

## Grade 8 Social Studies Achievement Level Descriptors

The Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) describe the knowledge, skills, and cognitive processes that students should exhibit with relative consistency and accuracy in a variety of contexts. Some deviations or exceptions may be observed.

	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<b>General Social Studies Descriptors</b>	Students at the Approaching Basic level demonstrate a <b>limited</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in Louisiana history.	Students at the Basic level demonstrate a <b>general</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in Louisiana history.	Students at the Mastery level demonstrate a <b>strong</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in Louisiana history.	Students at the Advanced level demonstrate a <b>thorough</b> understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in Louisiana history.
Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<b>Claims and Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and express <b>flawed</b> claims that provide <b>vague</b> explanations of connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place.</li> <li>• Use <b>little or no</b> evidence from the sources and <b>limited</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• Rely on either knowledge from the course <b>or</b> information provided in the sources to make <b>vague or incomplete</b> connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and express <b>reasonable</b> claims, but provide <b>inconsistent or incomplete</b> explanations of connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place.</li> <li>• Use <b>disconnected</b> evidence from the sources and <b>general</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• <b>Use</b> knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make <b>obvious</b> connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and clearly express <b>logical</b> claims that provide <b>consistent and complete</b> explanations of the connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place.</li> <li>• Use <b>appropriate</b> evidence from the sources and <b>strong</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• <b>Integrate</b> knowledge from the course with information provided in the sources to make <b>reasoned and informed</b> connections that show the relationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and effectively express <b>valid</b> claims that provide <b>cohesive and in-depth</b> explanations of the connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place.</li> <li>• Use <b>well-chosen</b> evidence from the sources and <b>thorough</b> knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts.</li> <li>• <b>Synthesize</b> knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make <b>sophisticated</b> connections that show the interrelationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).</li> </ul>

Sample Content Connections	Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration and settlement patterns shape the social and historical development of Louisiana.</li> <li>• Reform movements shape the social and political culture of Louisiana.</li> <li>• U.S. foreign and domestic policies influence the social, political, and economic development of Louisiana.</li> <li>• Natural phenomena affect economic decisions of individuals and communities in Louisiana.</li> <li>• Resources and climate influence state and local economies in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the contributions of explorers or early settlement groups to the development of Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the contributions of explorers and early settlement groups to the development of Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how contributions of explorers and early settlement groups influenced the development of Louisiana.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the importance of the Mississippi River to Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the importance of the Mississippi River as it relates to historical events in early Louisiana history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the importance of the Mississippi River as it relates to historical events throughout Louisiana’s history.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe push and pull factors that influenced migration and settlement patterns of Louisiana’s inhabitants during colonization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how push and pull factors influenced migration and settlement patterns of Louisiana’s inhabitants from colonization to statehood.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze push and pull factors that influenced migration and settlement patterns of Louisiana’s inhabitants from colonization to statehood.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the characteristics of ethnic groups in colonial Louisiana and give examples of conflict or compromise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe differences and similarities between ethnic groups in colonial Louisiana and explain factors that contributed to cooperation and conflict.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how differences and similarities among ethnic groups in colonial Louisiana contributed to cooperation and conflict.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze how differences and similarities among ethnic groups in colonial Louisiana contributed to cooperation and conflict.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe causes and effects of major events in Louisiana history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain causes and effects of major events and their impact on the growth and development of Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze causes and effects of major events and their impact on the growth and development of Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate causes and effects of major events and their impact on the growth and development of Louisiana.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe social and economic characteristics of Louisiana during the antebellum, Civil War, and Huey Long eras.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe social and economic characteristics of Louisiana from the antebellum era through World War II, including changes that affected Louisiana and its people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain political, social, and economic characteristics of Louisiana from the antebellum era through World War II and how changes affected Louisiana and its people during each era.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze political, social, and economic characteristics of Louisiana from the antebellum era through World War II and how changes affected Louisiana and its people during each era.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe key events and individuals associated with the Civil Rights movement in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how key ideas, events, and individuals influenced the Civil Rights movement in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze key events, ideas, and individuals of the Civil Rights movement and how the movement changed the course of Louisiana’s history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate key events, ideas, and individuals of the Civil Rights movement and how the movement changed the course of Louisiana’s history.</li> </ul>
	<b>Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the political and physical features, natural resources, and migration patterns of cultural groups in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how political and physical features and natural resources affect Louisiana and its people, including migration patterns of cultural groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze how political and physical features and natural resources affect Louisiana and its people, including migration patterns of cultural groups.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe technology that influenced Louisiana’s culture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe technology that influenced Louisiana’s culture and the effects of cultural diffusion in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the ways in which technology influenced Louisiana’s culture and the causes and effects of cultural diffusion in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the ways in which technology influenced Louisiana’s culture and the causes and effects of cultural diffusion in Louisiana.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how natural phenomena affect Louisiana’s physical environment and people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how natural phenomena and environmental modifications affect Louisiana’s physical environment and people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze how natural phenomena, environmental modifications, and their consequences affect Louisiana’s physical environment and people.</li> </ul>	

	<b>Civics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the preambles, foundations, functions, or powers of the Louisiana and US Constitutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the preambles, foundations, functions, and powers of the Louisiana and US Constitutions and the roles of local government in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare and contrast the preambles, foundations, functions, and powers of the Louisiana and US Constitutions and explain the roles of local government in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the preambles, foundations, functions, and powers of the Louisiana and US Constitutions and the roles of local government in Louisiana.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the importance of Louisiana ports or products in the international economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the role and importance of Louisiana ports and products in the international economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the role and importance of Louisiana ports and products in the international economy, and explain how United States and world foreign policy affect Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the role and importance of Louisiana ports and products in the international economy and the influence of United States and world foreign policy on Louisiana.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the characteristics of an informed citizen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the importance of being an informed citizen on public and voting issues and ways in which citizens influence the government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the importance of being an informed citizen on public and voting issues, recognizing propaganda, and the ways in which citizens influence the government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the ways in which informed citizens recognize propaganda and influence the government on public and voting issues.</li> </ul>
	<b>Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe specialization and apply the laws of supply and demand to resources and goods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give examples of specialization in Louisiana and apply the laws of supply and demand to resources and goods in Louisiana's economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze how specialization, supply and demand, and other factors affect the allocation and production of resources, goods, and services in the national and state economies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze how specialization, supply and demand, and other factors affect the allocation and production of resources, goods, and services in the world, national, and state economies.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how scarcity affects the economic decisions of individuals or groups in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how trade-offs, opportunity costs, and scarcity affect the economic decisions of individuals and groups in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze how unemployment, trade-offs, opportunity costs, and scarcity affect the economic decisions of individuals and groups in Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze how inflation, unemployment, trade-offs, opportunity costs, and scarcity affect the economic decisions of various individuals and groups in Louisiana.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe historical factors that influenced economic growth and development of Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe historical factors that influenced the economic interdependence, growth, and development of Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how historical factors have influenced the economic interdependence, growth, and development of Louisiana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze how historical factors have influenced the economic interdependence, growth, and development of Louisiana.</li> </ul>