



Social Studies Curriculum Grade 6

Capital's social studies curriculum is aligned with state and national standards and addresses concepts in civics, economics, geography, and history. Students use tools such as maps, globes, timelines, charts and other geographics to learn about our world. Studying both primary and secondary resources such as artifacts, diaries, photographs, and newspaper accounts enables students to research topics, understand a variety of cultures and peoples, and analyze the causes and effects of events from the past to the present.

This year, your child will be focusing on the units listed below. The essential questions listed for each unit provide an overview of the main concepts that will be addressed in these units.

Unit: Building Global Mental Maps (Geography Standard 1: 6-8a)

- *Essential Question:*
 - How do personal mental maps effectively change and develop?

Unit: Humans Interact with the Environment (Geography Standard 2: 6-8a)

- *Essential Question:*
 - Under what conditions should human cultures attempt to change the processes that shape the natural environment?

Unit: Cultural Patterns & Cultural Diffusion (Geography Standard 3: 6-8a)

- *Essential Questions:*
 - What makes a place culturally unique?
 - Under what conditions do cultures spread?

Unit: Culture & Civilization (Geography Standard 3: 6-8a and History Standard 1: 6-8a)

- *Essential Questions:*
 - What makes a place culturally unique?
 - Under what conditions do cultures spread?
 - How often does the past predict the future? What is the evidence for my conclusion?

Unit: Purposes and Powers of Government (Civics Standard 1: 6-8a)

- *Essential Questions:*
 - How often does the past predict the future? What is the evidence for my conclusion?
 - Why do we have government?
 - What needs does government address?
 - Why does the government have power?

Unit: Economic Systems (Economics Standard 3: 6-8a)

- *Essential Questions:*
 - How does the type of economic system impact a society's standard of living?
 - How do cultural values influence economic decisions?

Unit: Reasons for Regions (Geography Standard 4: 6-8a)

- *Essential Questions:*
 - To what degree are economic regions specialized?
 - What's "special" about a given region and how could it change?