

SOCIAL STUDIES

6th Grade



Sixth Grade Social Studies Curriculum Overview

The [Indiana Academic Standards](#) define what students should know, understand, and be able to do at grade level beginning in kindergarten and progressing through grade twelve. These standards serve as the foundation to our curriculum in Noblesville Schools but are not a curriculum on their own. The Indiana Academic Standards are supported through grade-level, content-area curriculum maps and a selection of curriculum materials to support these maps. These curriculum maps and materials are aligned to the Indiana Academic standards while also providing the conditions necessary to be responsive to the needs of all learners. Therefore, the Noblesville Schools' curriculum is constantly undergoing periodic and systematic analysis and revision.

In *Social Studies Grade 6*, instructional time is focused on guiding students from concrete ideas of history to more complex and abstract concepts. This helps students begin to generalize trends and themes within the history of Western Society in areas including economic systems, geography, government, current issues, and differing cultures of the western world. [Social Studies Grade Six: History, Places, and Cultures in Europe and Americas Indiana Standards](#) serve as the foundation of our curriculum. These standards are supported in Noblesville Schools through primary curriculum materials for middle school social studies, *The Newsela Social Studies Content Platform*. The following document provides an overview of the year's course of study for 6th grade historians.

Please note: Collaborative teacher teams across both middle schools work together to align standards, assessments, and learning objectives. As order of units, duration of units, and essential questions are at the discretion of building-level teams, unit numbers and unit duration are not included in this overview, and essential questions listed may represent both schools or only one. For the most relevant and up-to-date information on your child's social studies curriculum pacing, please [enroll as a Parent Observer on Canvas](#).

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Units of Study

Table 1: Units of Study for 6th Grade Social Studies

Unit	Transfer Goals	Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions <i>may include but are not limited to the following:</i>
Ancient Civilizations- Greece & Rome	Investigate what causes civilizations to survive, thrive, and decline. Explain how ancient civilizations served as building blocks to modern society.	A civilization's culture and development is often influenced by many factors - geography, other societies, government, economy, trade, philosophy, education, art, and technology.	1. How does geography affect a civilization/people? (West only) 2. How do ancient civilizations influence the development of government, economy, trade, religion, and philosophies? (West only) 3. What factors can cause a civilization to survive, thrive and eventually decline? (West only) 4. How have ancient civilizations served as the building blocks to the Western World? (East and West)

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Unit	Transfer Goals	Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions <i>may include but are not limited to the following:</i>
The Middle Ages	Analyze the impact of political, cultural, social and economic systems on a society.	A civilization's culture and development is often influenced by many factors - geography, other societies, government, economy, trade, philosophy, education, art, and technology.	1. How can we identify & explain how medieval society developed? (West only) 2. How did the Black Death, along with other economic, environmental and social factors lead to the decline of medieval society? (West only) 3. How do we describe and compare the beliefs of the three monotheistic religions affecting the Middle Ages? (West only) 4. What factor caused the greatest change in the Middle Ages? (East)
Birth of a Modern World	Analyze the impact of an individual or event on society in the past and our world today.	1. Individuals and events can impact a society. 2. Individuals and events from the past can influence future generations.	1. What are the cause & effect relationships of individuals/events that have impacted our world? 2. How did individuals and events bring changes to Europe that have impacted our world? 3. How does geography impact people? 4. What kind of changes can war spark? 5. Do the benefits of expansion and trade outweigh the costs?

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Unit	Transfer Goals	Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions <i>may include but are not limited to the following:</i>
Conflict and Globalization	Analyze current cultural, economic, geographical, historical, and political interdependence in our world using a variety of resources to become an informed citizen.	1. When civilizations engage in major conflicts, there are benefits and costs to their involvement. 2. Individuals can impact society in the past, present and future. 3. Different types of political ideologies can influence a society.	1. What effect does the economy have on a nation? 2. How do people impact geography on earth? 3. How have governments ensured the survival of its country and their peoples' rights? 4. What are the roles and responsibilities of citizens in a society? 5. What are the benefits and challenges of a diverse society? 6. How do past events influence future decisions? 7. What is the cost of conflict? 8. How does technology affect countries' relationships? 9. How has globalization (competition, allies, trade) affected economic relationships in the world?