

Social Studies Standards

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) curriculum standards are framed by ten themes that represent a way of organizing knowledge about the human experience in the world. These themes draw from all the social science disciplines and other related disciplines and fields of study to provide a framework for social studies curriculum design and development.

The lessons in the Explore. Act. Tell. program draw on these different themes as students explore the topic of hunger in their community and act upon their findings. The strongest alignments to each thematic strand within the lessons are outlined in the table below.

THEME	ALIGNMENT
CULTURE	Through research, observation, and action, students will explore the culture of their own community and identify the needs of individuals within that community.
TIME, CONTINUITY & CHANGE	As students implement their projects, they become an active part of the solution to addressing hunger needs in their community and understand how they may be viewed as part of human history.
PEOPLE, PLACES & ENVIRONMENTS	As students research hunger-related issues in the nation and their community, they begin to see the impact of natural resources, and their availability, on people in a variety of places.
INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT & IDENTITY	Students develop an understanding of how people in their community may struggle to meet their most basic needs and how this can affect their personal identity.
INDIVIDUAL, GROUPS & INSTITUTIONS	Students will explore the various institutions in their community and determine how these various organizations may contribute to hunger-related needs. Students also learn how they can play a role in institutional change to address the needs of their community.
POWER, AUTHORITY & GOVERNANCE	Students may discover a dynamic relationship between individual rights and responsibilities and the needs of social groups. Students will become more effective problem-solvers and decision-makers when addressing persistent issues such as hunger and food insecurity in their community.
PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION & CONSUMPTION	Students will learn how the production and distribution of goods and services affect the individuals in a community. Students will use critical thinking skills to determine how best to deal with a scarcity of resources contributing to hunger in their own community.
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY	Students will investigate ways we can manage science and technology to increase their benefits to all individuals in the community.
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS	In their research, students may learn how global connections, or the lack thereof, can contribute to hunger and food insecurity in various communities. Students may also discover ways to balance global connections with local needs.
CIVIC IDEALS & PRACTICES	Students will develop an understanding of civic ideals and practices and learn how they can participate as active citizens to address an important need in their community.

Reference: ©2010 National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies