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# Department of Instruction

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## What Your Child Will Learn in 6th Grade Social Studies

All Calvert County Core Social Studies Curriculum is based on [Maryland Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks](#)

### Social Studies Skills and Processes

#### Reading and Source Analysis and Application

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.
- Integrate and evaluate content presented graphically, visually, orally, and multimodally as well as in words within and across print and digital sources.
- Evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and fluency of the evidence.

#### Writing Standards

- Students will write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
- Students will write informative/ explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events.

#### Historical Thinking and Reasoning

- Engage in inquiry, including constructing compelling questions, supporting questions, and determining helpful resources needed to answer their questions.
- Evaluate context, continuity and change by analyzing connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.
- Analyze various perspectives by analyzing the multiple factors that influenced peoples' perspectives during different historical eras and explaining how and why perspectives change over time.
- Analyze the relative influence of various causes of events and developments in the past and in contemporary society while evaluating their effects and implications.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Content

## Unit One: Prehistoric People (Transition to Civilization)

1. Explain how early people interacted with their environment to meet their basic needs and survive.
2. Describe and evaluate the effects of the transformation of human beings from Paleolithic (food collecting) to Neolithic (food producing - agriculture).
3. Analyze and evaluate the impact of a stable food supply (agriculture) on the development of permanent settlements.
4. Explain how social studies uses artifacts to interpret history.

## Unit Two: The First Civilizations (Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Canaan)

1. Explain how the geography affected the development of the world's first civilizations.
  - a. Mesopotamia
  - b. Egypt & Kush
  - c. Canaan
2. Describes the elements of culture through an analysis of the first civilizations.
  - a. Mesopotamia
  - b. Egypt
  - c. Canaan
3. Analyze the various factors that led to conflict of the first civilizations.
  - a. Mesopotamia
  - b. Egypt
  - c. Canaan

## Unit Three: Ancient India

1. Evaluate the unique geographical features that affected the development and growth of ancient India.
2. Analyze the emergence of urban development in the Indus River Valley.
3. Evaluate how the Aryan migration affected Indian culture and the development of Hinduism.
4. Connect the development of the social structure in ancient India to its religious beliefs.
5. Recognize the major cultural and historical achievements of ancient India.

## Unit Four: Ancient China

1. Evaluate the impact of geographical features on China's history of isolation.
2. Describe and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of feudalism during Zhou Dynasty.
3. Explain how the instability of the Warring States Period led to the development of the three Chinese philosophies.
4. Analyze the changes that led to a unified Qin Dynasty.
5. Evaluate the major advancements of Han Dynasty.
6. Evaluate the development of trade between China and other parts of the world.

## **Unit Five: Ancient Greece**

1. Analyze how the geography of Greece affected the way in which ancient Greeks lived.
2. Compare the emergence and rise of the major Greek city-states.
3. Explain how internal interactions between Greek city-states and contact with other nation-states influenced the development of Greece.
4. Evaluate the cultural impact and significance of the Hellenistic Age.

## **Unit Six: Ancient Rome**

1. Analyze how the geography of Rome affected the way in which ancient Romans lived.
2. Describe the development of the Roman republic.
3. Analyze the reasons for Rome's transition from a republic to an empire with a dictatorial system of government.
4. Analyze the cultural achievements of ancient Rome.
5. Evaluate the origins and spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire
6. Analyze the reasons for the fall of the Roman Empire