SIXTH GRADE

United States Studies: The Industrial Revolution to the Present

Sixth-grade content standards focus on the history of the United States from the Industrial Revolution to the present. Historical events studied by sixth graders include the rise of the United States as an industrial nation, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War Era. Furthermore, the economic, political, social, and technological issues and developments from post-World War II to the present are explored. Emphasis is placed on economic, geographic, historic, and civic and governmental changes that have influenced every aspect of life during these events, including communication and technological advances, reorganization of national boundaries, and the movement of the United States into the role of world leader.

Sixth-grade students are interested in acquiring a deeper understanding of cultures and political opinions that differ from their own. Students at this age benefit from a positive learning environment that challenges and encourages their efforts and progress. As they enter into a transitional stage characterized by physical, cognitive, and social changes, they begin to analyze and evaluate relationships between ideas and practices. Sixth-grade instruction should provide constant opportunities for students to explore prior knowledge and opinions. Teachers should maximize and expand students' knowledge through the use of integral tools, including cooperative learning, large- and small-group discussions, hands-on activities, current technology, and the use of primary sources.

Students will:

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✓	✓	✓	✓

1. Explain the impact of industrialization, urbanization, communication, and cultural changes on life in the United States from the late nineteenth century to World War I.

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2. Describe reform movements and changing social conditions during the Progressive Era in the United States.
    - Relating countries of origin and experiences of new immigrants to life in the United States
        Example: Ellis Island and Angel Island experiences
    - Identifying workplace reforms, including the eight-hour workday, child labor laws, and workers' compensation laws
    - Identifying political reforms of Progressive movement leaders, including Theodore Roosevelt and the establishment of the national park system
    - Identifying social reforms of the Progressive movement, including efforts by Jane Adams, Clara Barton, and Julia Tutwiler
    - Recognizing goals of the early civil rights movement and the purpose of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
    - Explaining Progressive movement provisions of the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-first Amendments to the Constitution of the United States

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3. Identify causes and consequences of World War I and reasons for the United States' entry into the war.

Examples: sinking of the *Lusitania*, Zimmerman Note, alliances, militarism, imperialism, nationalism

- Describing military and civilian roles in the United States during World War I
- Explaining roles of important persons associated with World War I, including Woodrow Wilson and Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- Analyzing technological advances of the World War I era for their impact on modern warfare
  - Examples: machine gun, tank, submarine, airplane, poisonous gas, gas mask
- Locating on a map major countries involved in World War I and boundary changes after the war
- Explaining the intensification of isolationism in the United States after World War I
  - Example: reaction of the Congress of the United States to the Treaty of Versailles, League of Nations, and Red Scare
- Recognizing the strategic placement of military bases in Alabama

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4. Identify cultural and economic developments in the United States from 1900 through the 1930s.

- Describing the impact of various writers, musicians, and artists on American culture during the Harlem Renaissance and the Jazz Age
  - Examples: Langston Hughes, Louis Armstrong, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Andrew Wyeth, Frederic Remington, W. C. Handy, Erskine Hawkins, George Gershwin, Zora Neale Hurston
- Identifying contributions of turn-of-the-century inventors
  - Examples: George Washington Carver, Henry Ford, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Alva Edison, Wilbur and Orville Wright
- Describing the emergence of the modern woman during the early 1900s
  - Examples: Amelia Earhart, Zelda Fitzgerald, Helen Keller, Susan B. Anthony, Margaret Washington, suffragettes, suffragists, flappers
- Identifying notable persons of the early 1900s
  - Examples: Babe Ruth, Charles A. Lindbergh, W. E. B. Du Bois, John T. Scopes
- Comparing results of the economic policies of the Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover Administrations
  - Examples: higher wages, increase in consumer goods, collapse of farm economy, extension of personal credit, stock market crash, Immigration Act of 1924

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5. Explain causes and effects of the Great Depression on the people of the United States.

Examples: economic failure, loss of farms, rising unemployment, building of Hoovervilles

- Identifying patterns of migration during the Great Depression
- Locating on a map the area of the United States known as the Dust Bowl
- Describing the importance of the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as President of the United States, including the New Deal alphabet agencies
- Locating on a map the river systems utilized by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

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6. Identify causes and consequences of World War II and reasons for the United States' entry into the war.

- Locating on a map Allied countries and Axis Powers
- Locating on a map key engagements of World War II, including Pearl Harbor; the battles of Normandy, Stalingrad, and Midway; and the Battle of the Bulge
- Identifying key figures of World War II, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Sir Winston Churchill, Harry S. Truman, Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Michinomiya Hirohito, and Hideki Tōjō
- Describing the development of and the decision to use the atomic bomb
- Describing human costs associated with World War II
  Examples: the Holocaust, civilian and military casualties
- Explaining the importance of the surrender of the Axis Powers ending World War II

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7. Identify changes on the American home front during World War II.
Example: rationing

- Recognizing the retooling of factories from consumer to military production
- Identifying new roles of women and African Americans in the workforce
- Describing increased demand on the Birmingham steel industry and Port of Mobile facilities
- Describing the experience of African Americans and Japanese Americans in the United States during World War II, including the Tuskegee Airmen and occupants of internment camps

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8. Describe how the United States' role in the Cold War influenced domestic and international events.

- Describing the origin and meaning of the Iron Curtain and communism
- Recognizing how the Cold War conflict manifested itself through sports
  - Examples: Olympic Games, international chess tournaments, Ping-Pong diplomacy
- Identifying strategic diplomatic initiatives that intensified the Cold War, including the policies of Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and John F. Kennedy
  - Examples: trade embargoes, Marshall Plan, arms race, Berlin blockade and airlift, Berlin Wall, mutually assured destruction, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Warsaw Pact, Cuban missile crisis, Bay of Pigs invasion
- Identifying how Cold War tensions resulted in armed conflict
  - Examples: Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, proxy wars
- Describing the impact of the Cold War on technological innovations
  - Examples: Sputnik; space race; weapons of mass destruction; accessibility of microwave ovens, calculators, and computers
- Recognizing Alabama's role in the Cold War
  - Examples: rocket production at Redstone Arsenal, helicopter training at Fort Rucker
- Assessing effects of the end of the Cold War Era
  - Examples: policies of Mikhail Gorbachev; collapse of the Soviet Union; Ronald W. Reagan's foreign policies, including the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI or Star Wars)

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9. Critique major social and cultural changes in the United States since World War II.

- Identifying key persons and events of the modern Civil Rights Movement
  - Examples: persons—Martin Luther King Jr.; Rosa Parks; Fred Shuttlesworth; John Lewis
    events—*Brown versus Board of Education*, Montgomery Bus Boycott, student protests, Freedom Rides, Selma-to-Montgomery Voting Rights March, political assassinations
- Describing the changing role of women in United States' society and how it affected the family unit
  - Examples: women in the workplace, latchkey children

- Recognizing the impact of music genres and artists on United States' culture since World War II
  - Examples: genres—protest songs; Motown, rock and roll, rap, folk, and country music
    artists—Elvis Presley, the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Aretha Franklin, Hank Williams
- Identifying the impact of media, including newspapers, AM and FM radio, television, twenty-four hour sports and news programming, talk radio, and Internet social networking, on United States' culture since World War II

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10. Analyze changing economic priorities and cycles of economic expansion and contraction for their impact on society since World War II.
  - Examples: shift from manufacturing to service economy, higher standard of living, globalization, outsourcing, insourcing, "boom and bust," economic bubbles

- Identifying policies and programs that had an economic impact on society since World War II
  - Examples: Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (G. I. Bill of Rights), Medicare and Medicaid, Head Start programs, space exploration, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), environmental protection issues
- Analyzing consequences of immigration for their impact on national and Alabama economies since World War II

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11. Identify technological advancements on society in the United States since World War II.
  - Examples: 1950s—fashion doll, audio cassette
    1960s—action figure, artificial heart, Internet, calculator
    1970s—word processor, video game, cellular telephone
    1980s—personal computer, Doppler radar, digital cellular telephone
    1990s—World Wide Web, digital video diskette (DVD)
    2000s—digital music player, social networking technology, personal Global Positioning System (GPS) device

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12. Evaluate significant political issues and policies of presidential administrations since World War II.

- Identifying domestic policies that shaped the United States since World War II
  - Examples: desegregation of the military, Interstate Highway System, federal funding for education, Great Society, affirmative action, Americans with Disabilities Act, welfare reform, Patriot Act, No Child Left Behind Act
- Recognizing domestic issues that shaped the United States since World War II
  - Examples: McCarthyism, Watergate scandal, political assassinations, health care, impeachment, Hurricane Katrina
- Identifying issues of foreign affairs that shaped the United States since World War II
  - Examples: Vietnam Conflict, Richard Nixon's China initiative, Jimmy Carter's human rights initiative, emergence of China and India as economic powers
- Explaining how conflict in the Middle East impacted life in the United States since World War II
  - Examples: oil embargoes; Iranian hostage situation; Camp David Accords; Persian Gulf Wars; 1993 World Trade Center bombing; terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; War on Terrorism; homeland security
- Recognizing the election of Barack Obama as the culmination of a movement in the United States to realize equal opportunity for all Americans
- Identifying the 2008 presidential election as a watershed in the use of new technology and mass participation in the electoral process