



# 7th Grade Social Studies

## Summer Homework

In Social Studies we will learn about the four social sciences of social studies:

- **History:** The study of past events
- **Geography:** The study of the details of the earth's surface including the land, bodies of water, climate, plants, animals and of course- people
- **Civics:** The study of the rights and responsibilities of citizens and of how governments work
- **Economics:** The study of the process of how goods and services are created, sold, bought or exchanged

**Directions:** Read four articles that connect with each of the four social sciences. For each article you read, write a reflection that summarizes the article and explains how that article connects with one of the four social sciences. Each article should connect with a different social science.

**Each Reflection should include the following:**

**1. Summary-**

- a. Main idea
- b. Important details or quotes that support or explain the main idea of the article.
- c. Discussion of key points from the articles
- d. Uses academic vocabulary from the article

**2. Explanation of How the Article Connects to one of the following social sciences-**

- a. Geography
- b. History
- c. Economics
- d. Civics

**Possible sources (available in print and online):**

- Time Magazine
- Denver Post
- New York Times
- Newsweek Magazine
- National Geographic
- Etc...

**Key Search Terms:**

- Business
- Travel
- Politics
- Government
- Global Issues
- Natural Disasters



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#### Rubric and Example

Excellent	Good	Below Average	Ineffective
Clear Main Idea with explicit use of academic vocabulary	Clear Main Idea with use of academic vocabulary	Main idea is unclear-not specifically stated in the writing.	The main idea is not present.
Important details are thoroughly explained	All important details are explained	Some important information is missing	Contains errors and /or all important information is missing
Details are in logical order and linked by transitions.	Ideas are in logical order	Ideas are in random order and not logical	Ideas are not in a logical order
Demonstrates clear understanding and makes complex connections to a social studies concept.	Demonstrates adequate connection to a social studies concept.	Demonstrates basic understanding of connection to a social studies concept.	Demonstrates little or no understanding of a connection to social studies

#### **Example:**

The National Geographic article titled "Sparta's Military Machine" outlines the ways in which Sparta's culture encouraged war. When the boys of Sparta turned seven they were then taken away from their families and trained to be in the military in places called "agoges". The boys were then chosen by a council of elders to fight in the next battle. Spartans fought for many reasons including for threats, disputes, or to subdue their slaves. In preparation for war, the Spartans sacrificed someone to the gods as they believed this act would help them win the war. As the Spartans marched to war, different groups of men were represented. "Skiritai", or mountain dwellers were at the front, hoplites were in the middle and physicians, artisans and blacksmiths took up the rear. The Spartans would prepare for war by following a strict schedule and would follow methods that were familiar to all Greeks. Even though the Spartans were known as fierce fighters, they were very respectful of their fallen brethren. This article relates to the social science of history, as it give us a background of how the Spartans fought and how their culture helped them live the life of a soldier. Even today we use the idea of the Spartans as mascots because of their reputation as formidable fighters and conquerors.