

Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI)

CURRICULUM REVIEW | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE The American Institutes for Research (AIR) conducted an independent, formative quality review of three TCI middle school social studies courses. The review examined instructional quality, identified strengths, and highlighted opportunities for continued improvement.

COURSES REVIEWED • History Alive! The Ancient World • History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond • History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism

Review Criteria

1. Social Studies Practices	2. Representation & Perspective	3. Usability & Instructional Supports	4. Assessment Practices
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Overall Finding

Reviewers found predominantly strong alignment across all three courses and all four criteria. The curricula provide coherent, well-organized, and instructionally sound social studies experiences. Most opportunities for growth involve strengthening educator guidance and making existing supports easier to locate and use, rather than addressing significant gaps in content or instructional design.

KEY STRENGTHS

Inquiry and disciplinary learning. Compelling questions, primary and secondary sources, evidence-based reasoning, discussion, argumentation, and civic application are embedded across courses. Multiple perspectives. Students explore diverse cultures, viewpoints, and historical experiences and connect learning to contemporary issues and communities.	Educator usability. Clear sequencing, flexible lesson options, and differentiated supports help educators adapt instruction for varied needs and schedules. Balanced assessment. Formative and summative assessments, including performance tasks, are aligned to instructional goals and support varied demonstrations of learning.
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