



## Middle School History and Social Science Curriculum Overview

### History and Social Science – Grade 6

In sixth grade, students will

- recognize the ideals commonly attributed to the United States and is able to relate these ideals to everyday life
- recognize and use the vocabulary of geography and the social sciences
- develop study skills needed for independent research and reporting
- use sophisticated geographical data sources
- use maps and globes to describe and explain the Earth
- use conventional map-making terminology and symbols to show physical and political features of the United States on maps
- interpret a variety of thematic maps and charts, such as climate, vegetation, and precipitation
- use the five themes of geography (location, place, interaction with environment, movement, and region) to study the geography of an area of the world
- identify countries and specific physical features from all regions of the world
- understand that the climate, physical features and resources of a region influence the settlement and economies of that region
- understand that people change the environment to meet their needs and that changes to environment may be viewed as positive or negative to the environment
- analyze human factors as part of a full geographical understanding, e.g., issues of health, population, employment, role of women, etc.
- read, interpret, and analyze stories from the news.

### History and Social Science – Grade 7

In seventh grade, students will

- recognize the ideals commonly attributed to the United States and be able to relate these ideals to their everyday lives
- recognize and use the vocabulary of history and the social sciences
- study issues from multiple perspectives
- develop study skills needed for independent research and reporting
- create and interpret time lines to understand events over time
- create and read maps to trace geographic, political, social, and economic development of select ancient societies
- identify key geographic features connected with select ancient societies
- identify different forms of government (democracy, oligarchy, etc.,) and compare Roman and Greek governments to that of the United States
- explain how governing systems in ancient societies maintained order and achieved societal goals
- describe how the value and belief systems of select ancient societies were reflected in every aspect of life including the social organization, architecture, arts, literature and science
- understand that the beliefs and actions of individuals and groups in history affect the outcome of history

- identify key individuals in ancient societies who changed the course of thought and history, e.g., Alexander, Caesar
- analyze the changes in society as a result of technological and scientific developments
- understand the socioeconomic stratification of ancient societies and its implications on the people's lives, particularly in Rome
- explain the legacies of Greek and Roman art, architecture, literature etc., on contemporary life in the United States.

## History and Social Science – Grade 8

In eighth grade, students will

- recognize the ideals commonly attributed to the United States and relate these ideals to their everyday lives
- recognize and use the vocabulary of history and the social sciences
- study issues from multiple perspectives
- use primary source materials to obtain accurate information about events and people in history
- develop study skills needed for independent research and reporting
- connect historical events to the choices and decisions people make in their lives today
- create and interpret time lines to understand events over time
- describe social, political, religious and cultural life at various times from the American Revolution through Reconstruction
- identify and analyze the causes and effects of the American Revolution and the Civil War
- explain the content of the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, and important Supreme Court cases and analyze the importance of these documents both historically and in contemporary America
- describe the structure of the federal government and the American political process: branches of government, balance of power, legislative process, court system, powers of the presidency, voting
- locate key geographic features pertinent to the historical development of the United States and examine their significance
- examine key social movements of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, e.g., Abolition, Suffrage
- trace the changes in American life as a result of the Industrial Revolution and technological and scientific developments
- trace the territorial expansion of the United States from colonization through the settling of the western lands to the Pacific Ocean, analyzing the expansion from different perspectives
- summarize the contributions of a range of important individuals from 1750-1880 in United States history.

### Middle School History and Social Science Department

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