

## Instructional Vocabulary

### Grade 6 Social Studies

#### Unit 1: North America

- **Culture** – a particular form or stage of [civilization](#), as that of a certain nation or period: Greek culture; the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group: the youth culture
- **Anthropology** – the sum total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another
- **Cultural trait** – any characteristic of human activity acquired in social life and transmitted by communication
- **Diversity** – a point of difference
- **Multiculturalism** – the preservation of different cultures or cultural identities within a unified society, as a state or nation
- **Region** – an extensive, continuous part of a surface, [space](#), or body: a region of the Earth; a part of the Earth's surface (land or sea) of considerable and usually indefinite extent: a tropical region; a district without respect to boundaries or extent: a charming region in Connecticut; a large indefinite area or range of something specified
- **Sphere** – a region of authority

#### Unit 2: Celebrate Freedom Week

- **Limited government** – in a limited government led by the citizens, everyone, including all authority figures, must obey the laws
- **Unlimited government** – in an unlimited government, control is placed solely with the ruler and his/her appointees, and there are no limits imposed on his/her authority

#### Unit 3: Central America/Caribbean

- **Demography** – the statistical study of human populations, especially with reference to size and density, distribution, and vital statistics
- **Economic Interdependence** – characteristic of a [society](#) (and increasingly that of the [world](#)) with a high [degree](#) of [division-of-labor](#), where people depend [on](#) other people to [produce](#) most of the [goods](#) and [services required](#) to sustain [life](#) and living
- **Communism** – a [theory](#) or system of social organization based on [the](#) holding of all property in common, actual ownership being ascribed to the community as a whole or to the state
- **Socialism** – a [theory](#) or system of [social organization](#) that advocates [the](#) vesting of the ownership and control of the means of production and distribution of capital, land, etc., in the community as a whole

#### Unit 4: South America

- **Citizenship** – the character of an individual viewed as a member of society; behavior in terms of the duties, obligations, and functions of a citizen.
- **Human rights** – as defined by the U.N. Commission for Human Rights, are rights inherent to all human beings, without distinction as to race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

- **Economic development** – the increase in the standard of living in a nation's population with sustained growth from a simple, low-income economy to a modern, high-income economy.

#### Unit 5: Europe

- **Nationalism** – can include the following, individually or in combination: national spirit or aspirations; devotion and loyalty to one's own nation; excessive patriotism; the desire for national advancement or independence; the policy or doctrine of asserting the interests of one's own nation, viewed as separate from the interests of other nations or the common interests of all nations.
- **Genocide** – the deliberate and systematic extermination of a national, racial, political, or cultural group.
- **Cultural diffusion** – spreading of ideas or products from one culture to another.

#### Unit 6: Russian-Eurasian Republics

- **Emerging Economy** –countries in transition phase between developing and developed economies; usually in process of rapid growth.
- **Forced migration** –coerced movement of a person or persons away from their home or home region. A specific form of forced migration is population transfer.

#### Unit 7: East Asia

- **Command economy** –an economic system in which the central government controls industry such that it makes major decisions regarding the production and distribution of goods and services.
- **Innovation** –something new or different introduced.
- **Technology** –the total knowledge and skills available to any human society for industry, art, science, etc.

#### Unit 8: Southeast Asia

- **Monsoon** – seasonal changes in atmospheric circulation and precipitation associated with the asymmetric heating of land and sea.
- **Tsunami** – a series of water waves caused by the displacement of a large volume of a body of water, usually an ocean, though it can occur in large lakes.
- **Ring of Fire** – an area where large numbers of [earthquakes](#) and [volcanic](#) eruptions occur in the basin of the [Pacific Ocean](#).
- **Monumental architecture** – large man-made structures of stone or earth. These generally are used as [public buildings or spaces](#). The defining characteristic of monumental architecture is typically its public nature—the fact that the structure or space was built by lots of people for lots of people to look at or share in the use of.

#### Unit 9: South Asia

- **Monsoon** – seasonal changes in atmospheric circulation and precipitation associated with the asymmetric heating of land and sea.
- **Flood Plain** – a nearly flat plain along the course of a stream or river that is naturally subject to flooding.
- **Religion** – a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs.

## Unit 10: Southwest Asia and North Africa

- **Religious terminology** – (definition of the holidays) is spelled out in the specificity.
- **Plagiarism** – the use of someone else's ideas or words to express a thought as your own without proper attribution to the author or source.

## Unit 11: Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Ethnic conflict** – War, civil war, or other conflict between or among two or more racial, language, or religious groups.
- **Apartheid** – Afrikaans for “separateness,” the system of legal racial segregation that existed in South Africa between 1948 and 1993, under which the rights of the majority ‘non-white’ inhabitants of the country were restricted.
- **Import substitution** – Government strategy that emphasizes replacement of some agricultural or industrial imports to encourage local production for local consumption, rather than producing for export markets. Import substitutes are meant to generate employment, reduce foreign exchange demand, stimulate innovation, and make the country self-reliant in critical areas such as food, defense, and advanced technology.
- **Scarcity** – the fundamental economic problem of having seemingly unlimited human needs and wants, in a world of limited resources. It states that society has insufficient productive resources to fulfill all human wants and needs.
- **Relative scarcity** – short supply of a resource in one or more areas due to inadequate or disrupted distribution.

## Unit 12: Australia and Oceania

- **Continental Island** – bodies of land that lie on the continental shelf. New Zealand and New Caledonia are both types of continental islands.
- **Barrier Islands** – are also continental islands that are specifically formed by accumulations of sand deposited by sea currents on the continental shelf.
- **Reef** – a rock, sandbar, or other feature lying beneath the surface of the water. Many reefs (but not all) are made of coral. Reefs can grow to break the surface at low tide and sometimes form islands, such as the coral islands of Tonga, Nauru, and many of the Polynesian islands.
- **Oceanic Island** – an oceanic island does not sit on the continental shelf and instead emerges from the ocean floor. Most oceanic islands are volcanic, but some, such as Macquarie Island (an Australian possession), are the result of tectonic plate shifts.
- **Volcanic islands** – a volcanic island, as its name suggests, is one that has risen from the ocean floor over time due to lava flow associated with volcanic activity.
- **Atoll** – an island formed from a coral reef that has grown on an eroded and submerged volcanic island. The reef rises to the surface of the water and forms a new island. Atolls are typically ring-shaped with a central lagoon. Bora Bora, a resort island in French Polynesia, is a famous atoll.

## Unit 13: Independent Study and Innovation

- **Innovation** – turning a new concept into widespread use or commercial success
- **Invention** – creation of a new idea or concept