

GRADE 6 - SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies program for grade six is based on the content guidelines from the Massachusetts State Frameworks, the Boston Archdiocesan curriculum for social studies students, and E.D. Hirsch's Core Knowledge sequence. The curriculum in grade 6 is an intense focus on all aspects of World Geography. By studying many of the geographical regions of the world students will learn to respect others through global awareness as they prepare to become responsible citizens of the world community.

Unit 1: The Five themes of Geography and Map Skills

Students will:

- review their map-reading skills, including the concepts of absolute and relative location to increase their knowledge of world geography.
- review and explore the five themes of geography, location, place, human-environment interaction, movement and region, and the impact geography has on the human story.
- explore how geography and history are linked.

Unit 2: Latin America

Students will:

- Be responsible for learning the how to locate the countries and capitals as well as major land forms and water bodies and climate regions in Latin America.
- Learn about the history and culture of Latin America
- Students will be able to relate to the history and culture of Peru in collaboration with the literature book *Secret of the Andes* by Ann Nolan Clark
- Learn what various Latin America is like today especially the regions of Mexico, Central American and the Caribbean, and South America
- Find current events reports about current day issues in Latin American for students to share with the class.

Unit 3: Europe

Students will:

- Be responsible for learning the how to locate the countries and capitals as well as major land forms and water bodies and climate regions in Europe.
- Learn about the history and culture of Europe. We will focus on Greece and Rome in conjunction with literature books on Ancient Greek mythology and *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare.
- Learn about and create brochures in conjunction with computer class on various countries in Europe.

Unit 4: Russia

Students will:

- Students will be responsible for learning the major land forms and water bodies in Russia and the climate and environment of this region
- Learn about the history, past government and culture of Russia
- Learn about Russia today, how Russia continues to change.
- Learn about issues and challenges including current event issues between Russia, it's neighboring countries and it's relationship with the United States

Unit 5: North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia

Students will:

- Be responsible for learning the how to locate the countries and capitals as well as major land forms and water bodies in these regions.
- Learn about the history, religion, culture and lifestyles of this region.
- Learn about current events issues in the regions of North Africa, Southwest Asia and Central Asia

Unit 6: Africa South of the Sahara

Students will:

- Be responsible for learning the how to locate the countries and capitals as well as major land forms and water bodies in this region
- Learn about the history, governments, cultures, and lifestyles of this region.
- Learn current event issues about countries in West Africa, Central and East Africa, and Southern Africa with a focus on the topics like the crisis in Sudan, and the legacy of apartheid in South Africa.

Unit 7: South Asia

Students will:

- Be responsible for learning the how to locate the countries and capitals as well as major land forms and water bodies in this region.
- Learn about the history and government, culture and lifestyles in this region.
- Learn various current day topics in South Asia including: India, Muslim nations, the Mountain Kingdoms and the Island Republics.

Unit 8: East Asia and Southeast Asia

Students will:

- Be responsible for learning the how to locate the countries and capitals as well as major land forms and water bodies in this region.
- Learn about the history and government, culture and lifestyles in these regions.
- Learn various current day topics in East and Southeast Asia including: China, Japan, the Koreans and various countries in Southeast Asia

**These two regions will only be covered if time permits at the end of the year! **

Unit 9: Australia, Oceania and Antarctica

Students will:

- Learn about the important land forms and water bodies as well as the climate regions.
- Learn about the history and government, culture and lifestyles in these regions.
- Learn about current events in Australia, New Zealand, Oceania and Antarctica

Unit 10: Our neighbor to the North, Canada

Students will:

- Be responsible for learning how to locate all of the provinces and capitals in Canada as well as the major land forms, water bodies and climate regions.
- Learn about the history and government, culture and lifestyles in this region.
- Learn what life is like living in Canada today including various issues and challenges.