

Social Studies Learning Targets

Sixth-Eighth Grade

Sixth Grade

In Grade 6, students learn about ancient and medieval civilizations. Students will:

- Describe how geographic factors influenced historical events, patterns of change and daily life of various ancient civilizations. Explain where and how cities develop. Use different kinds of maps and geographic resources, such as climate and population maps.
- Identify important events of ancient and medieval civilizations including studies of early man, Africa, Egypt, Mesopotamia and Kush, Hebrews and Greeks, India and China, and Rome. Identify how these ancient civilizations affect the present. Explain and describe how language, literature, the arts and artifacts demonstrate beliefs and values, and contribute to cultures.
- Identify and compare various forms of government in these ancient and medieval civilizations. Identify social classes and describe the rights and responsibilities of individuals. Trace the development of democratic ideals and political institutions.
- Give examples of productive resources (natural, labor and capital). Explain how voluntary trade improved living standards in these ancient and medieval civilizations. Explain how location, specialization and trade influenced how people earned a living.
- Describe how cultures of these ancient and medieval civilizations are reflected in their literature, religion, music, art and architecture. Describe political and social structures. Demonstrate understanding of how issues and behaviors are viewed in different societies.

Seventh Grade

In Grade 7, students learn about the development of the modern world. Students will:

- Identify important political values as they are developed in documents of modern nations. Organize information in timelines, graphs and other visual

- representations. Explain how literature, the arts and artifacts show beliefs and values that are passed on in a culture.
- Examine the impact of the Renaissance Period, the Protestant Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution on early civilizations and discuss their continued impact today.
 - Study the Age of Exploration to enlightenment, especially its impact on the future of western political thought.
 - Describe the structures of governments and different ways they acquire power. Identify forms of government and compare and contrast these forms. Become aware of current events. Evaluate the concept of universal human rights and its effect on various countries.
 - Describe the economic development of civilizations from Medieval to early modern times (the Fall of Rome, Growth of Islam, African States, Civilizations of the Americas, China, Japan, Medieval Societies; explain the relationship among the economic systems and the way people satisfy their wants.
 - Identify cultural and religious characteristics of regions and the effects of cultural contact among societies. Demonstrate understanding of role, status and social class. Give examples of stereotyping, conformity, propaganda and racism. Explain how most issues encountered in social studies have no simple solution.

Eighth Grade

In Grade 8, students will study the history and formation of the United States in depth. Students will:

- Use a variety of geography tools to show how geography influenced the growth of the U.S. Construct mental maps of the U.S. Describe the movement of people during its expansion and the impact on the environment. Describe how science and technology affected the growth of the nation.
- Identify significant events, people and documents in U.S. history. Use a variety of resources to interpret historic events. Discuss the different perspectives of these accounts. Read and study the Constitution and other important documents of the time period.
- Explain the basic principles of democracy. Explain the purpose of government. Describe how the federal system separates federal, state and local governments. Explain the balance of power among the three branches of federal government.
- Study American History from 1800 – 1850, especially the importance of Western politics, the impact of the Jacksonian Era, and territorial expansion influenced by the Manifest Destiny, the impact of inventions, and the Civil War
- Understand the transformation of the nation due to the settling of the trans-Mississippi west, the establishment of the North Transportation Network, the

- flood of immigration, the accumulation of great fortune, the influence of slavery on the South, West, and Northwest, and the abolitionist movement.
- Explain the Rise of Industrialism in America between 1877-1914. Discuss its impact then and today.