

Thinking Skills Chart for Social Studies - Grades 3-5

Thinking Skill	Questions	Prompts	Reading Informational Text
Sourcing Practice Standard 4 (grade 3 - B, grades 4 & 5 - R)	• Who wrote (created) this? • When was it written (created)? • Where was it written (created)? • Who was there? • Why was it written (created)? • Is this a primary or secondary source?	• This document is about... • I think this document was created because... • I think the audience is...	• RI.2 - determine main idea and key details • RI.7 - ex: "Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and ... words... to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur)." (RI.3.7)
Contextualization (Gr. 3 & 4 - B, Gr. 5 - R)	• What was the historical context? • When was the document created? ◦ What was different then? ◦ What was the same? • How did this document change the world/ community? • What was it like to be alive then?	• I already know that _____ is happening at this time. • From this document, I would guess that people at this time were feeling... • This document might not give me the whole picture because...	
Close Reading Practice Standards 4 & 5 CPS 6 Close Reading Practices Overview & Teacher Guide (June 2023) (Gr. 3 - B, Gr. 4 & 5 - R)	• What is this document about? • What words, phrases, images, or symbols are in the document? • What does the author think about this event or person? • Is the author trying to convince you of something?	• The author thinks that... • The evidence that explains what the author is thinking is... • The author is trying to convince me that... • I think the author chose the word(s) in this source in order to...	• RI.4 - meaning and purpose of words used in a text • RI.5 - ex: "Describe how an author uses... structures (e.g. chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events..." (RI.5.5) • RI.8 - "Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text." (RI.4.8)
Compare and Contrast Practice Standard 3 (Gr. 3 & 4 - B, Gr. 5 - R) <i>Note: In grades 6-12, the skill students use is "corroboration."</i>	• What is similar or different in these documents? • What do other documents say? • Why should we use more than one source when studying history?	• These documents are similar because... • These documents are different because... • These documents disagree/agree about...	• RI.6 - ex: "Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event..." (RI.4.6) • RI.9 - ex: "Integrate information from several texts... in order to write or speak about the subject." (RI.5.9)

Note - **Key Vocabulary** is in blue. Teachers should focus on these words when teaching and framing Historical Thinking skills.

B = Begin, **R** = Reinforce, **I** = Independent

Inspired by the Digital Inquiry Group's [Historical Thinking Chart](#). Created by CPS History Department, updated June 2023.