

# 6th Grade World Cultures – Syllabus

**Teacher:** Marisa Barrera

**School Year:** 2025-2026

## **Course Description:**

This course explores the world's people, places, and cultures. Students will learn geography skills, study major civilizations, compare governments and economies, and discover how culture connects people across the globe. Lessons emphasize critical thinking, primary source analysis, collaboration, and making connections between the past and today's world.

## **Curriculum Source:**

This syllabus is aligned with **Texas Education Agency (TEA) Texas Comprehensive Middle School Program of Choice – World Cultures (TCMPC)**. All topics, activities, and skills reflect TEA standards for 6th Grade Social Studies.

# **First Semester**

## **1st Six Weeks – How We Study the World**

- Introduction to geography skills: maps, globes, latitude/longitude
- Elements of culture: language, religion, customs, government
- How geography affects where and how people live
- Map projects & culture comparison activities

## **2nd Six Weeks – The United States & Canada**

- Geography of North America
- U.S. and Canadian government systems
- Immigration and cultural diversity
- Economic systems and trade between the two nations
- Case studies on freedom and democracy

## **3rd Six Weeks – Latin America & Europe**

- Ancient Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations
- Colonization and independence movements
- Modern governments, economies, and cultural identity
- Europe: Ancient Greece & Rome, Middle Ages, Renaissance
- Geography of Europe and its impact on culture and trade
- Feudalism: Social structure, roles of lords and serfs
- Black Plague: Causes, effects on population, society, and economy
- Holocaust: Study of World War II, the Holocaust, and its impact on European society

# Second Semester

## 4th Six Weeks – Russia, Eurasia, & Southwest Asia

- Geography of Russia and the Eurasian republics
- Cultural diversity, languages, and traditions
- Cold War: Study of post-World War II tensions, USSR vs. USA, and global impact
- Southwest Asia & North Africa: major religions, conflicts, and resources
- How geography impacts culture and politics

## 5th Six Weeks – Africa & South Asia

- Ancient African kingdoms and trade routes
- Colonialism and independence movements
- Modern-day challenges: health, environment, economy
- South Asia: caste system, religions, independence movements, modern governments

## 6th Six Weeks – Asia & the Pacific

- East and Southeast Asia: dynasties, traditions, modernization
  - China, Japan, and Korea's cultural contributions
  - Oceania & Australia: adaptation to unique environments
  - Globalization and how cultures connect today
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## **Skills Practiced All Year (Aligned with TCMPC)**

- Geography Skills: Using maps, charts, and globes to analyze spatial relationships
- Primary Source Analysis: Examining artifacts, documents, and images for evidence
- Secondary Source Analysis: Evaluating textbooks, articles, and scholarly interpretations
- Chronological Thinking: Creating and interpreting timelines
- Cause and Effect: Understanding how events impact societies and cultures
- Compare and Contrast: Evaluating similarities and differences among cultures and civilizations
- Critical Thinking & Social Studies Reasoning: Analyzing evidence, forming claims, and supporting arguments
- CER Writing: Claim–Evidence–Reasoning in essays, projects, and discussions
- Collaboration: Small group projects, presentations, and classroom discussions

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### **References / Curriculum Source:**

- Texas Education Agency (TEA), **TCMPC – 6th Grade World Cultures Curriculum**

### **Grading Policy**

- Major Grades: Tests, performance assessments, projects – 50%
- Minor Grades: Daily classroom activities, homework, quizzes – 40%
- Mini Participation: Engagement in discussions, small activities, and participation – 10%
- Grades reflect mastery of content, critical thinking skills, and application of TCMPC social studies skills.

### **Classroom Expectations**

1. Be prepared and on time for class.
2. Participate actively and respectfully in discussions and group work.
3. Complete all assignments on time.
4. Treat classmates and classroom materials with respect.

5. Follow directions and school rules at all times.
6. Ask questions and seek help when needed.

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