

# Social Studies Prefixes and Suffixes

Word parts that help students unlock meaning in social studies vocabulary.

## Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning/Use	Example Words & Meanings
<b>demo-</b>	people	<b>democracy</b> : government by the people; <b>demographic</b> : about a population
<b>geo-</b>	earth or place	<b>geography</b> : study of places; <b>geopolitical</b> : tied to location and power
<b>chrono-</b>	time	<b>chronology</b> : order of events; <b>chronicle</b> : historical record
<b>poly-</b>	many	<b>polytheism</b> : belief in many gods; <b>polycentric</b> : having many centers
<b>mono-</b>	one	<b>monotheism</b> : belief in one god; <b>monopoly</b> : one seller dominates a market
<b>inter-</b>	between	<b>international</b> : between nations; <b>interstate</b> : between states
<b>intra-</b>	within	<b>intrastate</b> : within one state; <b>intra-regional</b> : within one region
<b>trans-</b>	across	<b>transatlantic</b> : across the Atlantic; <b>transnational</b> : across nations
<b>sub-</b>	under or smaller	<b>subcommittee</b> : smaller committee; <b>subculture</b> : culture within a larger culture
<b>supra-</b>	above or beyond	<b>supranational</b> : beyond one nation; <b>supreme</b> : highest authority
<b>anti-</b>	against	<b>antiwar</b> : against war; <b>anti-imperialism</b> : opposition to empire-building
<b>pro-</b>	for or in favor of	<b>pro-democracy</b> : favoring democracy; <b>pro-labor</b> : favoring workers
<b>neo-</b>	new or revived	<b>Neolithic</b> : New Stone Age; <b>neoliberal</b> : renewed free-market ideology
<b>auto-</b>	self	<b>autonomy</b> : self-rule; <b>autocracy</b> : rule by one person

## Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning/Use	Example Words & Meanings
<b>-cracy</b>	rule or government	<b>democracy</b> : rule by the people; <b>bureaucracy</b> : rule through offices and agencies
<b>-archy</b>	rule or leadership	<b>monarchy</b> : rule by one ruler; <b>oligarchy</b> : rule by a few
<b>-ism</b>	belief or system	<b>capitalism</b> : economic system; <b>federalism</b> : shared governing power
<b>-ist</b>	person who supports or practices	<b>abolitionist</b> : opponent of slavery; <b>socialist</b> : supporter of socialism
<b>-ization</b>	process of becoming	<b>industrialization</b> : growth of industry; <b>urbanization</b> : growth of cities
<b>-tion/-sion</b>	action, process, or result	<b>revolution</b> : major change; <b>expansion</b> : growth outward
<b>-ment</b>	action, state, or institution	<b>government</b> : governing institution; <b>settlement</b> : community or act of settling
<b>-ship</b>	status or role	<b>citizenship</b> : status of being a citizen; <b>leadership</b> : role of leading
<b>-ity</b>	state or quality	<b>sovereignty</b> : independent authority; <b>equality</b> : state of being equal
<b>-age</b>	condition or collective idea	<b>suffrage</b> : right to vote; <b>patronage</b> : support or favors from a patron
<b>-al</b>	relating to	<b>federal</b> : relating to a federation; <b>cultural</b> : relating to culture
<b>-ic</b>	relating to	<b>civic</b> : relating to citizens; <b>economic</b> : relating to the economy
<b>-ian</b>	person, place, or era connection	<b>historian</b> : person who studies history; <b>Victorian</b> : from Queen Victoria's era
<b>-ize</b>	to make or cause	<b>colonize</b> : establish a colony; <b>modernize</b> : make modern