

6th Grade SOCIAL STUDIES

World Cultures Origin of Humans to the Fall of the Roman Empire

LENGTH OF TIME: one period daily, school year

GRADE LEVEL: 6

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

This course will focus on the cultures of the ancient world and encompasses geographic, historic, cultural, and human reasons for events and changes. It will begin with geography skills and early humans, continue through the beginning of civilizations throughout the world, and conclude with the fall of the Roman Empire. Students will explore the similarities and differences of early civilizations, as well as their influence on the modern world.

COURSE STANDARDS:

Students will:

1. Recognize and identify the five themes of geography and demonstrate how environments have an impact upon regions and cultures. [PA Academics Standards for Geography: 7.1.6, 7.2.6, 7.3.6, 7.4.6]
2. Recognize likenesses and differences among early cultures. (PA Academics Standards for Economics, Civics and Government, History, and Geography: 5.1.6, 5.2.6, 5.3.6, 5.4.6, 6.1.6, 6.2.6, 6.3.6, 6.4.6, 6.5.6, 7.3.6, 8.1.6, 8.3.6) [PA Core Standards: 8.5, 8.6]
3. Recognize how early peoples have shaped many cultural, artistic, and political ideas in the world today. [PA Academic Standards for Economics, Civics and Government, and History 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 6.4, 8.1, 8.4] [PA Core Standards: 8.5, 8.6]
4. Recognize and use acceptable methods of obtaining valid historic information through various sources. [PA Academics for History: 8.1.6, 8.4.6] [PA Core Standards: 8.5, 8.6]
5. Summarize the roots and growth of world belief systems. (PA 8.1.6, 8.4.6) (PA Core Standards: 8.5, 8.6)
6. Read, understand, and respond to informational texts regarding Ancient Civilizations.
7. Write focused argumentative and persuasive responses to convey a well-defined historical perspective. (PA Core Standards: 8.6)

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

- 5.1 Principles and Documents of Government
- 5.2 Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship
- 5.3 How Government Works 5.4 How International Relationships Function

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR ECONOMICS

- 6.1 Economic Systems
- 6.2 Markets and the Functions of Governments
- 6.3 Scarcity and Choice
- 6.4 Economic Interdependence
- 6.5 Work and Earnings

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR GEOGRAPHY

- 7.1 Basic Geographic Literacy
- 7.2 The Physical Characteristics of Places and Regions
- 7.3 The Human Characteristics of Places and Regions
- 7.4 The Interactions between People and Places

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR HISTORY

- 8.1 Historical Analysis and Skills Development
- 8.4 World History

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS:

Students will demonstrate achievement of the standards by:

- Creating and mapping projects or work that demonstrates the five themes of geography with emphasis on location and place. (Course Standard 1)
- Comparing and contrasting early cultures and belief systems. (Course Standards 2,5,6)
- Using PA Core Reading and Writing Standards and social sciences content to develop and produce a research paper. (Interdisciplinary)
- Researching a culture studied to create various projects, which will through writing, presentations and/or visuals, report students' findings. (Course Standards 2, 3, 4)
- Formulating, expressing, and defending a position orally/visually on an historical issue. (Course Standards 3,4)

TITLES OF UNITS:

1. Maps, globes, five themes of geography (integrated all year)
2. Historical understandings (2 weeks)
3. Roots and growth of belief systems (6 weeks)
4. Ancient civilizations (Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome) (25 weeks)
5. Fall of Rome (1 weeks)
6. Current News (integrated all year)

SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

- Multimedia resources
- Writing assignments
- Individual, small, large group activities
- Cooperative learning
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Research assignments, using both conventional and electronic technology
- Independent reading
- Computer use in maps, graphing, writing, and research
- Project presentations
- Teacher and student-led discussions
- Study guides based on text material

MATERIALS:

- McGraw Hill/Glencoe, 2005, A Journey Across Time, The Early Ages. Course 1
- McGraw Hill/Glencoe, 2005, A Journey Across Time, The Early Ages, Course 2
- Prentice Hall, 2005, World Studies, The Ancient World
- Prentice Hall, 2005, World Studies, Foundations of Geography
- Classroom atlas, newest copyright available
- Teacher's guide for texts and ancillary materials
- Online resources: Newsela, Study.com
- Teacher-made/prepared materials
- Class novels

METHODS OF ASSISTANCE AND ENRICHMENT:

- Differentiated instruction
- Cooperative learning groups
- Teacher/specialist assistance
- Guest speakers
- Field trips
- Interdisciplinary units
- Technology Integration

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

- Class participation, class work, homework, quizzes, and tests
- Complete assignments/tasks
- Maintain notebooks, according to rubrics, for each of the units studied (from class work and individual work as required by teacher)
- Teacher-made and textbook quizzes/tests
- Rubrics for oral and visual presentations
- Rubrics for projects
- Rubrics for written assignments

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:

- Communication
 - Exhibit listening skills
 - Exhibit reading skills
 - Exhibit writing skills
 - Respond through discussion and debate
- Thinking/Problem Solving
 - Compare/contrast
 - Analyze
 - Evaluate
 - Make predictions
 - Essential questioning
- Application of Knowledge
 - Demonstrate map, chart, and graph use
 - Use map skills and global knowledge
 - Demonstrate connections
- Interpersonal Skills
 - Demonstrate skills or communication, oral and written
 - Work cooperatively (in small or large groups)
 - Develop leadership skills/qualities
 - Demonstrate ability to listen

Social Studies 6
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