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## ABSTRACT

This report provides the technical results of the 1971-72 national assessment of social studies. The results are sumarized across assessment exercises for the sample. Exhibits' include comparison of age for the learning area, of each of the National Assessaent's reporting groups with the national level of . performance, of the various groups within an age, and of performance on subsets of social studies exercises. The repoŕting population and subpopulations are categorized according to age, region of the country, sex, race, level of parental education, and type of comanity. For most of the exhibits, the exercises are divided into the three broad thenes of skills, knowiedges, and attitudes. Chapters present sumary comparison data/for exercises related to (1) the skills of obtaining and interpreting inforaation; (2) the knowledge areas of econonics, geography, history, and political science; and (3) attitudes about First Amendment rights. Sumary comparison data are provided for the overlap exercises of the three basic thenes--skills, knowledge, and attitudes. The last chapter includes a copl of the five major social studies objectives and sumaries of group results for each objective. Appendix A presents a cross-ieference list.for all exercises fron theme to objective. (Author/DE)

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SOCIAL STUDIES TECHNICAL REPORT:
Summary Volume

Social Studies Report No. 03-SS-2l

November 1975


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NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PRCGRESS

## ROY H. Forbes <br> Director

George H. Johnson.
Associate Director

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## FOREWORD

The National Assessment of हducatıonal Progress (NAEP) is an information-gathering project that surveys the' educational attainments of 9-year-olds, 13-year-olds, 17-year-olds and adults (ages 26-35) in 10 learning areas: art, career and occupational development, citizenship, literature, mathematics, music, reading, sociál studies, science and writing. Different learning areas are assessed every year, and all areas are periodically reassessed in order to measure educational change.

Each assessment is the product of several years work by a great many educators, scholars and lay persons from across the country. Inftially, these people design objectives for each area, proposing specific goals that they feel Americans should be achieving in the course of their education. After careful reviews, the objectives are given to exercise (i-tem) writers, whose task it is to ereate measurement tools appropriate to the objectives.

When the exercises have passed extensive reviews by subjectmatter specialists and measurement experts, they are administered to probability samples from various age levels. The people who compose these samples are chosen in such a way that the results of their assessment can be generalized to an entire national population. That is, on the basis of the performance of about 2,500 9 -year-olds on a given exerçise, we can generalize about the probable performance of all 9-year-olds in the nation.

National Assessment also publishes a,general information yearbook that describes all major aspects of the Assessment!s operation. The reader who desires more detailed information about how NAEP designs the sample; defines reporting groups, prepares and scores the exercises and analyzes and reports the results should consult the General Information Yearbook, Report 03/04-GIY.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many people have made substantial contributions to the social studies assessment, from the begin: ing of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 1964 to completion of this tedhnical report. Unfortunately, it is not possible to acknowledge them all here, and an apology is due to those whose names have been omitted.

The original preparation of the objectives and exercises in the area of social studies was handled by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Additionalexercises in the attitudinal domain were developed by the American Institute for Research- (AIR). These materials were reviewed by dozens of consultants, inclyding social scientists,«social science educators and interested lay persons.

The administration of the social studies assessment was conducted by the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and the Measurement Research Center (MRC). Scorin'g and processíng were carried out by MRC and by the NAEP staff. Louise Diana of MRC provided assistance in developing and refining categories used to score the exercises.

Special mention must be made mof Milan Marich, University of * Michigan, for his consultation throughout all phases of the assessment. His suggestions and reactions regarding exercises, scoring procedures and analyses schemes were greatly appreciated.

The implementation of the soçial studies assessment was a collaborat:ive effort of the National Assessment staff. Special thanks must. be given to the following people and departments. Richard Hulsart, Exercise Development Department, wàs involved in all phases of the assessment and had major responsibility for monitoring the developmental stages.. Ina Mullis, Research and Analysis Department, planned and'supervised the technical analysis of the social studies data and wrote and compiled this report. Special assistance throughout the assessment was provided by Susan Sullivan, and programming support was provided by William Ankeny, both of the Data Processing Department. Thanks are also given to Robert Crane, Writer, and Marci Reser and Eileen Wollam, Production Assistants, Ưtilization/Applications Department., Janet' Bailey, Research and Analysis Department, programmed the graphìcs for this report.

Special thanks must also go to J. Stanley Ahmann, who directed the NAEP program throughout the period in which this information was gathered and reported.


## CHAPTER 1

## THE SOCIAL S.TUDIES ASSESŚNLENT

 the objectives of social studies education. It was generally recognized that the domain of the social studies is almost limitless. Recognizing that it would be difficult to identify objectives that would be unanimously accepted, the committee decided to define the objectives. in terms of what was taught in the schools. After extensive review a set of objectivés was accepted, and exercise development began in i966. Throughout the next years many exercise-review 'conferences were held and; in the fall of 1970, all of the social studies exercises were reviewed by the U.S. Office of Education. Social studies was assessed together with music. The exercises were packaged and printed, and the administration took place during 1971-72. After,'the administration, ail open-ended exercises were scored by trained personnel. . Exercise-by-exercise results and summary data were then computed by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) staff.National Assessment has made these data available -in various reports. A general discussion of the social studies results can be found in The First Social Studig' Assessment: An Overview, Report 03-SS-00. . For those interested in the specific text and results for the exercises summarized, detailed exercise-by-exerci/se documentation is provided in the Social Studies Technicar Report: Exércise Volume, Report $03-S S-20$. Data is included for all exer: cises, but the exact exercise text is provided for only the released exercises. Some exercise texts are unreleased at this time because National Assessment will administer these same exercises again in five years to determine whether the performance level of Americans has improved or declined.

Focused reports are Political Knowledge and $\backslash$ tttitudes, Report 0 $\dot{3}_{-S S-01 ~ a n d ~ C o n t e m p o r a r y ~ S o c i a l . ~ I s s u e s, ~ R e p o n t ~ 03-S S-02 ~}^{\text {S }}$ In addition, National Assessment has produced computer data tapes., which contain the response data gathered in the social istudies assessment. State and local educators who want to use National As'sessment exercises in their own assessment programs, as well as others interested in more information, should find these additional reports and documentation useful.

Purpose of the Technical Summary
The purpose of this report is to document the results of the 1971-72 assessment of social studies: The datia in this..volume are not presented exercise by exercise. Results are summarized across exercises for groups of people. Exhibits include age comparisons for the learning area, comparisons of each of National Assessment's reporting groups with the Kational level of performance, comparif sons of the various groups within an age and comparisons of per-
: formance on subsets of social studies exercises. An effort was made to summarize the data in ways that provide useful and interesting comparisons. The data can be used to identify the strengths and weaknesses of various groups of people. For example, this - volume presents data comparing male-female performance across four age levels on social studies knowledge and attitudes. Performance of inner-city children is given for each objective measured, and results comparing regions of, the country with national performance are also included. Sometimes patterns emerge. that \&an form the basis for judgments and decisions about the direction of social studies education.

A description of National Assessment's sample design and the groups of people for which results have been summarized is presented later in this chapter. An explanation of how various types of exercises have been clustered follows.

How the Exercises are Classified
As mentioned above, the data jncluded in this volume summarize results for certain subsets of clusters of exercises. National Assessment has worked closely with subject-matter specialists in making these, decisions. The soćial studies` exercises have been clustered in two different ways, by themes and by objectives. For most of the exhibits in this report, the exercises have been divided into three broad themes -- skills, knowledges and attitudes. An outline of the types of exercises thate were classified into these themes follows.
I. Skills
A. Obtaining information

Is Raises questions and seeks answers related to à variety of issues
2. Identifies sources most suitable to solve a particu lar problem or find particular information
3. Uses standard reference sources and aids to locate information
2. Interpprets graphs and maps effectively
3. Uses a variety of nontraditional sources of information
II. Knowledges
A. Economics

1. Understands some of the basic characteristics of economic systems that are common to all industrial societies
B. Geography
2. Has knowledge of worldwide spatial distribution and interrelationship of the major features of man's physical and cultural environment
C. . History
3. Understands some of the major developments in U.S. history
4. Understands some of the major developments in world history
D. Political science
5. Knows some of the indiviđuals and groups responsible for making government decisions
6. Understands some of the rights and responsibilities granted in the Constitution
7. Knows something about the flection process, and the role of political. parties
8. Understands some of the processes involved in political socialization
III. Attitudes
. A. Rights of the First Amendment
9. Believes in the freedoms of the First Amendment and can justify that belief
B. The worth of the individual
10. Believes people should becomerinvolved in making decisions that affect their lives
$2 \therefore$ Has a sense of responsibility for the interest of others
11. Respects the views and feelings of all people
12. Believes in the rule of law and can justify that belief

Chapter 2 presents summary data for the exercises classified in the skills theme, Chapter 3 presents data for exercises classified in the knowledge theme and Chapter 4 presents data for exercises classified in the attitudes theme. Chapter 5 summarizes across themes.

Chapter 6 includes a copy of the five mãjor social studiés objéctives and summaries of group results for each objective. Appendix A presents a cross-reference list for all exercises from theme to objective.

The exercises were given to a national probability sample of 9-year-olds, 13-year-olds, l7-year-olds (including high school dropouts and early graduates) and young adults between the ages of 26 and $35 .^{-1}$ Within the four age. levels, National Assessment can report data about a limited number of subpopulations. Although the same included respondents from all 50 sfates and the District of Columbia, it was not of sufficient size to enable: comparisons of the data between states, school districts, schools. teachers, etc.

The sample design employed. by National Assessment was stratified by geographic region, state, size of communjty and socioeconomic level. the sample was drawn at three stages. The firststage sampling units consisted of counties or groups of contiguous counties and was constructed using U.S. Census data on the numbers of persons living in those counties.

* For the in-school assessment, a stratified random sample of primary sampling units (PSUs) was drawn. Lists, were made of the schools in each selected unit. At the second stage, a sample of schools was selected within each PSU. Finally, within each selected school NAEP drew a random samplé of students, and assigned those students to assessment booklets. Of course, all student listings were destroyed to protect the anenymity of the respondents. National Assessment has no records of the names of the students who took the booklets. The out-of-school sample design was similar to the in-school design. First, primary sampling units were drawn. Then, within each PSU a sample of small-area segments was obtained. Specially trained administrators located assessment participants within the area segments by visiting each housing unit and determining if any individuals of the appropriate age lived.tinere. of the eligible, individuals, $84 \%$ participated in the social studies assessment.

About 90,000 respondents were sampled in the 1971-72 assessment. However, not all respondents took all exercises. For example, 25,500 13-year-olds participated in the social studies
${ }^{1}$ An overview of ${ }^{*}$ the National' Assessment sampling design for Years $03^{\circ}$ and 04 is provided in Chapter 2 of the General Information Yearbook, Report 03/04-GIY (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1974). For more detailed documentation, see J.R. Chromy et al., The National Assessment Approach to Sampling (Denver, Colb:: Education Commission of the States, 1974). For an introductory treatment aimed at state and local assessment problems, see R.M. Jaeger, A Primer on Sampling for Statewide Assessment (Pirinceton, N. J.: Educational Testing Service, Center for Statewide Educational Assessment, 1973).
assessment. Bet'ween 2,200-2,700 13-year-oilds responded to each booklet of exercises.'

Reporting Populations and Subpopulations
In addition to national results for 9-year-olds, 13-yearolds; 17-year-olds and young adults, National Assessment provides data about various groups of people. The variables used for this analysis are region of the country, sex, race, level of parental education and size and type of community. They are defined as follows.

## Region

The country has been divịded into four regions -- Northeast (NE), Southeast (SE), Central (C) and West (W) -- in order to present results for various regions relative to the national results.

Results are presented for males (M) and for females (F).

Race
Results are presented for whites (W) and blacks (B).

Parêntal Education
The four parental-education categories are defined. by the highe'st level of education at trained by either of a person's parents, The no-high-school (NHS) category is comprised of all people who indicated that neither parent went to high school. The some-high-school (SHS) category consists of all those who indicated that the parent with the, most education attended high school but did not graduate. In the graduated-from-high-school -(GHS) category are all those who indicated that at least one parent graduated from high school, and in the post-high-school (PHS) group are all those who indicated that at least one parent received some education past high school (college, vccational training or " adult education courses).

Size and Type of Community (STOC)
The groups within this variable are defined by the size of a person's community and an occupational profile of the area his or her school sérves.

Extreme rural (ER): People in this group attend schools in . a community having a population less than aboút $\gamma, 000$. Mos't residents in the area the school serves are farmers or farm workers.
. Low metro (LM). Individuals in this group attend schools within the city limits or residential area served by a city with a population greater than 150,000 ; the schools serve areas in which a high proportion of the residents are on welfare or not regularly employed.

High metro (HM). Individuals in this group attend scholols within the city limits or residential area served by a city with a population greater than 150,000 ; the area served by the school consists primarily of residents who. are professional or managerial personnel.

Urban fringe (UF). People in this group attend schools in the metropolitan area served by a city with more than 200,000
inhabitants; the school and the area it serves are outside of the city $\ddagger$ imits and are not included in either the low-metro or highmetro group.

Main big city (MBC). These, are students attending schools. in a big city (population greater than 200,000 ) who are not included in either the low-metro or high-metro groups.

Medium city (MC). Individuals in this group are those who attend schools in cities with populations between 25,000 and , 200,000 that are not in high- or low-metro groups.

Small plases (SP). People in this group attend schools in a community of $l \in s s$ than 25,000 inhabitants, which are not included.: in the extreme-rural group.

## Dàta Analysi $\vec{s}$

National Assessment weighted the data in accordance with the sample design and estimated the percentages of individuals in the population who possessed various knowledges, understandings, skills and attitudes.

To do so, NAEP has developed two baseline measures.

1. P-Value. An estimate of the percentage of persons in each of the populations who gave a certain response to a specific exercise. For example, the estimated percentage of 9 -year-olds who answered a given exercise acceptably is defined as the sum of the weighted number of acceptable responses divided by the sum of the weighted number of responses for all 9-year-olds. Percentages for each reporting group were computed in the same manner using only the weighted responses for the people in that group.
2. $\triangle P$-Value. An estimate of the differences between the performance of a subpopulation and the performance of the total age population. A $\Delta p$-value is the difference between the estimated percentage of a group (for example, the Western region) that provided a particular response to an exercise and the corresponding national percentage:
```
Western \(q^{c}\) - National \(\dot{z}=\) Western \(\Delta \mathrm{p}\)-Value.
```

If, on a given exercise, a group's percentage is lower than the national percentage, the difference between the two percentages is expressed as a negative number; if a group's percentage of success is higher than the national percentage, the group's difference in performance is a
positive number. For example, iff on a given exercise 74\% of the l3-year-olds in the West gave an-acceptable response, but only $68 \%$ of the national sample did so, then the West $\Delta p$-value for $13-y /$ ear-olds would be +6 percentage points.

National Àssessment used both of these measures for summary analysis.. *


By looking at an exhibit of p-values (see above), the range of percentages for the nation and each reporting group for a given set of exercises can be studied and compared. Each black square represents one exercise or exercise part.. Each distributioñof exercise results is also accompanied by the following information.

1. Median P-Value ( $\rightarrow$ ), When the p-values for a set of exercises have been rank ordered, middle p-value. For an odd number of $p$-values, the median $=\frac{N+1}{2}$ th $p$-value.

For an even number of $p$-values, the median $=\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{N}{2}\right.$ th $p-$ value $+\left(\frac{N}{2}+l\right)$ th $p$-value $)^{\cdot}$.
2. Hinge $P$-VaZue (N). Similar to quartile. Divide the rank-ordered p-values into two sets at the median (for an odd number of $p$-values, the median $p$-value is a member of both sets). The upper and lower hinges are the - mediants of those sets.

For a given. set of exercises, a group's achievement relative to national level of achievement can also be summarized using differences from national percentages of success. One table of median $\Delta \mathrm{p}$-values, is included in Chapter 5 of this report. $\therefore$ A definition follows.

Median $\Delta P$-value. When the $\Delta p$-values have been rank ordered from positive" to negative values, the middle $\Delta p$-value. For example: If on a set of 5 exercises the percentages of syccess for all 9 -year-olds were $90 \%, 40 \%, 82 \% / 75 \%$ and $60 \%$, and the percentages of success for a
/ particular group -- Northeast .9-year-olds, for instance -- on these same exercises were, respectively, $95 \%, 44 \%, 85 \%, 77 \%$ and $61 \%$, then the group's differences would be $+5 \%$, $+4 \%,+3 \%,+2 \%$ and $+1 \%$. The group's median difference from a national performance level -that figure above and below which $50 \%$ of its exercise differences lie -- would be +3\%. If more than 12 exercises are summarized the median difference provides a staple indicator of a gromptor typical performance over the set of exedises.

All exhibits in this report are accompanièd by information that tells the number of observations ( $p$-values or $\Delta p$-values) that were used in the analyses. Each single-part exercise contributed one p-value (one observation or black box) to the summary andyses. For some multipart exercises, subject-matter-specialists and educators decided that respondents must. have all parts acceptable in order to achíeve ar acceptable performance level on an exércise. Other multipart exercises were analyzed as if each part was a separảte exercise.

## Limitations of the Data

Clearly, neither thi's booklet, nor future Assessment reports, will answer all the questions people have about the effectiveness of social studies education. However, data is provided about
specific groups of exercises, and these data can be used to make generalizations about the results of social studies education.

Interpretation of the data is a diffiault process. The results may prove encouraging from one perspective, discouraging from another. Much of the data may only confirm what the readers might already suspect, but documentation itself is a positive and important step. Each reader will have to assimilate the data to draw his own conclusions. It is our hope that this assessment will raise and encourage questions; promote widespread discussion, serve as a stimulus for further research and help, raise the quality of social studies education in America.

## CHAPTER 2

SKILLS THEME

The exercises summarized in this chapter attempted to meàsure skills related to obtaining and interpreting information. For example, exercises required respondents (1) to use a card catalogue, (2) to select the correct source of information to learn about news during the last 24 hours or the early settlement of their state, (3) to read tables, maps and graphs and (4) to distinguish fact statements from opinions.

The first summary graphs in this chapter, pages 13-16, depict the range of percentages for the nation and each group for the exercises clustered in the skills theme. Median p-values are designated with an $\rightarrow$ and hinge p-values with a $\quad$. The first exhibit shows percentages for the various reporting groups of 9-year-olds; the second exhibit shows percentages for 13-year--olds; the third, for l7-year-olds; and the fourth, for young adults.

For example, on page 13 it càn be seen that 9-year-old-percentages for the nation as a whole range from $36 \%$ to $96 \%$. Their median percentage is $74 \%$. The range of the middle $50 \%$ of the exercises is between the lower hinge of $61 \%$ and the upper hinge of $80 \%$. "A group's typical performance is indicated by its median percentage and the ralnge of the middle $50 \%$ of its exercise percentages. sSo it can be seen that the Northeast typically performed somewhat above the nation on these exercises. Their median percentage is $79 \%$, and the range of the middle $50 \%$ of their exercises is between $7.0 \%$ and $85 \%$.

To determine the content of specific exercises, readers can cross reference with The First Social Studies Assessment: An Overview, Report 03-SS-00 and the Social Studies Technical Report: Exercise Volume, Report 0.3-SS-20. For example, by looking on page 12 of The First Social Studies Assessment: An Overview it can be seen that the $36 \%$ exercise for the national sample of 9 -year-olds dealt with translating information found in a table of contents. The exact text of this exercise is located in the Social Studies Technica\} Report: Exercise Volume.

When interpreting the group data in these exhibits, all the variables influeincing the educational procdss mast be considered. Within the limitations due to measurement and sampling error; the
data accurately describe the educational achievements of the groups designated in our sample. However, when the data show that a group's overall level of achlevement is either above or below the national level, we cannot say that any difference in achieve-. ment between that group and the nation as a whole is attributable. solely to membership in that group:


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## 'Overlap Exerci'ses

The preceding exhibits enabled comparisons between groups within an age. However, all four age levels were not asked to respond to all the exercises. In some cases an exertise was administered at only one age, for example, 9-year-olds. Others were given at two or more age levels and are called overlaps.

Cross-age analyses can be made by comparing the national and group percentages of exercises taken at more than one age level. In the social studies assessment, 9 -year-old exercises differed considerably from exercises given at the older ages. We can. compare the performance of l3-year-olds, li-year-olds and young adults, since 36 of the same exercises were given to these thrée age levels.

Pages 19-24 contain summary graphs depicting cross-age comparisons for the social studies.exercises in.the skills theme. There is an exhibit for each reporting category comparing the three ages for the reporting groups in that category. The first displays regional comparisons; the second, male and female comparisons; the third, black and white comparisons; the fourth, parental-education comparisons; and the fifth and sixth, comparisons, by, size and type of community. Each exhibit also includes national percentages for the three age levels as a point of reflrence.

The range of percentages, for each age level is represented by the dotted vertical lines (see the following graph). Median p-. values are noted below the graph for each age, as well as connected by a solid line on the graph. It can be seen that the median-percentage on the skills exercises was $70 \%$ for 13-yearolds and $80 \%$ for l7-year-olds, an increase of $10 \%$. The median percentage for adults decreased to $76 \%$. Upper and lower hinges are connected by dashes. For each age level, the distance between the dashed lines indicates the range of the middle $50 \%$ of the percentages for that age.


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## CHAPTER 3

## KNOWLEDGE THEME

The exercises summarized in this chapter attempted to measure knowledge about economics, geography, history and political science.' For' example, exercises required. respondents to (1) understand credit purchases, (2) know the location of major rivers,. (3) name three problems facing large cities; (4) know some relationships between man and his environment, (5) understand the role of the United Nations and (6) understand the s.tructure and know some functions of the three levels of government.

The first summary graphs in this chapter, pages 27-30, depict the range of percentages for the nation and each group. for the exercises clustered in the knowledge theme. Median p-values are designated., with an $\rightarrow$ and hinge p-values with a $\mathbf{M}^{\text {. }}$ The first exhibit shows percentages for the various reporting groups of $9-y e a r-o l d s ; ~ t h e ~ s e c o n d ~ e x h i b i t ~ s h o w s ~ p e r c e n t a g e s ~ f o r ~ 13-y e a r-~$ olds; the third, for 17-year-olds; and the fourth, for young adults.

For example, on page 27 it can be seen that 9 -year-old percentages for the nation as, a whole range from 0.8 to 97\%. Their median percentage is $58 \%$. The range of the middle $50 \%$ of the exercises is between the lower^hinge of $40 \%$ and the upper hinge of $79 \%$. A group's typical performance is indicated by its median percentage and the range of the middle $50 \%$ of its exercise percentages. So it can be seen that the Northeast typically perfor'med spmewhat above the nation on these exercises. Their median percentage is $62 \%$, and the range of the middle $50 \%$ of their exercises is between $44 \%$ and $83 \%$.

To determine the content of specific exercises, readers can cross reference with The First Social Studies Assessment: An Overview, Report 03-55-00 and the Social Studtes Technical Report: Exercise Volume, Report 03-SS-20. For example, by looking on page 132 of The First Social Studies Assessment: An Overview it can be segn that the $0 \%$ exercise for the national sample of 9 -year-olds dealt with naming two famous Oriental Americans., The exact text of this exercise is located in the Social Studies Technical Report: Exercise Volume.

Why variables influencing the educational process must be considered.

Within the limitations due to measurement and sampling error, the data accurately describe the educational achievements of the groups designated in our sample. However, when the data show that a group's overall level of achievement is either abdive or below the national level, we cannot say that any difference in achievement between that group and the nation as a whole is attributable. $\checkmark$ solely to membership in that group.



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## Overlap Exercises

The preceding exhibits enabled comparisons between groups within an age. However; all four age levels were not asked to respond to all the exercises. In some cases an exercise was administered at only one age, for example, 9-year-olds. Others were given at two or more age levels and are called overlaps.

Cross-age analyses can be made by comparing the national and group percentages of exercises taken at more than one age level. In the social stuđies assessment, 9-year-ald exercises differed considerably from exercises given at the older ages. We can compare the performance of l3-year-olds, l7-year-olds and, young adults, since 65 of the same exercises were given to these three age levels.

Pages 33-38 contain summary graphs depicting cross-age 'comparisons for the social studies exercises in the knowledge theme. There is an exhibit for each reporting category comparing the three ages for the reporting groups in that category. The first displays regionat comparisons; the second', male and female comparisons; the third, black, and white comparisons; the fourth, parental-education comparisons; and the fifth and sixth, comparisons by size and type of community. 'Each exhibit. also includes national percentages for the three age levels as a point of reference.

The range of percentages for each age level is represented by the dotted vertical lines (see the following graph). Median pvalues are poted below the graph for each age, as well as connected by a solid :line on the graph. It can be seen that the median percentage on the knowlddge exercises was $60 \%$ for 13 -year-olds and $72 \%$ for 17*year-olds, an increase of $12 \%$. The median, percentage for adults was aiso $72 \%$. Upper and lower hinges are connected by dashes. For each age level, the distance between the dashed lines indicates the range of the middle $50 \%$ of the percentages for that age.





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## CHAPTER 4

## ATTITUDES THEME

The exercises summarized in this chapter attempted to measure attitudes toward First Amendment rights and attitudes about self and others in a democratic society. For example, exercises required respondents to indicate their opinions about picketing;, petitioning and freedom of the press. Other exercises asked about class consciousness, conformity to peer pressure and willingness to make decisions in school.

The first summary graphs in this chapter, pages 41-44, depict the range of percentags for the nation and each group for the exercises clustered in the attitudes theme Median p-values are designated with an $\rightarrow$ and hinge p-values with a $\Delta$. The first exhibit shows percentages for the various feporting groups of 9 -year-olds; the second exhibit shows percentages for l3-year-olds; the third, for 17 -year-olds; and the fourth, for young adults. .

For example; on page 41 it can be seen that 9 -year-old per-• centages for the nation as whole range from $27 \%$ to $98 \%$. Their median percentage is $78 \%$. The range of the middle $50 \%$ of the exercises is between the lower hinge of $72 \%$ and the upper hinge of 81\%. A group's typical performance is indicated by its median percentage and the range of the middle $50 \%$ of its exercise percentages. So it can be seen that the Northeast typicially performed somewhat above the nation on these exercises. Their median percentage is $8.2 \%$, and the range of the middle $.50 \%$ of their exercises is between $74 \%$ and $83 \%$.

To determine the content of specific exercises, readers can cross reference with The First Social Studies Assessment: An Overview, Report 03-SS-0.0 and the Social. Studies Technical Report: Exercise Volume, Report 03-SS-20. For example, by looking on page 53 of The First Social Studies Assessment: An Overview it can be seen that the $278^{\circ}$ exercise for the national sample of $9-y e a r-o l d s$ dealt with class consciousness. The exact text of this exercise is located in the Social Studies. Technical Report: Exercise Volume.

When interpreting the group data in these exhibits, all the variables influencing the educational process must be considered. Within the limitations due to ieasurement and sampling error, the data accurately describe the educational'achievements of the groups
designated in our sample. However, when the data show that a group's overall level of achievement is either above or below the national level, we cannot say that any difference in achievement between that group and the nation as a whole is attributable solely to memberşhip in that group.


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The preceding exhibits enabled comparisons between groups within an age. However, all four age levels were not asked to respond to all the exercises. In some cases an exercise was administered at only one age, for example, 9-year-olds. Others were given at two or more age levels and are called overlaps.

Cross-age analyses can be made by comparing the national and group percentages of exercises taken at more than one age level. In the social studies assessment, 9-year-old exercises. differed considerably from exercises given at the older ages, We can compare the performance of l3-year-olds, l7-year-olds and young adults, since 15 of the same exercises were given to these three age levels.

Pages 47-52 contain summary graphs depicting cross-áge comparisons for the social studies exercises in the attitudes theme. There is an exhibit for each reporting category comparing the three ages for the reporting groups in that category. The first displays regional comparisons; the second, male and female comparisons; the third, black and white comparisons; the fourth, parental-education comparisons; and the fifth and sixth, comparisons by size and type of community. Each exhibit also includes national percentages for the three age levels as a paint of reference.

The range of percentages for each age level is represented by the dotted vertical lines (see the following graph). Median pvalues are noted below the graph for each age; as well as connected by a solid line on the graph: It can be seen that the median percentage on the attitudes exercise was $64 \%$ for 13-yearolds and $80 \%$ for 17 -year-olds, an increase of $16 \%$. The median percentage for adults decreased to $73 \%$. Upper and lower hinges are connected by dashes. For each age level, the distance between the dashed lines indicates the range of the middle $50 \%$ of the percentages for that age.



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## CHAPTER 5

 SUMMARIES ACROSS .THEMESThe first exhibit in this chapter compares querall national results for the four age levels on the three themes used in the analysis of the social. studies data. For each age, the exercises within each of the themes have been ranked from highest to lowest percentage of success; the median percentage, upper-hinge percentage and lower-hinge percentage have been identified. This graph can be used to establish the relative performance levels for the skills, knowledge and attitudes themes for each age level. 'Direct comparisons of percentages across age levels should not be attempted because of the different numbers of exercises involved.

The second exhibit in this chapter is a table of median $\Delta p-$ values for each of the reporting groups. Results are displiayed by age for each of the three themes, as well as the total universe of the social studies. exercises. The national median p-value and number of exercises is also included for each theme.

A negative percentage indicates that a group's performanke was typically below the nation; a positive percentage indicates that a group's performance, was typically above the nation. For example, the median $\Delta p$-value for 9 -year-olds in the Northeast on the skills theme is 3.8\%, The 9-year-olds in the Northeast typically performed above the national level, and the median per- $\rightarrow$ centage at the national level was 74.3\%. These twolpercentages cannot be added or subtracted since both are the result of a rankordering process - one by $p$-values and the other by $\Delta p$-values. Since these rank orderings depend on the percentages and not the exercise, it is unlikely that these two percentages result from the same exereise. Hówever, these two percentages do describe the typical performance of each group in terms of the national level of performance, as well as indicate how the nation tended to perform on the same set of exercises. It is important to recognize that although reported' differences do exist and must be faced, membership in any of these groups should not be assumed to be the cause of a group.'s performance.

The majority of this chapter is devoted to cross-age analyses on the overlap exercises within each of the three themes. These graphs summarize the overlap information contained in Chapters 2-4. There is an exhibit for the nation and for each reporting
group comparing l3-year-olds, l7-year-olds and young adults for the skills theme, knowledge theme and attitudes theme. Since many exercises administered at the older ages were not considered suitable for 9 -year-olds, not enough exercises overlapped at age 9 to allow comparisons for that age level.

The graphs containing overlap information can be used to determine the relative strengths and weaknesses of the three age levels on the three themes for each of National Assessment's reporting groups. The range of percentages for each of the age levels is represented by the dotted vertical lines. Median p-values are connected by $a$ solid line on the graph, and upper and lower hinges are connected by dashes. Median p-values for the nation and the group are noted below the graph for each age. For example, the graph on page 58 indicates that for the Northeastern region, l7-year-olds consistently perform above the level of 13-year-olds. The typical performance levels for 17-year-olds and young adults on the knowledge exercises are quite similar. However, on the exercises involving skills and attitudes, the adult performance typically tends to be below the performance level of 17-year-olds.


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CHAPTER 6

## SOCIAL STUDIES OBJECTIVES ${ }^{1}$

The objectives and subobjectives developed for, the 1971-72 social studies assessment are listed below.
I. Have curiosity about human affairs
A. Raise questions and seek answers
B. Are open to new information and ideas
C. Try to understand why other people think and act as they do
II. Use analytic-scientific procedures effectively
A. Identify and define problems and issues
B. Formulate generalizations and hypotheses capable of being tested
C. Obtain information from a variety of sources
D. Distinguish facts from opinions, relevant from irrelevant information and reliable from unreliable sources
E. Det.ect logical errors, unstated assumptions and unwarranted assertions; question unsupported generalizations; are aware of the complex nature of social pausation and understand that sequence or relationship does not necessarily imply causation
F. Use data and evaluate criteria to make decisions
III. Are sensitive to creative-intuitive methods of explaining the human condition
A. Read history, philosophy and fiction
B. Obtain insight into human affairs from history and" philosophy, and from fiction and other forms of art
C. Recognize the role of creative-intuitive methods in scientific inquiry
D. Distinguish personalized explanations of human affairs from scientific-objective explanations

[^1]Iy. Have knowledge relevant to the major ideas and concerns of social scientists
A. Understand some of the distinctive modes of inquiry (questions and approaches) of social scientists
B. Understand some of the major relationships involving culture, the qroup and the self
C. Understand some of the major characteristics of economic systems, especially the American economic system
D. Understand some of the major charácteristics of the geographic (spatial) distribution of man and his activities, and of man's interaction with the physical environment.

* E. Understand some of the major historical developments
F. Understand some of the characteristics of the major systems of government, particularly the political system of the United States
V. Have a reasoned commitment to the values that sustain a free society
A. Believe in the fundamental worth of the individual and can justify their belief
B. Believe in the freedoms of the First Amendment and can justify their belief
C. Believe in the rule of law and can justify their belief
D. Believe in open opportunity for advancement and can justify their belief
E. Are willing to act for the general interest
F. Are willing to participate in decision making relevant to their lives

Some exercises were developed to measure each of the fivemajor objectives at, the four age levels included in the assessment. However, exercises measuring the objectives often varied in content and numbers abross age levels. Also certain subobjectives were felt to be inappropriate for one or more age levels, șo there are not measures for all subobjectives for all four ages.

The first exhibit in this chapter summarizes each reporting. group's performance, for the five major objectives. Median pvalues are presented for exercises that were given to l3-yearolds, 17-year-olds and young adults. As mentioned earlier, not all objectives and subobjectives received equal assessment rmphasis across ages. Therefore, not all exercises were given to $\therefore 11$ ages. Exercises that were givien at more than one age are called overlap exercises. Because of the nature of the social studies objectives, many exercises were different for 9-year-olds. However, a number of exercises were suitable for administration at all three of the older age levels.

Since the exercises analyzed are the same for all the groups and the ages, the median p-values can be used to determine the

- relative performance of the reporting groups and the ages for any given objective. For example, the median performance level of Northeastern l7-year-olds is almost $20 \%$ above the median performante level of 13-year-olds. The median performance level of 17-year-olds is also above that of adults. It can be seen that this pattern is also present for the Southeast. However, the Southeast median percentages are consistently below the Northeast median percentages -- almost $20 \%$ at ago li. The comparisons can be continued until generalizations can be made, i.e., l7-yearolds typically perform above l3-year-olds. Since 12 observations are necessary to provide stable estimates, some caution should be exercised in interpreting the data provided for Objective III. Objective I data should not be used as the basis of generalizations and, is provided only for general interest.

The rest of the graphs in this chapter are based on an analysis of all the exercises measuring an objective at a given age level. There is an exhibit for each age summarizing national and group performance on each objective. Objective I information ordered by age is presented first, followed by Objective II informotion and so on through Objective $V$.

Each graph can be used to determine, for an age level, the relative performance of the reporting groups within each category, as well as the relative performance between each group and the nation. Each black square represents an exercise or exercise part. The range of percentages for each group and the nation can be compared. Median p-values ( $\rightarrow$ ) and hinges ( $\mathbf{\Delta}$ ) are also designoted.







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## APPENDIX A

## CROSS-REFERENGE LIST

Appendix A presents a cross-reference list from release number to NAEP number. Also, p-values are listed for each exercise. Release numbers identify exercise placement within themes, and The First Social Studies, Assessment: An Qverview, Report 03ms-00 and the Social Studies Techinical Report: Exercise Volume, Réport 03-SS-20 are in release-number order. The cross-reference list can be used to identify which p-values relate to which exercises and to look exercises. up in The First Social. Studies Assessment: An Overview or Social, Studies Technical Report: Exercise Volume.

Release Numbers
The following example illustrates how the release-number identific̣ation system works.

| RSO08A: | The first letter in the identifier indicates that the exercise is released ( $R$ ) or unreleased (U). |
| :---: | :---: |
| RSO08A : | The second letter indicates the area within which the exercise is classified. This will always be skills ( $S$ ), knowledge ( $K$ ) or attitudes (A). |
| RSO08A: | The third letter indicates the topic - in this case "obtaining information." |
| 8A | Thernext two digits indicate the exercise placement within a topic. |
| S008A : | \$ometimes the last two digits are followed by |
|  | a letter -- A through F. These letters indicate |
|  | that the exercise was one part of a multipart exercise. |

## NAEP Numbers

NaEP numbers identify exercise placement within objectivéand subobjective. . The following example illustrates how this./system works.

304003-234: The first number indicates the objective.
304003-234: The second and third numbers indicate the subobjective within the objective.

304003-234: The next three numbers uniquely number the specific exercise within the objective and subobjective.
" numbers following the dash irficate the age levels that responded to the exercise. In this case, l3-year-olds, l7-ypár--olds and . adults nesponded. If the exercise had also been given to 9-year-olds, the indicator would include a "l."

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## 1973-74 Assessment

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[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ A detailed description of the procedures used to develop the objectives for the 1971-72 social studies assessment, as well as the objectives, subobjectives and the age-specific behaviors illustrating each subobjective, can be found in Social Studies Objectives, 1971-72 National Assessment of Social Studies (Denver, Colo.: Education Commission of the States, 1970).

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