

# History-Social Science Big Ideas

## *Pre K-5*

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*The following thought-provoking and comprehensive ‘big ideas’ were developed by San Diego County teachers, and relate to the political, social, cultural, geographic, and economic concepts that spiral through different periods of history. These ‘big ideas’ can be built upon as cognitive learning blocks to help teachers teach and students master the California History-Social Science Content Standards.*

### **Preschool: Introduction to Social Studies**

1. People are special.
2. It is important to follow rules and work together.
3. There are many stories that tell about the past.
4. We live in a big world.

### **Kindergarten: Learning and Working Now and Long Ago**

1. Being a good citizen means acting in certain ways.
2. People create communities by working together and with the environment.
3. History tells the stories of people and events that have happened over time.

### **Grade 1: A Child’s Place in Time and Space**

1. All citizens have rights and individual responsibilities.
2. Over time and place, people differ and share things in common.
3. We all have a place in the world and in the economy.

### **Grade 2: People Who Make a Difference**

1. Where people live influences how people live.
2. People today and people from the past make/made a difference in the world.
3. The actions of a nation are guided by its beliefs and laws.

### **Grade 3: Continuity and Change: Local History**

1. All communities have a history.
2. Citizens should know and practice their responsibilities within their communities and within the larger nation.
3. Differences exist within and between communities.

### **Grade 4: California: A Changing State**

1. Culture reflects adaptation to geographic regions.
2. People move to improve their lives or because they are forced.
3. Economic factors influence geographic, cultural and political change.
4. The interactions of different people shape the history and culture of regions.
5. Government is responsible to its people.

### **Grade 5: U.S. History and Geography: Making a New Nation**

1. People adapt to the geography of their environments.
2. People establish and use systems of government for order and group survival.
3. People move to improve their lives or because they are forced.
4. Economic, political, and social differences may lead to rebellion and war.
5. Cooperation and conflict often result when people of different cultures come into contact with each other.
6. Exploration, immigration, and migration encourage the exchange of ideas, technology, and knowledge between people.

The above listing of history-social science big ideas were drawn from the *History-Social Science Standards-based Implementation Models Template*.

Giberson, Nancy, et al. (2002). *History-Social Science Standards-based Implementation Models Template*, San Diego, California: San Diego County Office of Education.