

# Tahakopa School Social Sciences Statement

“Never doubt you can change history, you already have.”  
(Marge Piercy)

The New Zealand Curriculum	What is important to us			
<p><b>What are the social sciences about?</b> The social sciences learning area is about how societies work and how people can participate as critical, active, informed, and responsible citizens. Contexts are drawn from the past, present and future and from places within and beyond New Zealand.</p> <p><b>Why study the social sciences?</b> Through the social sciences, students develop the knowledge and skills to enable them to: better understand, participate in, and contribute to the local, national, and global communities in which they live and work; engage critically with societal issues; and evaluate the sustainability of alternative social, economic, political, and environmental practices.</p> <p><b>How is the learning area structured?</b> Achievement objectives for social studies at levels 1-5 integrate concepts from one or more of four conceptual strands:</p> <p><b>Identity, Culture and Organisation</b> - students learn about society and communities and how they function. They also learn about the diverse cultures and identities of people within those communities and about the effects of these on the participation of groups and individuals.</p> <p><b>Place and Environment</b> - Students learn about how people perceive, represent, interpret, and interact with places and environments. They come to understand the relationships that exist between people and the environment.</p> <p><b>Continuity and Change</b> - Students learn about past events, experiences, and actions and the changing ways in which these have been interpreted over time. This helps them to understand the past and the present and to imagine possible futures.</p> <p><b>The Economic World</b> - Students learn about the ways in which people participate in economic activities and about the consumption, production, and distribution of goods and services. They develop an understanding of their role in the economy and of how economic decisions affect individuals and communities.</p>	<p><b>Identity, Culture and Organisation</b></p> <p>Students will understand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Societies and communities have diverse cultures and groups.</li> <li>• Other countries and cultures exist outside New Zealand.</li> <li>• People have roles, rights and responsibilities in communities.</li> <li>• The identities of New Zealanders are influenced by global interaction.</li> <li>• Interaction of people and cultures can have an effect on the characteristics of communities.</li> <li>• Communities are always changing</li> <li>• Different cultures and societies have different ideas and practices relating to sustainability.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Place and Environment</b></p> <p>Students will understand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships exist between people, places and environment.</li> <li>• There is a global relationship between people, places and environment.</li> <li>• Different cultures have specific relationships with and impact on the environment.</li> <li>• The impact of people may lead to change in the world</li> <li>• World events have an impact on us, which may or may not promote change.</li> <li>• Decisions and actions impact on resources and sustainability.</li> <li>• People need to be aware that their choices impact on the people and the environment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Continuity and Change</b></p> <p>Students will understand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The links between the past, present and future reflect the interactions of people.</li> <li>• Change, over time, has an impact on people.</li> <li>• Decisions made impact on sustainability</li> <li>• Decisions and actions impact on resources and sustainability</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Economic World</b></p> <p>Students will understand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People's interactions or decisions within the economic world effect the community</li> <li>• Production and distribution of goods and services are responses to demand.</li> <li>• Economic roles and decisions change over time.</li> <li>• People need to be aware that their choices impact on the environment</li> <li>• Economic choices are not always based on sustainable options</li> <li>• Decisions made impact sustainability</li> </ul>

