

- Make oral presentations about social studies information to a group.
- Locate and use a variety of sources when doing research.
- Demonstrate basic geographic knowledge such as the seven continents and five oceans.
- Read and interpret maps.
- Read and comprehend on grade level.
- Write a complete sentence using standard grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- Listen and follow directions.
- Demonstrate organizational skills.

Competencies:

During 6th grade, students will

- Analyze characteristics of various contemporary cultures and societies.
- Explain how changes in technology, communication, and transportation have influenced societies of select regions of the world.
- Identify and analyze ways people have adapted to and modified the physical environment.
- Describe the nature of citizenship in various societies.
- Compare/contrast different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems.
- Continue to practice reading skills appropriate to the grade-level, such as locating the main idea, sequencing, comparing/contrasting, etc.
- Write for a variety of audiences and purposes, using on-level standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.
- Use social studies terminology correctly.
- Use critical-thinking skills appropriate to the content and grade level, including problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Analyze information by comparing and contrasting.
- Transfer information from statistical to written or visual forms (using computer software as appropriate).
- Demonstrate basic computer proficiency.
- Use main and supporting ideas in oral and written communication.
- Identify different points of view about an issue or topic.

- Locate and use a variety of primary and secondary sources to create oral, written, and visual presentations on social studies topics.
- Continue to practice reading and interpreting a variety of graphic organizers (examples: tables, timelines, flow charts).

Outside of School:

As parents, you can provide opportunities for your 6th grader to

- Watch the news, read newspapers, and discuss current issues and events with you.
- Visit historical Web sites such as virtual tours of museums, libraries, and historical sites.
- Watch the weathercast, and discuss the impact of climate and weather in the regions of the world.
- Observe appropriate civic responsibilities, such as voting, writing letters to the editor, completing jury duty, and having civic pride.
- View history-oriented television programs, and discuss them with you.
- Interview various family members about their life experiences and family history.
- Visit historical sites, and attend cultural activities in your area to understand cultural diversity.
- Use social studies software on your home computer.
- Read historical and cultural novels and biographies.

Grade 7

Language Arts/Reading

Prerequisites:

Before entering 7th grade, students should be able to

- Use additional word-recognition strategies such as language structure and context clues.
- Read and understand a variety of grade-level materials with fluency.
- Use the writing process to create a variety of products that apply standard punctuation, spelling, grammar and usage with increasing accuracy.

- Listen to oral information to analyze and judge it with increasing detail.
- Gather, analyze, and present information from a variety of sources in a format that fits the audience and purpose.

Competencies:

During 7th grade, students will

- Study a variety of novels, plays, short stories, poems, and nonfiction.
- Increase understanding of information by analyzing how it is organized (example: cause/effect, compare/contrast).
- Learn new words using word-recognition strategies, including Greek and Latin roots and prefixes/suffixes.
- Use a variety of study strategies to learn and recall important ideas from readings.
- Recognize and interpret an author's use of various literary devices, such as style, tone, mood, foreshadowing, and flashback.
- Read assigned material, draw valid conclusions about the information, and support conclusions with "text evidence" found in the material.
- Read about, describe, and compare/contrast themes, ideas, and connections within and across cultures and texts.
- Write to inform, to influence, and to entertain.
- Add interest to writing by using simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- Use the writing process to create, revise, and edit written work, paying special attention to organization, sentence fluency, transition, and development of ideas.
- Use standard grammar to achieve error-free speaking and writing (example: correct spelling and punctuation, subject-verb agreement, verb tenses, and pronoun case and reference).
- Use technology to interpret, critique, and produce visual images and messages.
- Use research skills to paraphrase, summarize, and organize ideas.
- Listen carefully to understand major ideas and supporting evidence and to analyze and judge a speaker's message.
- Speak clearly, in a manner that fits the audience and purpose, to support ideas with evidence, elaboration, and examples.

Outside of School:

As parents, you can provide opportunities for your 7th grader to

- Observe you reading.
- Develop daily reading habits by providing reading material at home.
- Communicate in writing by thank-you notes, a daily journal, etc.

Mathematics

Prerequisites:

Before entering 7th grade, students should be able to

- Read, write, compare, and order positive decimals and fractions.
- Read, write, compare, and order integers using a number line.
- Add and subtract decimals.
- Make fraction, decimal, and whole-number equivalencies, and show how they relate.
- Understand that positive exponents are repeated multiplication.
- Add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers with unlike denominators and regrouping.
- Create proportions in problem-solving situations.
- Match ratios, percents, fractions, and decimals.
- Identify special features of quadrilaterals and triangles.
- Identify parts of a circle and understand their relationships.
- Calculate circumference.
- Calculate perimeter and area of squares, parallelograms, rectangles, and triangles.
- Convert among customary measures.
- Convert among metric measures.
- Determine simple probability.
- Find mean, median, mode, and range.

Competencies:

During 7th grade, students will

- Compare and order integers, fractions, and decimals.
- Convert among fractions, decimals, and percents.
- Represent and calculate squares and square roots with and without objects.

- Use objects to represent all four math operations with integers, fractions, and decimals.
- Use all four math operations to solve problems with fractions, decimals, and integers.
- Divide with decimal dividends.
- Divide with decimals in quotients (example: $1 \div 2 = 0.5$).
- Solve problems using decimal divisors.
- Use division to find unit rates and ratios in proportional relationships (examples: unit price, doubling a recipe).
- Solve application problems involving proportional relationships (examples: similarity, scaling, unit costs, and unit measurement).
- Apply the order of operations to numerical expressions.
- Use models to solve equations (one- and two-step).
- Solve percent application problems.
- Generate geometric formulas for area (parallelogram, rhombus, trapezoid, and circle).
- Define similarity, using geometric applications.
- Write a numerical expression to describe a pattern, and graph the relationship.
- Describe sequences in patterns and relationships in functions.
- Graph in all four quadrants on the coordinate plane.
- Show translations (“slides”) in the coordinate plane.
- Classify angles as complementary or supplementary.
- Classify triangles and quadrilaterals.
- Classify solids as pyramids, cones, prisms, or cylinders.
- Sketch solids and design nets from various perspectives.
- Apply geometry to real-life situations.
- Estimate measurements and solve real-world problems involving length (perimeter and circumference), area, and volume.
- Model probability of real-life events.
- Describe data using mean, median, mode, and range, and choose the best one of those to use for a given data set.
- Find the probability of independent events by constructing sample spaces and collecting data from an experiment.

- Gather, display, measure, interpret, justify, and make predictions about statistical information in a particular situation.
- Apply routine and non-routine problem-solving strategies with appropriate tools.

Outside of School:

As parents, you can provide opportunities for your 7th grader to

- Find practical applications of math concepts.
- Apply math in real-life situations.
- Talk with you about math.

Science

Prerequisites:

Before entering 7th grade, students should be able to

- Demonstrate safe practices during lab investigations.
- Use basic math skills, including adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, and working with decimals.
- Measure using metric units (rulers, balances, and graduated cylinders).
- Follow written instructions such as lab activities.
- Conduct investigations to solve problems.
- Construct graphs, tables, and charts to analyze data.
- Identify parts of a cell and describe their functions.

Competencies:

During 7th grade, students will

- Continue to conduct safe field and laboratory investigations using scientific methods to solve problems.
- Collect, analyze, and record data using common scientific tools such as graduated cylinders, balances, metric rulers, and thermometers.
- Construct and interpret charts, graphs, and tables to present observations and data gathered during scientific investigations.
- Identify, recognize, and explain the relationships between science and technology.

- Describe how systems may reach equilibrium, such as when a volcano erupts.
- Show the relationship between force and motion as applied to simple machines.
- Explain how properties affect physical and chemical changes, reactions, and placement on the periodic table.
- Describe the relationships between matter and energy as found in daily life.
- Understand that matter is composed of atoms.
- Describe the relationship between structure and function in the human body.
- Discover the role of genetic material in the production of offspring.
- Recognize that plants and animals respond to both internal and external stimuli.
- Recognize the importance of communicating with parents about human sexuality.
- Describe the human reproduction process.
- Define abstinence as the healthiest choice and the only 100% effective means of preventing pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases.
- Learn techniques for preventing sexual abuse.
- Describe the relationship between plants and animals and their surroundings.
- Demonstrate the interactions of systems and their parts, such as Earth and body systems.
- Recognize that various cycles exist on Earth.
- Explain how natural events and human activities affect Earth.
- Analyze and predict the sequence of events in the lunar cycle.
- Explain why there are seasons on Earth.

Outside of School:

As parents, you can provide opportunities for your 7th grader to

- Spend time doing problem-solving activities such as puzzles, games, etc.
- Discuss current issues in science, and relate real-life experiences, both past and present, to topics being studied.
- Research answers to his or her own questions.
- Predict the outcome of various situations, and discuss cause and effect of everyday situations.
- Visit local museums and nature centers.
- Discuss environmentally-friendly choices made at home such as recycling, conserving resources, and using environmentally-safe products.

- Watch the Discovery Channel, PBS, and nature and science programs on television.

Social Studies: Texas History

Prerequisites:

Before entering 7th grade, students should be able to

- Identify similarities and differences between and among cultures.
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of a citizen in a democratic society.
- Identify the three main branches of the United States federal government.
- Read and interpret maps.
- Read and comprehend on grade level.
- Listen and follow directions.
- Read and interpret graphic organizers (timelines, charts, and graphs).
- Use a variety of sources to create presentations.
- Continue to practice reading skills appropriate to the grade-level, such as locating the main idea, sequencing, comparing/contrasting, etc.
- Write for a variety of audiences and purposes, using on-level standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.
- Use social studies terminology correctly.
- Use critical-thinking skills appropriate to the content and grade level, including problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Analyze information by comparing and contrasting.
- Transfer information from statistical to written or visual forms (using computer software as appropriate).
- Use main and supporting ideas in oral and written communication.
- Identify different points of view about an issue or topic.
- Locate and use a variety of primary and secondary sources to create oral, written and visual presentations on social studies topics.

Competencies:

During 7th grade, students will

- Locate and identify the characteristics of places and regions of Texas.

- Identify how individuals, events, and issues shaped the history of Texas.
- Describe how people from selected racial, ethnic, and religious groups attempt to maintain their cultural heritage while adapting to the larger Texas culture.
- Examine the rights and responsibilities of a Texas citizen.
- Explain the structure and function of Texas government.
- Analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on Texas.
- Understand the basic principles of a free enterprise system.
- Explain the interdependence of the Texas economy with that of the United States and the world.
- Continue to practice grade-level reading skills, such as locating the main idea, sequencing, comparing/contrasting, etc.
- Write for a variety of audiences and purposes, using on-level standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.
- Use social studies terminology correctly.
- Use critical-thinking skills appropriate to content and grade level, including problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Organize and interpret information from outlines and reports.
- Transfer information from statistical to written or visual forms (using computer software as appropriate).
- Demonstrate basic computer proficiency.
- Locate and use a variety of primary and secondary sources to create oral, written, and visual presentations on social studies topics.
- Cite sources in research projects.

Outside of School:

As parents, you can provide opportunities for your 7th grader to

- Watch the news, read newspapers, and discuss current issues and events with you.
- Visit historical Web sites such as virtual tours of museums, libraries, and historical sites.
- Watch the weathercast, and discuss the impact of climate and weather on Texas.

- Observe civic responsibilities, such as voting, writing letters to the editor, completing jury duty, and having civic pride.
- View history-oriented television programs, and discuss them with you.
- Interview various family members about their life experiences and family history.
- Visit historical sites, and attend cultural activities in your area.
- Use social studies software on your home computer.
- Read historical novels and biographies.

Grade 8

Language Arts/Reading

Prerequisites:

Before entering 8th grade, students should be able to

- Use a variety of word-recognition strategies including prefixes, suffixes, and roots to help understand reading material.
- Read alone from a variety of materials.
- Use multiple reference sources and technology to develop and present research products.
- Create a variety of written products that apply standard punctuation, spelling, grammar, and usage with increasing accuracy.
- Listen carefully to understand and judge a message.

Competencies:

During 8th grade, students will

- Research information to judge whether it is valid and relevant.
- Take notes from and summarize a variety of written and spoken messages to analyze and judge the author's or speaker's techniques, including the use of persuasion.
- Learn new words through a variety of strategies, including word origins.
- Apply higher-level thinking skills when reading increasingly-difficult materials, and support conclusions with "text evidence" from the reading material.