Course Overview

Middle School | 6 | Social Studies - *Last Updated on October 28, 2024*

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement

- Social Studies prepares the nation's young people for college, careers, and civic life.
- Inquiry is at the heart of social studies instruction which involves interdisciplinary applications, deep understandings, concepts, and skills from the disciplines.
- Young people require analytic, strategic, chronological, and critical thinking skills to prepare for participating in democratic decision-making.
- Social studies instruction directly and explicitly connects to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

Course Description

The sixth-grade Social Studies course of study explores the major civilizations of the ancient world. It is designed to introduce students to the beginnings of the human story. Through investigation, students use a social science framework to compare and contrast different regions and their cultures, traditions, governments, and economic systems. Students develop cultural awareness and understanding of the geographical factors, social structures, political organizations, and economic influences that shaped the civilizations of the ancient world, laying the foundations for the modern world.

Students learn about the rise of early river valley civilizations like Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient India, Ancient China, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome. Students develop critical historical thinking skills throughout the course such as comparing and contrasting, creating historical arguments from evidence, synthesizing information from multiple sources and interpreting maps and geographic data. In the unit on Ancient Egypt, students investigate and then compare and contrast the five dominate social classes culminating in a poster project and presentation. Within the same unit, students use historical evidence presented in texts, speeches, and multimedia sources to write a piece of expository writing. In the unit on Ancient Greece and Ancient China, students interpret maps and geographic data to identify regions, and understand the impact of geography on historical events like the development of the trans-eurasian trade routes during the Han Dynasty.

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grade 6 - Civics and Government

5.3 5.1 5.4 5.2

Pennsylvania - Grade 6 - English Language Arts ELA

CC.1.2.6.L CC.1.4.6.S CC.1.5.6.G CC.1.4.6.Q

Pennsylvania - Grade 6 - Economics

6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4

Pennsylvania - Grade 6 - Geography

7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4

Pennsylvania - Grade 6 - History

8.1 8.3 8.4

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives for this course are aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards for Social Studies and the Common Core Standards for Social Studies as outlined in the Scope and Sequence for Grade 6 Social Studies.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Below is a list of suggested strategies for high-quality instruction in Social Studies:

- Instructional components outlined in the Framework for Teaching by Charlotte Danielson
- Interactive Lectures
- Hands-on Activities
- Technology Integration
- Cooperative Learning
- Inquiry-Based Learning
- Differentiated Instruction

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RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
History Alive! Ancient World and Medieval Times (2011).		