

# A Hierarchy of Thinking Skills With Examples From Content Areas

This table shows how a hierarchy of thinking skills beyond the recall of facts (Bloom's knowledge level) can be used to organize the valued understandings and thinking abilities emphasized in content area standards.

	Definition	Reading	Mathematics	Social Studies	Science
COMPREHEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the nature or meaning of something.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to texts, comprehend the literal meaning and infer additional meanings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize and use numbers in computation with the four operations</li> <li>Recognize place value</li> <li>Use fractions and decimals</li> </ul>	Understand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the variety of systems of government,</li> <li>past events and issues as they occurred, and</li> <li>main ideas of basic documents of the US government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand procedures of scientific inquiry.</li> <li>Begin to understand the physical properties of the earth and universe, including light, temperature, weight, and gravity.</li> </ul>
ANALYZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Divide a whole into component elements including part/whole, cause-effect, or elements in a sequence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify components of literary, expository, and persuasive discourse.</li> <li>Analyze the structure, language, and content of oral or written discourse.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use arithmetic appropriately to solve a problem and explain solutions.</li> <li>Identify the properties of geometric figures and their relationships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine social, cultural, and technological changes in early and modern times.</li> <li>Explain the changing role of the US in WWI, WWII, the cold war, and global economic relations; analyze what has and has not worked and why.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand Cause /effect</li> <li>See the relationships between systems and parts.</li> <li>Analyze the composition of matter, and how different substances interact.</li> <li>Analyze the interdependence of earth systems.</li> </ul>
COMPARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize or explain similarities and differences.</li> </ul>	Make connections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both within and among oral and written texts</li> <li>Between text and prior knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make connections between related mathematical concepts and apply these concepts to other content areas.</li> <li>Express a rational number in a variety of forms, including fractions, decimals, and percents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare/contrast socialism, capitalism, and communism.</li> <li>Know the basic beliefs of the world's principal religions.</li> <li>Discuss the American tensions between liberty and equality, liberty and order, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect, sort, catalog, and classify objects and materials.</li> </ul>