

Introduction

The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.04.08.01, Requirements for Social Studies Instructional Programs for Grades Prekindergarten – 12 states that, “each local education agency shall provide in public schools an instructional program in social studies each year for all students in grades prekindergarten – 8; and offer in public schools a social studies program in grades 9 – 12 which enables students to meet graduation requirements and to select social studies electives.”

State Frameworks are developed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to support local education agencies in providing high-quality instructional programs in social studies. State Frameworks are defined as supporting documents and provide guidance for implementing the State Standards in Social Studies which are reviewed and adopted by the Maryland State Board of Education every eight years. State Frameworks also provide consistency in learning expectations for students in social studies programs across the twenty-four local education agencies as local curriculum is developed and adopted using these documents as a foundation.

MSDE shall update the State Frameworks in Social Studies in the manner and time the State Superintendent of Schools determines is necessary to ensure alignment with best-in-class, research-based practices. Tenure and stability of State Frameworks affords local education agencies the necessary time to procure supporting instructional materials, provide professional development, and to measure student growth within the program. Educators, practitioners, and experts who participate in writing workgroups for State Frameworks represent the diversity of stakeholders across Maryland. State Frameworks in high school social studies were developed, reviewed, and revised by teams of Maryland educators and practitioners, including local education agency content curriculum specialists, classroom teachers, accessibility staff, and academic researchers and experts in close collaboration with MSDE. The most recent updates to the Social Studies Frameworks were reviewed, refined, and validated through a comprehensive process led by the Standards and Frameworks Validation Committee (SFVC)—a statewide group representing diverse perspectives—in close partnership with MSDE.

The High School Modern World History Framework was revised in June 2025.

Course Overview

Modern World History focuses on developing students' understanding of world history from approximately 1300 to the present. In world history students interpret evidence and identify significant trends in order to understand major developments across the globe. Students will explore how humans have thought, behaved and interacted across the ages in order to develop an understanding of global patterns of change and continuity. Students of world history study specific people, events, and ideas by situating them in global, interregional, and regional contexts. Organizationally, world history requires students to shift between global, interregional, and regional spatial scales in order to emphasize interactions between different scales of historical study and to identify connections across time and geography. The spatial scales incorporated in this framework are:

- **Global Focus:** Concentrates on large-scale patterns occurring in several areas of the globe.
- **Interregional Focus:** Concentration on patterns and comparisons linking multiple regions across geography within a particular era.
- **Regional Focus:** Concentration on local, state, national or regional events within a particular era with significance to global and/or interregional events.

Student investigation of world history is further structured by the use of overarching historical themes that link the four units of the course. While examining content, students are tracing:

- Interaction between humans and the environment;
- Development and interactions of cultures;
- State building, expansion and conflict;
- Creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems; and
- Development and transformation of social structures.

To help students in acquiring these understandings, the content of the framework is structured by the following six state social studies standards:

STANDARD	DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD
Standard 1.0: Civics	Students shall inquire about the historical development of the fundamental concepts and processes of authority, power, and influence with particular emphasis on civic reasoning in order to become informed, responsible citizens, engage in the political process, and contribute to society.
Standard 2.0: Peoples of the Nations and World	Students shall inquire about the people of the United States and the world using a historically grounded, multidisciplinary approach in order to recognize multiple narratives and acknowledge the diversity and commonality of the human experience.

Standard 3.0: Geography	Students shall inquire about the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location, distribution, and impact of human activities using geographic tools and spatial thinking in order to demonstrate a significance of place.
Standard 4.0: Economics	Students will inquire about decisions made by individuals and groups using economic reasoning in order to understand the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world.
Standard 5.0: History	Students will inquire about significant events, ideas, beliefs, and themes to identify patterns, trends, and to analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time to make connections to the present in their communities, Maryland, the United States, and the world.
Standard 6.0: Skills and Processes	Students will inquire about civics, geography, economics, history, and people and nations of the world using disciplinary literacy skills and processes to critically evaluate content through a variety of source materials across disciplines and use reading, writing, and other forms of communication to develop, defend, and critique arguments in order to take informed action.

Standard 6.0

The four dimensions of The Inquiry Arc are reflected in Maryland's Standard 6.0:

1. **Developing Questions & Planning Inquiries** – constructing compelling and supporting questions, planning inquiries, and determining helpful sources.
2. **Applying Disciplinary Concepts & Tools** – applying the disciplinary concepts and tools of civics, geography, economics, and history.
3. **Evaluating Sources & Using Evidence** – evaluating sources, identifying credible, relevant information contained in sources, using evidence to support and develop claims.
4. **Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions & Taking Informed Action** – communicating and presenting claims, critiquing claims, and identifying ways to address problems in their communities.

Throughout the course, students should be employing the social studies skills and processes delineated in the 6.0 Skills and Processes standard. Organizing these skills is the Inquiry Arc which provides a structure to facilitate effective instruction in social studies.

The Inquiry Arc



Using this document:

The organization of the framework is uniform throughout the entire document. On this page the key terms that are used are defined to support the use of the document.

Sample Unit Template

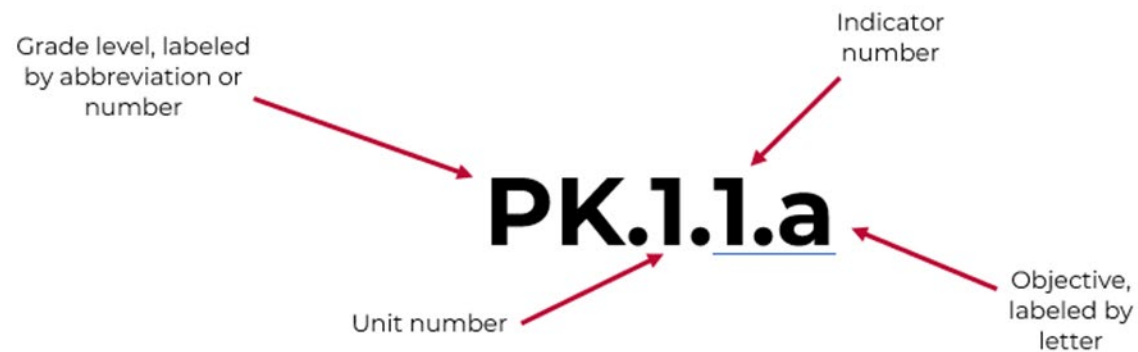
Unit Enduring Understanding: An **enduring understanding** is the overarching, conceptual guideline for the unit. Enduring understandings explain why this unit is important and connect important concepts and processes to history and the world today.

Unit Question: A **unit question** connects the big ideas in the enduring understandings and essential questions to the period of study. Everything in the unit contributes to answering this question.

Spatial Scale and Historical Concepts

SPATIAL LEVELS	HISTORICAL CONCEPTS
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Layout of Content: The coding of the framework serves to assist educators' instructional organization and structure. The coding begins with grade level, followed by unit, indicator and objective. Grade levels use either a short abbreviation (e.g., PK for Prekindergarten) or a number (1). Units and indicators use numbers (e.g., PK Unit 1's first indicator is coded as PK.1.1.). Finally, objectives are coded as lowercase letters following the grade, unit, and indicator (e.g., first objective of PK Unit 1's first indicator is coded as PK.1.1.a).



CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
The content topic indicates the umbrella under which several common topics are organized for study.	Essential questions help students unpack the big ideas in the enduring understandings and social studies thinking skills. These are questions that can be asked and answered in different times and places.	Indicator statements assist teachers in determining how to link specific content to be studied to the essential question. • Objectives provide teachers with detailed information regarding what specific learning should occur.

Collapse and Expansion (1300-1750)

Unit Enduring Understanding: The loss of stability creates opportunities for new social, political, and economic organizations.

Unit Question: How did the loss of the stability generated by the Mongol Empire lead to changes in regional powers?

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Unit Content

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
Collapse and Renewal of Regional Empires	How is power lost and gained?	MWH.1.1 Students will evaluate the regional reactions to the collapse of the interregional stability by: - Analyzing the interregional impacts of the bubonic plague and the collapse of the Mongol Empire. (MWH.1.1.a) - Summarizing the achievements of the Ottoman Empire. (MWH.1.1.b) - Explaining the causes and effects of Islamic expansion and Eurasian trade routes on political and cultural life in West African Kingdoms. (MWH.1.1.c) - Examining the factors that led to the rise and collapse of Ming China. (MWH.1.1.d) - Assessing the causes and effects of the Mughal Empire on India. (MWH.1.1.e) - Evaluating the impact of technology, the Renaissance, and the Reformation on the stability of Western Europe. (MWH.1.1.f)
Exploration Colonization and Global Interaction	How does the interaction of cultures and people lead to conflict and change?	MWH.1.2 Students will analyze the regional origins and global consequences of overseas expansion in the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries by: - Explaining the causes and consequences of European (Portuguese, Dutch, Spanish, English and French) exploration and colonization of the Americas. (MWH.1.2.a) - Assessing the ways in which the Columbian Exchange and the trans-Atlantic African slave trade affected Europe, Asia, Africa, and the indigenous peoples of the Americas. (MWH.1.2.b) - Explaining how plantation production of sugar and tobacco and the mining of silver in the Americas impacted the economies of Europe, South America, and East Asia and global labor systems. (MWH.1.2.c)

Revolutions and their Consequences (1750-1890)

Unit Enduring Understanding: Political and economic revolutions cause regional and global change.

Unit Question: How did political and economic revolutions in Western Europe lead to imperialism and the rise of nationalism throughout the world?

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Unit Content

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Democratic Revolutions	How difficult is it to overthrow an established idea or system?	MWH.2.1 Students will analyze how the interregional spread of political ideas such as self-government and liberty in Europe and America served as a catalyst for global changes by: - Explaining how the English Civil War and the Revolution of 1688 affected government, religion, economy, and society in Britain as well as the American colonies. (MWH.2.1.a) - Comparing the causes, character, and consequences of the American and French Revolutions. (MWH.2.1.b) - Evaluating the impact of the end of the trans-Atlantic trade of enslaved persons on Africa, the Americas, and Europe. (MWH.2.1.c) MWH.2.2 Students will assess the global impact of democracy on the regional creation of nation-states in the Americas by: - Analyzing how democratic ideals led to revolutions in Haiti, Mexico, and throughout South America. (MWH.2.2.a) - Assessing the successes and failures of democracy in Latin American countries following independence. (MWH.2.2.b)

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
Industrialization and its impacts	Why do some nations industrialize and others not?	MWH.2.3 Students will analyze the regional causes and interregional growth of Industrialization by: - Analyzing how scientific and technological advancements in communication, transportation, and agriculture led to the early Industrial Revolution in England. (MWH.2.3.a) - Examining how the factory system and capitalism changed economic relationships. (MWH.2.3.b) - Comparing the internal and external geographic, economic, technological, energy and political factors that resulted in industrialization in Western European countries and the United States with those of Russia and Japan. (MWH.2.3.c) MWH.2.4 Students will identify the immediate and long-term regional, interregional, and global effects of Industrialization by: - Analyzing the impacts of Socialist and Marxist beliefs and programs on politics, industry, and labor relations in late 19th century Europe. (MWH.2.4.a) - Explaining how industrialization led to demographic changes, migration, urbanization, disease, pollution, women's suffrage, and the emergence of new social classes. (MWH.2.4.b) - Analyzing the causes of the economic gap between industrialized and non-industrialized countries and regions by comparing the positions of Britain, China, the African continent, and India at the end of the 19th Century. (MWH.2.4.c)

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
Imperialism	Was imperialism mutually beneficial?	MWH.2.5 Students will analyze how and why regional industrialized nations were able to create global imperial empires by: - Explaining how the need for raw materials, new markets, and cheap labor led to imperialism in Africa and Asia. (MWH.2.5.a) - Analyzing how Social Darwinism and scientific racism were used to justify western imperialism throughout the non-western world. (MWH.2.5.b) - Examining how warfare, technology, and/or diplomacy were employed by industrialized nations to establish and strengthen control over colonial possessions. (MWH.2.5.c) - Examining the influence of European ideology, culture, and religious norms on the creation of new political relationships, national identities, and social systems on the peoples of Africa, India, and China. (MWH.2.5.d) - Explaining the impact of the Berlin Conference on the political geography of Africa. (MWH.2.5.e)

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
		MWH.2.6 Students will analyze the origin and effectiveness of regional resistance movements in India, Africa, and Asia by: - Assessing the social, economic, and intellectual origins and significant events that led to the development of Indian Nationalism. (MWH.2.6.a) - Comparing the methods and effectiveness of military, political, and religious resistance movements in German Southeast Africa/Tanganyika, Samori Ture in French West Africa/Guinea, Asante in Gold Coast/Ghana, and Menelik II in Ethiopia. (MWH.2.6.b) - Examining the creation of, and relationships among, those within the South African caste system. (MWH.2.6.c) - Analyzing how and why Qing/Manchu China resisted industrialization and trade with Europe and the effectiveness of the Taiping Uprising and the Boxer Rebellion in resisting economic imperialism. (MWH.2.6.d)
		MWH.2.7 Students will compare how regional powers attempted to meet the challenges of modernization and interregional territorial expansion by: - Assessing the causes and impacts of the Tanzimat Reformers on the Ottoman Empire. (MWH.2.7.a) - Analyzing the internal and external factors impacting Russian modernization and growth as an imperial power. (MWH.2.7.b) - Evaluating the how rapid economic growth and policies of the Meiji state influenced Japanese imperial and colonial expansion. (MWH.2.7.c)

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
Rise of Nationalism	What unites people into a nation?	MWH.2.8 Students will analyze the regional causes and interregional and global impacts of nationalism during the 18th and 19th centuries by: - Evaluating the impact of nationalism on the development of Western (Germany, Italy) and non-Western (China, India, Egypt, Mexico, or Argentina) nations. (MWH.2.8.a) - Analyzing how nationalism was a source of tension and conflict in places such as the Ottoman Empire. (MWH.2.8.b)

Crisis and Global Acceleration (1890-1994)

Unit Enduring Understanding: Accelerated changes in how nations interacted led to global competitions and conflicts from 1890-1994.

Unit Question: How did accelerated competition lead to global conflicts?

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Unit Content

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
World War One	Is war inevitable?	MWH.3.1 Students will analyze how regional tensions and interregional competition led to World War One by: - Evaluating how growing tensions among rival European states and empires, compounded by nationalism, militarism, imperial competition, and alliance systems led to the outbreak of war. (MWH.3.1.a) MWH.3.2 Students will describe the global scope and human costs of World War One by: - Assessing the effectiveness of the major strategies and turning points of the war. (MWH.3.2.a) - Analyzing how scientific and technological inventions impacted civilian populations and military personnel. (MWH.3.2.b) - Analyzing the effect of media to promote ideologies through propaganda on the war. (MWH.3.2.c) - Evaluating the contributions to, and impact of World War I on, colonial peoples in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. (MWH.3.2.d) - Evaluating the experience of the Armenian people within the Ottoman Empire. (MWH.3.2.e) - Assessing the global effects of the influenza pandemic. (MWH.3.2.f) - Explaining the domestic and international causes of the Russian Revolutions and its impact on World War One. (MWH.3.2.g)

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
		MWH.3.3 Students will assess the regional, interregional, and global consequences of World War One by: - Assessing the effectiveness of the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations, and reparations on the balance of power in and geography of Europe. (MWH.3.3.a) - Explaining how the collapse of the German, Austrian, Russian, and Ottoman empires led to the eventual creation of new states in Europe and the Middle East. (MWH.3.3.b) - Explaining how the mandate system altered patterns of European colonial rule in Africa and the Middle East and contributed to the rise of Zionism, pan-Arabism and pan-Africanism and other nationalist struggles for independence. (MWH.3.3.c) - Assessing the impact of World War One on the women's suffrage movement worldwide. (MWH.3.3.d)
The Interwar Period	How does economic decline impact political power?	MWH.3.4 Students will describe the global causes and consequences of the Great Depression by: - Analyzing the political and economic causes of the Depression. (MWH.3.4.a) - Comparing the impact of the Depression on the economies and societies in different countries, including its impact on colonial peoples of Africa and Asia. (MWH.3.4.b) - Evaluating the global growth of nationalist and independence movements in Africa, Asia, Middle East, and Latin America including Sub-Saharan Africa, Indian Nationalism and independence, Pan Arabism/Arab Nationalism, and Mexican Indigenous movements. (MWH.3.4.c)

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
World War II	Is war inevitable?	MWH.3.5 Students will analyze how regional tensions and interregional competition led to World War Two by: - Explaining the rise of authoritarian leaders and how they utilized technology and propaganda to seize power in Italy, Germany, Spain, the Soviet Union, and Japan. (MWH.3.5.a) - Examining how the quest for territory and Western appeasement led to the expansion of German, Italian, and Japanese power. (MWH.3.5.b) MWH.3.6 Students will analyze the global scope and human costs of World War Two by: - Assessing the effectiveness of the political leadership, major strategies, and turning points of the war. (MWH.3.6.a) - Comparing how scientific and technological innovations impacted civilians on the home front and military personnel on the battlefield in Great Britain, Europe, the Soviet Union, and Japan. (MWH.3.6.b) - Analyzing the contributions to and impact of World War Two on colonial peoples in South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. (MWH.3.6.c) - Analyzing the systematic and state-sponsored atrocities perpetrated by governments in Europe and Asia during World War Two. (MWH.3.6.d) - Evaluating the cause, course, and consequences of the Holocaust. (MWH.3.6.e)

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
		MWH.3.7 Students will assess the regional, interregional and global consequences of World War Two by: - Identifying how global networks were accelerated by the creation of the United Nations (UN), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank. (MWH.3.7.a) - Assessing the impact of World War Two on the formation of new states such as Israel, and the continued development of national identities in India, China, and the Pan African movement. (MWH.3.7.b)
The Cold War	How do nations seek security in times of global tension?	MWH.3.8 Students will analyze the regional and interregional causes of the Cold War by: - Analyzing the political, economic, and ideological factors that led to the Cold War. (MWH.3.8.a) - Describing the reactions of the Soviet Union to the tools of the Western policy of Containment. (MWH.3.8.b) - Analyzing the causes, leadership, events, and consequences of the Chinese Communist Revolution. (MWH.3.8.c) MWH.3.9 Students will examine the regional causes of post-World War II independence movements by: - Analyzing how Mohandas Gandhi in India, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, Jomo Kenyatta in Kenya, Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana, and Ahmed been Bella in Algeria achieved colonial independence. (MWH.3.9.a)

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
		MWH.3.10 Students will compare the regional and interregional conflicts that accelerated the Cold War by: - Explaining how Soviet and American relations influenced indirect conflicts in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. (MWH.3.10.a) - Comparing resistance movements in Eastern Europe, Taiwan, India, and Pakistan. (MWH.3.10.b) - Analyzing how the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and Tiananmen Square impacted the course of Chinese domestic and foreign policy. (MWH.3.10.c) MWH.3.11 Students will analyze the regional and interregional factors that contributed to the end of the Cold War by: - Examining how the internal policies of Mikhail Gorbachev, leadership, revolt, and economic decline in Eastern Europe, and political and economic pressure from Western powers contributed to the decline of the Soviet Union. (MWH.3.11.a)

Globalization (1970- Present)

Unit Enduring Understanding: Increasing global interconnectedness alters political, economic, and cultural relationships by creating new opportunities and challenges.

Unit Question: How does significant global interconnectedness alter political, economic, and cultural relationships?

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Global Economic Interdependence	Is globalization a net positive?	MWH.4.1 Students will evaluate the regional and interregional forces that facilitated the growth of a globally interconnected world by: • Explaining how the end of the Cold War and the post-Mao liberalization of the Chinese economy removed barriers to globalization. (MWH.4.1.a) • Analyzing the relationship between globalization and the growth of multinational corporations. (MWH.4.1.b) • Evaluating the impact of the European Union (EU), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank on trade and regional development, and global economic interdependence. (MWH.4.1.c) • Assessing the impact of digital communication and industrial technologies (outsourcing, containerization, global banking, and automation) on regional and global labor markets. (MWH.4.1.d)

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
		MWH.4.2 Students will analyze the relationship between globalization, human migration, and the environment by: • Comparing how globalization contributed to urbanization, population changes, and regional migration in the developing and the developed world. (MWH.4.2.a) • Analyzing how globalization challenged and reinforced local traditions regarding class, race, and gender roles. (MWH.4.2.b) • Evaluating how new communications technologies globalized popular and consumer culture. (MWH.4.2.c) • Analyzing the impact of population density and global travel on the spread of, and responses to, diseases. (MWH.4.2.d) • Comparing regional, interregional, and global efforts to address resource scarcity, access to clean water, deforestation, global warming, and sustainable sources of energy. (MWH.4.2.e)

CONTENT TOPIC	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	INDICATOR AND OBJECTIVES
Growth of Democracy and Human Rights	Is democracy right for everyone?	MWH.4.3 Students will trace the development of democracy and human rights throughout the world by: - Analyzing how people have sought to gain access to democracy and human rights in Argentina, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. (MWH.4.3.a) - Describing the factors that led to the end of Apartheid. (MWH.4.3.b) - Examining the political, social, and economic factors that promoted and impeded the development of democracy in Egypt, Iraq, and Iran. (MWH.4.3.c) - Evaluate the impact of self-rule in post-Colonial Africa. (MWH.4.3.d) MWH.4.4 Students will examine the global responses to address regional conflicts during the second half of the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century by: - Comparing and contrasting the causes and consequences of genocides and ethnic cleansings in South East Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. (MWH.4.4.a) - Examining the role of the World Court, the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations (Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, UNICEF) in responding to conflicts in Africa, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia. (MWH.4.4.b) MWH.4.5 Students will assess the impacts of non-state violence against civilian populations for political reasons and its impact on regional and global stability by: - Comparing the outcomes of non-state aligned violence as a tool for political change in Northern Ireland, Spain, Russia, the Middle East, and Peru. (MWH.4.5.a) - Examining the range of responses to non-state aligned violence in Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. (MWH.4.5.b)