This guide discusses the skills that students develop in a 21st century learning environment. It describes the process and implementation of the 21st Century Learning Tutor found in many Pearson social studies programs and provides information about the lessons that correspond with specific 21st century skills.

Building 21st Century Learning Environments

What are 21st century skills? These critical-thinking skills are necessary to help students succeed in college and in their future careers. The Partnership for 21st Century Schools (or P21) developed a unified vision for 21st century learning that Pearson has incorporated into many of its social studies programs. As educators create 21st century learning environments, they should consider these skills:

- communication
- collaboration
- creation
- information management and evaluation
- ethics and societal issues

Pearson programs such as myWorld Social Studies, myWorld Geography, myWorld History, Prentice Hall Economics, Prentice Hall Magruder’s American Government, and Prentice Hall United States History incorporate activities that help students build these skills both in print and online. The online tool, the 21st Century Learning Tutor, helps students build these necessary skills that will help students achieve success as learners, workers, and citizens in the 21st century.
Online Content Organization: 21st Century Learning Tutor

To view the content for the 21st Century Learning Tutor, go to the Library drop-down menu on the Table of Contents page for your product, select 21st Century Learning Tutor. The interactive content can be seen in three different ways from the View By menu: Table of Contents, Content Type, and Topic.

Table of Contents is the default view and lists the lessons in alphabetical order.

Content Type allows the viewer to see the content by Lesson or Links.
**Topic** allows viewers to preview lessons organized by specific 21st century skills for myWorld History, Prentice Hall Economics, Prentice Hall Magruder’s American Government, and Prentice Hall United States History programs. These categories include

- Collaborating Skills
- Communication Skills
- Creativity and Innovation Skills
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills
- Reading Informational Texts
- Reading Skills
- Using Technology

For the myWorld Social Studies program, the 21st century skills categories include

- Target Reading Skills
- Collaboration and Creativity Skills
- Graph Skills
- Map Skills
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Media and Technology Skills

The plus signs expand the content in each folder. Click the arrow button to select one of three options: **Open**, **Assign**, or **Get Information**.
21st Century Learning Resources contains PDF resources that summarize the seven lessons that are found in each skill in the Digital Lessons:

- What’s in the skill?
- Try it out.
- How’s it done?
- Post your comments.
- Search for an example.
- Practice on your own.
- Show what you learned.

The first two PDFs—Online Teacher Help and Online Student Help—provide online teacher help that summarizes each of these seven lessons contained in each skill. The third PDF, About This Course, is an author page.
Digital Lessons


Analyzing Maps, Graphs, and Visual Information

- Read Charts and Graphs
- Read Physical Maps
- Read Political Maps
- Read Special Purpose Maps
- Use Parts of a Map

Analyzing Media

- Analyze Media Content

Career and Cross-Cultural Skills

- Develop Cultural Awareness
- Make a Difference

Collaborating Skills

- Compromise
- Share Responsibility
- Work in Teams

Communication Skills

- Give an Effective Presentation

Creativity and Innovation Skills

- Generate New Ideas
- Identify Trends
- Innovate

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills

- Analyze Primary and Secondary Sources
- Ask Questions
- Categorize
- Compare Viewpoints
- Distinguish Between Fact and Opinion
- Draw Conclusions
- Identify Bias
- Identify Evidence
- Make Decisions
- Problem Solving
- Synthesize
Reading and Informational Texts

- Analyze Cause and Effect
- Compare and Contrast
- Use Context Clues

Reading Skills

- Identify Main Ideas and Details
- Sequence
- Set a Purpose for Reading
- Summarize

Using Technology

- Evaluate Web Sites
- Publish Your Work
- Search for Information on the Internet
For myWorld Social Studies, the following thirty lessons are built into each component for students to learn, practice, and apply 21st century skills. Tutorials for each of these lessons are also available in the online 21st Century Skills Tutor for that program.

**Target Reading Skills**

- Main Idea and Details
- Classify and Categorize
- Draw Conclusions
- Compare and Contrast
- Summarize
- Cause and Effect
- Fact and opinion
- Generalize
- Sequence

**Collaboration and Creativity Skills**

- Solve Problems
- Resolve Conflict
- Work in Cooperative Teams
- Generate New Ideas

**Graph and Map Skills**

- Interpret Graphs
- Interpret Timelines
- Interpret Physical Maps
- Interpret Cultural data on Maps
- Create Charts
- Use Longitude and Latitude
- Interpret Economic Data on Maps

**Critical Thinking Skills**

- Compare Viewpoints
- Identify Bias
- Predict Consequences
- Use Primary and Secondary Sources
- Make Decisions

**Media and Technology Skills**

- Conduct Research
- Analyze Images
- Deliver an Effective Presentation
- Use the Internet Safely
- Evaluate Media Content
These lessons can also be used to teach 21st century skills with any social studies program or can be taught as stand-alone lessons.
Quick Reference

A printable and downloadable Quick Reference that summarizes the specific skills learned in each lesson accompanies each Digital Lesson.

Printable Quick Reference

**Analyze Cause and Effect**

When you analyze cause and effect, you find how one event leads to the next. It is important to find evidence that one event caused another. If one event happened earlier than another, it did not necessarily cause the later event. Understanding causes and effects can help you solve problems.

1. **Choose a starting point of observation.**

   When trying to understand a historical event, choose the time of that event. If you are trying to understand a current event, you can work backward from a starting point in the present.

2. **Consider earlier events to try to find connections to your starting point, including any language that signals causes. Put the evidence together to identify true causes.**

   When reading, look for events that came before your starting point. Decide whether these earlier events caused later events. Search for words that signal cause, such as "because," and "led to." Make sure that there is evidence showing that the earlier events caused the later events and did not just happen earlier.

3. **Consider later events to try to find connections to your starting point, including any language that signals effects. Put the evidence together to determine true effects.**

   Look for events that came after your starting point. Decide whether these later events are effects of earlier events. Search for words that signal effect, such as "led to," "so," and "therefore." Make sure that there is evidence showing that these later events were caused by earlier events and did not just happen later.

4. **Summarize the cause-effect relationship and draw conclusions.**

   Once you have found the cause-and-effect relationships between different events, describe these relationships. Draw a diagram that shows these relationships. Draw conclusions about any patterns that you see.

These Quick Reference resources can also be accessed directly from the Digital Lesson on the introduction pages for each lesson. Students can submit their activity for grading by clicking the green icon with the downward arrow.
Connect, Experience, and Understand: 21st Century Learning Tutor

Explore a sample Digital Lesson, and the seven lessons contained in it, to see how it can help students connect, experience, and understand as they learn and practice a 21st century skill. This guide shows examples from Give an Effective Presentation.

**Connect**

Students connect to the specific skill by learning what the skill is and by trying it out.

The first lesson, *What’s the skill?*, describes the skills and the steps needed to perform it.

![Image of Connect section](image1)

*Try it out*, gives student a chance to practice the steps needed to perform the skill.

![Image of Try it out](image2)
**Experience**

Next, students experience the content by learning how the skill is done through a video model and by posting their comments.

In the lesson, *How’s it done?*, student actors demonstrate in a video how to perform the skill, step by step, in three video-segment lessons.

In *Post your comments*, student have a chance to answer questions that show their understanding of the skill demonstrated in the videos. They read an e-mail from one of the student actors in the video explaining what he or she learned while practicing the skill.
Understand

In this last section of the Digital Lesson, students look for examples outside of the program, practice on their own, and show what they have learned.

In the lesson, *Search for an example*, students show how to find an example or a case they can use that lets them practice the skill on their own.

In *Practice on your own*, students compare examples from Try it out and How’s it done lessons. Then, the program prompts them to answer questions about how they would practice the skill on the example they found.
Show what you learned, the final lesson, allows students to respond to a question about their example, providing a summative assessment of their knowledge of the skills taught in the previous lessons.

Review

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