

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE

### *The Civil War*

The students will:

- Discuss the advantages of the Union and the Confederacy at the beginning of the war.
- Explain what made the Civil War the first modern war.
- Understand how the war influenced life in the North and the South.
- Describe how the Union won important battles that led to the Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House.

### *Reunion And Reconstruction*

The students will:

- Describe how the Congress and President Johnson disagreed over the reunion of the nation.
- Analyze how African Americans achieved rights.
- Discuss the adoption of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment and the election of 1866.
- Examine the events leading up to the impeachment and acquittal of President Johnson.
- Hypothesize how programs such as the Freedmen's Bureau helped African Americans despite southern resistance.

### *Life In The West*

The students will:

- Analyze the developments that helped open the West for settlement.
- Discuss farm life on the Great Plains.
- Examine how Native Americans were forced to move onto reservations despite resistance from some groups.

### *The Rise Of Industry*

The students will:

- Describe advances made in technology, transportation and communications in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- Assess how the growth of industry led to the formation of labor unions.
- Examine the characteristics of US immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

### *The Progressive Era*

The students will:

- Describe the problems facing the cities and government during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

- Explain the goals of the Progressives during this time period.
- Analyze the types of reforms that T. Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson took.

### **Expansion Overseas**

The students will:

- Explain how the United States began to expand its control & influence in Asia and the Pacific.
- Describe the location, causes and results of the Spanish –American war.
- Explain how the US gained influence in Latin America.

### **World War I**

The students will:

- Identify the tensions that led to W.W.I and the new weapons and strategies used in battle.
- Discuss how Wilson prepared for war and how Americans supported the war effort.
- Describe how American troops aided the allies during the war.
- Analyze the results of the peace treaty.

### **Life In The 1920's**

The students will:

- Analyze the economic growth that occurred at this time.
- Discuss the changes in the arts, sports and entertainment.
- Discuss the problems that resulted from Prohibition, racial tensions and religious differences.

### **The Great Depression and The New Deal**

The students will:

- Describe the events that led to the depression and the government's response to it.
- Discuss the effects of the Depression on Americans.
- Analyze the effectiveness of the New Deal.

### **World War II**

The students will:

- Describe the causes of the war.
- Explain how Germany took over much of Western Europe and how the US moved away from its policy of neutrality.
- Analyze the effects of the war on Americans and the emergence of the US in world affairs.

### **The Cold War**

The students will:

- Identify the reasons for the Cold War, the UN, NATO and the Truman Doctrine.
- Describe the 1948 presidential campaign, the Korean War and the rise of McCarthyism.
- Explore the election of 1952 and the beginnings of the Civil Rights movement.
- Explain how American life in the 50s changed.

### **The Kennedy Years**

The students will:

- Explain how Kennedy handled crises in Cuba, Berlin and Southeast Asia.
- Describe his plans for The New Frontier, space and aiding developing nations.
- Discuss the Civil Rights movement of the early 60s.

### **The Johnson Years**

The students will:

- Discuss Johnson's Great Society programs.
- Examine the growing equal rights movement.
- Describe the events of the Vietnam War.
- Analyze the war's effects on life in the US.

### **Turbulent Times 1968-1979**

The students will:

- Explain the social and political issues surrounding the Vietnam War and the events that led to the end of the war.
- Identify the success and struggles of the Nixon presidency.
- Analyze how presidents Ford and Carter handled the problems of the nation following the Vietnam War.

### **New Challenges For The Nation 1980-Present**

The students will:

- Examine Reagan's conservative policies.
- Describe George H.W. Bush's domestic and foreign policies.
- Analyze Clinton's economic policies.
- Describe the domestic and world problems of Clinton's presidency.
- Discuss the impact of terrorist attacks on the US in 2001 and the American response.

### **Looking To The Future**

The students will:

- Identify ways computers have changed life in America.

- Identify how the US economy is affected by world events.
- Identify world environmental and healthcare problems.

## **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

### **Prehistory**

The students will:

- Understand how we learned about life before the written word.
- Analyze the major inventions during Prehistory.
- Evaluate the role of geography in determining how early humans survived.
- Analyze the roles of women in early cultures.

### **Greek and Roman Culture**

The students will:

- Understand how Greek and Roman culture developed.
- Evaluate the contributions made by Greek and Roman cultures to Western civilization.
- Analyze the relationship between the Roman Empire and the development of Christianity.
- Analyze how landforms, waterways, climate and natural resources have shaped history.

### **Early River Valley Civilizations (Mesopotamia And Egypt)**

The students will:

- Analyze the early civilizations in terms of similarities, differences, and contributions to other civilizations.

### **The Byzantine Empire**

The students will:

- Understand the causes of the decline of the Byzantine Empire.
- Analyze the importance of Constantinople and the Eastern Orthodox Church as the geographic and cultural centers of the Byzantine Empire.

### **Civilizations of Africa**

The students will:

- Learn the physical geography of Africa.
- Explain how the Bantu and their movement affected the continent.
- Identify the trading kingdoms of West Africa.
- Investigate the West African rain forest kingdoms.
- Examine East African civilizations.
- Understands why the coastal cities of East Africa were important.

### **Early Civilizations of The Americas**

The students will:

- Examine the geography of the Americas.
- Describe the Incan Empire.
- Learn about the Mayan culture.
- Describe the Aztec Empire.
- Describe the mound builders of Eastern North America.
- Explain the cultures of the Southwest and the Great Plains.
- Summarize how the Woodland people lived.

### **Civilizations of Asia**

The students will:

- Summarize the Golden Age of the Tang Dynasty.
- Explain the achievements of the Song Dynasty.
- Explain the Mongol rule of China.
- Learn about the geography of Japan.
- Explain the changes that occurred during the Heian period of Japanese history.
- Explain feudalism in Japan.
- Explain the geography of the Indian sub-continent.
- Summarize the Delhi Sultanate.
- Describe the achievements of the Mongol empire.

### **Europe in The Middle Ages**

The students will:

- Define the Middle Ages.
- Explain how land and power were divided under feudalism.
- Explain how the manor system worked.
- Summarize why the Roman Catholic Church was so powerful.
- Describe life in a medieval town.
- Explain the role of culture and learning.
- Paraphrase the causes of the Crusades.
- Analyze the different crusades.
- Describe the forces that led to nation building in Europe.
- Explain nation building in England.
- Interpret how the Hundred Years War affected England and France.

### **A New Age in Europe**

The students will:

- Understand how the Renaissance spread to other parts of Europe.
- Define the Renaissance and why it occurred.
- Describe the art and artists of the Renaissance.

- Discover how the Reformation changed religious life.
- Discover why Europeans explored the world in the 1400's.
- Explain how the Portuguese reached India and how Columbus reached the Americas.
- Explain Magellan's expedition.
- Discuss absolute rule of monarchs in France.
- Recognize why the reign of Elizabeth the first was a golden age in England.
- Discover the accomplishments of strong rulers in Spain and Russia.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

### **Latin America**

The students will:

- Identify the main physical and political features of Latin America.
- Analyze how Latin America's waterways have affected the region.
- Identify the major influences of climate Latin America.
- Identify the factors that influence climate.
- Describe important resources of Latin America.
- Analyze the problems of a one-resource economy.
- Analyze the impact of geography on lifestyles, economics and customs in Latin America.
- Describe the Mayan civilization.
- Explain how the Aztecs and the Incas built their empires.
- Analyze why the Europeans sailed to the Americas.
- Describe the conquests of the conquistadors and how the Spanish Empire was organized.
- Recall events that inspired revolutions in Latin America.
- Describe how Latin American caudillos and foreign involvement added to the region's troubles.
- Describe the cultural heritage of the people of Middle America.
- Analyze the movement of people from rural to urban areas.
- Explain what ethnic groups make up the people of the Caribbean.
- Analyze how the different cultures of the Caribbean blended.
- Describe the ethnic groups of the four cultural regions of South America.

### **Mexico And Central America**

The students will:

- Explain how to use data to compare countries.
- Describe general characteristics that Mexico and most Central American countries share and the ways they differ.
- Describe life in rural Mexico.
- Explain why Mexicans have been moving to the cities.
- Analyze the problems created by the growth of Mexico City.
- Explain why there is a struggle for land in Guatemala.

- Discuss how the Mayas lost their land.
- Examine how groups are working to improve the lives of indigenous people in Guatemala.
- Analyze the reasons that the canal was built in Panama.
- Explain how the Panama Canal was built.
- Examine how the canal has affected the people of Panama.

### **The Caribbean**

The students will:

- Analyze the data to compare countries.
- Describe how Cuba's history led to many Cubans leaving their land.
- Examine recent changes in Cuba.
- Describe how democracy has threatened Haiti.
- Analyze life in the Haitian countryside and city.
- Understand how the Puerto Ricans identify as both Americans and Puerto Ricans.
- Examine the different political status that Puerto Ricans are considering.
- Describe life in Puerto Rico.

### **South America**

The students will:

- Apply data to describe countries.
- Examine the geography of Brazil.
- Discover why the rainforest is important.
- Describe the different groups that make up Brazil.
- Examine how geography affects the 3 regions of Peru.
- Describe life on the Altiplano.
- Examine how the geography of Chile creates regions and how it affects the people.
- Describe life in Chile and describe how democracy was restored there.
- Analyze how oil affects Venezuela.
- Describe the problems of a one product economy.
- Examine how Venezuela is changing.

### **World Culture – Asia and the Pacific**

The students will:

- Identify major historical events in Asia.
- Identify Asia's relationship to the United States both past and present.
- Analyze Asia's Economic Development.
- Analyze Asia's Demographics.
- Analyze Asia's role in Global Politics, Economics and Ecology.
- Learn about physical features of the different areas in Asia.
- Examine the major climate regions.

- Analyze how climate affects the people and vegetation.
- Describe the natural resources and how they affect the people.
- Describe the past civilizations of East Asia and how it affects the area today.
- Examine how the Chinese culture affected the rest of East Asia.
- Analyze how East Asia was affected by the West.
- Contrast the people of China to the people of Japan and Korea.
- Describe the religions of South Asia.
- Understand how empires affected South Asia's history.
- Learn about present day religions and languages of South Asia.
- Understand that three of the world's great religions began in Southwest Asia.
- Examine the different ethnic groups and religions of Southwest Asia.
- Describe the conflict between the Arabs and the Israelis.
- Learn that many cultures and people influenced Central Asia in ancient times.
- Discover how Central Asian nations became independent and why they are the focus of world interest.
- Discover why Southeast Asia is a culturally diverse region.
- Analyze how colonial powers affected Southeast Asia.
- Understand how years of conflict affected Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.
- Discover how people settled Australia and New Zealand.
- Learn which groups shaped the cultures of Australia and New Zealand.
- Understand how Pacific Island nations have been affected by other cultures.
- Compare and contrast data about nations of East Asia.
- Discover how China controlled its economy from 1949 to 1980.
- Learn about the growth of Taiwan since 1949.
- Discover how China's government operated after the death of Mao Zedong.
- Describe life in China today.
- Learn about the growth of Japan's economy.
- Describe life in Japan today.
- Understand why North Korea has been slow to develop.
- Analyze how South Korea became an economic success.