

Student Handout — [Social Studies 1.1: What is social studies?](#)

Name: _____ Date: _____

You must be logged in to Off2Class to complete these tasks. Open the slide(s) listed, then complete the questions below.

Task 1 — Vocabulary/Reading: Use the correct word from the word bank (Slide 4)

Open slide 4. Choose the best word from the slide to complete each sentence.

Word Bank: culture, urbanization, consumption, resources, election, develop

1. Many factories increase production to meet higher _____ of consumers.
2. The region uses local natural _____ like rivers and timber to generate power.
3. Citizens went to the polls last week to vote in a city _____.
4. Rapid _____ has moved large numbers of people from farms into cities.
5. Food, music, and traditional holidays are part of a nation's _____.
6. Countries often _____ new technologies to improve healthcare and education.

Task 2 — Reading/Vocabulary: Fields of social studies (Slides 5, 6, 7)

Open slides 5–7. Read each unit of study and match it to the field of social studies where students would learn about it.

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|---|-------|
| 1. How mountains, rivers, and climate affect where people live | _____ |
| 2. The causes and effects of World War II | _____ |
| 3. The traditions, food, music, and celebrations of different countries | _____ |
| 4. The rise and fall of the Roman Empire | _____ |
| 5. How governments make laws and how citizens vote | _____ |
| 6. How families, schools, and social groups influence people's behavior | _____ |
| 7. How supply and demand affect the price of products | _____ |
| 8. How people use maps to understand the location of countries and cities | _____ |
| 9. The different roles of presidents, lawmakers, and courts | _____ |
| 10. How social class and education can affect people's opportunities | _____ |

Task 3 — Speaking/Writing: Prepare questions to guess the country (Slides 16, 18)

Open slide 16 and 18. Think of a country that you know a lot about, but don't tell your partner which one! Write six questions about the country, one for each field of social studies: history, geography, culture, economics, politics, and sociology. Ask your partner your questions and try to guess which country they are thinking of. Then switch roles.

1. History: _____
2. Geography: _____
3. Culture: _____
4. Economics: _____
5. Politics: _____
6. Sociology: _____

Task 4 – Writing/Speaking: Reflection and short essay (Slides 15, 19)

Open slides 15 and 19. Write a short paragraph (4–6 sentences) answering each prompt. Use at least one present-simple sentence to state a fact. After writing, be ready to read your answers aloud to a partner.

1. In your own words, write one sentence that answers: What is social studies?

2. List three fields of social studies and give one short example for each (one sentence each).

3. Explain in 1–2 sentences why social studies is important for school or life.

4. Which field interests you most? Write 2–3 sentences explaining why.

5. Write one present-simple fact about your country (a geography, culture, or economics fact).

Answer Key — What is social studies?

Task 1

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|----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| 1. consumption | 2. resources | 3. election | 4. urbanization | 5. culture | 6. develop |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|------------|

Task 2

- | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Geography | 3. Culture | 5. Politics | 7. Economics | 9. Politics |
| 2. History | 4. History | 6. Sociology | 8. Geography | 10. Sociology |

Task 3

Guidance: Accept a range of correct questions and equivalent forms. Below are sample questions and brief model answers you can use when checking students' work.

1. History: "When did people from Europe first arrive in this country?" — Model answer: "They arrived in the 1500s."
2. Geography: "On which continent is this country located?" — Model answer: "South America."
3. Culture: "What languages and cultural groups influence this country?" — Model answer: "Indigenous groups, Portuguese, African, and other immigrant groups."
4. Economics: "What is one major export of this country?" — Model answer: "Coffee."
5. Politics: "What type of government does the country have now?" — Model answer: "A federal presidential republic."
6. Sociology: "What does the text say about indigenous people and society?" — Model answer: "Indigenous people lived there before European explorers; the society is mixed."

Task 4

Guidance: Accept varied student ideas. Look for clear use of present simple for facts and logical reasons.

Examples:

1. Social studies is the study of people, places, and how societies work.
2. History — the Civil War happened in the 1800s. Geography — my country has long coastlines. Economics — my country exports coffee.
3. Social studies helps people understand how governments and economies work, which is useful for making decisions.
4. I am most interested in culture because I like learning about food and music. Learning about different cultures helps me understand other people.
5. My country is located on a large island. (or any true present-simple fact)
6. This week I will read a short article about local history and ask my grandparents about their childhood.