



# CSDE Model Curricula Quick Start Guide

## Social Studies 6-8

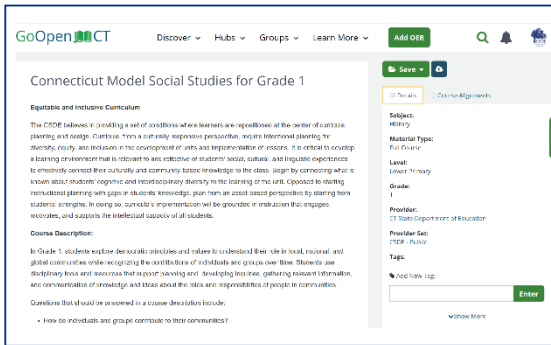
Connecticut's public digital library of open educational resources by and for teachers

Volume 16 | Connecticut State Department of Education | May 2024

### Key Components

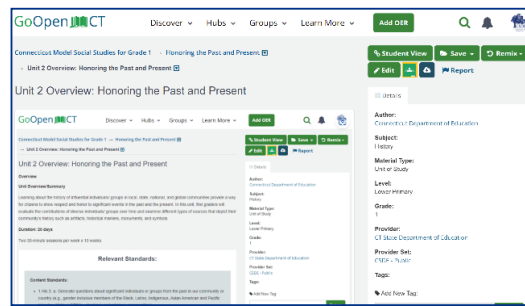
#### Course Description:

Overview of the entire course.



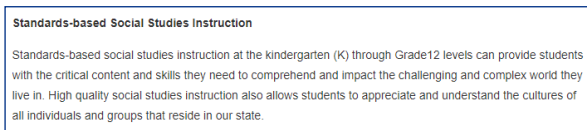
#### Unit Overview:

Unit Overview (Lesson 0) provides the full unit layout when selected.



#### Course Alignments:

Standards connected to the course.



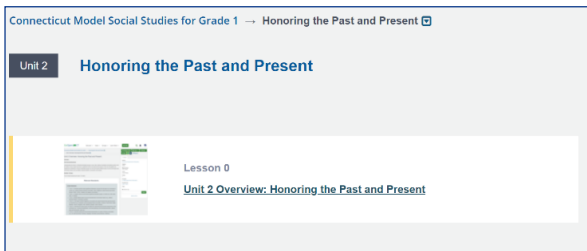
#### Resource Library:

The resource library contains resources for curriculum leaders and teachers to understand the organization and alignment of the grade-specific standards and guidance for designing culturally responsive lessons.



#### Unit:

Titles and suggested sequence of units for the grade level.



**Frequently Asked Questions:****Q: Can I download the units?**

A: Yes. Select the cloud icon with the arrow pointing down on the right-hand side of the screen to generate a PDF version of the unit.

**Q: Can I print the units?**

A: Yes. The units will need to be downloaded first and then the units can be printed.

**Q: How can I learn more about GoOpen CT?**

A: When on the GoOpen CT homepage, there are four headings along the top. Select "Learn More" to find the [Help Center](#).

**Q: Why do the units list content standards and inquiry standards separately?**

A: The content standards tell us what students should know and be able to do by the end of the course. The inquiry standards demonstrate a learning process that encourages students to engage in questioning, problem solving, and experiential learning. All of the units are designed by the standards articulated in the [Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards](#), which were approved by Connecticut State Board of Education in October 2023.

**Q: Will examples of inquiry activities be provided?**

A: All units provide the opportunity for students to engage in the Inquiry Design Model. Inquiry needs dedicated instructional time; the inquiry standards are incorporated into each of the units to support an integrated approach to Social Studies instruction.

**Q: Why do grades six and seven incorporate a thematic approach to instruction?**

A: An exciting and innovative approach to teaching World Regional Studies involves exploring themes. These thematic units allow students to delve into cross-cutting concepts applicable to all world regions. While individual regions remain integral to the learning process the themes covered in these units serve as the foundation for teaching and learning.

**Q: Can I modify the units?**

A: Users cannot modify the CSDE-designed Courses and Units published in GoOpen CT. Users should consult local curriculum leaders and administrators to understand the district curriculum development process before making decisions about modifying or adapting the units (e.g., incorporating text sets, students' lived experiences, and local history, and consideration for sociocultural influences). The process for implementing CSDE K-8 model curricula is a local decision.

**Q: Can I teach the units out of order?**

A: The sequence of units may be determined at the local level. However, if changes are made to the order of the units, it is critical to ensure that the progression of learning within and across grade bands is maintained.

*continued on next page* ►

**Q: When will a list of aligned core programs and resources be provided?**

**A:** The CSDE is in the process of obtaining information about vetted core programs and resources, and how these programs and resources align with the Social Studies model curriculum. Documents for each vetted core program and resource will be developed to indicate how the materials align with the model curriculum, suggested pacing, and scope and sequence.

**Q: Do I have to use all the assessments provided in the units?**

**A:** No. This is a model curriculum. Assessment decisions, and implementation should be determined at the local level.

**Q: Do I have to use all the activities listed in the Opportunities for Application of Learning section of the units?**

**A:** No. This is a model curriculum. Decisions about using these rigorous aligned tasks should be determined at the local level.

**Q: Will the state be providing lesson plans for each unit?**

**A:** No, not at this time. The development and implementation of lessons should occur at the local level.

**Q: What if I don't have time to complete all the units?**

**A:** The course is aligned to standards within and across grade levels through the completion of all units. If all units are not completed, standards may be compromised and disrupt the cumulative progression of learning and expectations in each of the Social Studies strands. Local curriculum leaders should assist in developing an implementation plan to ensure students have equitable access to grade-level standards. This will purposefully promote students' development of skills and understandings at each grade, and as they progress through the grades, extend skills and knowledge mastered in preceding grades.

**Q: What if I find an error in the Social Studies model curriculum?**

**A:** Please email Steve Armstrong, Social Studies Education Consultant, at [stephen.armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:stephen.armstrong@ct.gov), indicating the grade level, unit number, section(s), and any pertinent information.

**Q: What if I have questions or need assistance with the content of the units?**

**A:** Please email Steve Armstrong, Social Studies Education Consultant, at [stephen.armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:stephen.armstrong@ct.gov).