



History Department Curriculum Guide

Grade 6 Social Studies

Course Description
World Geography and Ancient Civilizations I Grades 6 and 7 form a two-year sequence in which students study regions of the world by examining physical geography, nations in the region today, and selected ancient and classical societies before 1000 CE. Regions for grade 6 are: Western Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East; Sub-Saharan Africa; and Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. Students investigate guiding questions such as “How does geography affect how societies develop and interact?” and “How have human societies differed from one another across time and regions?” Additional supporting questions appear under each topic.
Content Standards
<u>Grade 6 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework - History and Social Science</u>



Subject: Grade 6 – Social Studies

Units	Essential Questions	Key Activities May Include
TERM1 Unit 1 - Studying Complex Societies MA Standard: 6.T1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do the social sciences contribute to our understanding of the world? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key social scientists, characteristics of their job as well as how the different positions work together.
Unit 2 - Human Origins - Paleolithic and Neolithic Time Periods MA Standard: 6T.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did life on Earth begin and why did humans form complex societies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the different theories of earth's population. "Journey of Man" human migrations documentary. Characteristics of time periods and approximate years. The evolution of humans. Major archeological sites where we have found evidence. Evolution of agriculture from hunters and gatherers/ nomads. Create a timeline of events.



Units	Essential Questions	Key Activities May Include
TERM 2 Unit 3 - Western Asia, The Middle East and North Africa MA Standards: 6.T3a, 6.T3b , 6.T3c, 6.T3d, 6.T3e, 6.T3f, 6.T3g	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do making and understanding maps help us to learn more about a region's civilization and economy? What are the best explanations for why writing developed in Mesopotamia? How did Ancient Egypt's rigid class structure affect its social and cultural development? Why were traders and merchants important in ancient societies? What were the consequences of the unification of tribes for ancient Israel? Why is the belief in one God significant to Islam, Judaism, and Christianity? How did ideas spread across ancient societies in this region? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longitude and latitude. Absolute and Relative Location. Identify major area of Mesopotamia. Major rivers. Cradle of civilization/ Fertile Crescent. Discuss how Mesopotamia was the world's first civilization. What does the term civilization mean? Government. Code of Hammurabi. First writing system and other inventions. Famous rulers. Geography and importance of the Nile River. Social class system. Hieroglyphics. Role of Pharaoh. Characteristics of Old, Middle and New Kingdom. Polytheistic religion and beliefs. Geography of Ancient Phoenicia. Trade routes and boat structure. Origins and key features of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Concept of monotheistic religion. Twelve tribes of Israel. Focus on land and water routes.
TERM 3 Unit 4 - Sub-Saharan Africa MA Standards: 6.T4a, 6.T4b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did long-distance trade influence the development of early sub-Saharan African states and societies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography of the region. Kingdom of Axum. Resources. Role these societies played in trade.



Units	Essential Questions	Key Activities May Include
Unit 5 - South and Central America and the Caribbean Islands MA Standards: 6.T5a, 6.T5b, 6.T5c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the most important contributions of ancient societies in the Americas to the modern world? What are the cultures and unique ways of life of the indigenous populations of the region (e.g., Carib [Antilles and South America], Taino [Cuba, Trinidad, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico], Lenca [Honduras], Miskito [Nicaragua], Huatares and Chorotegas [Costa Rica], Lokono, also known as Arawak [Trinidad and Tobago]). How do absolute and relative locations, climate, major physical characteristics and natural resources influenced settlement, population size, and the economies of regions and countries in Central America and the Caribbean Islands? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography of the area. Mapping activity of Caribbean Islands and their association with other countries. Identify major indigenous groups and their key characteristics. Research one of the major groups and their contributions.