Area of Learning: SOCIAL STUDIES — Genocide Studies 12

**Big Ideas**

- The intentional destruction of peoples and their cultures is not inevitable, and attempts can be disrupted and resisted.
- The use of the term “genocide” to describe atrocities has political, legal, social, and cultural ramifications.
- Despite international commitments to prohibit genocide, violence targeted against groups of people or minorities has continued to challenge global peace and prosperity.
- While genocides are caused by and carried out for different reasons, all genocides share similarities in progression and scope.

**Learning Standards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curricular Competencies</th>
<th>Content</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</td>
<td>Students are expected to know the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions</td>
<td>origins and development of the term “genocide”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assess the significance of people, locations, events, or developments, and compare varying perspectives on their significance at particular times and places, and from group to group (significance)</td>
<td>economic, political, social, and cultural conditions of genocide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assess the credibility of and justification for evidence after investigating the reliability of sources and data, the adequacy of evidence, and the bias of accounts and claims (evidence)</td>
<td>characteristics and stages of genocide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compare and contrast continuities and changes for different groups, at different times and places (continuity and change)</td>
<td>acts of mass violence and atrocities in different global regions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assess how prevailing conditions and the actions of individuals or groups influence events, places, decisions, or developments (cause and consequence)</td>
<td>strategies used to commit genocide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explain and infer different perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, or events by considering prevailing norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs (perspective)</td>
<td>uses of technology in promoting and carrying out genocide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognize implicit and explicit ethical judgments in a variety of sources (ethical judgment)</td>
<td>recognition of and responses to genocides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make reasoned ethical judgments about actions and assess varying responses to events in the past or present (ethical judgment)</td>
<td>movements that deny the existence of or minimize the scope of genocides</td>
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<td>evidence used to demonstrate the scale and nature of genocides</td>
<td>international law and enforcement</td>
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### Content – Elaborations

#### Social Studies – Genocide Studies 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic, political, social, and cultural conditions of genocide:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample topics:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• perpetrators: regimes and leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• demographics: vulnerable minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• heroes, bystanders, perpetrators</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Characteristics and stages of genocide: |

**Sample topics:**

- eight stages of genocide
  - classification
  - symbolization
  - dehumanization
  - organization
  - polarization
  - preparation
  - extermination
  - denial

#### Acts of mass violence and atrocities in different global regions: |

**Sample topics:**

- case studies about:
  - indigenous peoples and cultures
  - Beothuk extinction
  - Armenian genocide
  - anti-Semitic pogroms
  - Soviet Union and Ukraine (Holodomor famine)
  - Japanese occupation of Korea and China
  - the Holocaust
  - Khmer Rouge in Cambodia
  - Rwanda
  - Sudan
  - Guatemala
  - Yugoslavia
## Content – Elaborations

### strategies used to commit genocide:

*Sample topics:*
- rape
- stereotyping and propaganda
- social pressure
- dehumanization
- organized violence
- polarization
- denial of rights
- starvation
- extermination

### recognition of and responses to genocides:

*Sample topics:*
- recognition, responses, apologies, reparations, redress, reconciliation, memorialization
- human rights tribunals
- war crime trials
- international intervention
- memorials and museums

### movements that deny the existence of or minimize the scope of genocides:

*Sample topics:*
- reasons why people deny the existence of genocides
- methods used to cast doubt on evidence for genocides

### evidence used to demonstrate the scale and nature of genocides:

*Sample topics:*
- forensics and testimonies
- mass graves and human remains
- survival stories