

ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors

Social Studies – Grade 7

Grade 7

Pass+

Pass+ students demonstrate advanced understanding of, and the influences upon, early civilizations and societies in Asia, Africa, and the Southwest Pacific, and they display a superior understanding of historical events and the impact of colonization and imperialism on these parts of the world. Students describe and compare the foundations and functions of governments in Asia, Africa, and the Southwest Pacific in great detail. *Pass+* students have a highly-developed sense of how the physical environment affects the population, and they demonstrate advanced understanding of economic systems.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 7 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Describe the development of theocracy
- Explain the influence of the Muslim civilization on the Middle East and North Africa
- Describe the influence of the Mongols in South Asia
- Describe and compare the responses to European conquest in the Eastern Hemisphere
- Give examples of how countries gained independence from colonial rule in Asia, Africa, and the Southwest Pacific
- Trace the development and change of economic systems in Asia, Africa, and the Southwest Pacific

Grade 7

Pass

Pass students demonstrate proficient understanding of, and the influences upon, early civilizations and societies in Asia, Africa, and the Southwest Pacific, and they display a basic understanding of historical events and the impact of colonization and imperialism on these parts of the world. Students describe and compare the foundations and functions of governments in Asia, Africa, and the Southwest Pacific. *Pass* students have a basic sense of how the physical environment affects the population, and they demonstrate proficient understanding of economic systems.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 7 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Explain the importance of early civilizations
- Describe ancient Egyptian achievements
- Explain the evolution of Sumerian cuneiform, Egyptian hieroglyphics, and Chinese calligraphy
- Explain the importance of political and trading centers
- Trace the rise and spread of the Mongols
- Describe the development of dynasties in China

- Describe historical events in the Middle East since World War II
- Evaluate historical data and how it affected the history of the Eastern Hemisphere
- Identify functions of international organizations
- Describe the effects of climate and landforms on people
- Use Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to compare standards of living in various countries

Grade 7

Did Not Pass

Did Not Pass students demonstrate limited understanding of, and the influences upon, early civilizations and societies in Asia, Africa, and the Southwest Pacific, and they display a partial understanding of historical events and the impact of colonization and imperialism on these parts of the world. Students struggle with understanding the foundations and functions of governments in Asia, Africa, and the Southwest Pacific. *Did Not Pass* students have a limited sense of how the physical environment affects the population, and they demonstrate limited understanding of economic systems.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 7 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Identify early agricultural river valley civilizations
- Identify the steps in the development of written language
- Describe voyages of exploration
- Explain reasons for European Colonization in the Eastern Hemisphere
- Define citizenship
- Identify countries in the Eastern Hemisphere
- Define ethnocentrism
- Define traditional, command, market, and mixed economies