

# Standards vs. Curriculum

**Standards** are broad learning goals articulating what students should know, understand and be able to do over a given time.

A **curriculum** is an organized plan of instruction comprised of a sequence of instructional units that engages students in mastering the standards. Resources such as instructional materials and textbooks are supports for the curriculum.

## Standards and Curriculum in Colorado

### Standards

In Colorado, standards are developed by Colorado teachers and go through a public feedback process before being approved by the Colorado State Board of Education.

### Curriculum

In Colorado, local school boards choose the curriculum for their schools. This is because Colorado is a local control state, therefore, curriculum decisions are left to the local school districts.

## Example of a Standard for Seventh-Grade Social Studies

Use geographic tools and sources such as maps, globes, diagrams, charts, and geographic data and technologies to research and make geographic inferences and predictions about the Eastern Hemisphere. (Code: SS.7.2.1).

## Example of Curriculum for Seventh-Grade Social Studies

| UNIT             | UNIT 1  | UNIT 2  | UNIT 3  |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Content Focus    | An introduction to geography and regions  | The Middle East   | Europe  |
| Sample Content   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map skills</li> <li>Political and Physical maps similarities and differences</li> <li>The continents</li> <li>Latitude, longitude</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Fertile Crescent/ Mesopotamia</li> <li>The River Valley Civilizations</li> <li>Hammurabi's Code</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ancient Greeks and Romans</li> <li>Political systems</li> <li>Social Structures</li> </ul> |
| Sample Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different types of maps</li> <li>Maps that include a map legend</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maps</li> <li>Hammurabi's Code</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document-based Question: "Why did Rome fall?"</li> <li>Maps</li> </ul>                         |

