

Laredo Middle School Social Studies Overview & Standards

6th Grade Social Studies

The sixth grade Social Studies curriculum is focused on the geography, history, economics, and civics of Latin America. Throughout the school year, students will be introduced to five different units of study including; physical geography, Mexico, Central America, Caribbean, and South America. Each unit will focus on the physical and human characteristics of the Western Hemisphere in addition to the cultural diversity, key issues both past and present, economic systems, financial literacy, the environment, and the similarities and differences between each unit of study.

**Social Studies
Grade Level Expectations at a Glance**

Standard

| Sixth Grade | Grade Level Expectation |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. History | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze and interpret historical sources to ask and research historical questions 2. The historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes in regions of the Western Hemisphere and their relationships with one another |
| 2. Geography | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use geographic tools to solve problems 2. Human and physical systems vary and interact |
| 3. Economics | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and analyze different economic systems 2. Saving and investing are key contributors to financial well-being (PFL) |
| 4. Civics | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the interconnected nature of the United States to other nations 2. Compare multiple systems of governments |

7th Grade Social Studies

Our focus in 7th grade Social Studies will be on the Eastern Hemisphere of the world. Units we will cover are: Asia (China), Middle East (India), Europe (Greece & Italy) and Africa (Egypt/Mesopotamia). We will not only study the geography of these places, but also their culture, religion (Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam), political philosophies, ancient history, as well as some modern history. A question/theme that students will be consistently researching and able to answer following each unit is, “Why did ancient people settle where they did?” Students will also be asked to analyze the ways in which we are connected to those around the world.

**Social Studies
Grade Level Expectations at a Glance**

Standard

| Seventh Grade | Grade Level Expectation |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. History | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek and evaluate multiple historical sources with different points of view to investigate a historical question and to formulate and defend a thesis with evidence 2. The historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes within regions of the Eastern Hemisphere and their relationships with one another |
| 2. Geography | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use geographic tools to gather data and make geographic inferences and predictions 2. Regions have different issues and perspectives |
| 3. Economics | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supply and demand influence price and profit in a market economy |

**Social Studies
Grade Level Expectations at a Glance**

| Standard | |
|-----------------|---|
| | 2. The distribution of resources influences economic production and individual choices (PFL) |
| 4. Civics | 1. The different forms of government and international organizations and their influence in the world community 2. Compare how various nations define the rights, responsibilities and roles of citizens |

8th Grade Social Studies

Eighth Grade Social Studies students study United States History from the Revolution through Reconstruction. The units of study include the Introduction in which primary and secondary sources are taught and Colonial America is reviewed. The Revolution Era unit reviews the American Revolution and students analyze the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. Students next learn the personal and functions of the three branches of government as laid out in the Constitution. During the New Nation unit the first four presidencies are taught along with the start of political parties, the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812. The expansion of land, rights, inventions and slavery are taught throughout the Expansion unit. The causes of the Civil War and the war itself highlight the next unit. Finally, the year ends with a unit on Reconstruction or the time after the Civil War

**Social Studies
Grade Level Expectations at a Glance**

| Standard | |
|---------------------|--|
| Eighth Grade | Grade Level Expectation |
| 1. History | 1. Formulate appropriate hypotheses about United States history based on a variety of historical sources and perspectives 2. The historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes from the origins of the American Revolution through Reconstruction and their relationships with one another |
| 2. Geography | 1. Use geographic tools to analyze patterns in human and physical systems 2. Conflict and cooperation occur over space and resources |
| 3. Economics | 1. Economic freedom, including free trade, is important for economic growth 2. Manage personal credit and debt(PFL) |
| 4. Civics | 1. Analyze elements of continuity and change in the United States government and the role of citizens over time 2. The place of law in a constitutional system |

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