconstruction Era: 7	• The Great Depression • Harlem Renaissance: 6-12 • World War II • Drag & Drop: Timeline: World War 1 • Drag & Drop: Timeline: World War 2 • Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. • Time to Climb: Martin Luther King Jr • Time to Climb: The Vietnam War: 6-8
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Civics, Government, and Economics	• Early US Government • The Bill of Rights • Amendments • Time to Climb: The Constitution • Matching Pairs: US Constitution: Definitions: 7 • Matching Pairs: US Constitution: Sentences: 7 • Draw It: The Constitution: 6-8 • Time to Climb: The Bill of Rights: 6-8 • Time to Climb: The Amendment Process: 6-8	• Three Branches of Government • Drag & Drop: Checks & Balances System • Drag & Drop: Separation of Powers • Draw It: Checks & Balances System: 6-8 • Draw It: Powers of the Three Branches of Government: 3-8 • Time to Climb: Three Branches of Government	• Drag & Drop: Forms of Government • Time to Climb: Forms of Government: 6-8 • Matching Pairs: Historical Documents of Civil Liberties: 7 • Matching Pairs: Documents of Civil Liberties: Sentences: 7	• Congressional Committees • Political Parties • The United Nations	• Supply, Demand & Price • Inflation • Minimum Wage • Drag & Drop: Types of Economies: 6-8 • Time to Climb: Economic Systems: 6-8