

NCSS.G86.T: USA Major Highways Study Task Cards (9-12)

Grade 4: Build map skills and geographic awareness by working with highways as physical features and civic infrastructure.

NCSS – People, Places, and Environments

Summary: Use maps and spatial tools to understand locations and regions.

Focus Area: Highways as geographic connectors.

Students will:

- Use task cards to identify highways by region.
- Locate highways crossing multiple states.

NCSS – Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Summary: Explore transportation's role in trade and movement.

Focus Area: Movement of goods and people.

Students will:

- Match highways to regions known for commerce.
- Explain how interstates support the economy.

Grade 5: Understand how highways connect to U.S. history, government planning, and civic life.

NCSS – Time, Continuity, and Change

Summary: Highways reflect historical decisions and needs.

Focus Area: Development of the interstate system.

Students will:

- Identify which highways were built during different periods.
- Relate highways to post-WWII infrastructure growth.

NCSS – Power, Authority, and Governance

Summary: Governments create and regulate infrastructure.

Focus Area: Federal and state responsibility in transportation.

Students will:

- Use task cards to discuss government policies behind highways.
- Explore connections between highways and defense systems.

NCSS – Civic Ideals and Practices

Summary: Public goods support civic life

Focus Area: Highways as public services.

Students will:

- Label highways that connect major communities.
- Discuss benefits of highways to everyday life.

Grade 6: Analyze highways as cultural, institutional, and global connectors.

NCSS – Culture

Summary: Culture shapes and is shaped by transportation.

Focus Area: Symbolic highways.

Students will:

- Identify highways like Route 66 with cultural significance.
- Connect highways to migration, tourism, and identity.

NCSS – Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Summary: Institutions manage transportation needs.

Focus Area: Federal, state, and business roles.

Students will:

- Match highways to industries or institutions they support.
- Discuss how groups maintain these systems.

NCSS – Global Connections

Summary: Transportation fosters interdependence.

Focus Area: Highways in global commerce.

Students will:

- Locate highways connected to international trade routes.
- Compare U.S. interstates to global transport systems.

NCSS – Science, Technology, and Society

Summary: Transportation reflects technology's impact.

Focus Area: Interstates as technological achievements.

Students will:

- Use math-based task cards (speed, hours, miles).
- Connect technological progress to highway construction.