

Achievement Level Descriptors for

Grade 8 Social Studies

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Achievement Levels and Achievement Level Descriptors

With the implementation of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System, Georgia educators have developed four achievement levels to describe student mastery and command of the knowledge and skills outlined in Georgia's content standards. Most students have at least some knowledge of the content described in the content standards; however, achievement levels succinctly describe how much mastery a student has. Achievement levels give meaning and context to scale scores by describing the knowledge and skills students must demonstrate to achieve each level.

The four achievement levels on Georgia Milestones are *Beginning Learner*, *Developing Learner*, *Proficient Learner*, and *Distinguished Learner*. The general meaning of each of the four levels is provided below:

Beginning Learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students *need substantial academic support* to be prepared for the next grade level or course and to be on track for post-secondary readiness.

Developing Learners demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students *need additional academic support* to ensure success in the next grade level or course and to be on track for post-secondary readiness.

Proficient Learners demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students *are prepared* for the next grade level or course and are on track for post-secondary readiness.

Distinguished Learners demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students *are well prepared* for the next grade level or course and are well prepared for post-secondary readiness.

More detailed and content-specific concepts and skills are provided for each grade, content area, and course in the **Achievement Level Descriptors** (ALDs). ALDs are narrative descriptions of the knowledge and skills expected at each of the four achievement levels and were developed for each grade level, content area, and course by committees of Georgia educators in July 2017 and March 2018. The ALDs are based on the state-adopted content standards.

ALDs show a *progression of knowledge and skills* for which students must demonstrate competency across the achievement levels. It is important to understand that a student should demonstrate mastery of the knowledge and skills within the student's achievement level *as well as all content and skills in any achievement levels that precede the student's own, if any*. For example, a Proficient Learner should also possess the knowledge and skills of a Developing Learner *and* a Beginning Learner.

	POLICY ALDS					
ALD	Standard	Beginning Learner	Developing Learner	Proficient Learner	Distinguished Learner	
Policy		Beginning Learners do not yet	Developing Learners	Proficient Learners	Distinguished Learners	
		demonstrate proficiency in	demonstrate partial	demonstrate proficiency in	demonstrate advanced	
		the knowledge and skills	proficiency in the knowledge	the knowledge and skills	proficiency in the knowledge	
		necessary at this grade	and skills necessary at this	necessary at this grade	and skills necessary at this	
		level/course of learning, as	grade level/course of learning,	level/course of learning, as	grade level/course of learning,	
		specified in Georgia's content	as specified in Georgia's	specified in Georgia's content	as specified in Georgia's	
		standards. The students need	content standards. The	standards. The students are	content standards. The	
		substantial academic support	students need additional	prepared for the next grade	students are well prepared for	
		to be prepared for the next	academic support to ensure	level or course and are on	the next grade level or course	
		grade level or course and to	success in the next grade level	track for <i>post-secondary</i>	and are well prepared for	
		be on track for <i>post-secondary</i>	or course and to be on track	readiness.	post-secondary readiness.	
		readiness.	for post-secondary readiness.			
			Popes ALDS			
		Beginning Learner	Range ALDS Developing Learner	Proficient Learner	Distinguished Learner	
Range		A student who achieves at the	A student who achieves at the	A student who achieves at the	A student who achieves at the	
Nalige		Beginning Learner level	Developing Learner level	Proficient Learner level	Distinguished Learner level	
		demonstrates minimal	demonstrates partial	demonstrates proficiency of	demonstrates advanced	
		command of the grade-level	command of the grade-level	the grade-level standards. The	proficiency of the grade-level	
		standards. The pattern	standards. The pattern	pattern exhibited by student	standards. The pattern	
		exhibited by student responses	exhibited by student responses	responses indicates that	exhibited by student responses	
		indicates that students are	indicates that students are	students are most likely able	indicates that students are	
		most likely able to	most likely able to	to	most likely able to	
		,	Historical Understandin		,	
SS8H.1	Evaluate the	impact of European exploration a				
	8H.1.a	identify characteristics of	describe characteristics of	describe, using various	 analyze, using various 	
	8H.1.b	American Indians living in	American Indians living in	sources, characteristics of	sources, the characteristics	
	8H.1.c	Georgia at the time of	Georgia at the time of	American Indians living in	of American Indians living	
		European contact	European contact;	Georgia at the time of	in Georgia at the time of	
			 describe reasons for 	European contact;	European contact;	
			European exploration and	 explain reasons for 	 analyze, using various 	
			settlement of North	European exploration and	sources, the impact of	
			America	settlement in America,	Spanish contact on	
				with emphasis on the	American Indians	
				British and Spanish in the		
				Southeastern area;		

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		 describe, using various sources, the impact of Spanish contact on American Indians 	
SS8H.2 Analyze the coloni	al period of Georgia's history.		
8H.2.a 8H.2.b 8H.2.c 8H.2.d 8H.2.e	 identify diverse groups settling in Georgia during the Trustee Period; give examples of the kinds of goods and services produced and traded in colonial Georgia 	 explain the Charter of 1732 and the reasons for settlement; describe diverse groups settling in Georgia during the Trustee Period; explain the transition of Georgia into a royal colony 	evaluate the role of diver groups in settling Georgia during the Trustee Period
SS8H.3 Analyze the role of	Georgia in the American Revolutionary Era.	, , ,	
8H.3.a 8H.3.b 8H.3.c 8H.3.d	 identify causes of the American Revolution; identify the Declaration of Independence; identify Loyalists and Patriots; identify the Articles of Confederation 	 explain some causes of the American Revolution; explain the parts of the Declaration of Independence; describe the roles of Loyalists and Patriots in Georgia; identify weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation 	 explain how some causes of the American Revolution impacted Georgia; interpret the three parts the Declaration of Independence; analyze the significance of Loyalists and Patriots in Georgia; analyze how weaknesses the Articles of Confederation contribute to the writing of a new federal constitution
SS8H.4 Explain significant	actors that affected westward expansion in Georgia between	een 1789 and 1840.	
8H.4.a 8H.4.b 8H.4.c 8H.4.d 8H.4.e	 identify land policies pursued by Georgia; identify technological developments that had an impact on Georgia's growth; identify William McIntosh; 	 explain reasons for the establishment of the University of Georgia; explain land policies pursued by Georgia; explain how technological developments had an impact on Georgia's 	 explain reasons for the westward movement of Georgia's capitals; evaluate the impact of la policies pursued by Georgia; analyze how key people and events led to the Tra

arade 8		Georgia End-oi-Grade: Social	Studies	Spring 201
		identify key people and events that led to the Trail of Tears	 describe the role of William McIntosh in the removal of the Creek from Georgia; describe key people and events that led to the Trail of Tears 	
SS8H.5 Analyze the	impact of the Civil War on Georgi	a.		
8H.5.a 8H.5.b		 identify key issues and events that led to the Civil War; identify Georgia's role in the Civil War 	 explain key issues and events that led to the Civil War; explain Georgia's role in the Civil War 	analyze the importance of key issues and events that led to the Civil War
SS8H.6 Analyze the	mpact of Reconstruction on Geor	gia.		
8H.6.a 8H.6.b 8H.6.c 8H.6.d 8H.6.e	identify the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments as part of Reconstruction	 describe the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments in general terms; describe the Lincoln, Johnson, and Congressional Reconstruction plans; identify the goals and outcomes of the Freedmen's Bureau or the Ku Klux Klan; give examples of goods and services produced during the Reconstruction Era 	 explain the roles of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments in Reconstruction; explain key features of the three Reconstruction plans; explain the goals and outcomes of the Freedmen's Bureau and the Ku Klux Klan during Reconstruction; describe the reasons for and the results of the removal of African American/Black legislators from the Georgia General Assembly; describe sharecropping and tenant farming during Reconstruction 	 analyze the impact of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments on Reconstruction in Georgia; analyze and compare features of the three Reconstruction plans; compare and contrast the goals and outcomes of the Freedmen's Bureau and the Ku Klux Klan during Reconstruction; examine the reasons for and the results of the removal of African American/Black legislators from the Georgia General Assembly

SS8H.7 Evaluate key	political, social, and economic cl	nanges that occurred in Georgia d	uring the New South Era.	
8H.7.a 8H.7.b 8H.7.c 8H.7.d	identify the New South Era in Georgia's history	 identify the ways individuals, groups, and events attempted to shape the New South; identify how rights were denied to African Americans/Blacks through political, social, and economic means; identify Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, and Alonzo Herndon; identify antisemitism and resistance to racial equality as shown in the Leo Frank case 	 describe how individuals, groups and events attempted to shape the New South; explain how Jim Crow laws and other tactics were used to deny rights to African Americans/Blacks; explain the roles of Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, and Alonzo Herndon in advancing the rights of African Americans/Blacks; explain how the Leo Frank case was an example of antisemitism and resistance to racial equality 	analyze methods that were used to deny rights to African Americans/Blacks, including Jim Crow laws, Plessy v. Ferguson, disenfranchisement, and racial violence
		events that occurred from World \	1	I
8H.8.a 8H.8.b 8H.8.c 8H.8.d 8H.8.e	identify the Great Depression	 describe some factors that led to the Great Depression; identify Eugene Talmadge; identify President Roosevelt's ties to Georgia; identify some New Deal programs 	 describe Georgia's contributions to World War I; explain economic factors that led to the Great Depression; describe Eugene Talmadge's opposition to New Deal programs; describe President Roosevelt's ties to Georgia and his impact on the state; describe the effects of the New Deal programs 	 analyze Georgia's contributions to World War I; examine the effects of New Deal programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the Rural Electrification Administration, and the Social Security Administration

SS8H.9 Describe the	role of Georgia in WWII.			
8H.9.a 8H.9.b 8H.9.c		 identify key events leading up to American involvement in World War II; identify Richard Russell and Carl Vinson 	 describe the Lend-Lease Act and the bombing of Pearl Harbor as key events leading up to American involvement in World War II; explain the impact of the Bell Bomber Plant, military bases, and shipyards on Georgia during World War II; explain the contributions of Richard Russell and Carl Vinson 	evaluate the purpose and impact of the Bell Bomber Plant, military bases, and shipyards on Georgia during World War II
SS8H.10 Evaluate ke	y post-World War II developmen	ts in Georgia.		
8H.10.a 8H.10.b 8H.10.c	identify new agricultural technology after World War II	 describe how technology transformed agriculture in Georgia after World War II; identify William B. Hartsfield and Ivan Allen Jr. as mayors of Atlanta 	 explain how technology transformed agriculture and created a population shift in Georgia; explain how William B. Hartsfield and Ivan Allen Jr. impacted the state; describe the relationship between the end of the white primary and the 1946 governor's race 	evaluate the relationship between the end of the white primary and the 1946 governor's race
SS8H.11 Evaluate the	e role of Georgia in the modern c	ivil rights movement.	3	
8H.11.a 8H.11.b 8H.11.c	 identify Brown v. Board of Education as a Supreme Court decision; identify Martin Luther King, Jr. as a key individual in the Civil Rights Movement; identify the 1964 Civil Rights Act 	 describe the Brown v. Board of Education decision; identify key individuals, groups, and events in the Civil Rights Movement; describe the resistance to the 1964 Civil Rights Act 	 explain the impact of the Brown v. Board of Education decision in Georgia; describe the role of individuals, groups, and events in the Civil Rights Movement; explain the resistance to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, 	 explain Georgia's response to the Brown v. Board of Education decision, the 1956 flag, and the Sibley Commission; evaluate the role of individuals, groups, and events in the Civil Rights Movement

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				including the role of Lester Maddox	
SS8H.12	2 Explain the	importance of developments in G	Georgia since the late 20th centur	y.	
	8H.12.a 8H.12.b 8H.12.c 8H.12.d	 identify Maynard Jackson and Andrew Young; identify Jimmy Carter; identify the 1996 Olympics in Georgia 	 describe the development of Atlanta under Mayors Maynard Jackson and Andrew Young; describe the role of Jimmy Carter in Georgia as state senator, governor, president, and past president; describe the 1996 Olympics in Georgia; identify Georgia's role in the national and global economy 	 explain how development under Atlanta Mayors Maynard Jackson and Andrew Young impacted the state; explain the impact of hosting the 1996 Olympics on Georgia's economic and population growth; describe Georgia's role in the national and global economy with regard to tourism, port expansion, and the film industry 	 evaluate the impact of hosting the 1996 Olympics on Georgia's economic and population growth; analyze Georgia's role in the national and global economy with regard to tourism, port expansion, and the film industry
			Geographic Understandi	ngs	
SS8G.1	Describe Geo	orgia's geography and climate.			
	8G.1.a 8G.1.b 8G.1.c 8G.1.d	locate Georgia in relation to nation and continent	 locate Georgia in relation to region and hemispheres; identify the five geographic regions of Georgia; locate key physical features of Georgia 	 describe the five geographic regions of Georgia in terms of location, climate, and agriculture; explain the importance of key physical features of Georgia; describe the importance of water in Georgia's historical development 	 distinguish among the five geographic regions of Georgia in terms of location, climate, agriculture, and economic contribution; analyze the importance of water in Georgia's historical development and economic growth

		Consumment (Civile Understandings
		Government/Civic Understandings
SS8CG.1 Describe	he foundations of Georgia's gover	nment.
8CG.1.a 8CG.1.b 8CG.1.d 8CG.1.e	identify Georgia's three branches of government	 describe separation of powers and checks and balances; identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens according to the Georgia Constitution; identify wisdom, justice, and moderation as the three principles in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Georgia flag identify that Georgia's state constitution has a preamble, a bill of rights, and amendments; explain the basic structure of Georgia's state constitution and describe its relationship to the United States Constitution explain the pights, and amendments; explain the basic structure of Georgia's state constitution and describe its relationship to the United States Constitution explain the basic structure of Georgia's state constitution and describe its relationship to the United States Constitution explain the basic structure of Georgia's state constitution and describe its relationship to the United States Constitution explain the basic structure of Georgia's state constitution and describe its relationship to the United States Constitution explain the basic structure of Georgia's state constitution and describe its relationship to the United States Constitution explain the basic structure of Georgia's state constitution and describe its relationship to the United States Constitution explain the basic structure of Georgia's state constitution and describe its relationship to the United States Constitution
SS8CG.2 Analyze t	e role of the legislative branch in	Georgia.
8CG.2.a 8CG.2.b 8CG.2.c 8CG.2.d	identify the General Assembly as the lawmaking body of Georgia	General Assembly; identify the committee system within the General Assembly of Georgia; describe the purpose of the committee system within the General Assembly; identify the process for making a law in Georgia; describe how state government is funded and how spending decisions are made
	e role of the executive branch in	
8CG.3.a 8CG.3.b	identify the governor and lieutenant governor as leaders of the executive branch in state government	 identify the qualifications for governor and lieutenant governor; identify the role of the executive branch identify the role of the governor and their roles in the executive branch of state government;

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				describe how the executive branch fulfills its role through state agencies	
SS8CG.4	Analyze the	role of the judicial branch in Geo	orgia state government.		
	8CG.4.a 8CG.4.b 8CG.4.c 8CG.4.d	identify judges as leaders in the judicial branch of state government	 identify how judges are selected in Georgia; identify an example of criminal law or civil law; identify steps in the adult criminal justice system 	 describe the judicial branch's purposes of interpreting the laws of Georgia and administering justice; explain the difference between criminal law and civil law; explain the steps in the adult criminal justice system, beginning with arrest 	analyze the judicial branch's purposes of interpreting the laws of Georgia and administering justice
SS8CG.5	Explain how	the Georgia court system treats	juvenile offenders.		
	8CG.5.a 8CG.5.b 8CG.5.c		 identify examples of delinquent and unruly behavior; identify that juveniles in the juvenile justice system have rights; identify the steps in the juvenile justice system when a juvenile is first taken into custody 	 explain the difference between delinquent and unruly behavior and the consequences of each; describe the rights of juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system; explain the steps in the juvenile justice system 	
SS8CG.6		role of local governments in the	state of Georgia.		
	8CG.6.a 8CG.6.b	 identify that there are city, county, and special- purpose governments in Georgia; 	describe city, county, and special purpose governments in Georgia	 describe the purposes of city, county, and special-purpose governments in Georgia; describe how local government is funded and how spending decisions are made 	 explain the origins and purposes of city, county, and special- purpose governments in Georgia

		Economic Understandin	gs	
SS8E.1 Explain how t economy	he four transportation systems (I	oad, air, water, and rail) of Geor	gia contribute to the development and growth of the state's	S
8E.1.a 8E.1.b		recognize how the Interstate Highway System, the Hartsfield- Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and Georgia's railroads and deep-water ports support the exchange of goods and services	 explain how the Interstate Highway System, the Hartsfield- Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and Georgia's railroads and deep-water ports support the exchange of goods and services; explain how the four transportation systems provide jobs for Georgians evaluate how the Interstate Highway So the Hartsfield- Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and Georgia' railroads and deep-w ports support the exc of goods and services domestically and internationally 	on 's vater change
SS8E.2 Evaluate the	nfluence of Georgia-based busine	esses on the state's economic gro	owth and development.	
8E.2.a 8E.2.b 8E.2.c	define profit;define entrepreneur	 describe how profit is an incentive for entrepreneurs; describe why entrepreneurship involves risk; describe the economic impact of various industries in Georgia 	 explain how entrepreneurs take risks to develop new goods and services to start a business; explain the economic impact of agricultural, entertainment, manufacturing, service, and technology industries in Georgia 	ıl, ce,
SS8E.3 Explain the p	inciples of effective personal mo	ney management.		
8E.3.a 8E.3.b 8E.3.c 8E.3.d		 identify/define income; identify the components of a household budget; identify/define savings; identify/define debt 	 explain that income is a starting point for personal financial management; describe the reasons for and benefits of a household budget; describe the reasons for and benefits of savings; describe the uses of debt 	