

Student Planner and Study Guide for

# Social Studies Success

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE FOR SUCCESS

This student planner and study guide is a great resource for helping you understand and complete homework activities, for planning school projects and to use when studying for tests.

Full of important information about geography, history and economics, this essential guide will serve as a quick reference when you are unsure about an aspect of social studies. Topics range from Greek and Roman mythology to the largest and smallest GDP in the world.

Use the thinking tools and questions to help you structure facts and data so that you can develop the best possible project, assignment or outline.

The chart on Bloom's taxonomy may be new to you, but its degrees of thinking will enable you to recognise different types of questions you may be asked and to understand a little more about their degree of difficulty. Questions can range from those at the 'Knowledge' level to those requiring an ability to apply the knowledge you have gained. You may be asked to show your ability at even higher levels of thinking, culminating in the ability to evaluate the information or the skills you have acquired. Once you gain an understanding of questioning techniques you will be on the way to improving your school performance.

Finally, the planning form at the end of the guide will help to ensure that you produce excellent work at all times.



Hawker Brownlow Education  
P.O. Box 580, Moorabbin Vic 3189  
Website: <http://www.hbe.com.au>  
Email: [orders@hbe.com.au](mailto:orders@hbe.com.au)  
ISBN: 1 74101 044 6 Code: INA00294

Compiled by Alicia Cohen

© 2004 Hawker Brownlow Education  
Printed in Australia

ISBN 1 74101 044 6



9 781740 250443

## World Facts

### Highest Mountains

1. Everest	8848 m
2. K2	8610 m
3. Kanchenjunga	8579 m
4. Lhotse I	8516 m
5. Makalu I	8462 m

### Longest Rivers

1. Nile	6670 km
2. Amazon	6448 km
3. Chang (Yangtze)	6300 km
4. Mississippi	5971 km
5. Yenisen-Angara-Selenga	5540 km

### Largest Deserts

1. Sahara	9 065 000 km <sup>2</sup>
2. Gobi	1 295 000 km <sup>2</sup>
3. Patagonian	670 000 km <sup>2</sup>
4. Rub' al Khali	650 000 km <sup>2</sup>
5. Great Sandy	390 500 km <sup>2</sup>

### Largest Countries

1. Russian Federation	17 075 400 km <sup>2</sup>
2. Canada	9 976 140 km <sup>2</sup>
3. China	9 596 961 km <sup>2</sup>

### Smallest Countries

1. Vatican City	0.44 km <sup>2</sup>
2. Monaco	1.9 km <sup>2</sup>
3. Nauru	21 km <sup>2</sup>

### Most Densely Populated Countries

1. Macau	25 000 people/km <sup>2</sup>
2. Monaco	16 587 people/km <sup>2</sup>
3. Hong Kong	5 171 people/km <sup>2</sup>

### Most Sparsely Populated Countries

1. Mongolia	1.6 people/km <sup>2</sup>
2. Namibia	2 people/km <sup>2</sup>
3. Mauritania	2.2 people/km <sup>2</sup>

### Highest GNP per Capita

1. Luxembourg	US\$45 100
2. Liechtenstein	US\$40 000
3. Japan	US\$38 160
4. Norway	US\$36 100
5. Denmark	US\$34 890

### Lowest GNP per Capita

1. Somalia	US\$100
2. Ethiopia and Congo (Zaire)	US\$110
3. Burundi and Mozambique	US\$140
4. Sierra Leone	US\$160
5. Niger and Paraguay	US\$200

### Languages Spoken

1. Mandarin	1075 million speakers
2. English	514 million speakers
3. Hindustani	496 million speakers

### Highest Annual Deforestation

1. Brazil	50 000 km <sup>2</sup>
2. Indonesia	12 000 km <sup>2</sup>
3. Burma	8000 km <sup>2</sup>
4. Mexico	7000 km <sup>2</sup>
5. Colombia	6500 km <sup>2</sup>

### Identified Species

1. Invertebrates	1 021 000
2. Plants	322 500
3. Reptiles and amphibians	12 000
4. Micro-organisms	5800
5. Mammals	4000

### Endangered Species

1. Invertebrates	763
2. Mammals	484
3. Birds	403
4. Fish	291
5. Reptiles	100
6. Amphibians	49

## Bloom's Chart

Bloom's taxonomy is a system of defining different levels of thinking. There are six levels (shown below) and they are arranged in an increasing order of difficulty. Most teachers study this taxonomy and try to create questions, tests and projects that encourage you to think at different levels about the material you are learning. For example, a test question that requires a simple factual answer shows that you have *knowledge* about the subject, but answering an essay question requires that you comprehend the facts, apply the information, *analyse* the subject matter, present it in a new way (*synthesise*) and often make your opinion or *evaluation* of it.

Knowing about the different levels of thinking can help you perform well on essays, tests and homework. Often assessments will improve if you include something in your answer, essay or project that shows you have analysed, synthesised or evaluated the subject matter. Studying the definitions and verbs below will help you apply these thinking levels to your own study habits. The sample tasks will help you think of projects and essay topics that show greater understanding of the subject matter.

LEVELS	VERBS	SAMPLE TASKS
<b>Knowledge</b> Learn terms, facts, methods, procedures, concepts	fill in indicate locate outline pick quote	recall repeat select trace describe
<b>Comprehension</b> Understand uses and implications of terms, facts, methods, procedures, concepts	account for conclude describe define extend explain	generalise illustrate paraphrase simplify summarise
<b>Application</b> Practise theory, solve problems, use information in new situations	apply construct interview investigate make predict	organise put into action restructure track utilise
<b>Analysis</b> Analyse structure, recognise assumptions and poor logic, evaluate relevancy	analyse categorise detect differentiate examine survey	infer inspect search subdivide uncover
<b>Synthesis</b> Write themes, present speeches, plan experiments, put information together in a new and creative way	build combine develop form originate devise	perform prescribe revise suppose synthesise
<b>Evaluation</b> Set standards, judge with purpose, accept or reject on the basis of criteria	consider critique determine discriminate distinguish recommend	rate standardise relate test validate