

SIXTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES SYLLABUS



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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social Studies is a broad overview designed to enhance the students' knowledge of our world today by studying how history and geography have shaped modern events. The class will examine world cultures, types of governments, and economic systems. The year will begin with a unit on basic geography skills. We will then travel around the globe looking at various regions by examining what shaped them from the past to the present time. Obviously, this is an impossible task, but it does keep us busy! Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of various cultures by looking in-depth at the social, political, economic, historical and geographical influences that shaped each society. These are then related to the historical development of the United States. Current events will be discussed throughout our studies.

A variety of teaching methods will be used to develop self-help and critical thinking skills. Traditionally, the counselors teach a unit on conflict resolution through social studies. Throughout the year, students will apply what they have learned and expand their knowledge through higher-level reasoning activities. A large part of the focus is on teaching students to be independent and responsible.

World Cultures & Geography TEKS Overview-

In Grade 6, students study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Societies for study are from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific realm. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of various societies. Students identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. The concepts of limited and unlimited government are introduced, and students describe the nature of citizenship in various societies. Students compare institutions common to all societies such as government, education, and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of the various societies and identify different points of view about events. The concept of frame of reference is introduced as an influence on an individual's point of view.

Materials

Class notebook/binder to keep papers in, notebook paper, pens, pencils and map pencils.

Grading

Major Grades 60%, Skill Development 40%, Practice 0%

"Eanes ISD Middle School teachers are committed to grading and assessing in the best interest of our students. We believe grades and assessments communicate content knowledge, guide instruction, and reveal opportunities for enrichment and intervention."

Retest Policy

Students will be allowed one retest opportunity per test. The student will only retest sections where a learning goal was not mastered to earn points back on the test. To retest, the student must first schedule a re-teach within 24 hours of receiving the test. A re-teach session will be scheduled with the teacher. After the re-teach session, a date will be set for the retest. The timeline for the entire process is one week.

Late Work Policy

Students are expected to complete all assigned work. In the event work is not completed, the student will be given a day to produce the work without penalty. If the work does not appear the next day, a parent will be notified via email and the work will be collected and graded at a 10 point deduction. If the work is not turned in by the end of the grading period a zero will be entered. If missing work becomes problematic, the student will be referred to the assistant principal.

Make-Up Policy

Students receive one day for every missed day to turn in make-up work

Classroom Management Policy

1. Student/teacher discussion of behavior concern. 2. Parent Contact of behavior concern 3. Office referral if behavior concerns persist. (Serious infractions will result in immediate office referral.)

Textbook

National Geographic World Cultures and Geography which is partnered with Cengage Learning (Hard copies are only provided as Class Sets.) There is an iPad/online version for student use.

First Nine Weeks: (Social Studies Basics & North America)

Intro: Geography Focus, Social Studies Basics

(History, Economics, Government, Citizenship, Culture, Science, Technology & Society)

North America, Central America and the Caribbean

Second Nine Weeks: (South America, Africa & the Middle East)

South America

Sub-Saharan Africa

Southwest Asia-North Africa (The Middle East)

Third Nine Weeks: (Europe & the Eurasian Republics, South Asia)

Europe

Russia and the Eurasian Republics

South Asia

Fourth Nine Weeks: (Asia, Australia & The Pacific Realm)

East Asia

Southeast Asia

Australia and the Pacific Realm

Geography and Social Studies Skills

Comparative Economic Systems

Comparative Governments

The Americas, Yesterday & Today

The Beginnings: Ancient Egyptian & Mesopotamian Civilizations

Africa, Yesterday & Today

The Middle East Today

Roots of Our Government: Ancient Greece & Rome

How the Medieval World Shaped the West

The Beginnings: Ancient India & China

Asia Today

Revolutions That Shaped The Western World

The World Today

Critical Thinking Unit/Law Unit