

Eastern Hemisphere

Study Guide

Unit 1: An Introduction to Social Studies

This unit study guide contains most of the knowledge you will need to be successful on tests and quizzes during this unit. Please keep it in your social studies binder for future reference.

Essential Questions

The purpose of this unit is to teach you the answer to the following essential questions:

- ❖ What is social studies?
- ❖ Why is it important to study social studies?
- ❖ What is the vocabulary that historians use to describe time?
- ❖ What calendar systems are used around the world to describe and order time?
- ❖ How do we make timelines from written sources?
- ❖ What are the Five Themes of Geography?

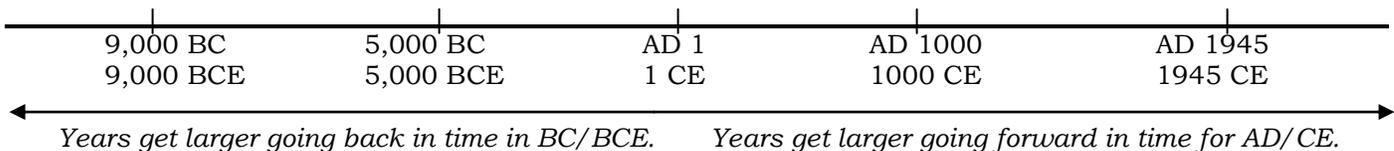
Lesson A: Why Is It Important to Learn Social Studies?

1. **What is social studies?** Social studies is the study of the human race. It is divided into four subjects: history, geography, economics, and civics. History is the study of past events. Geography is the study of the earth, both its natural features and all human activity on its surface. Economics is the study of the production, consumption, and transfer of wealth. Finally, civics is the study of government.
2. **Why is it important to learn social studies?** There are many good reasons why everybody should learn social studies.
 - a. History teaches us valuable lessons from the past. When we learn about social history, we can learn from the failures people have suffered in the past. We can also learn from their successes with the hope that we can duplicate them.
 - b. Geography can help us understand the people who share our world. We live in a very diverse world. Billions of people inhabit this planet; there are millions of points of view. When we learn about social studies, we study these different points of view. In doing so, we come to understand why people are the way they are.
 - c. Economics can help us become more financially secure. Economics teaches us many diverse subjects, such as personal finances, investments, taxes, debt management, and financial planning. When we understand such subjects, we can manage our money wisely. When they manage our money wisely, it means that we can keep more of it for ourselves.
 - d. Civics teaches us about our government. Civics teaches us how our government works and our rights and responsibilities as citizens. This gives us the tools to access our government and make it respond to our needs as citizens.
 - e. When we study social studies, we improve our reading and writing skills. To learn about social studies, we must conduct research. This involves a great deal of reading. Sometimes the documents we read as we research contain rare words that we have never seen before. Or they may be written in an old-fashioned way that is unfamiliar to us. As we carefully read these sources, we learn new vocabulary and reading skills that help us cope with difficult texts. Also, we often are often required to write about what we have learned. In doing so, we learn how to organize our thoughts on paper. This helps us become better writers.

Lesson B: Time Talk

3. **What is a chronology?** A chronology is a list of events in the order that they happened. When something is in chronological order, it is in time order.

4. **What is a millennium, a century, and a decade?** *Millennia, centuries, and decades are all periods of years. A millennium is one thousand years. Its plural is millennia. A century is one hundred years. A decade is ten years.*
5. **What do BC and AD mean?** *BC stands for “Before Christ” and refers to the era before the birth of Jesus Christ, about 2,000 years ago. AD stands for “Anno Domini,” which is a Latin phrase meaning, “In the Year of Our Lord.” It refers to the era after the birth of Jesus Christ.*
6. **What do BCE and CE mean?** *BCE stands for “Before the Common Era.” It is the same era as BC. CE stands for “the Common Era.” It is the same era as AD. Alternatively, they can stand for “Before the Christian Era” and “the Christian Era.”*
7. **What does BP mean?** *BP stands for “Before the Present.”*
8. **What does circa mean?** *Circa is a Latin word that means “around” or “about” or “approximately.” Historians use it when they cannot give an exact date. It is often abbreviated with a “c.” or a “ca.”*
9. **When we talk about the 18th century, what years are we talking about?** *When we talk about the 18th century, we talk about the 1700s in Western calendars. We talk about the years 1701 through 1800. This logic applies to other centuries as well. When we talk about the 20th century, we talk about the years 1901 to 2000.*
10. **What calendar do we use in the West, and how does it work?** *In the West, we use the Gregorian calendar (also known as the Western or Christian calendar), which is constructed around the birth of Jesus Christ. The years BC and BCE come first; they are the same. The larger the number of the year, the earlier in history it is. Then comes AD and CE; they also are the same. The larger the number of the year, the later in history it is. It is important to note that there was no year zero in this calendar. The year AD 1 was the year Christ was born. Look at the following timeline to help you understand how time is ordered:*



11. **What are solar, lunar, and lunisolar calendars?** *A solar calendar uses the movements of the sun across the daytime sky throughout the year to keep track of time. A lunar calendar is a calendar that uses the phases of the moon to keep track of time. A lunisolar calendar uses both the movements of the sun and the phases of the moon to keep track of time.*
12. **What is the tropical year?** *The tropical year is the time it takes the earth to make one orbit around the sun. Many calendars are shorter than the actual tropical year, which is about 365 days, five hours, and 49 minutes long. As a result most calendar systems invented throughout history have used leap days or leap months to make up for this flaw.*
13. **What is the Julian calendar, and why isn't it used anymore?** *The Julian calendar was a calendar created by Julius Caesar in 45 BCE. Like ours, it had 12 months, 365 days, and was a solar calendar. It, however, had a small flaw that made it about 11 minutes longer than the actual tropical year. Over centuries of use, this flaw added up over time. By 1582 CE, important holy days like Easter were no longer falling in the correct seasons. As a result, Pope Gregory XIII modified the Julian calendar to create the Gregorian calendar. By 1920 CE, most of the nations of the world had abandoned the Julian calendar and accepted the more accurate Gregorian calendar.*
14. **What calendar systems are used by people around the world?** *While most nations use the Gregorian calendar for their day-to-day business, there are other calendar systems in use around the world. Their years are marked by events important to the cultures that use them. Here are four examples.*
 - a. *The year that God created the universe marks the beginning of the count of years in the Jewish calendar, which is used alongside the Gregorian calendar by the modern*

nation of Israel. It is a lunisolar calendar. According to the Jewish calendar, it is the year A.M. 5772.

- b. The year that Muhammad fled from Mecca to Medina marks the beginning of the count of years in the Islamic calendar, an event called the Hegira. It is a lunar calendar. The Islamic calendar is used by most of the Muslim nations of the Middle East. According to the Islamic calendar, it is the year A.H. 1390.
 - c. The Chinese calendar does not count its years from a fixed event in time. Its years come in 12-year cycles, each given a name from the Chinese zodiac.
 - d. The beginning of the Saka Era in Indian history marks the beginning of the count of years in the Indian calendar. It is a solar calendar. According to the Indian calendar, it is currently the year S.E. 1933.
- 15. What does simultaneous mean?** Simultaneous means “at the same time.”
- 16. What is a timeline?** A timeline is a chart of events. It shows us the order of events. It also can show us the cause-and-effect relationship of events.
- 17. What is a tiered timeline?** A tiered timeline is a chart of events that shows us two or more simultaneous time streams. For example, a time line can be constructed to show the events of the global war known as the Second World War. One tier can show the events of the war in Europe and Africa, and the other tier can show the events of the war in the Asia and the Pacific.
- 18. How do you make a timeline from written historical sources?** You construct a timeline from written historical sources as follows:
- a. Read the source, highlighting dates and the events linked to those dates. Be sure to look for terms that refer to time like “in the next century” or “a decade later.”
 - b. Write the dates and events on slips of paper.
 - c. Put the slips of paper into chronological order.
 - d. Plot the events on your timeline, being sure to note who, what, where, and when.

Lesson C: The Five Themes of Geography

- 19. What are the Five Themes of Geography?** Geography is the study of the earth. Therefore, it is a very complex field of study. To make it easier to study, geographers divide geography into five themes
- a. Movement. Movement talks about how people, products, information, and ideas move from one place to another. An example would be the system of high-speed trains in Japan.
 - b. Region. A region is an area defined by similar characteristics. They can be natural (physical) or human (cultural) characteristics. An example would be the Middle East. The people there are largely Arabic and most are Muslim, giving this region its character.
 - c. Location. Location is where a place is on the earth. It can be described in absolute terms (through longitude or latitude), or relative terms (e.g., “Europe is to the west of Asia”). An example of this is Salida, Colorado. It can be found at the grid coordinates, N 38° 32' 4.938", W 105° 59' 56.1264". Its location can also be described in relative terms—“Salida, Colorado is located near the headwaters of the Arkansas River.”
 - d. Human-Environment Interaction. Human-environment interaction looks at how humans adapt to the environment and how they change it to suit their purposes. An example of this would be that people of the Middle East wear light, flowing clothing to protect their bodies from the relentless sun of the deserts in their region. They also try to modify their environment by making desalinization plants on the coasts of their nations to provide their people more fresh water than their environment can provide naturally.

- e. Place. Places are defined by everything in them. Each has special characteristics that make them unique and distinguish them from every other place on earth. Paris, for example, is a unique place. Nowhere else on earth can you find the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, or the Cathedral of Notre Dame.
- f. The Five Themes of Geography can be remembered with the mnemonic, MR. LIP: Movement, Region, Location, Human-Environment Interaction, and Place

20. Where are the continents and oceans of the world located? The continents and oceans of the world can be studied with the map that was provided in World Continents and Oceans 1C2.

21. Where are the regions of the Eastern Hemisphere located? The regions of the Eastern Hemisphere can be studied with the map that was provided in Regions of the Eastern Hemisphere 1C3.