

NCSS.G86.C: USA Major Highways Study Research Cards (9-12)

Grade 4: Build map-reading and research skills while exploring the relationship between geography and human systems

NCSS – People, Places, and Environments

Summary: Use geographic representations and tools to understand relationships between people, places, and environments.

Focus Area: Identifying and mapping major highways.

Students will:

- Locate specific highways on maps.
- Match research cards to regions and states.
- Recognize how geography influences transportation routes.

NCSS – Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Summary: Understand how people use resources and systems for meeting needs.

Focus Area: Highways and economic activity.

Students will:

- Explain how highways support regional and national trade.
- Discuss the movement of goods and services along interstates.

Grade 5: Analyze how transportation has shaped U.S. history and civic life.

NCSS – Time, Continuity, and Change

Summary: Explore historical significance of highways.

Focus Area: Development of U.S. highways over time.

Students will:

- Compare early highways like Route 66 to modern interstates.
- Research when and why major interstates were built.

NCSS – Power, Authority, and Governance

Summary: Examine how government decisions shape infrastructure.

Focus Area: Federal and state government's role in highways.

Students will: Identify who funded and built highways.

- Explore laws and policies regulating interstate travel.

NCSS – Civic Ideals and Practices

Summary: Understand how infrastructure supports democracy.

Focus Area: Highways as a shared public resource.

Students will:

- Explain how public highways benefit citizens.
- Discuss how highways connect diverse communities.

Grade 6: Evaluate highways as part of cultural identity and global connections.

NCSS – Culture

Summary: Explore how culture influences and is influenced by shared environments.

Focus Area: Highways in American identity.

Students will:

- Research cultural significance of highways (e.g., Route 66 in music and literature).
- Discuss how highways affect tourism and migration.

NCSS – Global Connections

Summary: Examine interdependence of nations and peoples.

Focus Area: Highways and international trade.

Students will:

- Connect highways to ports, airports, and global trade routes.
- Compare U.S. highway systems to those of other nations.

NCSS – Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Summary: Recognize how institutions meet human needs.

Focus Area: Transportation agencies and public services.

Students will:

- Identify institutions (federal and state DOTs) that maintain highways.
- Explain how businesses and communities depend on these networks.