

BIG IDEAS

The intentional destruction of peoples and their cultures is not inevitable, and attempts can be disrupted and resisted.

The use of the term “genocide” to describe atrocities has political, legal, social, and cultural ramifications.

Despite international commitments to prohibit genocide, violence targeted against groups of people or minorities has continued to challenge global peace and prosperity.

While genocides are caused by and carried out for different reasons, all genocides share similarities in progression and scope.

Learning Standards

Curricular Competencies	Content
<p><i>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions • Assess the significance of people, locations, events, or developments, and compare varying perspectives on their significance at particular times and places, and from group to group (significance) • Assess the credibility of and justification for evidence after investigating the reliability of sources and data, the adequacy of evidence, and the bias of accounts and claims (evidence) • Compare and contrast continuities and changes for different groups, at different times and places (continuity and change) • Assess how prevailing conditions and the actions of individuals or groups influence events, places, decisions, or developments (cause and consequence) • Explain and infer different perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, or events by considering prevailing norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs (perspective) • Recognize implicit and explicit ethical judgments in a variety of sources (ethical judgment) • Make reasoned ethical judgments about actions and assess varying responses to events in the past or present (ethical judgment) 	<p><i>Students are expected to know the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • origins and development of the term “genocide” • economic, political, social, and cultural conditions of genocide • characteristics and stages of genocide • acts of mass violence and atrocities in different global regions • strategies used to commit genocide • uses of technology in promoting and carrying out genocide • recognition of and responses to genocides • movements that deny the existence of or minimize the scope of genocides • evidence used to demonstrate the scale and nature of genocides • international law and enforcement

Content – Elaborations

economic, political, social, and cultural conditions of genocide:*Sample topics:*

- perpetrators: regimes and leaders
- demographics: vulnerable minorities
- heroes, bystanders, perpetrators

characteristics and stages of genocide:*Sample topics:*

- eight stages of genocide
 - classification
 - symbolization
 - dehumanization
 - organization
 - polarization
 - preparation
 - extermination
 - denial

acts of mass violence and atrocities in different global regions:*Sample topics:*

- case studies about:
 - indigenous peoples and cultures
 - Beothuk extinction
 - Armenian genocide
 - anti-Semitic pogroms
 - Soviet Union and Ukraine (Holodomor famine)
 - Japanese occupation of Korea and China
 - the Holocaust
 - Khmer Rouge in Cambodia
 - Rwanda
 - Sudan
 - Guatemala
 - Yugoslavia

Content – Elaborations**strategies used to commit genocide:***Sample topics:*

- rape
- stereotyping and propaganda
- social pressure
- dehumanization
- organized violence
- polarization
- denial of rights
- starvation
- extermination

recognition of and responses to genocides:*Sample topics:*

- recognition, responses, apologies, reparations, redress, reconciliation, memorialization
- human rights tribunals
- war crime trials
- international intervention
- memorials and museums

movements that deny the existence of or minimize the scope of genocides:*Sample topics:*

- reasons why people deny the existence of genocides
- methods used to cast doubt on evidence for genocides

evidence used to demonstrate the scale and nature of genocides:*Sample topics:*

- forensics and testimonies
- mass graves and human remains
- survival stories