



## REMOTE LEARNING FEATURES REVIEW

Discovery Education Social Studies Techbook, Grades 6–8  
Discovery Education, Inc.

### Section I. Remote Learning Features

#### Digital and printable resources

Student materials include both digital and printable resources.

Resource	Available Digitally	Printable
Student edition	Yes	Yes
Student workbook	—	—
Student worksheets	Yes	Yes
Texts / books	Yes	Yes
Subject-specific tools	Yes	—
Activities	Yes	Yes
Quizzes	Yes	Yes
Tests	Yes	Yes

All online text resources can be printed by page, tab (lesson component), or concept. Materials print in PDF format and cannot be edited prior to printing.

#### Tools for special populations

The digital student material contains the following tools for special populations:

- Two reading levels in English
- Spanish translation
- Text-to-speech
- Highlighting, annotation, and note-taking tools
- Closed-captioning and transcripts for videos
- Concept dashboard

- Hyperlinked glossary (Reference)

The digital material enables students to toggle between English and Spanish versions of the written text. Students can also toggle between two different reading levels in English (on-grade level and 200 Lexile points below grade level). Videos include closed-captioning and transcripts. Some videos are available in Spanish and include Spanish closed-captioning and transcripts.

### **Connection between print and digital components**

The digital material provides remote students with a learning experience that is equitable to that of in-person students by including multimodal learning activities, videos, Spanish language support, and adjustable reading levels.

### **Completion, submission, and review of work**

Students can complete and submit work online through the product platform. The platform requires student rostering and is compatible with many widely-used single sign-on platforms including:

- Google
- ClassLink
- Office 365
- LDAP
- SAML/ADFS
- NCEdCloud

Teachers can review students' work and provide feedback online through the product platform.

### **Grade-level differences**

Content delivery features do not vary across grades 6–8.

## **Section II: Synchronous Instruction**

### **Teacher guidance for synchronous instruction**

Teacher guidance does not address how to use the *Social Studies Techbook* to support synchronous instruction; however, Discovery Education's on-demand Professional Learning NOW Channel offers micro-learning sessions on several relevant topics, including *Planning Asynchronous Mini-Lessons* and *Managing Student Discussions in Synchronous Lessons*.

### **Supports for student-to-student interaction**

The following features in the material support student-to-student interaction:

- Discussion board
- Group projects
- Peer-to-peer feedback
- Studio and Studio Chat

Students can use Studio to work collaboratively using shared whiteboards and slide shows. Teachers can monitor student-to-student interaction within Studio by requiring students to add the teacher to the collaboration group. Teachers can also limit student-to-student interaction by hiding Studio Chat messages or disabling Studio Chat.

### **Supports for teacher-to-student and student-to-teacher interaction**

The Studio feature enables teachers to develop and share content with students, as well as customize assignments. Teachers can also use this feature to collaborate with each other. Likewise, students can use Studio to communicate with their teacher.

## **Section III: Asynchronous Instruction**

### **Support for asynchronous/independent learning**

The following features in the material support concept development:

- Feedback capabilities
- Videos
- Audio files
- Sample work and/or examples
- Simulations and/or animations
- Guided activities/problems

Teachers can provide students with feedback using Studio. Additionally, Student practice assessments are automatically scored, and the results display the correct/incorrect answers. The *Social Studies Techbook* organizes content in units, chapters, and concepts. Most concepts include videos that deliver instruction using teacher lectures, interviews with experts, and narrated real-world examples. The speed of videos and some audio files can be adjusted to accommodate differences in students' auditory processing abilities. The *Core Interactive Texts* in each concept include examples and simulations/animations to engage students and support their comprehension of the content.

## **Section IV. Progress Monitoring Features**

## Progress monitoring by teachers, parents/guardians, and students

The material includes the following features and reports to help students, parents/guardians, and teachers monitor student progress:

Features	Students (self-monitoring)	Families	Teachers
Usage	—	—	—
Time on task	—	—	—
Assignment completion	Yes	Yes	Yes
Standards mastery	—	—	Yes
Skills mastery	—	—	Yes
Automatic scoring	Yes	Yes	Yes

The material provides scoring reports by individual student, class, and grade level. Constructed responses are not scored automatically; however, the material includes teacher and student rubrics for constructed response items.

### Integration of progress monitoring tools

The program's progress monitoring features can be integrated with widely used district progress monitoring systems.

Grade pass-back is supported for Brightspace, Canvas, Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, Infinite Campus, and Schoology and via CSV import.

### Assessments

All assessments can be completed remotely through the material's platform.

### Teacher guidance/recommendations

The material's progress monitoring features do not provide guidance or content recommendations to help teachers support individual students.

## Section V. Usability for Families

### Sign-on process

Students, teachers, and parents can log in with unique credentials or via a single sign-on platform.

### Built-in support for students and families

The following embedded supports help students and parents/guardians understand the material's content:

- Mobile device compatibility
- Live chat feature
- Student guides
- At-home learning guide with content support
- Frequently asked questions
- Multi-language glossary (*References*)

Most of these resources are available only in English. Some of the guides, including the parent guide, are also available in Spanish. The multilingual glossary includes Spanish as well as other languages.

Multiple resources provide support for special populations, including highlighting, text-to-speech, note-taking, and annotation tools. Additionally, the material is provided at two reading levels in English and at one reading level in Spanish. Students have access to Studio's immersive reader for reading support and a hyperlinked glossary (*References*), which provides the definition, historical context, and sometimes even a video discussing key people, places, and events highlighted throughout the text. Videos include closed-captioning and transcripts. Some videos are available in Spanish and provide closed-captioning and transcripts in Spanish.

Districts will not incur additional costs for these supports.

## **Section VI. Training and Support for Teachers**

### **Teacher training and support**

The following embedded training and supports assist teachers in using this material in a remote learning environment:

- Chat option
- Tech support
- Reviewer guide
- How-to webinars
- Video model lessons with teacher preparation notes
- Spotlight on Strategies section with activities and videos
- Help center with frequently asked questions/how-to instructions
- Discovery Education Network teacher forum/community
- Differentiation guidance

Teacher training and supports are provided in English.

To help teachers address the needs of special populations, video model lessons include strategies for teaching students with special needs and English learners.

The core text is available in two levels (Level A and Level B) in English and in Spanish. Teacher professional development (Hot Topics) also addresses the needs of English learners and students enrolled in special education.

## **Section VII. Addresses Unfinished Learning**

### **Vertical alignment of standards and content**

A pacing guide that outlines the recommended sequence of instruction and time requirements is included in the overview of each model lesson. Teacher resources include a correlation to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and to the English Language Proficiency Standards which provide links to the material's content. Each lesson identifies the student expectations addressed. Each model lesson identifies what students should have learned in prior grade levels.

### **Guidance on how to address missed learning**

Pre-assessments are not provided; however, common misconceptions described in the model lessons and formative assessments help teachers identify missed learning throughout the year.

### **TEKS-aligned tutoring resources**

The material does not include TEKS-aligned tutoring resources.