

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Thematic Strands

**Put a star next to concepts that apply to the person you are studying.

I. Culture

We are individuals and members of groups with beliefs, knowledge, values, and traditions.

What do cultures have in common?

How do language and beliefs influence culture?

How does culture make room for different ideas and beliefs?

Why might cultural conflicts occur?

II. Time, Continuity and Change

What happened in the past?

What was life like? How has the world changed? What might happen in the future?

How do social issues change?

How can we learn from the past to make better choices?

How do experience, values and culture affect how we see history?

III. People, Places and Environments

Where are things located and why?

What is a region?

How do places and environments affect people – including historic sites?

How can knowledge of environment help people make informed decisions?

IV. Individual Development and Identity

How do people learn, understand, and grow?

How do people meet their basic needs?

How do people relate to others, or fit into society and culture?

How do ethical principals and self-identity affect our actions?

V. Individuals, Groups and Institutions

How do schools, churches, families, government agencies, courts, etc. help us organize around common needs, beliefs and interests?

How are institutions formed? How are they maintained or changed?

What forces influence institutions? How do institutions influence us?

What happens when institutions and groups experience conflict?

VI. Power, Authority and Governance

What is power, and what are some different types of power?
Who holds power? How is it gained, used, and justified?
How are governments created, maintained, and changed?
How do we keep governments accountable to the people?
How can individual rights be protected within majority rule?
How do groups solve conflicts and create order and security?

VII. Production, Consumption and Distribution

How do we deal with unequal access to good and resources?
What is produced? How are goods and services distributed?
What is the best use of land, labor, capital, and management?
How does one person's economic experience differ from others?

VIII. Science, Technology and Society

Is new technology always better?
How are new technologies created?
How can technology bring unforeseen change?
How can we cope with the pace of change, while preserving our values and beliefs?
How can we manage technology so that the most people benefit?

IX. Global Connections

What relationships exist within and among nations (past and present)?
What are some examples of international economic competition and dependence, ethnic conflicts, and political and military alliances (past and present)?

X. Civic Ideals and Practices

What is civic participation?
How has the meaning of citizenship evolved?
What are our rights and responsibilities as citizens?
What is the role of the citizen in the community, the nation and the world?
How can we support both individual dignity and the common good?

(This is a simplified version of the NCSS strands.
The full NCSS strands are available online at www.ncss.org/standards.)