

## Grade 7 Social Studies Achievement Level Descriptors

The Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) describe the knowledge, skills, and cognitive processes that students should exhibit with relative consistency and accuracy in a variety of contexts. Some deviations or exceptions may be observed.

	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<b>General Social Studies Descriptors</b>	Students at the Approaching Basic level demonstrate a <b>limited</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in United States history from 1763 through 1877.	Students at the Basic level demonstrate a <b>general</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in United States history from 1763 through 1877.	Students at the Mastery level demonstrate a <b>strong</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in United States history from 1763 through 1877.	Students at the Advanced level demonstrate a <b>thorough</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in United States history from 1763 through 1877.
Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<b>Claims and Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and express <b>flawed</b> claims that provide <b>vague</b> explanations of connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place.</li> <li>• Use <b>little or no</b> evidence from the sources and <b>limited</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• Rely on either knowledge from the course <b>or</b> information provided in the sources to make <b>vague or incomplete</b> connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and express <b>reasonable</b> claims, but provide <b>inconsistent or incomplete</b> explanations of connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place.</li> <li>• Use <b>disconnected</b> evidence from the sources and <b>general</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• <b>Use</b> knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make <b>obvious</b> connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and clearly express <b>logical</b> claims that provide <b>consistent and complete</b> explanations of the connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place.</li> <li>• Use <b>appropriate</b> evidence from the sources and <b>strong</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• <b>Integrate</b> knowledge from the course with information provided in the sources to make <b>reasoned and informed</b> connections that show the relationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and effectively express <b>valid</b> claims that provide <b>cohesive and in-depth</b> explanations of the connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place.</li> <li>• Use <b>well-chosen</b> evidence from the sources and <b>thorough</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• <b>Synthesize</b> knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make <b>sophisticated</b> connections that show the interrelationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>

Sample Content Connections	Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key historical events and people shaped U.S. foreign and domestic policies.</li> <li>• Reform movements influenced US policies, legislation, and court cases.</li> <li>• Political, social, and economic factors influenced migration and settlement patterns.</li> <li>• Resources and land use contributed to the development of diverse regional economics in the United States.</li> <li>• Political, social and geographic factors shaped the economic development of regions in the United States.</li> </ul>	<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key events, ideas, people, or policies from the American Revolution through the ratification of the Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the impact of key events, ideas, people, and policies from the American Revolution through the ratification of the Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the causes and impact of key events, ideas, people, and policies from the American Revolution through the ratification of the Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the causes and impact of key events, ideas, people, and policies from the American Revolution through the ratification of the Constitution.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify major events and policies during the Washington and Adams presidencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe major events and policies during the Washington and Adams presidencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how major events and policies during the Washington and Adams presidencies influenced the development of the United States.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe social or economic factors that led to westward expansion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the role of social and economic factors that led to westward expansion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze social and economic factors that led to westward expansion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze political, social, and economic factors that led to westward expansion.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe major American reform movements during the nineteenth century.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the motivations and influence of major American reform movements during the nineteenth century.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the motivations and influence of major American reform movements during the nineteenth century.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the motivations and influence of major American reform movements during the nineteenth century.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe political, social, or economic characteristics of different regions of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how political, social, and economic factors influenced the development of different regions of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare and contrast the political, social, and economic development of different regions of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the political, social, and economic development of different regions of the United States.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key events, ideas, and people that led to the Civil War.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the reasons for the expansion of slavery in the South after 1800 and the key events, ideas, and people that led to the Civil War.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the reasons for the expansion of slavery in the South after 1800 and the role of the key events, ideas, and people that led to the Civil War.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the reasons for the expansion of slavery in the South after 1800 and the role of the key events, ideas, and people that led to the Civil War.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify important turning points and major developments during the Civil War.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe important turning points and major developments during the Civil War and the short-term outcomes of Reconstruction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the importance of turning points and major developments during the Civil War and the short-term outcomes of Reconstruction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze important turning points and major developments during the Civil War and the short- and long-term outcomes of Reconstruction.</li> </ul>
	<b>Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe information shown in historical charts, graphs, and maps of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain information in historical charts, graphs, and maps of the United States, including the importance of physical features.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze information in historical charts, graphs, and maps of the United States, including the importance of physical and political features.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify motivations and settlement patterns of groups migrating within and into the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain motivations and settlement patterns of groups migrating within and into the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze motivations, settlement patterns, and obstacles faced by groups migrating within and into the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze motivations, settlement patterns, and obstacles faced by groups migrating within and into the United States and the impact of these migrations.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe ways Americans adapted to and transformed physical environments in the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how Americans adapted to and transformed various physical environments to expand the growth and influence of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze how Americans adapted to and transformed various physical environments to expand the growth and influence of the United States</li> </ul>

	<b>Civics</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Differentiate between a few forms of government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Differentiate between various forms of government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the differences between various forms of government.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe some structures and powers of the branches of the federal government and some principles and purposes of government according to the United States Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the structures and powers of the branches of the federal government and explain the principles and purposes of government according to the United States Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the structures and powers of the branches of the federal government and the principles and purposes of government according to United States Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the structures and powers of the branches of the federal government and the principles and purposes of government according to the United States Constitution.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key ideas that influenced the formation of the United States government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe key ideas that influenced the formation of the United States government and legislation or court decisions that influenced events in US history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how key ideas in historical documents influenced the formation of the United States government and how legislation and court decisions influenced events in US history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze how key ideas in historical documents influenced the formation of the United States government and how legislation and court decisions influenced the course of US history.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illustrate the role of the legislative branch in the process of a bill becoming a law at the federal level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illustrate how a bill becomes a law at the federal level, including the roles of the legislative and executive branches.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify United States foreign policies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe United States foreign policies and the impact of interactions between nations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how United States foreign policies were developed and carried out, ways nations interact, and the impact of interactions between nations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the development and implementation of United States foreign policies, interactions between nations, and the impact of international relations.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the individual rights and freedoms of United States citizens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe influences on the development of individual rights and freedoms in the United States and ways citizens influence change in a democratic society.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how different factors influenced the development of individual rights and freedoms in the United States and ways citizens influence change in a democratic society.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze influences on the development of individual rights and freedoms in the United States and ways citizens influence change in a democratic society.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the duties and responsibilities of United States citizens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the duties, responsibilities, and qualifications of United States citizens and the development of political parties in the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the duties, responsibilities, and qualifications of United States citizens and the development and roles of political parties and special interest groups in the United States.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the influence of resources and technology on the United States economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how resources and technology influenced the economy of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how demand for resources and technology influenced economic diversity in the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the demand for resources and technology that influenced economic diversity in the United States.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe factors that influenced economic interdependence between regions of the United States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe factors that influenced economic interdependence between regions of the United States and government policies that influenced the United States economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how economic interdependence developed between regions of the United States and with foreign countries and the ways government policies influenced the United States economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the development of economic interdependence between regions of the United States and with foreign countries and the ways government policies influenced the United States economy.</li> </ul>