

TABLE 3.2
Social Studies Inquiry Skills K–8

Basic Skills	
	Associated Behaviors
Observing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Identify</i> and <i>name</i> characteristics of an object or event by using at least four senses. (Use of the sense of taste is restricted to specific teacher-designed situations.) 2. <i>Be aware of the need</i> to make numerous observations of objects and events. 3. <i>Pose questions</i> focusing on observations of objects, people, and events. 4. <i>Construct</i> descriptive and quantitative statements of observations. 5. <i>Construct</i> statements of observations describing observable changes in characteristics of an object or during an event. 6. <i>Distinguish</i> among statements based on observations and those based on inference.
Communicating	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Describe</i> the characteristics of an object or event in sufficient detail so that another person can identify it. 2. <i>Describe</i> changes in the characteristics of an object or during an event. 3. <i>Use</i> pictures, maps, tables, and graphs to communicate results obtained from observations. 4. <i>Describe</i> relationships and trends orally, in writing, in drawings, and using graphics.
Classifying	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Identify</i> and <i>name</i> observable characteristics of objects or events that could be used to group them. 2. <i>Order</i> a group of objects or events based on a single characteristic. 3. <i>Construct</i> a one-, two-, or multistage classification of a set of objects or events and name the observable characteristics on which the classification is based. 4. <i>Construct</i> two or more different classification schemes for the same set of objects or events with each scheme serving a different purpose. 5. <i>Construct</i> an operational definition of a single object or event based on a classification scheme.
Inferring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Construct</i> one or more statements or explanations from a set of observations. 2. <i>Identify</i> observations supporting a given inference. 3. <i>Describe</i> alternative inferences for the same set of observations. 4. <i>Identify</i> inferences that should be accepted, modified, or rejected on the basis of additional observations.
Predicting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Construct</i> a forecast of future events based on observed events. 2. <i>Order</i> a set of forecasts or predictions in terms of your confidence in them. 3. <i>Identify</i> predictions as (a) interpolations between observed events or (b) extrapolations beyond the range of observed events.

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