History and Social Studies | Chapter 10

Maps, Communities, and Civic Decisions

Five days of student instruction, worked examples, guided reasoning, and checkpoints. Read a lesson, explain your reasoning, then complete the matching daily workbook.

This chapter is part of a developing curriculum and is not a complete full-year textbook or a certification of Alabama standards mastery.

Day 1: Map Features

Learning goal

Legends explain symbols; a compass rose shows direction; scales represent distance.

First example

A star may represent a library only if the legend says so.

Inspect every map feature

Read a map title, legend and compass rose before drawing conclusions. A scale shows distance relationships, and symbols have meaning only as stated in that particular legend.

Think it through

A star can mean a school, library or capital, depending on its legend. Never assume its meaning from shape alone.

Guided check

Sketch a fictional neighborhood with three symbols, a north arrow, a title and a legend.

Before moving on

1. What does a map legend do?

2. What does a compass rose show?

Next: complete the Day 1 exercises in the separate fillable workbook. Save student answers privately.

Day 2: Physical and Human Features

Learning goal

Rivers and hills are physical features. Roads and bridges are human-made.

First example

A river is physical; a bridge crossing it is human-made.

Identify natural and built features

Rivers, valleys and hills are physical features. Bridges, roads and buildings are human-made. Communities respond to physical landscapes in different ways.

Think it through

A river is a physical feature. A bridge across it is a human-made feature. This relationship may influence routes through a town.

Guided check

Sort lake, highway, hill, library, stream and sidewalk into two categories and explain one relationship.

Before moving on

1. Classify a mountain.

2. Classify a railway.

Next: complete the Day 2 exercises in the separate fillable workbook. Save student answers privately.

Day 3: Local Government

Learning goal

Local services vary by jurisdiction. Residents can examine proposals and attend public meetings.

First example

A council evaluates accessibility and upkeep costs for a park.

Ask useful civic questions

Local services vary by jurisdiction. Residents can read proposals, inspect budgets and participate in public meetings where permitted. Decisions balance needs and costs.

Think it through

A walking-path proposal may raise questions about accessibility, safety, maintenance and construction expenses. Asking a question is not proof of a problem.

Guided check

Write two respectful questions a citizen could ask about a proposed path.

Before moving on

1. Name one possible local service.

2. Why might citizens attend a meeting?

Next: complete the Day 3 exercises in the separate fillable workbook. Save student answers privately.

Day 4: Compare Sources

Learning goal

Dated maps, photos, documents and oral histories provide different evidence. Check origin and date.

First example

An old map shows a past road; a recent photo shows current buildings.

Check source date and purpose

Maps, photos, meeting records and interviews provide different information. Ask who made each source, when, for what purpose, and what it may omit.

Think it through

An old map might show a former road; a recent photograph can depict current buildings. More evidence is needed to establish the date of a change.

Guided check

A newer map shows two bridges, while an older map shows one. What can the maps show, and what additional source would establish when the second was built?

Before moving on

1. Which source may show the old road?

2. Which source shows current visible buildings?

Next: complete the Day 4 exercises in the separate fillable workbook. Save student answers privately.

Day 5: Independent Evidence Check

Learning goal

Fictional town: river, bridge, public library and proposed walking path. Council meeting next week.

First example

Do not treat this fictional scenario as a real local record.

Make a supported claim

Use the fictional town scenario as evidence, not as a real historical record. Distinguish observations, questions and recommendations.

Think it through

A river is physical, a bridge is built, and a public meeting record could help investigate a walking-path proposal.

Guided check

Name a physical feature, a built feature, a relevant record and a responsible question.

Before moving on

1. Identify one physical feature.

2. Identify one human-made feature.

Next: complete the Day 5 exercises in the separate fillable workbook. Save student answers privately.