

# Social Studies Curriculum

## Sixth Grade

### A. History

Students will examine the key historic movements, events, and figures that contributed to the development of modern Europe and American nations from early civilizations to early modern times.

1. History: Early Civilizations and Societies in Europe and the Americas to 700 A.D./C.E. (common era)

The students will:

- Describe the cultural achievements, governing systems, religious beliefs, influences, and interactions of different ancient civilizations in Europe, Mesoamerica, and the Eastern Roman Empire
- Develop knowledge of the historic background of various settings
- Identify and discuss changes that have occurred in history

2. History: Medieval History Period and the Renaissance to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century

The students will:

- Describe the feudal system and explain the influence of religion on medieval society
- Describe the developments in science, the arts, and literature that occurred during the European Renaissance
- Identify significant historical events and periods in history
- Relate a historical event to its causes
- Examine the causes and effects of conflicts influencing a given area
- Analyze the significance of travel/trade routes

3. History: Exploration, Colonization, and Post-Colonialism to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

The students will:

- Explain the outcomes of European colonization on the Americas
- Describe the impact of the Age of Enlightenment on political, economic, and scientific thought in Europe and the Americas
- Develop knowledge of the historic background of various settings
- Examine reasons for migration of people in the past and present
- Relate a historical event to its causes
- Examine the causes and effects of conflicts influencing a given area
- Evaluate the effect of historical events, figures, and decisions in a given setting

4. History: Europe and the Americas in the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The students will:

- Describe the impact of industrialization on the lives of individuals, nations, and on the relations between countries of Europe and the Americas
- Explain the influence of competing political and social ideologies on the governments of Europe and the Americas
- Describe the effect of independence movements in Eastern Europe
- Develop knowledge of the historic background of various settings
- Relate a historical event to its causes
- Examine the causes and effects of conflicts influencing a given area
- Evaluate the effect of historical events, figures, and decisions in a given setting
- Compare Spanish colonies in Mexico and South America with French and British colonies in Canada

## 5. History: Chronology, Analysis, and Interpretation

The students will:

- Identify people and events in history by comparing and creating timelines
- Analyze cause and effect in historical events and differentiate between fact and interpretation
- Explain the meaning of historical passages
- Analyze historical events
- Examine appropriate historical documents of a given period
- Give order and sequence to historical events
- Develop knowledge of the historic background of various settings
- Identify significant historical events and periods in history
- Identify and discuss changes that have occurred in history
- Identify past and present methods of communication and transportation
- Identify ways technology has and will facilitate communication and transportation
- Recognize historical perspectives in fiction and non-fiction stories and avoid evaluation of the past solely on present-day norms
- Identify examples of inventions and technological innovations that have brought about cultural change in Europe and the Americas
- Determine the impact of discoveries in science and technology
- Give examples of how religious beliefs and philosophical ideas have spread from one culture to another in Europe and the Americas
- Describe the ways cultures change due to innovation, invention, and diffusion
- Examine art, music, literature, architecture, and artifacts to determine their significance to the societies that created them, and give examples of how artistic ideas spread from one culture to another
- Use a variety of resources to collect and analyze data on cultural factors in Europe and the Americas, use charts, graphs, and other data to compare the relation of these factors to a nation's development

- Define and use the terms *decade*, *century*, and *millennium*; compare ways historical periods and eras are designated; identify organizing principles upon which each is based
- Form research questions and use a variety of information resources to present data on people, cultures, and/or developments in Europe and the Americas

## B. Civics and Government

Students will compare and contrast forms of government in different historical periods with contemporary political structures of Europe and the Americas and examine the rights and responsibilities of individuals in different political systems.

### 1. Civics and Government: Foundations of Government in Europe and the Americas

The students will:

- Compare the early Greek and Roman forms of representative government
- Define the term nation state, identify early nation states headed by monarchs, and describe the rise of nation states headed by monarchs in Europe from 1500-1700
- Describe the impact Enlightenment ideas had on government
- Develop knowledge of the historic background of various settings
- Examine reasons for migration of people in the past and present
- Identify and discuss changes that have occurred in history
- Distinguish between the material and non-material aspects of culture
- Describe the cultural influences that affect the political structures in societies of the Western World
- Compare the characteristics of different types of government historically and currently
- Identify forms of government in Europe and the Americas, and compare them with that of the United States
- Describe the components and characteristics of the United States government including the political parties, three branches of government, and the law-making process
- Examine appropriate historical documents of a given period
- Examine key ideas of the Magna Carta, the Petition of Right, and the English Bill of Rights which placed limits on the English monarchy

### 2. Civics and Government: Functions of government in Europe and the Americas

The students will:

- Describe and give examples of socialist, communist, and democratic governments in Europe and the Americas
- Understand the term socialization, and compare socialization in their own community and in other cultures and times

- Compare the roles of citizens in socialist, communist, and democratic governments in Europe and the Americas
- Identify international organizations and describe their functions
- Relate a historical event to its causes
- Examine the causes and effects of conflicts influencing a given area
- Compare the characteristics of different types of government historically and currently
- Define roles of citizens in selected nations of Europe, the Americas, and the United States
- Identify some of the rights and responsibilities that people have as citizens
- Identify functions of international governmental officials and organizations
- Discuss the impact of democracy on nations of Europe and the Americas
- Analyze the impact of the concept of democracy on nations of Europe and the Americas

### C. Geography

Students will identify the characteristics of climate regions in Europe and the Americas and describe major physical features, countries, and cities of Europe and the Western Hemisphere.

#### 1. Geography: Maps and Globes

The students will:

- Identify the names and locations of countries and major cities in Europe and the Western Hemisphere
- Use latitude and longitude to locate capital cities
- Locate, describe, and compare major mountain regions, bodies of water, deserts, and climate regions of Europe and the Americas
- Identify the states of Mexico and the provinces of Canada
- Recognize and use different kinds of maps and globes (e.g. political, physical, and climate)
- Use symbols, scale, map keys, and legends on maps and globes to identify and interpret data
- Use latitude and longitude to locate places on Earth
- Describe the uses of locational technology, such as Global Positioning Systems and Geographic Information Systems
- Recognize the existence of time zones
- Identify and describe the physical and cultural characteristics of regions of Europe and the Americas

#### 2. Geography: Human and Physical Systems

The students will:

- Describe the distribution of natural resources, people, languages, and major religions in Europe and the Americas
- Explain how cultures change
- Define and explain how *anthropology* and *archeology* contribute to our understanding of societies
- Describe the reasons for the locations of specific places in relation to the environment, and how the natural environment has influenced historical developments in Europe and the Americas
- Explain how Earth/sun relationships, ocean currents, and winds influence climate differences
- Compare and contrast cultural patterns, such as language, religion, traditions, and ethnicity, in various parts of Europe and the Americas
- Examine the distribution of natural resources, major manufacturing, and agriculture regions in Europe and the Americas
- Identify and examine ways in which people use, adapt, and impact the environment
- Cite examples of how natural and technological hazards have impacted the environment and human populations in Europe and the Americas
- Identify environmental issues that affect problems in Europe and the Americas; explain how human-induced changes in the physical environment cause changes in another place
- Identify major biomes, and explain ways in which natural environment of places in Europe and the Americas relates to climate
- Identify patterns of population density, including growth and change, which have occurred over time
- Compare and contrast the climate regions of Europe and the Americas

#### D. Economics

Students will examine the influence of physical and cultural factors upon the economic systems of countries in Europe and the Americas.

##### 1. Economics: International Trade

The students will:

- Explain how trade has affected the history and development of countries in Europe and the Americas
- Identify economic connections between the local community, Indiana, and the countries of Europe or the Americas
- Identify job skills needed to be successful in the workplace
- Describe how different economic systems answer the basic economic questions: what, how, and for whom to produce
- Examine the benefits and effects of trade between the Americas and Europe: historically and currently
- Analyze current economic issues in Europe and the Americas

- Compare the standards of living of various countries in Europe and the Americas using Gross Domestic Product as an indicator
- Recognize the need for trade between countries and the necessity of exchanging currencies; giving examples of different currencies
- Define and give examples of trade barriers

## 2. Economics: Standard of Living

The students will:

- Compare the standards of living of countries in Europe and the Americas using a variety of data including Gross Domestic Product
- Describe the method of channeling funds from savers, borrowers, and investors
- Explore the education or training needed for a job or profession
- Describe how people depend upon each other to supply economic goods and services
- Give examples of how economic resources are limited (scarcity) and how people must make choices about how to use resources
- Explore the ways societies answer the basic economic questions of what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce
- Describe the productive resources and market relationships that influence the way people produce goods and services and earn a living in their community and in different parts of the Americas and Western Europe
- Identify situations in which actions of consumer/or producers are helpful and/or harmful to others who are not directly involved in the consumption or production of a product
- Describe levels and sources of income as well as the benefits of saving and investing in the Western World