

LEAP Social Studies Grade 8 Achievement Level Descriptors

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Vision for Social Studies Standards and Assessment

To be ready for success, students must build knowledge of the world; thoughtfully examine the information they read, hear, and observe; and develop and express their ideas through speaking and writing. Through regular analysis and evaluation of information from an array of high quality primary and secondary sources and engaging learning experiences, students will develop the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to demonstrate understanding of important content and concepts. A leading goal in social studies is to prepare students for civic life by helping them to become knowledgeable about the world, reason through complex questions, and effectively express their ideas. To accomplish this goal, students must consistently do the following in their social studies class:

- build content knowledge and skills through meaningful learning opportunities and the exploration of high-quality, complex sources;
- engage in the majority of the thinking, speaking, and writing; and
- practice using accurate and relevant information from their social studies knowledge and well-chosen evidence from sources to support claims about social studies concepts. Simply stated, students must develop a broad and deep knowledge of the content so that they are able to express and support claims about social studies concepts.

The LEAP Social Studies assessments will reflect the vision and instructional priorities for social studies by providing students with opportunities to answer questions that allow them to demonstrate knowledge of social studies content and concepts, apply social studies skills and practices, and express and develop claims supported by information and evidence with explanation and reasoning.

Reporting Categories

All LEAP Social Studies tests for grades 3-8 and Civics will be reported using two types of reporting categories.

- Content Reporting Categories - The Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies (LS4) were written with the goal of producing individuals who have (1) a broad and deep knowledge of U.S. and world history, (2) a firm grasp and appreciation of the civic principles that underlie our system of government, (3) a solid understanding of fundamental economic principles and the ability to make wise financial decisions, and (4) a proficiency in both physical and human geography. All assessment items have a primary content reporting alignment.
- Skills and Practices Reporting Categories - To achieve the goals outlined in the LS4, students should build content knowledge through engagement with authentic primary and secondary sources and express arguments about civics topics. The skills and practices for each grade and course are specified in the LS4. A subset of assessment items have a primary skills and practices reporting alignment.

The following table includes the descriptions for each reporting category.

Reporting Category	Description
Late 19th and Early 20th Century	Content in this reporting category focuses on technology, industry, urbanization, immigration, migration, the Jim Crow era, and domestic and foreign policy from the late 1800s to the early 1900s.
World War I Through the Great Depression	Content in this reporting category focuses on World War I, the Roaring 20s, and the Great Depression.
World War II Through the Modern Era	Content in this reporting category focuses on World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War, and the modern era.
Establishing Context	Skills and practices in this reporting category focus on applying chronological reasoning; examining continuity and change; making comparisons and connections; and applying spatial understanding.
Examining Sources and Claims	Skills and practices in this reporting category focus on examining and using primary, secondary, and tertiary sources; evaluating claims and counterclaims; using evidence to support claims; distinguishing between relevant and irrelevant information; and constructing and expressing claims.

Achievement-Level Definitions

Achievement-Level definitions briefly describe the expectations for student performance at each of Louisiana's five achievement levels:

- **Advanced:** Students performing at this level have **exceeded** college and career readiness expectations and are well prepared for the next level of study in this content area.
- **Mastery:** Students performing at this level have **met** college and career readiness expectations and are prepared for the next level of study in this content area.
- **Basic:** Students performing at this level have **nearly met** college and career readiness expectations and may need additional support to be fully prepared for the next level of study in this content area.
- **Approaching Basic:** Students performing at this level have **partially met** college and career readiness expectations and will need much support to be prepared for the next level of study in this content area.
- **Unsatisfactory:** Students performing at this level have **not yet met** the college and career readiness expectations and will need extensive support to be prepared for the next level of study in this content area. Achievement-Level Descriptors Achievement-Level descriptors indicate what typical students should know and be able to do at each of Louisiana's five achievement levels: Advanced, Mastery, Basic, Approaching Basic, and Unsatisfactory.

Achievement Level Descriptors

Achievement-level descriptors (ALDs) describe the knowledge, skills, and processes that students typically demonstrate at each achievement level.

The ALDs in the tables that follow should be read as a building of ability; if a student achieves ‘Advanced,’ then they can demonstrate the knowledge and skills at the Advanced level and all the knowledge and skills described at the other levels, as well.

In the ALDs, **the verbs are in boldface type to call out the progression in complexity of what the student can do**; *some text is italicized to call out a different complexity in the content knowledge that students can be expected to know.*

Reporting Category	Advanced	Mastery	Basic	Approaching Basic
Late 19th and Early 20th Century	Analyze the causes and effects of technological and industrial advances during the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.	Explain <i>the importance of</i> the causes and effects of technological and industrial advances during the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.	Describe the causes and effects of technological and industrial advances during the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.	Identify the causes and effects of technological and industrial advances during the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.
	Analyze the social, political, and economic changes developed in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.	Explain <i>why</i> the social, political, and economic changes developed in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.	Describe the social, political, and economic changes that developed in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.	Identify the social, political, and economic changes that developed in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.
	Analyze ideas and events related to the expansion of the United States during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.	Explain <i>the importance of</i> ideas and events related to the expansion of the United States during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.	Describe ideas and events related to the expansion of the United States during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.	Identify ideas and events related to the expansion of the United States during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.
World War I	Analyze the causes, course	Explain the causes, course	Describe the causes,	Identify the causes, course

Reporting Category	Advanced	Mastery	Basic	Approaching Basic
through the Great Depression	and consequences of World War I.	and consequences of World War I.	course, and consequences of World War I.	and consequences of World War I.
	Analyze the political, social, cultural and economic effects of events and developments during the early twentieth century.	Explain the political, social, cultural and economic effects of events and developments during the early twentieth century.	Describe the political, social, cultural and economic effects of events and developments during the early twentieth century.	Identify the political, social, cultural and economic effects of events and developments during the early twentieth century.
	Analyze the causes and effects of the Great Depression.	Explain the causes and effects of the Great Depression.	Describe the causes and effects of the Great Depression.	Identify the causes and effects of the Great Depression.
World War II through the Modern Era	Analyze the causes, course, and consequences of World War II.	Explain the causes, course, and consequences of World War II.	Describe the causes, course, and consequences of World War II.	Identify the causes, course, and consequences of World War II.
	Analyze the causes, major events, and key leaders of the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968.	Explain the importance of the causes, major events, and key leaders of the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968.	Describe the causes, major events, and key leaders of the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968.	Identify the causes, major events, and key leaders of the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968.
	Analyze the causes, course, and consequences of the Cold War.	Explain the causes, course, and consequences of the Cold War.	Describe the causes, course, and consequences of the Cold War.	Identify the causes, course, and consequences of the Cold War.
	Explain how key ideas, events and developments of the modern era have affected American society.	Explain the importance of key ideas, events, and developments of the modern era.	Describe key ideas, events, and developments of the modern era.	Identify key ideas, events, and developments of the modern era.

Reporting Category	Advanced	Mastery	Basic	Approaching Basic
Establishing Context	<p>Analyze connections between ideas, events, and developments in U.S. history within their global context from 1877 to 2008.</p>	<p>Explain ideas, events, and developments in the history of the United States of America from 1877 to 2008 and how they progressed, changed, or remained the same over time.</p> <p>Explain the significance of connections between events and developments in U.S. history within their global context from 1877 to 2008.</p> <p>Compare and contrast events and developments in the history of the United States of America from 1877 to 2008.</p>	<p>Describe ideas, events, and developments in the history of the United States of America from 1877 to 2008 <i>and how they progressed, changed, or remained the same over time.</i></p> <p>Describe connections between events and developments in U.S. history within their global context from 1877 to 2008.</p>	<p>Identify ideas, events, and developments in the history of the United States of America from 1877 to 2008.</p>
	<p>Use geographic representations and historical data to analyze events and developments in U.S. history from 1877 to 2008, including environmental, cultural, economic, and political characteristics and changes.</p>	<p>Use geographic representations and historical data to explain events and developments in U.S. history from 1877 to 2008, <i>including environmental, cultural, economic, and political characteristics and changes.</i></p>	<p>Use geographic representations and historical data to describe events and developments in U.S. history from 1877 to 2008.</p>	<p>Use geographic representations and historical data to identify events and developments in U.S. history from 1877 to 2008.</p>

Reporting Category	Advanced	Mastery	Basic	Approaching Basic
		Use maps to explain the significance of geographic characteristics of places in Louisiana, North America, and the world.	Use maps to describe geographic characteristics of places in Louisiana, North America, and the world.	Use maps to identify absolute location (latitude and longitude) and geographic features in Louisiana and North America.
Examining Sources and Expressing Claims	Use a <i>variety of</i> primary and secondary sources to analyze social studies content; evaluate claims, counterclaims, and evidence; compare and contrast multiple sources and accounts; and explain <i>how the availability of sources affects historical interpretations.</i>	Use a <i>variety of</i> primary and secondary sources to explain social studies content, <i>claims, counterclaims, evidence,</i> and similarities and differences of multiple sources and accounts.	Use a primary <i>or</i> secondary source to describe social studies content and a claim or evidence.	Use a primary <i>or</i> secondary source to identify social studies content and a claim or evidence.
	Construct and express <i>claims</i> that are supported with relevant evidence from primary and/or secondary sources, social studies content knowledge, <i>and clear reasoning and explanations</i> to demonstrate an understanding of social studies content; compare and contrast content and viewpoints; analyze causes and effects; and evaluate	Construct and express a claim that is supported with relevant evidence from a primary and/or secondary source, social studies content knowledge, and/or an explanation to demonstrate an understanding of social studies content; compare and contrast content and viewpoints; explain causes and effects; and explain <i>counterclaims.</i>	Identify a claim that is supported with relevant evidence from a primary <i>and/or</i> secondary source, social studies content knowledge, <i>and/or an explanation</i> to demonstrate an understanding of social studies content; identify <i>viewpoints;</i> and identify <i>causes and effects.</i>	Identify a claim or an explanation that is supported with relevant evidence from a primary or secondary source or social studies content knowledge to demonstrate an understanding of social studies content.

Reporting Category	Advanced	Mastery	Basic	Approaching Basic
	counterclaims.			