

## Social Studies – Grade 6

### Unit 1: Introduction to World History

**Use maps and other geographic representations, tools and technologies to acquire, process and report information from a spatial perspective.**

Initial Understanding

- Locate, list, and label the continents and oceans
- Identify hemispheres
- Recall the five themes of geography

Developing an Interpretation

- Distinguish between cities, states, countries and continents
- Differentiate between political, physical and thematic maps

Making Connections

- Determine absolute location using knowledge of longitude and latitude
- Apply knowledge of five themes of geography to describe the relationship of people to their environment

Critical Stance

- Integrate knowledge of map skills and features to design a map
- Draw conclusions about the world based upon the five themes of geography

**Examine, interpret and effectively use historical artifacts, primary sources of information, maps, tables, charts, graphs, and timelines.**

Initial Understanding

- Define vocabulary terms and concepts related to the study of history
- Describe how historians and archaeologists gather evidence to interpret history
- Gather information from multiple sources

Developing an Interpretation

- Distinguish between past, present, and future time
- Distinguish between eras of pre-history and history
- Construct a narrative using chronological thinking

**Formulate questions based on historical sources**

Making Connections

- Examine an artifact and determine how it defines a culture
- Apply mathematical skills to measure time by years, decades and centuries
- Calculate time from fixed points of the calendar system

**Utilize data from graphs, tables and charts to clarify or illustrate information**

Critical Stance

- Evaluate data to create a timeline that sequences events in equidistant intervals

## **Unit 2: Ancient River Valley Civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India**

### **Identify the major characteristics of civilization in Mesopotamia, Egypt and India.**

#### Initial Understanding

- Define the elements and characteristics of a civilization
- Locate and identify key physical features of the Fertile Crescent, Egypt and India
- Locate and recall modern countries and states of the Middle East

#### Developing an Interpretation

- Apply criteria of civilization to present day society
- Utilize historic maps to interpret information
- Trace human developments that led to the emergence of agricultural societies
- Explain how and why humans established communities and developed agriculture

#### Making Connections

- Draw conclusions about life in desert regions
- Compare the physical features of the river valley regions with local geography
- Compare and contrast nomadic peoples and agrarian communities

#### Critical Stance

- Evaluate how geography effected the development of civilization in the river valleys
- Design a visual representation that portrays the life in an ancient city-state

### **Recall significant achievements of Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Indus River Valley and explain how these developments contributed to subsequent civilizations.**

#### Initial Understanding

- Identify early forms of written language and explain early writing techniques
- Define polytheism and monotheism

#### Developing an Interpretation

- Trace trade routes connecting Egypt, Mesopotamia and Indus valley
- Explain the beliefs, practices and development of Hinduism and Buddhism
- Construct a timeline of significant events and developments in the Ancient Near East

#### Making Connections

- Compare the forms of writing that developed and explain how written records shaped political, legal, religious and cultural life
- Compare and contrast ancient law codes with the laws in the United States
- Analyze the role of the structure caste system and gender roles in Indian society

#### Critical Stance

- Simulate the development of a civilization and make decisions regarding: location; form of government; division of labor; local economy; and cultural attributes
- Evaluate the cultural similarities and differences between Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Indus Valley

## **Unit 3: Classical Civilizations and Empires: China, Greece, Rome**

### **Explain the development of civilization in China**

#### Initial Understanding

- Locate and identify key physical and man-made features of China
- Name significant Chinese Dynasties and define Confucianism and Taoism

### **Imagine life in early Chinese urban societies**

#### Developing an Interpretation

- Discuss the political significance of the Mandate of Heaven
- Examine the literary, artistic and technological achievements

#### Making Connections

- Analyze the geographic features that isolated China from the rest of the world
- Construct a timeline of events, important leaders and achievements

### Critical Stance

- Evaluate the importance of the Silk Road
- Evaluate the rule of Shi Huangdi and the methods used to unify China

### **Examine the emergence and development of Greek city-states**

#### Initial Understanding

- Locate and label key physical features of Greece
- Define and distinguish between democracy, oligarchy, and dictatorship

#### Developing an Interpretation

- Explain the different the roles of men, women and the various classes in Greek society
- Examine the significance of Greek mythology
- Describe contributions of important Greek figures in the arts and sciences

#### Making Connections

- Summarize the reasons for the conflict between Athens and Sparta

### **Compare and contrast Athenian democracy with the military aristocracy of Sparta**

#### Critical Stance

- Judge Alexander’s achievements as leader and analyze why the empire broke apart
- Evaluate how Greek ideas about democracy and citizenship influenced Western thought

### **Examine the rise and fall of the Roman Empire.**

#### Initial Understanding

- Identify the location and explain the importance of Rome’s geographic setting
- Recall the role of Latins and Etruscans and examine early Roman mythology
- Define patrician, plebian and tribune

#### Developing an Interpretation

- Describe qualities of leadership
- Discuss aspects of daily life of the rich, the poor, the slaves and women in Rome
- Describe the achievements of the five “good emperors” (Pax Romana)

#### Making Connections

- Create a map that illustrates the growth and expansion of the Roman Empire
- Compare Roman recreation, lifestyle and culture with modern society
- Explain the causes and consequence of Caesar’s assassination
- Compare the Twelve Tables with previous and current law codes

#### Critical Stance

- Judge several Roman emperors against criteria for “good leadership”

### **Analyze the fall of Rome and how it led to the birth of medieval civilization**

## **Unit 4: Challenge and Changes of the Middle Ages: Europe and Asia**

### **Examine the causes and consequences of the rise of Islamic civilization**

#### Initial Understanding

- Locate and describe the physical features and climate of the Arabian Peninsula
- Define important terms: Koran, Mecca, and Bedouins

#### Developing an Interpretation

- Explain the impact of geography on Arab culture and describe nomadic ways of life
- Examine the origins of Islam

#### Making Connections

- Create a map that traces the spread of Islam and the growth of Islamic Empire
- Identify similarities and differences between Judaism, Christianity and Islam

#### Critical Stance

- Evaluate the impact of Islam and Islamic civilization to later civilizations

## **Examine the civilizations of China, Japan and India in the Middle Ages.**

### Initial Understanding

- Locate and label important physical features Southeast Asia
- Review the beliefs of Confucianism, Buddhism and Hinduism

### Developing an Interpretation

- Describe the importance of maritime exploration to China
- Examine social class structure of medieval Japan and describe the role of the Samurai

## **Trace the historic influence of the discovery of tea, paper, printing, the compass, and gunpowder**

### Making Connections

- Explain the importance of Hinduism in India and the impact of Muslim rulers
- Create a timeline of Japanese history through the Middle Ages

## **Compare and contrast the two great empires of India: Gupta and Mughal**

### Critical Stance

- Judge the merits and shortcomings of Japan's feudal system

## **Analyze the historical and cultural developments of Medieval Europe.**

### Initial Understanding

- Locate and label important physical features and political boundaries of Europe

## **Imagine and describe day-to-day life in medieval European society**

### Developing an Interpretation

- Trace the new routes of trade and exploration during the Middle Ages
- Describe the importance of the Magna Carta, Renaissance and Reformation
- Explain the role of the Church and the reasons for the Crusades
- Examine the rise of Protestantism and its impact on European society
- Examine the growth of cities and the merchant class in medieval society

### Making Connections

- Summarize the cultural achievements
- Trace the origins of Feudalism and explain its structure

### Critical Stance

- Evaluate the effects of European contact and exchange with new lands
- Evaluate the connection of lore from the Middle Ages to modern tales of heroes
- Evaluate and judge the actions of crusaders