

Behavioral Sciences

Behavioral sciences include, but are not limited to, the areas of sociology, anthropology and psychology. In addressing these disciplines the actions and reactions of humans are studied through observational and experimental methods.

High School (9 – 12) Details and Example

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the historical development of the behavioral sciences and the changing nature of society. (SS.9-12.BS.1)*

- Understand the fields of psychology and sociology developed in response to social and economic changes.
- Understand the role of major social institutions of American society.
- Understand the role of social institutions as well as individual and group behaviors, in bringing about social change.
- Understand that mass media, migrations, and conquest have affected social change by exposing one culture to another.
- Understand change and development in institutions further both continuity and change in societies.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision making. (SS.9-12.BS.2)*

- Understand the components of social structure and how social structure affects the individual in society.
- Understand society practices social control through the use of norms and sanctions.
- Understand the role of deviance in society and its effects on individual and group behavior.
- Understand that a group may act, hold beliefs, and/or present itself as a cohesive whole, and yet individual members may hold varying beliefs.
- Understand that people might ignore evidence that challenges their beliefs and more readily accept evidence that supports them.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the appropriate research procedures and skills of the behavioral scientist. (SS.9-12.BS.3)*

- Understand the appropriate uses of the research methods used by behavioral scientists.
- Understand the types of research methods used by behavioral scientists to study human behavior, social groups, social issues and problems.

Illustration of <i>Understand the appropriate research procedures and skills of the behavioral scientist</i> in the ICLE's Rigor and Relevance Framework	
Quadrant C Compare and contrast which research methods would work best based on various scenarios.	Quadrant D Create and administer a survey to a group, interpret the results, and present findings in an appropriate format.
Quadrant A Create a chart of the various methods of conducting research in the behavioral sciences.	Quadrant B Students administer a survey to a group and tally the results.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand current social issues to determine how the individual is able to formulate opinions and responds to those issues. (SS.9-12.BS.4)*

- Understand past and current cultural, religious, and social reform movements.
- Understand that differences in the behavior of individuals arise from the interaction of heredity and experience.
- Understand that conflict between people or groups may arise from competition over ideas, resources, power, and/or status.
- Understand that personal values influence the types of conclusions people make.
- Understand that even when the majority of people in a society agree on a social decision, the minority who disagree must be protected from oppression.
- Understand ideas and modes of inquiry drawn from behavioral science and social theory in the examination of persistent issues and social problems.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand how social status, social groups, social change, and social institutions influence individual and group behaviors. (SS.9-12.BS.5)*

- Understand the concept of stratification.
- Understand gender, age, health, and socioeconomic status affect social inequality.
- Understand changes in social and political institutions reflect and affect individuals' values and behaviors.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the process of how humans develop, learn, adapt to their environment, and internalize their culture. (SS.9-12.BS.6)*

- Understand that heredity, culture, and personal experience interact in shaping human behavior.
- Understand the stages of physical, perceptual, and intellectual development that humans experience from infancy to old age.
- Understand the concept of culture.
- Understand that peoples' values and behavior are shaped by their culture.
- Understand the processes of cultural transmission and cultural change.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand how personality and agents of socialization impact the individual. (SS.9-12.BS.7)*

- Understand the factors that shape personality and identity
- Understand the process of socialization leads individuals to become functioning members of society.
- Understand groups and institutions sometimes promote social conformity.

Middle (6 – 8) Details and Example

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the changing nature of society. (SS.6-8.BS.1)*

- Understand that a large society may be made up of many groups, and these groups may contain many different subcultures.
- Understand various institutions influence people.
- Understand various institutions influence elements of culture.
- Understand that technology is important in spreading the ideas, values, and behavior patterns within a society.
- Understand the role of institutions in furthering both continuity and change.
- Understand the means by which individuals, groups, and institutions may contribute to social continuity and change within a community.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand how personality and socialization impact the individual. (SS.6-8.BS.2)*

- Understand the ways family, gender, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic factors and institutional affiliations contribute to personal identity.
- Understand the influence of perception, attitudes, values, and beliefs on personal identity.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: Understand the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision making. (SS.6-8.BS.3)

- Understand that various factors affect decisions that individuals make.
- Understand role, status, and social class affect interactions of individuals and social groups.
- Understand that each culture has distinctive patterns of behavior that are usually practiced by most of the people who grow up in it.
- Understand that standards used to judge behaviors vary for different settings and societal groups.
- Understand that technology is important in spreading ideas, values, and behavior patterns within a society and among different societies.
- Understand that the media may influence the behavior and decision-making of individuals and groups.

Illustration of <i>Understand the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision making</i> in the ICLE's Rigor and Relevance Framework	
Quadrant C In groups students research the actions of the Civil Rights Movement of the '50s and '60s. The students identify how the actions of participants and groups in the Civil Rights Movement impacted the lives of the individual and changed group decision-making.	Quadrant D Student groups choose a primary group from a list they have created and develop a short skit that demonstrates how the group influences the individual (e.g. peer pressure) or how the individual influences the group. The skits are presented to the class. After each skit, the class identifies how the individual influenced the group, how the group influenced the individual and if group decision-making was influenced.
Quadrant A In small groups students brainstorm ways that individuals participate in primary groups (e.g. family, nuclear and extended family) and how the group may impact the individual and their development. The groups share their ideas with the class and a list is formed and posted in the classroom.	Quadrant B Students choose a primary group to which they belong and keep a journal (for a few days) as to how the group has impacted their behavior as well as how they may have impacted group behavior. Students develop a Venn Diagram comparing the journal observations of how they impact group behavior and how their primary group has impacted their own behavior.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: Understand the process of how humans develop, learn, adapt to their environment, and internalize their culture. (SS.6-8.BS.4)

- Understand that all behavior is affected by both inheritance and experience
- Understand values, language, beliefs, and behaviors contribute to the transmission of culture.
- Understand that language and tools enable human beings to learn complicated and varied things from others.
- Understand that technology is important in spreading the ideas, values, and behavior patterns within a society.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand current social issues to determine how the individual is able to formulate opinions and respond to those issues. (SS.6-8.BS.5)*

- Understand that personal values influence the types of conclusions people make.
- Understand the concepts of bias, prejudice, stereotyping, power, role, status, justice.
- Understand group and institutional influences on people, events, and elements of culture.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand how to evaluate social research and information. (SS.6-8.BS.6)*

- Understand that human behavior is studied using scientific methods.
- Understand basic distinctions between information that is based on fact and information that is based on opinion.

Intermediate (3 – 5) Details and Example

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the changing nature of society. (SS.3-5.BS.1)*

- Understand various institutions, ideas, values and behavior patterns change over time.
- Understand that the decisions of one generation provide the range of possibilities open to the next generation.
- Understand that human beings can use the memory of their past experiences to make judgments about new situations.

Illustration of <i>Understand the changing nature of society</i> in the ICLE's Rigor and Relevance Framework	
<p>Quadrant C Students create a chart comparing the societal characteristics of a previous era with characteristics of today's society. They offer various hypotheses about why the changes came about from one generation to the next. They evaluate the hypotheses generated.</p>	<p>Quadrant D Students invite the interviewees to the class and make presentations about the different characteristics in today's society compared to a previous era. The presentation will be concluded with predictions for the future of society.</p>
<p>Quadrant A Students create a questionnaire designed to be completed by a person who lived in a previous era. The questionnaire should address characteristics of society and culture during the era. Each student shares the findings with the class.</p>	<p>Quadrant B Students create a definition for the terms "society" and "culture" and determine the characteristics of each. The class creates a list of societal topics students want to investigate. (e.g. relationships, music, communication technology, values etc.)</p>

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision making. (SS.3-5.BS.2)*

- Understand that people involved in a dispute often have different points of view.
- Understand that communicating different points of view in a dispute can often help people to find a satisfactory compromise.
- Understand that resolving a conflict by force rather than compromise can lead to more problems.
- Understand that if a conflict cannot be settled by compromise, it may be decided by a vote if everyone agrees to accept the results.
- Understand that family, groups and community influence the individual's daily life and personal choices.
- Understand stereotyping.
- Understand the role of cultural unity and diversity within and across groups.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand how personality and socialization impact the individual. (SS.3-5.BS.3)*

- Understand that various factors contribute to the shaping of a person's identity.
- Understand that human beings have different interests, motivations, skills, and talents.
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of the individual in relation to his/her social group.
- Understand various meanings of social group, general implications of group membership, and different ways that groups function.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the process of how humans develop, learn, adapt to their environment, and internalize their culture. (SS.3-5.BS.4)*

- Understand the fundamental concepts of growth and development.
- Understand learning and physical development affect behavior.
- Understand personal changes over time, such as those related to physical development and personal issues.
- Understand that language, stories, folktales, music, and artistic creations are expressions of culture.
- Understand that interactions among learning, inheritance, and physical development affect human behavior.
- Understand that group and cultural influences contribute to human development, identity, and behavior.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand current social issues to determine how the individual formulates opinions and responds to issues. (SS.3-5.BS.5)*

- Understand that the way a person views an issue reflects personal beliefs, experiences, and attitudes.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand how to evaluate social research and information. (SS.3-5.BS.6)*

- Understand the use of research procedures and skills to investigate an issue.

Primary (K – 2) Details and Example

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the changing nature of society. (SS.K-2.BS.1)*

- Understand that people and institutions change over time.
- Understand past, present and future.
- Understand that people in different times and places view the world differently.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand all people have individual traits. (SS.K-2.BS.2)*

- Understand that people are alike and different in many ways.
- Understand that individuals will respond to events differently.

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand interactions between self and the peer group. (SS.K-2.BS.3)*

- Understand that people often choose to dress, talk, and act like their friends.
- Understand that people often choose to do certain things their own way.
- Understand that telling and listening is a way that people can learn from others.
- Understand that disagreements occur between friends.
- Understand that rules let people understand what to expect and so can reduce the number of disputes.

Illustration of <i>Understand interactions between self and the peer group</i> in the ICLE’s Rigor and Relevance Framework	
<p>Quadrant C Students categorize and compare the types of activities in which these groups engage. (e.g. class, sports groups, music groups, etc.)</p>	<p>Quadrant D The class creates questions about individual responsibilities to the group and the benefits of belonging to the group. Using their questions, the class interviews older students. The class examines the older students’ responses and writes a statement of their future responsibilities to peer groups, to which they may belong.</p>
<p>Quadrant A Students define what a peer group is and make a list of possible peer groups.</p>	<p>Quadrant B Students examine the list of peer groups and choose one group to which they belong or would like to belong. Students list their responsibilities to that group and share with the class.</p>

Essential Concept and/or Skill: *Understand the relationship of the individual to the components of society and culture. (SS.K-2.BS.4)*

- Understand that different groups may have different rules and patterns of acceptable behavior.
- Understand that people belong to some groups because they are born into them and some because they join them.
- Understand that groups influence one's thoughts and actions.
- Understand that a community is a group to which a person may belong.
- Understand that people tend to live in families in which individuals have different roles.
- Understand the features of nuclear and extended families.