

# Holocaust and Genocide

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The Holocaust and Genocide curriculum is an elective course that was developed by the Fair Lawn Social Studies Department and is aligned to the Grades 9-12 New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies.

**Social Studies  
Elective**

# Fair Lawn

# Public Schools

**Fair Lawn, NJ**

# Fair Lawn School District

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# Holocaust and Genocide

## I. Course Synopsis

The purpose of the Holocaust and Genocide course is to provide students with an understanding of the nature of genocide and the devastation it has wrought throughout recorded history. The course stresses individual choice and accountability in the face of prejudice and discrimination. Students will engage in a comprehensive analysis of the background of the Holocaust and the key components of this travesty. Students will also assess the international community's success in preventing other cases of genocide. The contributing factors in other such cases and the responses of non-victims and the global community will also be explored.

### *Intended Outcome Objectives:*

Employ analytical thinking and reasoning in a spirit of honest inquiry.

- Describe the historical context of 19th century anti-Semitism.
- Trace the roots of the eugenics movement.
- Describe the effects of Germany's defeat in World War I on German Jews.
- Analyze the weaknesses of the Weimar Republic.
- To trace Hitler's rise to power.
- Describe the changes that occurred in German social policies from 1933 to 1939.
- To trace the development of the "Final Solution".
- To describe the efforts by Jews and others to resist Nazi aggression.
- To describe the circumstances of the cases of genocide against the Native Americans, Armenians, Muslims in Bosnia, the Tutsis of Rwanda, and the African tribal peoples of Darfur.
- To recognize the actions and/or inactions of perpetrators, victims, rescuers, and bystanders.

## II. Philosophy & Rationale

### Fair Lawn District Mission

Recognizing that the "Leaders of Tomorrow Attend Fair Lawn Schools Today," it is the mission of Fair Lawn High School to afford each student the opportunity to learn, to achieve success and to become a confident and productive member of a global and technological society prepared to face the challenges of the 21st century. We believe that a major purpose of an education is to cultivate in each student a sense of wonder in the life-long process of learning. We believe that our school provides a learning environment that is student-centered, and supports the interaction of students, parents, professional staff, and the community. We believe that teachers must be empowered to develop and deliver high quality instruction, nurture students' special talents and abilities, and respond to the needs of each individual. We believe that the optimal environment is one in which students feel free to challenge themselves and have opportunities to take initiative, to articulate clearly and imaginatively, to be creative, and to learn from their inquiry and experience.

We believe that an education which provides for the intellectual, aesthetic, physical, cultural, technological and social development of young people leads to their becoming productive and humane citizens who demonstrate self-discipline, responsibility and respect for others. We believe that education provides students with opportunities to access knowledge, ensuring competence and confidence in responding to the challenges of the future.

### **Department of Social Studies Statement of Philosophy**

Social Studies is the integrated study of history, geography, economics, government and civics. More importantly it is the study of humanity, of people and events that individually and collectively have affected the world. A strong and effective Social Studies program helps students make sense of the world in which they live, it allows them to make connections between major ideas and their own lives, and it helps them see themselves as members of the world community. It offers students the knowledge and skills necessary to become active and informed participants on a local, national and global level. Social Studies must also help students understand, respect and appreciate the commonalities and differences that give people character and identity. The complexities of history can only be fully understood within an appreciation and analysis of diversity, multiple perspectives, interconnectedness, interdependence, context and enduring themes.

### **Ten Thematic Strands**

**I Culture** – A people’s way of life, language, customs, arts, belief systems, traditions, and how they evolve over time.

**II Time, Continuity, and Change** – The importance of understanding the past and key historical concepts, analytically and from various perspectives.

**III People, Places, and Environments** – The complex relationship between human beings and the environments within which they live and work.

**IV Individual Development and Identity** – The exploration of human behaviors as they relate to the development of personal identities and the various factors that impact identity formation.

**V Individuals, Groups, and Institutions** – The impact of educational, religious, social, and political groups and institutions and the integral roles they play in people’s lives.

**VI Power, Authority, and Governance** – The complex purposes and features of individuals and groups with respect to issues of power and government.

**VII Production, Distribution, and Consumption** – The role of resources, their production and use, technology, and trade on economic systems.

**VIII Science, Technology, and Society** – The significance of scientific discovery and technological change on people, the environment, and other systems.

**IX Global Connections** – The critical importance of knowledge and awareness of politics, economics, geography, and culture on a global scale.

**X Civic Ideals and Practices** – The understanding that civic ideals and participatory citizenship are central to democracy.

*For a complete explanation of the Ten Thematic Strands, go to [www.socialstudies.org/standards/strand](http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/strand)*

**New Jersey Student Learning Standards:**

Our Social Studies curricula aligns, when possible, to the NJSLS SOCIAL STUDIES in ELA. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) build on the best of existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college, career, and life.

The ELA Standards were revised in 2016, with the recommendations of teams of teachers, parents, administrators, supervisors and other stakeholders and reflect the strong beliefs that

- Literature and informational (nonfiction) text are important for our students and should maintain their rightful place in our classrooms;
- Background knowledge and motivation are critical to the success of students when learning to read and when accessing complex text;
- Research by students provides the opportunity to learn more about a subject, but equally as important, provides students the opportunity to look beyond their research to questions left unanswered (new avenues for student research);
- Using evidence remains a critical skill, interspersed throughout the standards, allowing students to ground their thinking in the work of authors and experts in literature and in the content areas;
- Literacy must be recognized and guided in content areas so that students recognize the academic vocabulary, media representations, and power of language inherent in the work of scholars and experts, and
- The importance of foundational skills in the early grades, as students learn to read, cannot be overstated and calls for targeted, sustained intervention at any point of struggle for a student.

### **Curricula Writing**

The administrators and teachers of the Fair Lawn Public Schools are committed to writing, researching, and producing curricula in all subject areas that are aligned with NJ Student Learning Standards. Curriculum is designed to be a *living document* – added to, edited, and enhanced at any time. Standing committees of teachers and administrators meet on a routine basis to monitor the effectiveness of our curriculum. The process used by the educators of the Fair Lawn Schools is rigorous and reflective in examining all facets of the foundational documents, upon which our curricula is based, to ensure for this alignment.

In all curriculum writing, particular emphasis is given to employing the most current, research based instructional and assessment strategies available at the time. These strategies are continually updated and refined as new knowledge and pedagogy becomes widely accepted and proven successful in the field of education.

### **21st Century Competencies and Standards**

There is ample evidence all around us of the many changes the 21st century has brought to our lives. The Fair Lawn Public Schools believe that to prepare our students for the world of tomorrow, we must enhance today's learning environments. The outcomes we want for our students are not new to the 21st century. Instead, they express knowledge and skills that are essential for life in the 21st century. Reflecting time-honored skills, taught via proved learning methods, and supported by modern learning tools, processes, and environments, the Fair Lawns Public Schools embraces the teaching of 21st Century Skills and unite these elements into a coherent set of educational objectives to ensure that all students are prepared for success.

There are four 21st-Century Life and Careers standards. Standards 9.1, 9.2, and 9.3 describe life and career skills that are integrated throughout the K-12 curriculum, while Standard 9.4 describes specialized skills that are taught in grades 9-12 as part of career and technical education programs. An overview of the four standards follows. Click on the link for more information

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/standards/9>

### **New Jersey State Department of Education NJ Educational Mandates**

The core mission of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education is to promote Holocaust education in the State of New Jersey. On a continual basis, the Commission shall survey the status of Holocaust Education; design, encourage and promote the implementation of Holocaust and genocide

education and awareness; provide programs in New Jersey; and coordinate designated events that will provide appropriate memorialization of the Holocaust on a regular basis throughout the state.  
[http://www.state.nj.us/njded/holocaust/about\\_us/mandate.html](http://www.state.nj.us/njded/holocaust/about_us/mandate.html)

The Amistad Bill (A1301), calls on “New Jersey schools to incorporate African-American history into their Social Studies curriculum.” Passed by the New Jersey legislature in 2002, “The Amistad Bill” created the Amistad Commission, a 22- member body charged with ensuring that the rich heritage and lessons of black America are fully represented and taught throughout the state’s classrooms.  
<http://www.theamistadcommission.com/>

### III. Scope & Sequence

Unit I	The Holocaust
Unit II	The Armenian Genocide
Unit III	Bosnia-Herzegovina and “Ethnic Cleansing”
Unit IV	Rwanda
Unit IV	Darfur
Unit VI	Native Americans

**Length of Units will be at the teacher’s discretion and based on student interest and ability.**

### IV. Unit Descriptions

#### Unit I. The Holocaust

1. Studying the Holocaust
  - a. Natural vs. Human Catastrophes
  - b. The Importance of Studying Human Catastrophes
  - c. The Language of the Holocaust
  - d. The Use of Primary and Secondary Resources in Studying the Holocaust
2. Anti-Semitism
  - a. A History of the Problem
  - b. Nazi Racial Ideology
  - c. Propaganda and Anti-Semitism
  - d. Contemporary Anti-Semitism, Propaganda, and Stereotyping
3. Nazi Germany
  - a. The Weimar Republic
  - b. The Nazis’ Rise to Power



- c. Germany's Social Policies 1933-1939
  - d. Jewish Responses to Nazi Germany's Social Policies
4. The Ghettos
- a. The History of Ghettos in Europe
  - b. Nazi Aims in Establishing Ghettos
  - c. Locating Ghettos in Eastern and Central Europe
  - d. Daily Life in the Ghettos
  - e. Primary Documents from the Lodz Ghetto
5. The Final Solution
- a. Einsatzgruppen (Killing Squads) and Extermination Camps
  - b. Life in the Extermination Camps
  - c. The Psychology of Genocide
6. Jewish Resistance
- a. The Cultural and Spiritual Facets of Resistance
  - b. Nazi Efforts to Discourage Resistance and Rebellion
  - c. Armed Resistance to the Final Solution
7. Non-Jewish Resistance
- a. Motivations of Non-Jewish Rescuers
  - b. Risk Factors for Rescuers
  - c. Assistance and Resistance
  - d. Children in Hiding
  - e. The Price of Apathy
8. Survivors and Liberators
- a. The Significance of Liberation
  - b. Daily Life for Displaced People
  - c. Reuniting Broken Families
  - d. Caring for the Children of the Holocaust
9. Perpetrators, Collaborators, and Bystanders
- a. The Role of Collaborators
  - b. The Nuremberg Trials
  - c. The Roles of Individual Nazis
  - d. Culpability of the Free World
  - e. The Role of the Individual in Ensuring a Safe and Free Society
10. Aftermath
- a. The State of Israel
  - b. Genocides That Have Occurred Since the Holocaust

- c. The Possibility of “Another Holocaust”

**Benchmark Assessments & Suggested Activites:** See Roman Numeral VI.

**Standards:**

*NJSLS in Social Studies:*

6.2.12.A.4.c-d; 6.2.12.C.4.c; 6.2.12.D.4.b; 6.2.12.D.4.e-l; 6.2.12.C.5.f; 6.2.12.A.6.a-d; 6.2.12.C.6.a-d

*NJSLS in ELA:* See *Philosophy and Rationale*

**Modifications: See Appendix I**

## **Unit II. The Armenian Genocide**

1. Historical Background of the Armenians
  - a. Formation of the Armenian Nation
  - b. Christianity and the Armenians
  - c. Islam’s Challenges to the Christian Armenians
  - d. Ottoman Theocracy and its Impact on the Armenians
  - e. Massacres Prior to 1915
  - f. The Young Turk Regime
  - g. The Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) and the Adana Massacre
2. Components of the 1915 Massacres
  - a. The Radicalization of the CUP
  - b. Crisis in the Balkans
  - c. Armenian Pursuit of Reform
  - d. The CUP Purges the Opposition
3. World War I and the Armenian Genocide
  - a. The Armenians as the “International Foe”
  - b. Military Defeats of the Ottoman Forces
  - c. The Van Uprising
  - d. The Special Organization
  - e. The CUP’s Suspension of Parliament
  - f. The Liquidation of Armenian Males
  - g. Deportations and Massacres

4. Aftermath

- a. Condemnation from Within and Without
- b. Crimes Against Humanity
- c. Turkey's Long Denial

**Benchmark Assessments & Suggested Activities:** See Roman Numeral VI.

**Standards:**

*NJSLS in Social Studies:*

6.2.12.A.4.c-d; 6.2.12.C.4.c; 6.2.12.D.4.b; 6.2.12.D.4.e-l; 6.2.12.C.5.f; 6.2.12.A.6.a-d; 6.2.12.C.6.a-d

*NJSLS in ELA:* See *Philosophy and Rationale*

**Modifications: See Appendix I**

### **Unit III. Bosnia-Herzegovina and “Ethnic Cleansing”**

1. Background

- a. Yugoslavia Under Tito
- b. The Rise of Milosevic
- c. Targeting the Croats
- d. The Fall of Vakovar and Mass Executions

2. Ethnic Cleansing

- a. U.S. and E.U. Recognition of Bosnian Independence
- b. Attack on Sarajevo
- c. Sniper Attacks
- d. Serbian Concentration Camps
- e. Global Indifference and UN Inaction

3. The Crisis Escalates

- a. President Clinton's Campaign Promise
- b. NATO and Sarajevo
- c. Safe Havens Attacked
- d. Human Shields

4. Genocide and Srebrenica

- a. The Worst Mass Murder in Europe Since World War II
- b. NATO Retaliates for Srebrenica
- c. Muslim-Croats Retake Half of Bosnia

5. Aftermath

- a. Milosevic Sues for Peace
- b. Talks at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
- c. Terms
- d. Casualties
- e. Trials for War Crimes

**Benchmark Assessments & Suggested Activities:** See Roman Numeral VI.

**Standards:**

*NJSLS in Social Studies:*

6.2.12.A.4.c-d; 6.2.12.C.4.c; 6.2.12.D.4.b; 6.2.12.D.4.e-l; 6.2.12.C.5.f; 6.2.12.A.6.a-d; 6.2.12.C.6.a-d

*NJSLS in ELA:* See *Philosophy and Rationale*

**Modifications: See Appendix I**

**Unit IV. Rwanda**

1. Background

- a. Migrations
- b. Geography of the Region
- c. Ownership of the Land
- d. German Colonial Policy
- e. Racism in Rwanda

2. Events Leading to the Rwandan Genocide

- a. The Arusha Accords
- b. Preparations for the Genocide
- c. Arms Shipments
- d. Assassination

3. Genocide

- a. United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)
- b. Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF's) Assault
- c. Relief Efforts

4. Justice, Reconciliation, and Reform

**Benchmark Assessments & Suggested Activities:** See Roman Numeral VI.

**Standards:**

***NJSLS in Social Studies:***

6.2.12.A.4.c-d; 6.2.12.C.4.c; 6.2.12.D.4.b; 6.2.12.D.4.e-l; 6.2.12.C.5.f; 6.2.12.A.6.a-d; 6.2.12.C.6.a-d

***NJSLS in ELA:*** See *Philosophy and Rationale*

**Modifications: See Appendix I**

**Unit V. Darfur**

1. Background

- a. Participants
- b. U.S. Policy Prior to Genocide

2. History of the Conflict

- a. The Janjaweed
- b. May Agreement (2006)
- c. July-August (2006)
- d. UN Peacekeeping Force
- e. Implementation Failure (September 2006)
- f. Deterioration (October-November 2006)
- g. Proposed Compromise UN Force and Sudanese Offensive
- h. January 2007 Cease-Fire Agreement

3. International Response (2003-2004)

- a. Claims of Genocide
- b. Criticisms of International Response

4. Casualties

**Benchmark Assessments & Suggested Activities:** See Roman Numeral VI.

**Standards:**

***NJSLS in Social Studies:***

6.2.12.A.4.c-d; 6.2.12.C.4.c; 6.2.12.D.4.b; 6.2.12.D.4.e-l; 6.2.12.C.5.f; 6.2.12.A.6.a-d; 6.2.12.C.6.a-d

***NJSLS in ELA:*** See *Philosophy and Rationale*

**Modifications: See Appendix I**

## Unit VII. Native Americans

### 1. Background

- a. Native American Settlements
- b. Contact With Europeans
- c. Conflicts Over Territory

### 2. Relocation

- a. Indian Removal Policy
- b. The “Trail of Tears”
- c. Reservations

### 3. Genocide

- a. The Indian Wars
- b. The French and Indian Wars
- c. The Conestoga (Susquehanna) Tribe and the “Paxton Boys”
- d. Sand Creek Massacre
- e. Massacre at Wounded Knee
- f. Cultural Genocide

**Benchmark Assessments & Suggested Activites:** See Roman Numeral VI.

### **Standards:**

***NJSLS in Social Studies:***

6.2.12.A.4.c-d; 6.2.12.C.4.c; 6.2.12.D.4.b; 6.2.12.D.4.e-l; 6.2.12.C.5.f; 6.2.12.A.6.a-d; 6.2.12.C.6.a-d

***NJSLS in ELA:*** See *Philosophy and Rationale*

**Modifications: See Appendix I**

## V. Course Materials

The War Against the Jews: 1939-1945, Dawidowicz, Lucy S., Bantam Books, New York, 1975.

Shoah: An Oral History of the Holocaust, Lanzmann, Claude, Pantheon Books, New York, 1985.

Auschwitz and the Allies: A Devastating Account of How the Allies Responded to the News of Hitler’s Mass Murder, Gilbert, Martin, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1981.

The Holocaust in History, Marrus, Michael R., Penguin Books, New York, 1987.

Reflections: An Interdisciplinary Scheme of Work for Teaching the Holocaust, Salmons, Paul, Imperial War Museum, London, 2004.

A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility, Akcam, Taner, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2006.

The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response, Balakian, Peter, Harper Collins Publishers, 2003.

Darfur: Genocide Before Our Eyes, Apstel, Joyce, Editor, Institute For the Study of Genocide, New York, 2007.

American Holocaust: The Conquest of the New World, Stannard, David E., Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1992.

A Little Matter of Genocide: Holocaust and Denial in the Americas, 1492 to the Present, Churchill, Ward, City Lights Books, San Francisco, 1997.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, Brown, Dee, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2000.

## **VI. Assessments**

### **Formative Assessments**

Do Nows

Class Discussions

Exit Slips

Oral Presentations

Summary/Responses

Forums

Reading comprehension questions- verbal and written

### **Summative Assessments**

Quizzes

Tests

Research

Presentations

**Benchmark Assessments:**

Students will prepare a 15 minute PowerPoint presentation on a figure who was involved in the Holocaust (victim, perpetrator, bystander, rescuer.)

\*The presentation should include the events from the person's life which led to his/her involvement in the Holocaust.

\*The person's direct involvement in the Holocaust should be explored in detail.

Students will participate in a formal debate on the proposed bombing of Auschwitz by Allied forces.

\*Students will prepare a position paper which presents an overview of their rationale.

\*Students will defend their position papers after presenting them to the class.

\*Students will be evaluated on how well they defend their position.

Students will journal about their reactions to photographs, posters, music and other artifacts associated with the Holocaust.

Students will prepare a presentation on one of the concentration camps or extermination camps.

\*Presentation must include the series of events that led to the camp being established.

\*The role that the camp played in the "Final Solution" must be addressed in detail.

\*The events that led to the liberation or end of operation of the camp must also be included.



For the unit on the Holocaust and for each of the units focusing on other cases of genocide, assessments will include, but not be limited to:

\*Map tests

\*Written tests

\*Research papers

\*Short essays, summary/responses on primary sources

\*Presentations on books written by those who experienced the Holocaust or other instances of genocide.

## **VII. Interdisciplinary Connections and Alignment to Technology standards**

### Interdisciplinary Connections

Social studies encompasses a broad multidisciplinary field within its own academic area, including the teaching of anthropology, civics, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology and sociology. The NJSLs are designed to integrate four core social studies disciplines: civics, economics, geography, and history. These interdisciplinary connections, as a result, are present within the current standards. Interdisciplinary connections in this document expand outside of the distinct field of social studies into: moral/social education; science, mathematics, and technology; and literacy/language arts.

**Moral/social education:** What are universal ideas and problems shared across humanity? What does it mean to be a citizen? What are the responsibilities and opportunities for active citizenship? What ideals and actions will enhance my personal development and the development of my various communities?

- Character education (Responsive Classroom, Teaching Tolerance, Facing History and Ourselves)
- Global citizenship education - Civics Kids, Teaching Civics, Character.org, Teaching Tomorrow's Citizens, Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, World Savvy, and Facing History
- Social participation projects - 150 Service Learning Projects, Sci/SS Service Connections.

**Science, mathematics, and technology:** How are we all connected? How have science and technology changed how we live across time? How can study of data inform my understanding of social, political, and historical phenomena?

- Sustainability and environmental education (NGSS Science, Technology, and Society Appendix; Facing the Future; Project Wild; UNESCO)
- Health and medical education
- Analysis of graphic and statistical data (historical, social, political) - Making Connections through Mapping, and Statistics and Social Sciences

**Literacy (narrative, information, argument, and media):** How do certain texts inform our understanding of social studies and history? How can social studies be a venue to express and communicate our ideas?

- Reading and writing content units of study (ELA)
- Historical fiction - Elem. Thematic Reading Materials, Carter Woodson Book Award Winners, Notable Social Studies Texts,
- Media and information literacy - The DBQ Project, PBS Teaching Media Literacy, National Associations for Media Literacy Education,
- Research writing - Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Reading/Writing Units of Study,
- Argument - Teaching Argumentative Writing

The following content statements can be integrated into any of the adopted Social Studies strands (A. Civics, Government and Human Rights, B. Geography, People and the Environment, C. Economics, Invention, and Technology, D. History, Culture and Perspectives.)

- CRP1. Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
- CRP2. Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
- CRP3. Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
- CRP4. Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
- CRP5. Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
- CRP6. Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
- CRP7. Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
- CRP8. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- CRP9. Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
- CRP10. Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
- CRP11. Use technology to enhance productivity.
- CRP12. Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence

### Social Studies and Technology K-12 Indicators

As teaching, learning and curriculum across New Jersey evolves to better meet student needs, teachers when addressing social studies topics are expected to integrate the adopted 8.1 Educational Technology, 8.2 Technology Education, Engineering, Design, and Computational Thinking - Programming, and 21st Century Skills into their classroom practice. To that end, teachers will be expected to apply the following anchor standards into their classroom practice.

#### 8.1 Educational Technology

- Understand and use technology systems.
- Select and use applications effectively and productively.
- Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes
- Create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
- Interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others by employing a variety

- of digital environments and media.
- Communicate information and ideas to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
- Develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of other cultures.
- Contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.
- Advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
- Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.
- Exhibit leadership for digital citizenship.
- Plan strategies to guide inquiry.

**Please see district chart for more detailed connections**

### **Appendix I**

*Curriculum Differentiation is a process teachers use to increase achievement by improving the match between the learner's unique characteristics: prior knowledge, cognitive level, learning style, motivation, strength or interest and various curriculum components: Nature of the objective, teaching activities, learning activities, resources and products. This broad notion applies to learners from a diverse range of abilities, including: Gifted and Talented, English Language Learners, Students with Disabilities, and Students at Risk of School Failure.*

*The social studies is a field of education that provides educators with a wealth of opportunities for differentiation, but also real challenges of meeting the needs of diverse learners. This addendum reveals pathways for social studies differentiation specific to four distinct student populations.*

*Teachers can differentiate*

- *Content: What we teach and how we give students access to the information and ideas that matter*
- *Process: How students come to understand and “own” the knowledge, understanding, and skills essential to a topic*
- *Product: How a student demonstrates what he or she has come to know, understand and be able to do as a result of a segment of study*

*According to students’*

- *Readiness-The current knowledge, understanding, and skill level a student has related to a particular sequence of learning*
- *Interest-What a student enjoys learning about, thinking about, and doing*
- *Learning Style-A student’s preferred mode of learning. It is influenced by learning style, intelligence preference, gender and culture*

## **Examples of Modifications and Differentiation**

### **Gifted and Talented (content, process, product and learning environment)**

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 Curriculum and instruction

District boards of education shall develop appropriate curricular and instructional modifications used for gifted and talented students indicating content, process, products, and learning environment.

*Sample Differentiation Strategies and Techniques that apply to Social Studies*

### **Learning Agendas/Contracts**

A learning contract is an agreement established between a student and the teacher; it sometimes involves the student's parents. The contract specifies concrete learning and/or behavioral objectives for the student that all parties agree need to be achieved. The contract also specifies:

- the goals of the contract
- the obligations of each party to the contract
- the time frame within which the terms of the learning contract are to be fulfilled
- the basis on which it will be determined that the conditions of the contract were met

Sample Resource

<http://www.educ.ualberta.ca/staff/olenka.bilash/best%20of%20bilash/learning%20contracts.html>

#### Anchor Activities

Self-directed specified ongoing activities in which students work independently

Sample Resource

[http://www.rec4.com/filestore/REC4\\_AnchorActivityPacket\\_080513.pdf](http://www.rec4.com/filestore/REC4_AnchorActivityPacket_080513.pdf)

#### Curriculum Compacting

Curriculum Compacting is an instructional technique that is specifically designed to make appropriate curricular adjustments for students in any curricular area and at any grade level. Essentially, the procedure involves (1) defining the goals and outcomes of a particular unit or segment of instruction, (2) determining and documenting which students have already mastered most or all of a specified set of learning outcomes, and (3) providing replacement strategies for material already mastered through the use of instructional options that enable a more challenging and productive use of the student's time.

Sample resource:

<http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/sem/semart08.html>

#### RAFT Assignments

RAFT is an acronym for a structured technique used to guide student writing. RAFT assignments are used to demonstrate a student's knowledge using a defined point of view. This strategy requires students to write using an assigned format to an audience other than the teacher.

Sample resource:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SSWAC\\_225020\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SSWAC_225020_7.pdf) p. 18

### Flexible grouping

Flexible grouping is a range of grouping students together for delivering instruction. This can be as a whole class, a small group, or with a partner. Flexible grouping creates temporary groups that can last an hour, a week, or even a month.

Sample resource:

<http://www.teachhub.com/flexible-grouping-differentiated-instruction-strategy>

### Jigsaw Activities

Jigsaw is a strategy that emphasizes cooperative learning by providing students an opportunity to actively help each other build comprehension. Use this technique to assign students to reading groups composed of varying skill levels. Each group member is responsible for becoming an "expert" on one section of the assigned material and then "teaching" it to the other members of the team.

Sample resource:

<http://www.adlit.org/strategies/22371/>

### Extension Menus

Students select from a set of possible assignments (3 to 9 choices is common). Students may be required to select more than one choice. Choices offer differentiated objectives. Choices are often grouped by complexity of thinking skill. Activities are independent so students have freedom as well as responsibility. A variety of options enable students to work in the mode that most interests them.

Sample resource:

<http://gilbertps.schoolwires.net/cms/lib3/AZ01001722/Centricity/Domain/809/Teaching%20Gifted%20Book%20of%20Forms.pdf> Sample See p. 13

### **English Language Learners**

The purpose of adapting content lessons for LEP students is to lower the language barrier and make the English used in such lessons as comprehensible as possible. In social studies, LEP students' capacity to learn can be greatly inhibited by the academic vocabulary and,

sometimes, lack of cultural experience living in the United States for short periods of time. Every student deserves an education that is culturally relevant and meaningful to his/her present and future lives. Social studies is the prime location for culturally-relevant pedagogy.

Educators provide various grouping strategies such as flexible grouping and/or paired learning being sensitive to the language proficiency level of the LEP students. A student's capacity to become fluent in English will be greatly enhanced by activities in oral and written language that connect one's own life in meaningful and engaging ways.

#### Instructional Supports:

Hands-on materials

-bilingual dictionaries

-visual aids

-teacher made adaptations, outlines, study guides

-varied leveled texts of the same content

Please refer to the following link-

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/modelcurriculum/ela/ELLSupport.pdf>

as mentioned on the NJDOE website.

#### Preparing students for the lesson:

- Building Background Information through brainstorming, semantic webbing, use of visual aids and other comprehension strategies.
- Simplifying Language for Presentation by using speech that is appropriate to students' language proficiency level. Avoid jargon and idiomatic speech.
- Developing Content Area Vocabulary through the use of word walls and labeling classroom objects. Students encounter new academic vocabulary in social studies, particularly when studying the disciplines of history, civics, economics, and geography.
- Concept Development-Students will be learning about rights and duties, voting, public issues, revolutions, the environment, and many new concepts. Enduring understanding requires thorough and contextualized study of these subjects across grades and courses in social studies.
- Giving Directions-States clearly and distinctly and delivered in both written and oral forms to ensure that LEP students understand the task. In addition, students should be provided with/or have access to directional words such as: circle, write, draw, cut, underline, etc.



Presenting the Lesson:

- Use multiple strategies and varied instructional tools to increase the opportunities for students to develop meaningful connections between content and the language used in instruction.
- Provide students with opportunities to express new knowledge and learning using written, verbal, and non-verbal communication.
- Provide students with opportunities to participate in numerous social studies discussions to increase ELLs competency and confidence in verbal discourse; frame classroom conversations on subjects of interest and cultural relevance.
- Utilize a “reverse chronology” approach to teaching history/social studies to even opportunities for students with and without vast cultural knowledge and make study of the social studies more meaningful.

Sample Resources:

CanDo Descriptors -

[https://www.wida.us/standards/CAN\\_DOs/](https://www.wida.us/standards/CAN_DOs/)

Colorin Colorado - <http://www.colorincolorado.org/educators/>

WIDA - <https://www.wida.us/>

**Students with Disabilities (appropriate accommodations, instructional adaptations, and/or modifications as determined by the IEP or 504 team)**

Instructional adaptations for students with disabilities include, but are not limited to, the below approaches. These general suggestions are particularly resonant with students in social studies classroom settings, grades K-12. The primary aim of social studies education is cultivating active and informed citizens. For students with disabilities, self-determination and interdependence are two core principles of citizenship education that applies directly to their educational needs and interests.

Student Motivation – Expanding student motivation to learn content in social studies can occur through: activity choice, appeal to diverse learning styles, choice to work with others or alone, hands-on activities, and multimodal activities.

Instructional Presentations - The primary purpose of these adaptations is to provide special education students with teacher-initiated and teacher-directed interventions that prepare students for learning and engage students in the learning process (Instructional Preparation); structure and organize information to aid comprehension and recall (Instructional Prompts); and foster understanding of new concepts and processes (Instructional Application) e.g. relating to personal experiences, advance organizers, pre-teaching vocabulary and/or strategies; visual demonstrations, illustrations, models.

Instructional Monitoring – Social studies instruction should include opportunities for students to engage in goal setting, work with rubrics and checklists, reward systems, conferences.

Classroom Organization - The primary purpose of these classroom organization adaptations is to maximize student attention, participation, independence, mobility, and comfort; to promote peer and adult communication and interaction; and to provide accessibility to information, materials, and equipment.

Student Response - The primary purpose of student performance responses is to provide students with disabilities a means of demonstrating progress toward the lesson objectives related to the Social Studies Framework activities.

### **Students at Risk of School Failure**

Any of the strategies outlined in the other differentiation/modification categories may be used to address the needs of these students who are at-risk.