

PLACES and ENVIRONMENT Essential Understandings

Topic	K	1	2	3	4	5
Shelter	People live in different types of homes.	Shelters are different in different parts of the world. An environment will affect shelter, transportation, and types of clothing.				
Earth					Climate is affected by seasons, weather, patterns and location.	
Patterns of settlement		People live in many different locations. Where people live affects the way they live.	Needs and wants affect patterns of settlement.		Needs and wants affect patterns of settlement. People immigrate for many reasons. Transportation improvements influence patterns of settlements.	Needs and wants affect patterns of settlement. Physical processes and geographic patterns shape the people and environment.
Natural resources				Renewable and non-renewable resources are important to communities.	Natural resources affect the migration of people. Natural resources influence culture. Resource depletion alters economic development.	Geographic features affect economic development. Natural resources affect the migration of people. Natural resources influence culture.
Migration			People move to new locations for a variety of reasons.		Migration can be used to improve the lives of people. Not everyone migrates of his/her free will.	Migration can be used to improve the lives of people. Not everyone migrates of his/her free will.
Physical and Human Features				Physical features affect a community's environment and how its citizens live. People adapt and modify the environment to meet their community's needs.	Natural features and human changes distinguish one state/region from another.	Natural features and human changes distinguish regions around the world.
Maps and globes	Identify earth. Identify globe as a model of the earth. Recognize land and water on a globe and map. Identifies the correct year. (Only item tested)	Land and water make up the earth. The map is a picture of a real place as seen from above. People use symbols to represent features of the earth on a map.	People use a key to locate places on a map. The purpose of a map is to locate places. Maps and globes represent cities, states, countries, continents and oceans.		Geographic features distinguish regions in the US. Maps and globes emphasize geographic characteristics.	Landforms vary and define regions around the world. People interact positively and negatively with their environment.

INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, and INSTITUTIONS
Essential Understandings

Topic	K	1	2	3	4	5
Self		<p>People change.</p> <p>Individuals display uniqueness.</p>				
Family	<p>Children and adults have different roles in a family.</p>	<p>Families change.</p> <p>Families display unique and special qualities.</p>				
Community	<p>Living in the city is different from living in the country.</p>			<p>The features of an urban, suburban and rural community differ.</p> <p>Sister cities form partnerships to learn more about and support one another.</p> <p>Geographic tools help you find a community's location.</p>	<p>Transportation links people.</p>	
Relationships	<p>Children and adults have different roles in school.</p>				<p>People work together to solve problems.</p> <p>Regions of the country help each other.</p>	<p>Some parts of culture change, but modern and traditional activities can exist side by side.</p>
Traditions		<p>We can learn about ourselves and others through tradition, culture and celebrations.</p>	<p>Holidays honor people and events of the past.</p>			<p>Traditions bond people to the past.</p>
Beliefs and values			<p>Holidays and traditions reflect beliefs and values.</p>			<p>People organize societies, relations and other institutions based on values and beliefs.</p>
Cultural Appreciation		<p>People have different cultures.</p>		<p>Individuals may differ because of their ethnic group and may experience prejudice.</p> <p>Sharing diverse customs and traditions enrich a community.</p>	<p>People can learn to appreciate other cultures.</p>	<p>People can learn to appreciate other cultures.</p>

POWER, AUTHORITY, and GOVERNANCE
Essential Understandings

Topic	K	1	2	3	4	5
Rules	<p>Rules are at home and at school.</p> <p>Signs and symbols are pictures that remind us of rules, laws or real things.</p>	<p>Rules and laws guide people to live and be responsible citizens.</p> <p>Different rules exist in different places.</p>	<p>Rules are developed to maintain order.</p> <p>Different laws exist in different places.</p>		<p>Laws are enforced to ensure justice.</p> <p>Governments have process to create laws.</p>	
Voting		<p>People vote to make decisions and express opinions.</p>	<p>The voting process is used to elect leaders and allow people to make choices.</p>		<p>People use voting to make choices, express opinions and create change.</p>	
Government	<p>There are leaders at home and at school.</p> <p>Civic leaders have roles.</p>	<p>People in authority enforce rules.</p>	<p>Community governments make laws.</p> <p>Governments have leaders.</p>	<p>The three levels of government are local, state and national.</p> <p>The three branches of government are executive, legislative and judicial.</p>	<p>Government responsibilities are divided.</p>	<p>Government and religion develop over time and make societies complex.</p> <p>In some cases government and religion are separate, in others government evolves through religion.</p>
Conflict and Cooperation		<p>Breaking a rule or law may cause a consequence.</p>			<p>People work together to solve problems.</p>	<p>Governments are constantly evolving in good and bad ways.</p>

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS Essential Understandings

Topic	K	1	2	3	4	5
Transportation					Transportation links people.	
Communication	People communicate in a variety of ways.	<p>People can learn new languages to communicate.</p> <p>We can learn about ourselves and others through tradition, culture, and celebrations.</p>		People throughout the world form connections through different modes of communication.		
Culture (religion, music, art, family values, sports)		<p>Different cultures have different languages, beliefs, customs, ceremonies or traditions.</p> <p>Although Americans come from different backgrounds, they share some of the same beliefs.</p>				Customs and traditions blend to form new cultures.
Trade: industry and manufacturing		People trade goods and services with each other.	Products come from many places around the world.	Countries depend on one another through the import and export of goods and services.	<p>Geographic features affect economic development.</p> <p>Business and industry can import and export products.</p>	<p>Trade generates cultural exchange.</p> <p>Exchanging products can be used for mutual benefit.</p>
Immigration	People from the United States come from all over the world.	Native Americans and immigrants have both helped define American culture.		People immigrate and migrate for personal and economic opportunities.	<p>People immigrate for many reasons.</p> <p>Native groups to the US were here when immigrants arrived.</p>	
Health issues						Human decisions have consequences which create global issues such as pollution and the endangerment of species.
Human Rights						Human rights differ from culture to culture.

PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, and DISTRIBUTION
Essential Understandings

Topic	K	1	2	3	4	5
Wants / needs	There is a difference between a need and a want.	Wants and basic needs exist for all people. People make choices about how to use money.	People work to meet needs and wants.		Regions of the United States cooperate through trade in an attempt to meet people's needs and wants.	Countries cooperate through trade in an attempt to meet people's needs and wants.
Work / income	A neighborhood has different jobs in it.		A person's job results in producing goods and providing services.		Income limits choices. Employment opportunities are affected by the environment in which people live.	Unequal distribution of income exists in the world.
Taxes						
Consumption	The way families have fulfilled their needs have changed over time.	People make choices about how to spend money, earn, buy, sell, trade, save, and donate.	People make choices about what they buy.	People keep budgets to make decisions about saving and spending in order to reach their economic goals.		Resource depletion alters economic development.
Production		There is a difference between goods and services.		Businesses and industries use raw materials, human resources and capital resources to manufacture goods and provide services.	Different regions produce different goods and demand different services.	Geographic features affect economic development.
Transportation				Improvements in transportation and communication affect economic growth of communities and countries.	Different modes of transportation move goods around the United States.	

SOCIETY, SCIENCE, and TECHNOLOGY
Essential Understandings

Topic	K	1	2	3	4	5
Transportation						Global demands of resources increase the consumption/depletion of fossil fuels.
Inventions and technology	<p>Inventors try to make life better or easier for people.</p> <p>Inventions cause change.</p>	<p>People today are the same as people who lived long ago.</p> <p>The way people live has been impacted by inventions.</p> <p>Some things change over time while others stay the same.</p>		Inventions and technology change communication, transportation and the economy of communities.	Governments outline areas that are protected from the effects of growth and technology.	Needs and wants necessitate the advancement in technology.
Pollution and environmental protection				People can positively and negatively affect the environment.	<p>Recycling reduces waste and demand on natural resources.</p> <p>The pollution of one region can affect other regions.</p>	<p>The pollution of one region can affect other regions.</p> <p>Government agencies create environmental laws to counter the effects of rapid population growth and industrialization.</p>

CITIZENSHIP

Critical Content and Essential Understandings

Topic	K	1	2	3	4	5
Conflict resolution						
Rights and responsibility		<p>Responsible citizens follow rules and laws.</p> <p>All individuals have rights.</p>		<p>Responsibilities (duties) of all citizens include voting, obeying laws, paying taxes and respecting others.</p> <p>Citizens support the community by volunteering and working for the common good.</p>	<p>The characteristics of a democratic society include roles, rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>Volunteerism is a valued component of citizenship.</p>	<p>The characteristics of a democratic society include roles, rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>Citizenship involves varying degrees of obligations and privileges depending on the form of government.</p>
Voting						Voting privileges differ around the world.
Freedom / liberty	<p>People in the United States say the Pledge of Allegiance to show their loyalty to their country.</p> <p>The American flag and the Bald Eagle are symbols for American values.</p>	<p>The United States has its symbols, heroes, holidays, and celebrations.</p> <p>National symbols and landmarks that represent freedom.</p> <p>There have been important leaders for freedom in our country.</p>	<p>People can demonstrate respect for US national symbols.</p>	<p>Basic rights such as freedom of religion, press, speech and assembly belong to all citizens.</p>	<p>United States symbols represent freedom.</p>	<p>Degrees of individual freedom shift depending on country and forms of government.</p> <p>Countries have nationalistic, cultural and religious symbols to convey pride, unity or self-identity.</p>
Equality						Equality varies from country to country based upon religion, cultural beliefs and laws.
Justice / respect						<p>Countries work to develop just laws.</p> <p>Governmental laws are situational and constantly evolving.</p>

TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
Critical Content and Essential Understandings

Topic	K	1	2	3	4	5
Change				<p style="text-align: center;">People can help a community grow and change over time.</p>		
Continuity				<p style="text-align: center;">A community's past affects its present and future.</p>		