

## THE SKILLS OF SOCIAL STUDIES

The skills that are needed for social studies are enumerated in the standards document under social studies, language arts literacy, mathematics, science, comprehensive health, and cross-content workplace readiness. With reference to information-gathering and thinking skills, the teacher should review Workplace Readiness Standards 2 and 3.

The array of skill areas for social studies is listed in Table 4. The “Skill Area” column lists skills that apply to major subjects within social studies. Each of these has a specific application in civics, history/economics, and geography. Table 4 is a breakout of these skill areas by subject. In preparing this listing, we have analyzed the New Jersey content standards as well as the national standards in all these areas, plus other standard references in social studies.

Table 4 Social Studies Skills Matrix

<b>Skill Area</b>	<b>Civics</b>	<b>History/Economics</b>	<b>Geography</b>
Knowledge	Constitutions, basic structures of national, state, and local govt. Cultures, daily life in history and in the current world.	Important dates, events, and persons in significant historical periods of NJ and US.	Directions; point and line; types of land and water forms; names and locations of significant locations in NJ and US.
Comprehension	Understand how the basic structure of government works at the local, state, and national levels; key elements of the US and NJ Constitutions; the meaning of citizenship. Elements of culture; families around the world and throughout history.	Chronological thinking (sense of historical time, when events occurred and in what order). Historical comprehension: understanding an historical narrative.	Understand and apply the basic generalizations and theories in geography in order to acquire, organize, and analyze geographic information and to answer geographic questions.
Reading Skills	Read for content to gather information, identify and answer basic questions.	Read for content to gather information, identify and answer basic questions.	Read for content to gather information, identify and answer basic geographic questions.
Writing Skills	Write clearly on a civic or government issue to demonstrate a good grasp of that issue.	Write clearly on an historical issue to show understanding.	Explain the results of geographic inquiry both orally and in writing.
Reference Skills	Use standard references for current events, government issues etc.	Use standard references and Internet for historical topics.	Use standard book and computer references to research geographic topics.
Computer Use	Internet and databases for information search.	Internet and databases for information search.	Internet and databases for information search.
Thinking Skills	Know, infer, find the thesis, detect bias, distinguish fact and opinion.	Some interpretation: raise questions, define problems.	Organize, analyze, and answer geographic questions.
Location Skills	Identify voting districts; study the electoral college; redistricting in legislatures, etc.	Historical comprehension of changes in the maps of New Jersey and the US over time.	Ability to use maps to locate places; or mental maps.
Graphics	Use tables, graphics, to read and display information.	Develop timelines and other graphics and charts to display historical information.	Use and develop maps and other graphics for geographic data.
Personal Skills	Form and express convictions, behavior fits situation, recognize rights and value of others.	Awareness of different views; tolerance of ambiguity; ability to dialogue.	Appreciation and understanding of one's own heritage.
Interpersonal Skills	Home, family membership; community functioning; set and follow rules; decision making.	Ability to engage in conflict resolution, and negotiation.	Appreciation of and understanding of other groups, and cultures.
Social and Political Participation Skills	Develop citizenship skills in the classroom by setting rules, voting, civic participation. Appreciation and valuing of self and others.	Have a personal commitment to and participation in issues.	Ability to experience one's own and other cultures and to be aware of an act on environmental issues.