


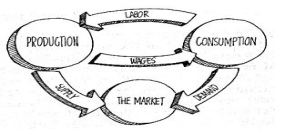





Salk Social Studies Themes: As students progress through their middle school career, with Minnesota Studies in 6th grade, U.S. Studies in 7th grade and Global Studies in 8th grade, it's important for them to see their world through common themes. Salk STEM Social Studies teachers created these thematic units to help students understand the interconnectedness between themselves, their state, the country & the world.

	<p>Rights & Responsibilities--Students must consider what are the rights and responsibilities of citizens whether that be of Minnesota, the United States, or the world. Students learn about how people organize themselves with governments to preserve and protect rights, including the basic structures of government at different levels. Students learn the responsibilities citizens have to maintain individual rights, and the rights of others along with discussion of current issues, drawing connections to a broader context, and taking informed action.</p>
	<p>People, Places, Environments--Studying people is the nature of social studies and in this theme students learn about the people they are surrounded by on a daily basis in their school and on Earth. People live in places and regions for good reasons and students learn what draws us together and how those places allow us to interact. Students will get to make informed and critical decisions about the relationships between people and their environments.</p>
	<p>Movement of People--People have moved from place to place throughout history and, in the process, traded goods, services and ideas that have transformed communities, countries and the world. Students will learn about the different forces and motivations that cause people to move from one place to another and also the positive and negative consequences of those movements.</p>
	<p>Production, Distribution, Consumption--Every creature on Earth produces, distributes and consumes but humans have done it on a massive scale, in an organized way, that has greatly impacted the world. Human resources, natural resources, and manufactured resources are traded as goods and services between people in markets. The need to produce, distribute and consume fuels innovation, competition and global interactions.</p>
	<p>Conflict & Cooperation--People often work together to solve problems and fall into conflict when problems cannot be resolved. These interactions occur on an individual level, between organizations, and governments. Students will learn about the motivations and conditions that lead to action, and also inaction, and analyze different kinds of conflicts and cooperation between people.</p>
	<p>Social Change--Social change can be driven by economic, technological, cultural, religious or scientific forces. Students will learn the components and analyze the processes that lead to change within societies and institutions. Social changes often lead to the development of new ideas, values and ways of life.</p>
	<p>Inquiry--STEM is the real-world application of knowledge and skills and inquiry is an essential component. Learning how to ask questions, deciding how to approach those questions, gathering pertinent and accurate information from reliable sources, and then reporting those findings is a lifelong skill that makes effective and informed citizens. While students are taught the skills of inquiry throughout every unit, a focused project around a central topic of the student's choice is a very powerful way to experience how the parts of the inquiry process fit together (6th grade--Historical Inquiry Project, 7th/8th grade--National History Day).</p>