### Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enduring Understandings</th>
<th>Essential Questions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Students will understand that:</td>
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#### Government

- People develop systems to manage conflict and create order.
- Conflict resolution can involve aggression, compromise, cooperation, and change.
- What is power?
- How is power gained, used, and justified?
- How do competing interests influence how power is distributed and exercised?
- How are governments created, structured maintained, and changed?
- What happens in the absence of government?
- Why do we have rules & laws; and what would happen if we didn’t?
- Democratic societies must balance the rights and responsibilities of individuals with the common good.
- What are the roles and responsibilities of citizens and government in a democratic society?
- What effect does a democratic government have on society?

#### Economics

- Decisions concerning the allocation and use of economic resources impact individuals and groups.
- Why do we have money?
- What does it mean to make a living?
- How does something acquire a value?
- What effect does the economy have on society?
- How do economic systems affect your life and the lives of others?
- How are economic resources distributed?
- What impact does scarcity have on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services?
- Local, national, and international relationships are affected by economic transactions.
- How does trade affect local, national, & international relationships?
- What impact does trade have on a society?

#### Geography

- Geography influences needs, culture, opportunities, choices, interests, and skills.
- How does geography influence lifestyle and point of view?
- How do geography, climate, and natural resources affect the way people live and work?
- What story do maps and globes tell?
- What makes places unique and different?
- How do maps and globes reflect history, politics, and economics?
- There is a relationship between the consumption and conservation of natural resources.
- What effect do people have on their environment?
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<td><strong>Culture &amp; Sociology</strong></td>
<td>• Culture is a way of life of a group of people who share similar beliefs and customs.</td>
<td>• What is culture? • What can we learn about a culture through its art forms?</td>
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<td>• Global societies are diverse, creating varied perspectives, contributions, and challenges.</td>
<td>• What are the benefits and challenges of a diverse society? • Why should we study other cultures and what does it teach us?</td>
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<td>• People are affected by environmental, economic, social, cultural, and civic concerns.</td>
<td>• How do the beliefs and values of a diverse culture affect individuals and society?</td>
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<td>• Culture is both a unifying and divisive force in human relations.</td>
<td>• What happens when cultures collide? • Why do people live together and form societies?</td>
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<td><strong>History</strong></td>
<td>• The study of the continuum of human civilization reveals the ideals, beliefs, values, and institutions of its people.</td>
<td>• What does it mean to be civilized? • Are modern civilizations more &quot;civilized&quot; than ancient ones? • What are the significant symbols and icons of civilizations/cultures?</td>
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<td>• The study of political, social and economic patterns reveals continuity and change over time.</td>
<td>• What causes change over time?</td>
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<td>• Knowledge of the past helps one understand the present and make decisions about the future.</td>
<td>• How does the evaluation of past events help us to make future decisions? • How can we know if we weren’t there? • How am I connected to those in the past?</td>
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<td>• People respond to and resolve conflicts in a variety of ways.</td>
<td>• Can an individual make a difference in history? • Why do people fight? • Is conflict inevitable? desirable? avoidable? • What is worth fighting for? • What is revolution?</td>
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<td>• History involves interpretation; historians can and do disagree.</td>
<td>• How has the interpretation of history changed? • What should we do when primary sources disagree? • Whom do we believe &amp; why?</td>
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<td><strong>Technology &amp; Progress</strong></td>
<td>• Scientific and technological developments affect people’s lives, the environment and transform societies.</td>
<td>• Is new technology always better than that which it will replace? • How do new technologies result in broader social change?</td>
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<td>• Progress is defined by cultural interpretation.</td>
<td>• How does who you are help determine your perception of progress? • How do the various levels of technological development affect different cultures?</td>
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## Skills

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### Acquiring Information

- Analytical questioning creates a purpose for research.  
  - Why do I research?
- Information can be acquired from various sources.  
  - What do I do when my immediate resources are not adequate?
  - What are the benefits of using multiple media to locate information?
  - How do I know which resources fit my needs?
- The research process requires the use of a variety of resources to ensure validity.  
  - How do I know my information is reliable (accurate, unbiased, current, and appropriate)?
- Interpreting and analyzing research results will answer a variety of questions.  
  - How does explaining my process help me to strengthen my research skills?
  - How do I know when I have enough information to answer my question thoroughly?

### Organizing Information

- Organization is critical to the acquisition, application, and evaluation of information.  
  - What organizational strategy best suits this research?
  - How does organizing the results of my research help me to use it?
- The data being presented determines the organizational format.  
  - How does the organization of information impact the effectiveness of its communication?

### Analyzing, Interpreting & Applying Information

- Effective communication relies on the purposeful use of information in a format appropriate to the task and the audience.  
  - How do I determine the appropriate presentation format for my task and audience?
- Critical examination and evaluation of data is essential to making informed decisions.  
  - How does new information influence how I think and act?
- Various types of materials enhance understanding.  
  - How does one analyze, evaluate & utilize various types of materials?

### Developing Social & Political Participation

- Examining social and civic issues helps to expand one’s understanding of the world, its people, and themselves.  
  - What are the consequences if I do not accept my personal responsibilities to my community?
  - How do my actions impact others in my community?
  - How can I impact social change?
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### Developing Personal & Group Interaction

- Collaboration is necessary in order to be an effective learner and citizen.
  - Why do individuals choose to work together?
  - What role does conflict play in collaboration?
  - How do my personal decisions and actions affect others?
- Recognizing a diversity of viewpoints benefits all.
  - How does the consideration of different viewpoints influence how one thinks and acts?

### Reading

- Text and organizational tools communicate different kinds of information.
  - What is the purpose of using both primary and secondary sources?
  - How does reading fiction help to acquire factual information?
- Authors write for different purposes.
  - What impact do reading strategies have?
  - Why do we need to evaluate what we read?
- Readers use strategies to construct meaning.
  - How does time and place in history influence language?
- Language reflects historical changes and cultural differences.
  - How does language reflect historical changes and cultural differences?

### Writing

- Writing is a process.
  - How does each step in the process impact your writing?
- The writing process is consistent across disciplines.
  - How does the audience influence the format of your writing?
  - How is your style of writing influenced by your purpose?
- Writers have a purpose for writing.
  - What am I trying to achieve through my writing?
- The use of proper formats results in effective communication.
  - How can we use evaluation and reflection to improve our writing?
- Writing is a tool used for thinking, learning and communicating.
  - What is the impact of technology on research and communication?
  - What are the benefits and limitations of using technology?

### Technology

- Technology is a tool that can be used for collecting, organizing, creating, and presenting information.