



Building on the social studies skills developed in the elementary grades, students in the middle school years begin with a study of people, cultures, and ideas in the Western Hemisphere and move from there to explorations of the Eastern Hemisphere, ending with the early history of the United States. In each grade, students investigate historical events, examine geographic features and resources, consider economic decision-making processes, and understand types of governments and civic responsibility.

Expectations for 6th Grade Students:

- **History:** Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources (original documents, maps, artifacts) to ask and research questions about the historical eras, individuals, groups, and ideas in various regions throughout the Western Hemisphere.
- **Geography:** Use geographic tools and resources to research regional differences and perspectives and make geographic inferences. Students investigate human and environmental interactions in the Western Hemisphere.
- **Economics:** Identify and explain the different types of economic systems including market, command and mixed economies. **Personal Financial Literacy:** Investigate the role of consumers within the Western Hemisphere.
- **Civics:** Analyze the relationships of different nations in the Western Hemisphere and their systems of government.

Throughout 6th Grade You May Find Students:

- Analyzing primary and secondary sources such as documents, photos, maps and artifacts to research and answer questions about the Western Hemisphere; exploring the key people, ideas and events from different perspectives and points of view to frame the “story” of history (the Aztecs, Maya, Inuit, Native American Cultures, colonizers of the Western Hemisphere, and the Columbian Exchange).
- Examining places and regions in the Western Hemisphere through maps, charts, and geospatial technologies (geographic information systems, Google Earth, global positioning systems); analyzing the positive and negative interactions between humans and the physical world (landforms, resources, climate); presenting potential solutions to problems surrounding issues of resource distribution, migration patterns, and population growth.
- Defining economic systems (traditional, command, market, and mixed economies); use economic reasoning to explain how specialization of production can result in more interdependence of examining how economic systems interact in an interdependent global economy. **Personal Financial Literacy:** investigating the role of consumers in the Western Hemisphere.
- Analyzing the relationships of different nations in the Western Hemisphere; describing systems of government in the Western Hemisphere.