

Sample Social Studies Big Ideas

A nation's ability to successfully improve and utilize technology may change the course of events in war.

A nation that achieves advancement in technological warfare often wins.

The implementation of technology may change outcomes during war.

Technology advancements may create turning points in war.

A nation's use of technology may alter the outcome of war.

Technological strategies can skew the course of a war.

The outcomes of a conflict may be changed by the strategic decisions that are made
Strategic decisions that are made may alter the outcome of the conflict.

Strategic decisions and new technologies may allow nations to overcome disadvantages.

Technology can change the outcome of a conflict.

The use of new technologies can change the outcome of wars.

The effects of war can shape the way a nation thinks about itself and the way other nations perceive it.

Process Generalizations

- **Accounts:** (7th Grade) A lack of information from the ancient past limits historians, so we learn to practice the art of questions, careful research and an informed imagination to construct a picture of how people lived to learn from their ideas and experiences.
- **Accounts:** (11th Grade) Historians design inquiry and research around carefully crafted and refined questions. The way a historian frames a research question often determines the type of account produced. (*i.e. The question "Why did the Roman Empire fall when it had resisted attack for 100s of years?" will lead to a different account than "Why did the Western Roman Empire fall when it did not fall in the East?"*)
- **Evidence:** (6th grade) When drawing conclusions from sources, geographers take into account that visual representations of the earth (maps, globes, etc.), data (population statistics, etc.), and written sources convey a point of view.
- **Evidence:** (12th grade) Historians and policy experts corroborate evidence from one source with other sources to determine the most reliable account. Historians avoid over-reliance on one source.

Sample History & Social Studies Conceptual Framework:

Concept: Power (sub concept = economics)	
6 th	People in power tend to control resources to keep themselves in power and increase their power.
7 th	People in power tend to create structures to keep themselves in power and increase their power.
8 th	A nation can create a system that limits power and therefore reduces the chances for those in power to keep and increase their power.
9 th	People in power often use religion and trade to maintain and increase their power.
10 th	Economic structures often influence the distribution of power in the world.
11 th	Economic power impacts individual rights.
12 th	Economic power and political power are intertwined even in a free market economy.

Concept: Identity (sub concepts = culture, customs, perspective, tradition, ethics, values, beliefs, change)	
6 th	Who you are, how you see the world and how you see yourself in the world is your identity. Identity is learned through traditions and customs, which also help to reinforce cultural identity.
7 th	We develop our identity relative to others by studying different cultures, time periods, and individual perspectives and compare them to our own identity and modern context.
8 th	Culture and human nature are two great factors that shape identity, but they are not all powerful. All people have multiple group identities and people adapt their culture to new conditions.
9 th	Identity is rooted in a legacy of family and ancestors as well as the greater legacy of people from the same groups around the world and through history. The exchange of ideas and innovations impact culture and identity.
10 th	Each type of political culture offers a different view of government and the roles of citizens.
11 th	Different groups of people with shared identities have different degrees of power and influence in a society.
12 th	The United States has a shared identity of freedom, rights and equality that holds us together, rather than a particular ethnic or religious identity.

Concept: Relationships ¹ (sub-concepts: institutions, religion, groups, order, systems, structures, interdependence)	
6 th	Humans create relationships with other people and form institutions to meet a variety of basic needs and desires.
7 th	Relationships with other people and institutions create order but can also be constraining, therefore the relationships and institutions are often changing and sometimes end.
8 th	A government is dependent upon the people's belief in its authority and legitimacy; otherwise the people might seek to end the relationship.
9 th	Economic needs can create a dependent relationship of one nation upon another, making the dependent nation susceptible to abuse from the more powerful nation.
10 th	We create international alliances and institutions both for individual national interests as well as global priorities, such as peace.
11 th	Social, economic or political oppression often leads to a conflict or an ending of a formal relationship among people.
12 th	Community organizing is a unique and powerful characteristic of American society.

Concept: Freedom (sub-concepts: rights, justice, equality, citizenship, non-violence)	
6 th	People create governments to satisfy three sets of human needs: the preservation of life, the protection of freedom, and human betterment.
7 th	Freedom, like order, is a human instinct that can be traced back thousands of years.
8 th	Nations create institutions and structures to promote and balance of freedom and order.
9 th	An extreme concentration of power is tenuous because freedom usually requires limits on power and people will become impatient with too much concentration of power.
10 th	Justice is the universal standard for judging how fairly governments carry out the purposes assigned to them.
11 th	The principle of non-violence holds that tyranny feeds on the obedience of the people and withers away when people refuse to obey, shifting power from government to the people.
12 th	Constitutions limit government, but those limits are only as strong as the people's belief in them and the institutional safeguards that protect the people from tyranny.

Concept: Dispositions of the Discipline		History teaches us to value evidence as the foundation for understanding and use it to persuade others of our views. History teaches us that not all
6 th	Geography teaches us tools of empathy and objectivity, specifically that our location in North America impacts how we view other cultures but we must stand back from our first impressions and	

¹ A lot can be done with religion in this conceptual progression as well as international relations, treaties, etc.

	try to understand cultures without applying our criteria for analyzing their beliefs and behaviors.	evidence is equal and to use tools to determine the reliability and relevance of evidence before using it.
7 th	Historians are limited by a lack of information from the ancient past so we learn to practice the art of questions, careful research and an informed imagination to construct a picture of how people lived and learn from their ideas and experiences.	
8 th	History teaches us to stick with uncomfortable moments and immediate characterizations and become skilled at tolerating complexity and cherishing nuance.	
9 th	History teaches us to stand with humility at the expanse of human history.	
10 th	History teaches us to apply insights about one situation to another, including the present.	
11 th	History teaches us to use contextualization of past events in order to determine the relevance to our present context.	
12 th	The study of government teaches us to know and use different paradigms to analyze and think about policy.	