

Web Enhanced Study Guide for Social Studies and for Kids

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Archaeology or **archeology** ([American English](#)) is the study of human [cultures](#) through the recovery, documentation and analysis of material remains, including [architecture](#), [artefacts](#), [biofacts](#), human remains, and [landscapes](#). The goal of archaeology is to shed light on long-term human prehistory, [history](#), [behaviour](#) and [cultural evolution](#). It is the only discipline which possesses the method and theory for the collection and interpretation of information about the pre-written human past, and can also make a critical contribution to our understanding of documented societies. Other subfields of [anthropology](#) supplement the findings of archaeology, especially [cultural anthropology](#) (which studies behavioural, symbolic, as well as material dimensions of culture) and [physical anthropology](#) (which includes the study of human evolution and osteology). Other disciplines also supplement archaeology, such as [paleontology](#) (the study of prehistoric life), including [paleozoology](#) and [paleobotany](#), [geography](#), [geology](#), [history](#), [art history](#), and [classics](#).

Economics is the social science studying how society uses its limited resources to meet desires and wants. Put otherwise, economics studies what, how and for whom society produces. This involves analyzing the [production](#), [distribution](#) and [consumption](#) of [goods](#) and [services](#). Economics begins with the premise that resources are scarce and that it is necessary to choose between competing alternatives. That is, economics deals with [tradeoffs](#). With scarcity, choosing one alternative implies forgoing another alternative -- the [opportunity cost](#). The opportunity cost creates an implicit price relationship between competing alternatives. In addition, in both market oriented and planned economies, scarcity is often explicitly quantified by [price](#) relationships. Economics is said to be [positive](#) when it attempts to explain the consequences of different choices given a set of [assumptions](#) and [normative](#) when it prescribes a certain route of action.

Geography: is the scientific study of the locational and spatial variation in both physical and human phenomena on [Earth](#). The word derives from the [Greek](#) words *gê* ("the Earth") and *graphein* ("to write," as in "to describe"). *Geography* is also the title of various historical books on this subject, notably the *Geographia* by [Klaudios Ptolemaios](#) ([2nd century](#)). Geography is much more than [cartography](#), the study of [maps](#). It not only investigates what is where on the Earth, but also why it's there and not somewhere else, sometimes referred to as "location in space." It studies this whether the cause is natural or human. It also studies the consequences of those differences.

History: is often used as a generic term for [information](#) about the [past](#), such as in "geologic history of the Earth". When used as the name of a field of study, *history* refers to the study and interpretation of the record of human societies. The term *history* comes from the Greek *historia*, "an account of one's inquiries", and shares that [etymology](#) with the English word **story**. Historians use many types of sources, including written or printed records, interviews ([oral history](#)), and [archaeology](#). Different approaches may be

more common in some periods than others, and the study of history has its fads and fashions (see [historiography](#)). The events that occurred prior to human records are known as [prehistory](#). [Knowledge](#) of history is said to be knowledge of past events and [historical thinking](#) skills.

The WWW resource for this WESG is [Wikipedia](#).
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