

Essential Understandings	▪ Events of the past influence the present. ▪ Current events and issues affect society.
Essential Questions	▪ What historical events contributed to current day issues? ▪ How do current events and issues affect modern society? ▪ How do current events and issues affect me as an individual? ▪ How has the United States attempted to influence relationships among cultures and nations?
Essential Knowledge	▪ Many events led to globalization and interdependence among cultures and nations of the world. ▪ The United States has attempted to influence relationships among cultures and nations in many ways.
Vocabulary	▪ <u>Topics May Include:</u> - o Ethnic Conflicts - o Foreign Affairs - o International Relations - o Political Issues - o Economy, Finance, World Trade - o Cultural Issues - o Environmental Problems - o Globalization - o World Leaders - o War and Terrorism - o Middle East - o Criminal Issues - o Social Problems - o Countries - o Education - o Drugs - o Immigration - o Health Care - o Gay Rights - o Hate Crimes - o Prisons
Essential Skills	▪ Identify current events and issues that affect modern society. ▪ Discuss, debate, and evaluate the impact and importance of selected issues at national and international levels. ▪ Communicate clearly through discussion and writing. ▪ Conduct meaningful research based on thoughtful inquiry. ▪ Use critical thinking skills and questioning to form effective arguments.

Related Maine Learning Results	<u>Social Studies</u> A. Applications of Social Studies Processes, Knowledge, and Skills A1. Researching and Developing Positions on Current Social Studies Issues Students research, develop, present, and defend positions on current social studies issues by developing and modifying research questions, and locating, selecting, evaluating, and synthesizing information from multiple and varied sources. a. Develop research questions related to a current social studies issue. b. Select and apply research methods that are appropriate for the purpose of the inquiry. c. Make judgments about conflicting findings from different sources, incorporating those from sources that are valid and refuting others. d. Synthesize information from varied sources, fieldwork, experiments, and/or interviews that reflect multiple perspectives. e. Utilize media relevant to audience and purpose that extend and support oral, written, and visual communication. f. Create and present a coherent set of findings that integrate paraphrasing, quotations, and citations. g. Develop a clear well-supported position. h. Present and defend a well-supported position to a variety of audiences using a prescribed format. i. Select and use appropriate tools, methods, and sources from government, history, geography, economics, or related fields including ethical reasoning skills. j. Access and present information ethically and legally. A2. Making Decisions Using Social Studies Knowledge and Skills Students make individual and collaborative decisions on matters related to social studies using relevant information and research, discussion, and ethical reasoning skills. a. Develop individual and collaborative decisions/plans by considering multiple points of view, weighing pros and cons, building on the ideas of others, and sharing information in an attempt to sway the opinions of others. b. Make a real or simulated decision related to the classroom, school, community, civic organization, Maine, United States, or international entity by applying appropriate and relevant social studies knowledge and skills, including research skills, ethical reasoning skills, and other relevant information.
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Sample Lessons And Activities	▪ Weekly discussion and review of news stories ▪ Research developing stories ▪ Analyze political cartoons
Sample Classroom Assessment Methods	▪ Weekly discussion and review of news stories ▪ Map quizzes ▪ Projects
Sample Resources	▪ Periodicals ▪ Newspapers ▪ Newscasts