



Social Studies Curriculum Grade 8

Capital's social studies curriculum is aligned with state and national standards and addresses concepts in civics, economics, geography, and history. Students use tools such as maps, globes, timelines, charts and other geo-graphics to learn about our world. Studying both primary and secondary resources such as artifacts, diaries, photographs, and newspaper accounts enables students to research topics, understand a variety of cultures and peoples, and analyze the causes and effects of events from the past to the present.

This year, your child will be focusing on the units listed below. The essential questions listed for each unit provide an overview of the main concepts that will be addressed in these units.

Unit: How Markets Work (Economics Standard 1: 6-8a)

- *Essential Question:*
 - Under what conditions does price change?

Unit: Money, Banking and Taxing (Economics Standard 2: 6-8a)

- *Essential Question:*
 - How do spending, saving and production decisions affect a market economy?
 - How is money created in a market economy?
 - How does our government's taxation and spending policies affect our economy?

Unit: Interpreting the Past & Historical Research (History Standard 2: 6-8a/b and 3: 6-8a)

- *Essential Questions:*
 - How might thinking like a historian help students draw credible conclusions?

Unit: American Principles (Civics Standard 2: 6-8 b)

- *Essential Question:*
 - How are the principles of major American state papers guaranteeing liberty to contemporary Americans?

Unit: Structures of Government- Federalism (Civics Standard 1: 6-8b)

- *Essential Question:*
 - What different needs should be addressed by different levels of government?

Unit: Change Over Time (History Standard 1: 6-8a)

- *Essential Questions:*
 - How can the past be used to predict the future?
 - Is change inevitable?
 - What is the evidence for my conclusion?

Unit: American Citizenship (Civics Standard 3: 6-8b)

- *Essential Question:*
 - Why should American citizens perform certain civic duties?