# Social Studies Standards and Benchmarks (May, 2013)

| GC Strand | STRAND: Social Justice<br>*Students will understand that . . .* | STRAND: Identity & Diversity<br>*Students will understand that . . .* | STRAND: Interdependence<br>*Students will understand that . . .* | STRAND: Sustainability<br>*Students will understand that . . .* | STRAND: Peace & Conflict<br>*Students will understand that . . .* |
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| **PK-12 STANDARD** | *Political, social and/or economic systems determine the level and type of social justice people experience; therefore attaining social justice requires taking action to effect political, social and/or economic change.* | *Social diversity changes over time and varies due to diverse political, social, and economic systems. Because of this diversity, successful human interactions require understanding one's own and others' perspectives.* | *Due to the inherent interconnectedness of people, places, economies and environments, choices and events often cause significant change, both locally and globally.* | *Finding sustainable solutions requires managing change within and between economic, social, and environmental systems.* | *Political, social, and economic systems, as well as the changes within these systems, determine the degree of peace and/or conflict individuals or groups experience.* |
| **Gr 10 BM** | • *The method and purpose of economic development in a given location determine who benefits and to what degree (ED)*<br>• *Imperialistic powers create and/or manipulate socio-economic divisions which in turn lead to greater economic and social inequality (I)*<br>• *Extreme social, political, and/or economic inequality often lead(s) to revolution and/or independence movements (PC)*<br>• *Revolutions or independence movements lead to changes in who has economic, social, or political power but often inequalities remain while new ones are created (PC)*<br>• *Humans may make immoral choices when their needs are not met (e.g. survival, safety, belonging, esteem, etc.) (CM)* | •*Individuals and groups often respond in an ideological manner to economic and social change (ED)*<br>• *Imperialistic powers develop ideological justifications for their policies, many based on a perspective of superiority (I)*<br>• *Due to diverse beliefs systems, people maintain differing and contested perspectives on imperialistic practices and policies (I)*<br>• *Political change agents (revolutionaries, independence leaders) use ideologies to convince others that dramatic change is necessary (PC)*<br>• *The justification for starting and prosecuting a conflict often involves demonizing and/or categorizing people based on language, ethnicity, nationality, and/or religion in order to unify one group against another (or others) (CM)* | • *Access to key natural resources, labor, capital, and markets determines where, what type and to what extent economic development takes place (ED)*<br>• *Countries implement imperialistic policies and practices in order to increase economic, social and/or political power and influence (I)*<br>• *Imperialistic policies and practices can create patterns of dependence by impeding economic development (I)*<br>• *Independence movements or revolutions do not happen in isolation--therefore, understanding the causes, methods, and outcomes of dramatic political change requires an examination of the larger geo-political context (PC)*<br>• *Technological change and diffusion impact the level and type of violence which individuals and groups experience (CM)* | • *Sustainable economic development requires balancing long term economic growth with social justice and conservation of natural resources (ED)*<br>• *Economic development may improve personal quality of life, but may lead to unintended environmental and social consequences (ED)* | • *Imperialistic powers often create and/or manipulate cultural and political divisions which inevitably leads to conflict (I)*<br>• *During the course of dramatic political change there is great instability due to the inevitable power struggles between and within groups. This often produces detrimental consequences including increased socio-political division and violence. (PC)*<br>• *Nations and groups legitimize conflict to achieve economic, geopolitical and/or social objectives (CM)*<br>• *Governments, organizations, and individuals often use their power to manipulate and/or exploit belief and value systems during time of conflict (CM)* |
| **Gr 9 BMs** | • *People sometimes use and/or manipulate philosophical and/or religious ideas to explain inequality in the name of socio-cultural coherence (SCC)*<br>• *People who are passionate about their perspective on contentious issues often portray those with an opposing perspective in a negative light, overgeneralizing and/or using stereotypes (CP)*<br>• *Governments create policies that manipulate population\* in their effort to strive for optimum population numbers and structure (\*birth rate and migration) (PG)*<br>• *People sometimes choose to give up their rights to an authoritarian regime in exchange for security and economic well-being. (PTPR)* | • *The structures, behaviours, attitudes, and art forms of a culture manifest the ideas and beliefs layered over time. (SCC)*<br>• *Understanding and interpreting the behavior of others requires analyzing the socio-cultural complexity of their context (SCC)*<br>• *A thorough understanding of a contentious issue requires the consideration of underlying beliefs, attitudes, and values of differing perspectives (CP)*<br>• *Beliefs, values, and experiences bias people's perspectives about a contentious issue, often blinding them to other points of view (CP)*<br>• *Political theories reflect cultural beliefs and values about social freedoms, individual rights and responsibilities, and the legitimacy and role of rulers (PTPR)*<br>• *Implementation of political theories rarely lives up to the intended ideal due to contextual perspectives and human fallibility  (PTPR)* | • *Ideas persist, evolve or disappear over time due to changing and/or continuing psychological, social, political, and/or economic needs (SCC)*<br>• *All forms of culture continually change in a process of hybridity (mixing), as a result of 'new' people changing 'old' places (SCC)*<br>• *The degree of adoption, assimilation, and/or rejection of new ideas / beliefs depends on the way the new ideas are introduced, the compatibility with existing beliefs, and the level of tolerance for ambiguity in that culture (SCC)*<br>• *Governments reflect economic values, ranging from individual to communitarian and socio-cultural values ranging from authoritarian to libertarian. (PTPR)*<br>• *As a country develops from a pre-industrial to an industrialized economic system, high birth and death rates usually transition to low birth and death rates, but through the process there are stages of high population growth. (PG)* | • *Governments create policies that manipulate population\* in their effort to strive for optimum population numbers and structure (\*birth rate and migration) (PG)*<br>• *Optimum population requires balancing the socio-economic needs of the country with available resources (PG)*<br>• *To ensure socio-economic stability/sustainability, countries strive for a low dependency ratio: i.e ratio of those typically not in the labor force (the dependent part) to those typically in the labor force (the productive part) (PG)*<br>• | • *Understanding the common ground underlying conflicting perspectives about a contentious issue increases empathy and the likelihood of more peaceful interactions. (CP)*<br>• • *Socio-economic change often leads to a change in values and attitudes, creating new, and often conflicting, perspectives (CP)* |

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| **Gr 8 BMs** | • *Consumers, as a group, can persuade industries to use ethical means of production. (EC)*<br>• *Prejudice coupled with power often leads to discrimination, which denies humans their basic rights (PD)*<br>• *The presence of significant economic and social injustice contributes to conflict. (C)* | • *Dispositions and experiences shape identity, which is revealed through actions, words, and preferences. (IP)*<br>• *The values and attributes of groups with which people affiliate (e.g family, friends, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, language, gender, education, ethnicity, etc.) shape identity, which is revealed through actions, words, and preferences. (IP)*<br>• *Understanding who one is and why leads to more thoughtful decision-making. (IP)*<br>• *Economic choices (consumption) reflect values, socio-economic level, and location (EC)*<br>• *The media can change perceptions, choices, and lifestyles through persuasive power. (EC)*<br>• *Beliefs, values, and experiences frame our thinking and perspectives about and actions towards others (PD)*<br>• *Individuals and groups' ideas on how to resolve conflicts differ due to their values and experiences. (C)* | • *Our actions, choices and decisions can detract from or enhance the environment and the quality of life of people in other locations (EC)*<br>• *Nations and groups can leverage their political and economic power in an attempt to diminish discriminatory practices (PD)*<br>• *Prejudice can be reduced by increased interaction between people from different groups. (PD)*<br>• *Individuals and groups with economic and political power outside the location of a conflict can manipulate the duration, scope, and outcome of that conflict. (C)* | • *Sustainable consumption requires one to consider the social, economic, and environmental implications of one's choices. (EC)* | • *Understanding the reasons for others' actions, words, and preferences leads to increased empathy (IP)*<br>• *Prejudice has the potential to escalate into violence, with those in power justifying the violence based on their prejudices (PD)*<br>• *Both individuals and groups can diminish prejudice and discrimination by taking nonviolent action (PD)*<br>• *Competition for scarce resources inevitably leads to conflict both between and within groups. ©*<br>• *Peaceful resolution of a conflict requires understanding the perspective of all sides. (C)* |
| **7** | • *Poverty can make it difficult for people to develop fully - physically, socially, and/or intellectually- because they are obliged to spend the majority of their resources (time, money, etc) meeting basic needs (SF)*<br>• *International organizations' actions can improve global health, education, and food security, increasing the probability of a sustainable future for all (GCS)*<br>• *Migration policies and the treatment of migrants reveal prejudices (M)*<br>• <mark>*Disparities in power, social structures and resources can result in denial of human rights.(M)*</mark> | • *Countries' positions on how to solve issues of sustainability differ due to their values and geopolitical context. (GCS)*<br>• *Migrants both change and are changed by the destination culture (M)*<br>* *study of the past makes us aware of the ways in which human beings have viewed themselves, their societies and the wider world at different periods of time. (CPP)*<br><br>*both primary and secondary sources are written from varying points of view depending on the author's purpose, values, and worldview (CPP)* | • *The complex interconnectedness of economic, environmental, and social sustainability requires solutions that take all three into account (SF)*<br>• *education, health, and income are inextricably connected so that a change in one affects the others (SF)*<br>• *conflicting perspectives of different countries on how to solve issues of sustainability can hamper and/or hinder international organizations' effectiveness (GCS)*<br>• *countries with economic and political power can manipulate global responses to sustainability issues to their own advantage (GCS)*<br>• *Economic, political and/or societal push and pull factors determine migration patterns (M)*<br>* *historical analysis enables us to identify continuities over time in core institutions, values, ideals, and traditions, as well as processes that lead to change within societies and institutions (CPP)*<br><br>*studying the past helps us understand how the world has changed and how it might change in the future (CPP)* | • *Creating a sustainable future requires improving the quality of life (social, economic, and environmental) for people now without damaging the planet. (SF)*<br>[a] *The earth has a limited carrying capacity; therefore, the maximum population we can sustain depends on our management and consumption of food, water, and energy, (SF)*<br>• *long term solutions require international organizations to meet needs in socially, economically and environmentally sustainable ways (GCS)* | • *negotiation, a necessity in solving global sustainability issues, requires compromise and positive intent by all those involved (GCS)*<br>• *Migration can cause conflict when it challenges existing economic well being, social norms, and/or political beliefs. (M)* |
| **6** | • *Humans experience pressure to conform to social norms when adapting to new surroundings/situations (A)*<br>• *Access to innovations correlates to socio-economic level, resulting in further* | • *The unique way and degree to which humans think abstractly and communicate symbolically enables them to adapt to changing environments (A)*<br>• *The unique way and degree to which humans* | • *Trade, migration, communication systems and conquest contribute to the global dispersion of innovations, inevitably leading to economic, social and/or environmental change* <mark>(I)</mark><br>• *People living in urban areas have more* | • *Humans continually adapt to their ever changing social, economic, political, and natural surroundings to survive and thrive (A)*<br>• *Sustainable adaptations require* | • *Innovations can benefit society, but can also cause conflict due to unintended consequences. (I)*<br>• *Governing bodies often need to compromise in making decisions in* |

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| | inequality (I)<br>• Communities or nations develop rules and laws in an effort to maintain social order. These rules and laws determine the level of social justice (rights) people experience. (G)<br>• The way decisions are made in a governing body determines both the fairness and efficiency of decision-making (G)<br>• People living in urban settlements develop complex and hierarchical socio-economic and political systems to survive and thrive (U) | organize themselves socially, economically and politically enables them to adapt to changing environments (A) | access to social services and economic opportunities than those living in rural areas due to systems & infrastructure (U)<br>•Elected governing bodies struggle to balance the often conflicting needs of individuals, groups and the entire community they serve (G) | balancing cultural preservation with making necessary changes to thrive (A)<br>• People innovate to solve problems caused by economic, social, and environmental change. (I)<br>• Innovations often lead to economic, social, and environmental change.  (I)<br>• The establishment and survival of urban settlements depends on the maintenance of environmental and economic well-being. (U)<br>• As urban settlements grow, they place an increasing strain on environmental, economic, and social systems, requiring people to find sustainable solutions (U) | order to maintain peace within the community (G)<br>• The way decisions are made in a governing body and/or the decisions themselves often engender conflict (G) |
| 5 | • Prejudices often surface and lead to discrimination during adverse times (HRA | • Some people respond to adversity with courage, diligence, innovation and self-sacrifice while others focus on meeting their own basic needs (HRA)<br>• Understanding the past helps us better understand how and why people and societies behave as they do (HRA) | • Increased human demand for energy and reliance on fossil fuels as a source contributes to global warming which negatively impacts life on earth (SE) | • The topography, natural resources, and socioeconomic context of a location determine the effectiveness and efficiency of renewable energy use  (SE)<br>• A sustainable future requires increasing both energy efficiency and the use of renewable sources of energy (SE)<br>• Humans can contribute to or hinder a sustainable future based on their choices of type and amount of energy use | • Adversity often leads to conflict, but can also bring a community together in a common cause (HRA) |
| 4 | • Due to poverty and prejudice some children's rights are not respected, protected and/or fulfilled (IIF)<br>• People can make a positive difference in the lives of others by taking action to protect and defend human rights (IIF) | • Culture, family and friends shape people's values and beliefs through expectations and shared experiences. (I)<br>• People in different places share many core values and beliefs (I)<br>• Beliefs and values, as well as the expectations of others, influence one's actions and choices (I)<br>• Human rights reflect universal human physical, psychological, and social needs (IIF) | • Through their choices and actions, people have the power to be a positive (or negative) influence on others and the environment (I) | **Water / M & E** | • Inferring the underlying beliefs and values of others can lead to increased empathy (I) |
| 3 | • Choices matter--what people buy can detract from or enhance the quality of life of people in other locations (MPFT)<br>• Economic justice results from people being paid a living wage for their work (MPFT) | | • People, places and environments are interrelated. Therefore human actions can harm and/or help natural environments. (OFE)<br>• Producers determine the demand (how much and by whom) for goods or services when planning for marketing and production (MPFT) | • Humans can impact the sustainability of ecosystems and natural resources.<br>• Sustainable solutions aspire to meet the needs of today's population without compromising the needs of future generations. | |
| 2 | • Our actions can make a difference in our own and other communities (GC) | • Communities have commonalities because we all have the basic human needs, but each | • Communities plan and organize space to meet the needs of those living and/or working | Communities plan and organize space to meet the needs of those | • Communities make decisions to keep people safe and  enjoyable place (GC) |

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| | | *community is unique, partly due to influences of geographical setting (GC)*<br>*• People belong to and/or are linked to other communities through personal experience and experience of family members (GC)* | *in that community (GC)*<br>*• Humans actions  diminish or destroy animals' habitats, making it difficult or impossible for these animals to survive (EA)*<br>*• Animals depend upon the natural resources and terrain of their local habitat to meet their needs and to thrive. (EA)* | *living and/or working in that community (GC)*<br>*• Humans hunt animals for survival or money, sometimes bringing that species to the brink of extinction (EA)*<br>*• Humans can take action to protect endangered animals. (EA)* | |
| 1 | **\*\* add for RRRR** | *• People's skills, interests, and / or relationships determine their roles in a given context (RRRR)*<br>*• Everyone has responsibilities connected to their multiple roles (RRRR)* | **Insects** | **\*\*Insects** | *• Groups create rules and take on responsibilities in order to keep communities peaceful and productive*<br>*• Considerate and grateful actions toward others, regardless of their role, creates a peaceful and productive community* |