

Table 1: Sample Depth-of-Knowledge Level Descriptors for Social Studies
(Based on Webb, Karin Hess, 2005, National Center for Assessment www.nciea.org)

Level 1 Recall of Information	Level 2 Basic Reasoning	Level 3 Complex Reasoning	Level 4 Extended Reasoning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recall or recognition of: fact, term, concept, trend, generalization, event, or document b. Identify or describe features of places or people c. Identify key figures in a particular context meaning of words d. Describe or explain: who, what, where, when e. Identify specific information contained in maps, charts, tables, graphs, or drawings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Describe cause-effect of particular events b. Describe or explain: how (relationships or results), why, points of view, processes, significance, or impact c. Identify patterns in events or behavior d. Categorize events or figures in history into meaningful groups e. Identify and summarize the major events, problem, solution, conflicts f. Distinguish between fact and opinion g. Organize information to show relationships h. Compare and contrast people, events, places, concepts i. Give examples and non-examples to illustrate an idea/concept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explain, generalize, or connect ideas, using supporting evidence from a text/source b. Apply a concept in other contexts c. Make and support inferences about implied causes and effects d. Draw conclusion or form alternative conclusions e. Analyze how changes have affected people or places f. Use concepts to solve problems g. Analyze similarities and differences in issues or problems h. Propose and evaluate solutions i. Recognize and explain misconceptions related to concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Analyze and explain multiple perspectives or issues within or across time periods, events, or cultures b. Gather, analyze, organize, and synthesize information from multiple (print and non print) sources c. Make predictions with evidence as support d. Plan and develop solutions to problems e. Given a situation/problem, research, define, and describe the situation/problem and provide alternative solutions f. Describe, define, and illustrate common social, historical, economic, or geographical themes and how they interrelate