**What is Social Studies**

**Social Studies**: is the study of systems and cultures. It includes the subjects and disciplines of history, geography, economics, government, culture and society.

**History**: is the study and interpretation of the human story since the invention of writing. The study of history is, in its essence, the study of change. More than knowing “what happened”, you need to understand the factors behind societal changes and the nature of those changes.

**Geography**: is the study of the physical and cultural features of an area, as well as the distribution of people and resources.

**Economics**: is the study of the production, distribution, consumption and trade of goods and services.

**Government**: deals with the method by which humans create order, stability, and justice. In ancient times, this method often took the form of anarchy, tyranny, monarchy, oligarchy, and democracy.

**Culture**: encompasses the shared attitudes, beliefs, customs, traditions, art and achievement of a group of people that are passed on from one generation to the next.

**Society**: is a group or groups of people who form an association for their mutual benefit and protection. A society may include many different cultures (The United States). When we speak of societies, we may often refer to them as civilizations that have certain characteristics:

a.) A stable food supply leading to a surplus.
b.) Specialized Labor
c.) A system of government
d.) Social levels (a hierarchy)
e.) A highly developed culture including art, architecture, religion, music, laws, and some level of scientific inquiry.
f.) An expansion of territory