

Middle School

6 – 8

Sixth Grade

Grade 6 through 8 Inquiry Standards

Anchor Standard 1 Develop Questions and Plan Inquiries	• SS.6-8.1.1 Formulate clear and focused questions that require investigation about a variety of topics. • SS.6-8.1.2 Use curiosity and interests to develop questions that explore disciplinary concepts. • SS.6-8.1.3 Develop inquiries that address real-world problems. • SS.6-8.1.4 Analyze complex issues from multiple perspectives.
Anchor Standard 2 Evaluate Sources and Evidence	• SS.6-8.2.1 Differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources. • SS.6-8.2.2 Evaluate sources of information by examining origin, author, context, and content. • SS.6-8.2.3 Determine between primary sources produced during the time period being studied and secondary sources written from multiple perspectives.
Anchor Standard 3 Develop Claims	• SS.6-8.3.1 Cite primary and secondary sources to support a well-constructed argument. • SS.6-8.3.2 Formulate evidence-based claims that acknowledge multiple perspectives and counterarguments. • SS.6-8.3.3 Utilize evidence to construct arguments that address historical events and societal changes.
Anchor Standard 4 Communicate and Critique Conclusions	• SS.6-8.4.1 Evaluate the significance of historical events by considering their impact on the development of societies and cultures. • SS.6-8.4.2 Synthesize evidence to draw conclusions about cause-and-effect relationships, patterns, and trends. • SS.6-8.4.3 Reflect on the connection of historical knowledge to contemporary challenges, fostering an understanding of how the past informs the present.
Anchor Standard 5 Informed Civic Discourse and Engagement	• SS.6-8.5.1 Express ideas clearly and concisely in both written and verbal forms. • SS.6-8.5.2 Actively engage in discussions, asking clarifying questions and responding thoughtfully. • SS.6-8.5.3 Articulate and defend viewpoints in respectful discussions. • SS.6-8.5.4 Collaborate with others to find common ground and propose solutions to civic issues.

6th Grade: Ancient Civilizations

Grade(s): 6 Length: two semesters Prerequisite(s): none	Course Overview: In this 6-th grade course, students will explore the development of ancient civilizations from prehistory to the era of global exploration. Students will begin by analyzing human migrations and the influence of geography on early societies then focus on hunter-gather and agricultural communities. Then, examining significant cultures and the impact of world religions throughout social structures and values. Students will engage with primary and secondary sources to critically evaluate historical perspectives and understand how ancient events shape our modern world.
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Themes (Recommended Order)	
Semester 1	Semester 2
• Human Beginnings & Early Civilizations • Early River Civilizations	• Early Mediterranean Civilizations • Research and Inquiry

Theme 1: Human Beginnings & Early River Civilizations

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
Early Human Civilizations	Our Location in the World	Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and Reasonings	Define absolute and relative location using real-world examples. Draft and utilize a variety of maps to communicate information Construct and interpret latitudinal and longitudinal representations of absolute and relative locations
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Analyze multiple points of view to create a multifaceted interpretation of prehistory.
	Prehistory	History Anchor Standard 22: Historical Sources & Evidence	Analyze contradictory or conflicting sources and synthesize information to develop well-reasoned conclusions.
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Locate Primary and Secondary Sources to investigate perspectives regarding prehistory

Theme 1: Human Beginnings & Early River Civilizations

	Human Migration Theory	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Investigate the biological and cultural processes that shaped the earliest human communities. Investigate how cultural diffusion occurs and causes complex societies to interact and spread from one region to another. Discuss how people adapted to environments, recognized the influence of geography on cultural practices, economies, and social structures.
	Geographic Regions	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Cultures	Demonstrate an understanding of the defining characteristics and placement of global regions.
		Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and Reasoning	Understanding geographic location and reasoning behind migration toward specific locations.
Indigenous Cultures of Alaska	Migration Patterns to and within Alaska	Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and Reasonings	Demonstrate an understanding of the defining characteristics and placement of the physical regions of Alaska Create maps of Alaska that show how physical characteristics have influenced where and how humans have settled.

Theme 1: Human Beginnings & Early River Civilizations

	The First Alaskans	Geography Anchor Standard 19: Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movement	Investigate complex and diverse characteristics of human cultures across time and place, using multiple sources of information. Examine the distribution of human populations over time, including population density, migration trends, and urbanization.
		History Anchor Standard 22: Historical Sources	Examine multiple explanations for how people came to Alaska. Investigate how the climate and physical features of Alaska influenced migration and settlement.
		Civics Anchor Standard 10: Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities of citizens	Understand and evaluate the civil and human development of various early civilizations throughout Alaska. Compare and contrast hunter-gatherer societies and early farming societies. Analyze the impact of subsistence, barter, and sharing within the first Alaskans.
		Geography Anchor Standard 19: Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Examine multiple explanations for how people came to Alaska Investigate complex and diverse characteristics of human cultures across time and place, using multiple sources of information.

Theme 1: Human Beginnings & Early River Civilizations

		Inquiry Anchor Standard 2: Evaluate Sources and Evidence	Evaluate the impact of the Agricultural Revolution and early technological innovations using primary and secondary sources. Identify and use the methods and tools valued by historians, geographers, anthropologists, and archaeologists in order to trace the themes of history.
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Theme 2: Early River Civilizations

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
Mesopotamian Civilization	Language & Culture	Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and Reasonings	Construct and use different types of maps and graphs to represent and analyze regions. Construct and use mental maps, infographics to represent and analyze the cultural, religious and environmental characteristics that make places both similar to and different from each other.
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Identify patterns of continuity and change in written language throughout early river civilizations.

Theme 2: Early River Civilizations

		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Locate Primary and Secondary Sources to investigate perspectives regarding prehistory Construct arguments utilizing new evidence that allows for new interpretations.
	Evolution of Governance	Civic Anchor Standard 8: Processes, Rules and Law	Compare and contrast modern rules and law with historical systems.
		Civic Anchor Standard 10: Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities of Citizens	Assess how people address public problems through the use of rules and laws. Analyze how citizens were integrated into social structures that maintained social status, influenced by cultural heritage, religious beliefs, and lineage.
Egyptian Civilization	Historical Significance	History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Analyze how geographical practices in agriculture, urban planning, and housing influenced settlement patterns and resource management in early civilizations. Analyze the causes and effects of events and societal developments in the past.
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Construct arguments utilizing new evidence that allows for new interpretations.

Theme 2: Early River Civilizations

	Rise and Fall of Civilizations	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture.	Evaluate cultural and societal trade methods and the movement of products throughout early civilization history. Analyze the economic systems of ancient civilizations by exploring methods of generating and using money, such as bartering, coin introduction and forms of trade.
		Geography Anchor Standard 19: Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movement	Describe the characteristics of a civilization and connect that information to real-world examples. Demonstrate an understanding of how humans impact their environment. Create and interpret timelines that clearly demonstrate key periods in the development of human societies.

Theme 3: Early Mediterranean Civilizations

	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
Roman and Greek Civilizations	Politics and Religion	History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Evaluate the social, economic, and cultural structure of civilizations and their impact on modern society.
		History Anchor Standard 22: Historical Sources and Evidence	Analyze primary and secondary sources to understand early methods of record-keeping and acknowledge the contributions of those whose histories were lost
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Identify patterns of continuity and change of time in various aspects of medieval and MesoAmerican civilizations.
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Understand and compare unique historical and geographical features of Asia, Europe, Africa, and North American civilizations.
		Civic Anchor Standard 6: Civic and Political Institutions and Systems	Analyze the significance of religions within various cultural groups, while distinguishing between fact, opinion and belief, to understand how these elements shape societal values and influence regional dynamics. Explore how religion and culture shaped family lineage and societal structures.
		Civics Anchor Standard 8: Processes, Rules, and Laws	Examine legal frameworks surrounding feudal authority and discuss how they shaped social hierarchies and affected both marginalized and

Theme 3: Early Mediterranean Civilizations

			powerful groups.
	Human systems	Civics Anchor Standard 7: Participation and Deliberation	Explore how religion, politics ,and culture shaped family lineage and societal structures. .
		Civics Anchor Standard 10: Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities of Citizens	Identify rights and responsibilities of citizens and noncitizens within different forms of government.
		Economics Anchor Standard 11: Economic Systems, Models, and Markets	Analyze the role of precious metals in shaping economic systems, trade networks, and market dynamics. Examine the impact of natural resources and their influence throughout society and culture, focusing on wealth distribution and social hierarchies. Compare and contrast agricultural practices based on technology, social structures, economic development, and political systems.
	Conflict and Wars	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Analyze how the physical features of regions and their location influence the conflicts and alliances that arise during wars. Analyze how geographical features, climate, and available resources influenced the historical development of cultures and societies and how they adapted to their environments.

Theme 3: Early Mediterranean Civilizations

		Geography Anchor Standard 17: Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Evaluate changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources over time due to forces of cooperation and conflict. Examine how human cooperation and conflict have influenced the division and control of the Earth's surface throughout human history.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Analyze the economic, political, and societal motivations or justifications for warfare among civilizations.
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Evaluate the impact of cultural and religious ideologies on the decision-making processes of civilizations at war.

Theme 4: Research and Inquiry

Inquiry Anchor Standard <i>Learner demonstrates an understanding of...</i>	Learning Outcomes	Suggested Learning Connections
1: Develop questions and plan inquiries 2: Evaluate sources and evidence 3: Develop claims 4: Communicate and critique conclusions 5: Informed civic discourse and engagement	The learner will be able to conduct research by selecting, evaluating, and synthesizing information from diverse sources. This skill will be applied to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, by using sound reasoning and presenting sufficient evidence.	See Appendix

Seventh Grade

Grade 6 through 8 Inquiry Standards

Anchor Standard 1 Develop Questions and Plan Inquiries	• SS.6-8.1.1 Formulate clear and focused questions that require investigation about a variety of topics. • SS.6-8.1.2 Use curiosity and interests to develop questions that explore disciplinary concepts. • SS.6-8.1.3 Develop inquiries that address real-world problems. • SS.6-8.1.4 Analyze complex issues from multiple perspectives.
Anchor Standard 2 Evaluate Sources and Evidence	• SS.6-8.2.1 Differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources. • SS.6-8.2.2 Evaluate sources of information by examining origin, author, context, and content. • SS.6-8.2.3 Determine between primary sources produced during the time period being studied and secondary sources written from multiple perspectives.
Anchor Standard 3 Develop Claims	• SS.6-8.3.1 Cite primary and secondary sources to support a well-constructed argument. • SS.6-8.3.2 Formulate evidence-based claims that acknowledge multiple perspectives and counterarguments. • SS.6-8.3.3 Utilize evidence to construct arguments that address historical events and societal changes.
Anchor Standard 4 Communicate and Critique Conclusions	• SS.6-8.4.1 Evaluate the significance of historical events by considering their impact on the development of societies and cultures. • SS.6-8.4.2 Synthesize evidence to draw conclusions about cause-and-effect relationships, patterns, and trends. • SS.6-8.4.3 Reflect on the connection of historical knowledge to contemporary challenges, fostering an understanding of how the past informs the present.
Anchor Standard 5 Informed Civic Discourse and Engagement	• SS.6-8.5.1 Express ideas clearly and concisely in both written and verbal forms. • SS.6-8.5.2 Actively engage in discussions, asking clarifying questions and responding thoughtfully. • SS.6-8.5.3 Articulate and defend viewpoints in respectful discussions. • SS.6-8.5.4 Collaborate with others to find common ground and propose solutions to civic issues.

7th Grade: World Geography & Cultures

Grade(s): 7 Length: 2 Semesters Prerequisite(s): None	Course Overview: In this 7-th grade course, students will study how geography, culture, and human innovation have influenced civilizations throughout history. It starts with the development of geography skills and explores early migrations, leading to an examination of the rise and fall of civilizations in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas. Students analyze the impacts of religion, governance, trade, and environmental factors on social structures and global interactions. Students will also incorporate Alaska's geography and Native cultures, prompting comparisons between global trends and local experiences regarding adaptation, resource usage, and cultural resilience. Through inquiry based learning, map analysis, and the evaluation of primary and secondary sources, students enhance their critical thinking and civic literacy, linking ancient and regional histories to contemporary global challenges and interdependence.
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Themes (Recommended Order)	
Semester 1	Semester 2
• Geography Skills • Europe/ Russia • Africa/ Middle East	• Asia/Oceania • South/North America • Research and Inquiry

Theme 1: Geography Skills

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
Geography Skills	5 Themes of Geography	Inquiry Anchor Standard 1: Develop Questions and Plan Inquiries	Analyze complex issues from multiple perspectives.
		Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Demonstrate an understanding of the defining characteristics and placement of global regions.
		Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and Reasoning	Describe the geographical features, climate, natural resources, and ecosystems that define the physical attributes of different locations. Construct and use mental maps and infographics to represent and analyze the cultural, religious, and environmental characteristics that make places both similar to and different from each other. Construct and use different types of maps and graphs to represent and analyze religions.
		Geography Anchor Standard 19: Human Population: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Create and interpret timelines that clearly demonstrate key periods in the development of human societies.

Theme 2: Europe / Russia

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
Europe	Religion & Social Structures	Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and Reasonings	Construct and use different types of maps and graphs to represent and analyze religions. Construct and use mental maps, infographics to represent and analyze the cultural, religious and environmental characteristics that make places both similar to and different from each other.
		Inquiry Anchor Standard 3: Develop Claims	Analyze the significance of religions within various cultural groups, while distinguishing between fact, opinion and belief, to understand how these elements shape societal values and influence regional dynamics
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Locate Primary and Secondary Sources to investigate perspectives regarding both prehistory and written history. Construct arguments utilizing new evidence that allows for new interpretations.
	Rise and Fall of Civilizations	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture.	Evaluate cultural and societal trade methods and the movement of products throughout early civilization history. Analyze the economic systems of medieval civilizations by exploring methods of generating and using money, such as bartering, coin introduction and forms of trade.

Theme 2: Europe / Russia

Russia	Natural Resources & Energy	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Discuss how people adapted to environments, recognizing the influence of geography on cultural practices, economies, and social structures. Analyze how geographical features, climate, and available resources influenced the historical development of cultures and societies and how they adapted to their environments Evaluate changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources over time due to forces of cooperation and conflict.
		Geography Anchor Standard 17: Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Investigate the characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface.
		Geography Anchor Standard 19: Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movement	Demonstrate an understanding of how humans impact their environment.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Evaluate the social, economic, and cultural structures of civilizations and their impact on modern societies.
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Analyze the causes and effects of events and societal developments in the past.

Theme 3: Africa/Middle East

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
Africa	Natural Resources	Economics Anchor Standard 11: Economic Systems, Models, and Markets	Analyze the role of precious metals in shaping economic systems, trade networks, and market dynamics. Examine the impact of natural resources and their influence throughout society and culture, focusing on wealth distribution and social hierarchies. Compare and contrast agricultural practices based on technology, social structures, economic development, and political systems
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Evaluate the social, economic, and cultural structure of civilizations and their impact on modern society.
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Understand and compare unique historical and geographical features of Africa
	Human systems	Civics Anchor Standard 7: Participation and Deliberation	Explore how religion, politics, race, and culture shaped family lineage and societal structures.
		Civics Anchor Standard 8: Processes, Rules, and Laws	Examine legal frameworks surrounding Apartheid and discuss how they shaped social hierarchies and affected both marginalized and powerful groups.

Theme 3: Africa/Middle East			
		Civics Anchor Standard 10: Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities of Citizens	Identify rights and responsibilities of citizens and noncitizens within different forms of government.
Middle East	World Religions	Civic Anchor Standard 6: Civic and Political Institutions and Systems	Analyze the significance of various cultural groups, while distinguishing between fact, opinion and belief, to understand how these elements shape societal values and influence regional dynamics. Explore how religion and culture shaped family lineage and societal structures.
		Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Analyze how the physical features of regions and their location influence the conflicts and alliances that arise during wars. Analyze how geographical features, climate, and available resources influenced the historical development of cultures and societies and how they adapted to their environments.
		Geography Anchor Standard 17: Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Evaluate changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources over time due to forces of cooperation and conflict. Examine how human cooperation and conflict have influenced the division and control of the Earth's surface throughout human history.

Theme 3: Africa/Middle East

		Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and Reasonings	Construct and use mental maps, infographics to represent and analyze the cultural, religious and environmental characteristics that make places both similar to and different from each other.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Analyze the economic, political, and societal motivations or justifications for warfare among civilizations.

Theme 4: Asia/Oceania/Arctic

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
Asia	Environment	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and culture	Discuss how people adapted to environments, recognizing the influence of geography on cultural practices, economies, and social structures. Analyze how geographical features, climate, and available resources influenced the historical development of cultures and societies and how they adapted to their environments
		Geography Anchor Standard 17: Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Detect patterns in how Earth's physical features and biomes are distributed across its surface.
		Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and	Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions between the earth, sun, moon, tides, and seasons both

Theme 4: Asia/Oceania/Arctic

		Reasoning	locally and globally.
		Geographic Anchor Standard 19: Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movement	Describe the geographical features, climate, natural resources, and ecosystems that define the physical attributes of different locations. Investigate the arrangement and distribution of populations over time.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Examine and assess cultural exchanges and conflicts during significant historical events to better understand the complexities of societal interactions and influences.
	Population/Migration	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Investigate how cultural diffusion occurs and causes complex societies to interact and spread from one region to another. Investigate how cultural diffusion occurs and causes complex societies to interact and spread from one region to another. Examine how human cooperation and conflict have influenced the division and control of the Earth's surface throughout human history.
		Geography Anchor Standard 19: Human Population: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Construct maps to represent the spread of people and ideas over time Investigate the arrangement and distribution of populations over time.

Theme 4: Asia/Oceania/Arctic

Oceania	Ocean Currents	Geography Anchor Standard 17: Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Investigate the interconnectedness of ecosystems of the Earth.
		Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and Reasoning	Describe the geographical features, climate and ecosystems that define the physical attributes of different locations. Identify the components and characteristics of the earth's physical systems, and explain how they affect each other. Construct and use different types of maps and graphs to analyze current paths throughout the region.
	Environment	Inquiry Anchor Standard 1: Develop Questions and Plan Inquiries	Formulate clear and focused questions that require investigation about a variety of topics. Analyze complex issues from multiple perspectives. Develop inquiries that address real-world problems.
		Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Analyze how geographical features, climate, and natural resources influenced change throughout the world's oceans.
		Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and Reasoning	Identify the components and characteristics of the earth's physical systems, and explain how they affect each other. Demonstrate an understanding of the formation of landforms, including erosion, deposition, glaciation, and tectonic and volcanic processes

Theme 4: Asia/Oceania/Arctic			
		Geography Anchor Standard 19: Human Population: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Demonstrate an understanding of how humans impact their environment.
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Identify patterns of continuity and change over time in various aspects of human history
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Explore the cultural and societal implications of cultural diffusion.

Theme 5: South/North America			
Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
South America	Trade & Economy	Inquiry Anchor Standard 1: Develop Questions and Plan Inquiries	Develop inquiries that address real-world problems.
		Inquiry Anchor Standard 2: Evaluate Sources and Evidence	Differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources.
		Civics Anchor Standard 10: Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities of Citizens	Describe the roles of political, civil, and economic organizations in shaping people's lives.
		Economics Anchor Standard 13: The National Economy	Evaluate the role of international trade, production versus importation, and the impact of local events on the global economy.

Theme 5: South/North America

		Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Analyze the relationships between countries and regions in the global economy.
	Systems of Government	History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Explore the cultural and societal implications of cultural diffusion.
		Inquiry Anchor Standard 3: Develop Claims	Utilize evidence to construct arguments that address historical events and societal changes.
		Civics Anchor Standard 10: Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities of Citizens	Describe the roles of political, civil, and economic organizations in shaping people's lives.
		Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Analyze the relationships between countries and regions in the global economy.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Evaluate the social, economic, and cultural structures of civilizations and their impact on modern societies.
North America	Physical Features of Alaska	Geography Anchor Standard 20: Geography of Alaska	-Identify the characteristics of the local physical environment and its impact on inhabitants
	Geohazards of Alaska	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human environment Interaction: Place, Regions and Cultures	Demonstrate an understanding of how humans impact their environment Analyze the impact of natural disasters and human-induced hazards on human populations

Theme 5: South/North America

	Physical History of Alaska	Geography Anchor Standard 17: Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Examine the causes of historical and continuing conflicts in Alaska Evaluate the impact of war on Alaska's ecosystems, resources and landscapes, recognize the environmental changes caused by military activities.
	Historical Use of Natural Resources	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human environment Interaction: Place, Regions and Cultures	Evaluate how historical perspectives, ways of knowing, values, and current practices of Alaska Natives influence land, water, and resource uses. Explain how Alaska's geographic location and resources have affected the state and the world. Analyze and evaluate the impact of past management of Alaska's resources Formulate clear and focused questions about future resource use in Alaska. Evaluate how resource extraction in Alaska impacts government, economics, environment, and populations, identifying both positives and negatives. Evaluate changes that occur in the meaning, use distribution and importance of resources over time due to forces of cooperation and conflict.
	The Law and the Land	Civics Anchor Standard 6: Civic and Political Institutions and Systems	Examine the major components and roles of local, Tribal and state governments.

Theme 5: South/North America

		Civics Anchor Standard 8: Processes, Rules, and Laws	Evaluate and compare procedures for making decisions at the Tribal, local, state and national levels. Assess specific rules and laws(both actual and proposed) as means of addressing public concerns. Identify the interconnectivity of local, Tribal, and state processes, rules and laws.
		Civics Anchor Standard 10: Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities of Citizens	Describe the roles and responsibilities of people in the United States.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Perspectives regarding tribal, state, and federal entities throughout the state. Research Native American groups through examination of oral histories, primary sources and contributions over time. Perspectives of land 'ownership/stewardship'
	Impact of Colonialism	History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Critically analyze viewpoints of civilizations that faced ethnocide as a result of globalization and exploration, with a focus on understanding the socio-cultural implications narratives that emerged. Explain how the perspectives of people in the present shape interpretations of the past.

Theme 5: South/North America

		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Identify the factors that led to initial Russian and/or European Contact Evaluate the immediate and long-term effects of colonization on Native American groups
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Develop skills in chronological reasoning and understanding cause-and-effect relationships in history.
		Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representations and Reasonings	Understanding the importance of location and trade throughout North America. Evaluate colonization and its effect on prehistoric trade and economy throughout North America.
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Explore the cultural and societal implications of cultural diffusion.

Theme 6: Research and Inquiry

Inquiry Anchor Standard <i>Learner demonstrates an understanding of...</i>	Learning Outcomes	Suggested Learning Connections
1: Develop questions and plan inquiries 2: Evaluate sources and evidence 3: Develop claims 4: Communicate and critique conclusions 5: Informed civic discourse and engagement	The learner will be able to conduct research by selecting, evaluating, and synthesizing information from diverse sources. This skill will be applied to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, by using sound reasoning and presenting sufficient evidence.	See Appendix

Eighth Grade

Grade 6 through 8 Inquiry Standards

Anchor Standard 1 Develop Questions and Plan Inquiries	• SS.6-8.1.1 Formulate clear and focused questions that require investigation about a variety of topics. • SS.6-8.1.2 Use curiosity and interests to develop questions that explore disciplinary concepts. • SS.6-8.1.3 Develop inquiries that address real-world problems. • SS.6-8.1.4 Analyze complex issues from multiple perspectives.
Anchor Standard 2 Evaluate Sources and Evidence	• SS.6-8.2.1 Differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources. • SS.6-8.2.2 Evaluate sources of information by examining origin, author, context, and content. • SS.6-8.2.3 Determine between primary sources produced during the time period being studied and secondary sources written from multiple perspectives.
Anchor Standard 3 Develop Claims	• SS.6-8.3.1 Cite primary and secondary sources to support a well-constructed argument. • SS.6-8.3.2 Formulate evidence-based claims that acknowledge multiple perspectives and counterarguments. • SS.6-8.3.3 Utilize evidence to construct arguments that address historical events and societal changes.
Anchor Standard 4 Communicate and Critique Conclusions	• SS.6-8.4.1 Evaluate the significance of historical events by considering their impact on the development of societies and cultures. • SS.6-8.4.2 Synthesize evidence to draw conclusions about cause-and-effect relationships, patterns, and trends. • SS.6-8.4.3 Reflect on the connection of historical knowledge to contemporary challenges, fostering an understanding of how the past informs the present.
Anchor Standard 5 Informed Civic Discourse and Engagement	• SS.6-8.5.1 Express ideas clearly and concisely in both written and verbal forms. • SS.6-8.5.2 Actively engage in discussions, asking clarifying questions and responding thoughtfully. • SS.6-8.5.3 Articulate and defend viewpoints in respectful discussions. • SS.6-8.5.4 Collaborate with others to find common ground and propose solutions to civic issues.

8th Grade: U.S. History and Civics

Grade(s): 8 Length: 2 Semester Prerequisite(s): None	Course Overview: This year-long course will explore the foundations of U.S. history, starting from pre-colonization through settlement, the Revolutionary era, and the founding of our nation. We'll delve into westward expansion and reform movements, leading up to the Civil War, while addressing conflicts with Native American communities and the impact of African enslavement. Learners will engage in critical thinking as budding historians by honing research skills—formulating questions, assessing primary and secondary sources, and effectively using evidence. Each learner will undertake a collaborative research project that incorporates both types of sources. Additionally, learners will apply their understanding of key historical periods, significant themes, and turning points to examine the forces of change at the community, state, national, and global levels.
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Themes (Recommended Order)	
Semester 1	Semester 2
• Theme 1: Geography and Early Civilizations of the Americas (10,000 BCE - 1492 CE) • Theme 2: Age of Exploration, Exploitation, and Colonialism (1400s - 1750s) • Theme 3: Establishment of European Colonies(1490 - 1750) • Theme 4: American Revolution & the New Republic (1750 - 1814)	• Theme 5: Civic and Political Institutions of the U.S. • Theme 6: Manifest Destiny & Indian Removal • Theme 7: The Civil War and Reform Movements • Theme 8: Reconstruction (1865 - 1877) • Research and Inquiry

Theme 1: Geography and Early Civilizations of the Americas

Time Period: 1000 B.C.E. to 1492 C.E.

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
Early Americas	Early Human Migration	Geography Anchor Standard 19: Human populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Investigate patterns of migration of early people as they settled across Alaska and North Central, and South America.
		Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human environment interaction: Place, Region and Culture	Analyze the push and pull factors that influenced early people to migrate
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Explain the importance of artifacts and oral histories in understanding how prehistoric people lived.
		History Anchor Standard 24 Historical Thinking	Describe the technical limitations of historians and archeologists studying the distant past.
	Physical Geography of the Americas	Geography Anchor Standard 18: Geographic Representation and Reasoning	Identify on a map the major physical features of North, Central, and South America. Research and locate on a map indigenous place names, landmarks, and sacred sites throughout

Theme 1: Geography and Early Civilizations of the Americas

Time Period: 1000 B.C.E. to 1492 C.E.

			North, Central, and South America
	Indigenous Cultural Groups of the Americas	Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human Environment Interaction: Place, Regions and Culture	Investigate the interplay between indigenous cultures of the Americans and their environment. Identify the spiritual, cultural, and economic significance of geographic features in indigenous communities. Use the five themes of geography(location, place, movement, human-environment interaction and region) to describe a specific Sovereign Tribal Nation or Indigenous peoples group.
		Civics Anchor Standard 6: Civic and Political Institutions and Systems	Investigate the unique ways that Indigenous peoples organize themselves and their societies.

Theme 2: Age of Exploration, Exploitation, and Colonialism

Time Period: 1400s - 1750s

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
Age of Exploration, Exploitation, and Colonialism	Gathering and Evaluating Sources	Inquiry Anchor Standard 2: Evaluate Sources and Evidence	Identify primary and secondary sources related to European exploration and colonization, considering their reliability and potential bias. Analyze a variety of primary sources about Exploration routes, encounters and cultural exchanges.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Compare and contrast perspectives through primary and secondary source research.
	Exploration and Exploitation	History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Compare the economic, technological, and cultural factors that motivated exploration.
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Examine the impacts of encounters between explorers and indigenous populations.
		Geography Anchor Standard 17: Global interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Evaluate the long-term impact of the Columbian Exchange

Theme 2: Age of Exploration, Exploitation, and Colonialism

Time Period: 1400s - 1750s

	Global Interconnections	Geography Anchor Standard 19: Human populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Identify trade routes and network that facilitate the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures between continents
		Economic Anchor Standard 11: Economic Systems, Models, and Markets	Analyze how the exchange of goods contributed to the development of global trade.
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Investigate the ways in which cultural diffusion occurred in cross-cultural interactions.
	Civic Participation	History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Investigate the impacts of European colonization on Indigenous populations
		Historic Anchor Standard 23: Change, continuity, and Context	Examine how power dynamics during this time period laid the groundwork for modern geopolitical relationships. Research the connections between the origins and outcomes of colonization in today's world.

Theme 2: Age of Exploration, Exploitation, and Colonialism

Time Period: 1400s - 1750s

		Inquiry Anchor Standard 5: Informed Civic Discourse and Engagement	Reflect on lessons from history to engage in discussions about present-day issues related to cultural exchange, environment impact, and global cooperation.
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Theme 3: Establishment of European Colonies

Time Period: 1490 - 1750

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
The Thirteen Colonies	Analyzing Primary Sources	Inquiry Anchor Standard 2: Evaluate Sources and Evidence	Identify and analyze primary sources to understand the inquiry perspectives of different groups in colonial America
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Compare and contrast primary sources to identify similarities and differences in the experiences of different groups in Colonial America
	Understanding Historical Context	History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Examine the reasons for European colonization in different regions of Colonial America

Theme 3: Establishment of European Colonies

Time Period: 1490 - 1750

		Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Analyze the impact of geographical and environmental factors on the development of colonial economies, settlements, and trade networks.
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Investigate the interactions and conflicts between people in Colonial America
	Cause and Effect	Civics Anchor Standard 6: Civic and Political Institutions and Systems	Identify the factors that led to the growth of representative government in colonial societies
		Economic Anchorage Standard 11: Economic Systems, Models, and Markets	Examine the economic systems of different colonial regions.
		Geography Anchor Standard 19: Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Evaluate the consequences of the Atlantic slave trade.
	Civic Participation and Decision-Making	Inquiry Anchor Standard 3: Develop Claims	Analyze the impact of events on colonial governance and social structures.

Theme 3: Establishment of European Colonies

Time Period: 1490 - 1750

		Civics Anchor Standard 7: Participation and Deliberation	Investigate the impact of events on colonial governance and social structures
		Inquiry Anchor Standard 5: Informed Civic Discourse and Engagement	Reflect on the lessons from Colonial America to engage in discussions about the importance of civic engagement, individual rights, and the balance of power in contemporary society

Theme 4: American Revolution and the New Republic

Time Period: 1750 - 1814

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
American Revolution	Analyzing Historical Documents	Inquiry Anchor Standard 2: Evaluate Sources and Evidence	Identify and analyze primary sources to gain insights into the thoughts and actions of key figures during the American Revolution. Examine secondary sources to understand differing interpretations of events and their significance.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Compare and contrast viewpoints from different historical periods to evaluate changing perspectives on the American Revolution and the early years of the New Republic.

Theme 4: American Revolution and the New Republic

Time Period: 1750 - 1814

	Understanding Historical Context	History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Investigate the economic, political, and social factors that contribute to tensions between American colonies and the British government leading up to the Revolution. Examine the principles of the Enlightenment and their influence on the ideas of liberty, equality, and individual rights during this period.
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Analyze the challenges faced by the newly independent United States.
	Cause and Effect	History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Identify the key events of the American Revolution and their significance in the fight for independence.
		Civics Anchor Standard 6: Civic and Political Institutions and Systems	Examine the drafting and ratification of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights and their impact on shaping the structure of the federal government.
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Evaluate the consequences of the American Revolution on various groups.
	Creation of Democracy	Civic Participation and Decision-Making	Inquiry Anchor Standard 3: Develop Claims Analyze the contributions of individuals to the development of American democracy and the New Republic.

Theme 4: American Revolution and the New Republic

Time Period: 1750 - 1814

		Civic Anchor Standard 7: Participation and Deliberation	Investigate the role of social movements and protests in shaping American society and politics.
		Inquiry Anchor Standard 5: Informed Civic Discourse and Engagement	Reflect on the principles of democracy and civic responsibility that emerged from the American Revolution and the early years of the New Republic and their relevance to contemporary society.

Theme 5: Civic and Political Institutions of the U.S.

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
American Democracy	Understanding Civic life and Government	Civics Anchor Standard 6: Civic and Political Institutions and Systems	Define the fundamental principles of democracy, including popular sovereignty, rule of law, and individual rights. Identify and explain the three branches of the federal government(executive, legislative, judicial) and their roles in creating, implementing and interpreting laws. Analyze the role of state, local, and Tribal governments and their relationship to the federal government. Research and understand the role of state, local, and Tribal government structures and institutions in addressing community needs.

Theme 5: Civic and Political Institutions of the U.S.

	Analyzing Political Institutions	Civics Anchor Standard 6: Civic and Political Institutions and Systems	Investigate the role of political parties, including their influence on the electoral process and the shaping of public policy. Examine the structure and functions of the U.S. Congress in making laws and representing constituents. Analyze the role of the president in the executive branch, including their powers, responsibilities, and interactions with other branches of government. Examine the structure and function of the judicial branch in interpreting the meaning of laws.
	Engaging in Civic Participation	Civics Anchor Standard 10: Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities of Citizens	Explore the rights and responsibilities of people in a respective democracy. Analyze the significance of civic participation through activities such as voting, community service, and advocacy. Investigate the role of media and technology in shaping public opinion and facilitating civic engagement. Reflect on the responsibilities of active citizenship and the potential for individual and collective impact.

Theme 5: Civic and Political Institutions of the U.S.

	Examining Democratic Processes	Civic Anchor Standard 8: Processes, Rules, and Laws	Investigate the election process and its impact on representation. Evaluate the importance of compromise, negotiation, and the rule of law in the functioning of democratic institutions.
		Civics Anchor Standard 7: Participation and Deliberation	Analyze the role of interest groups and lobbyists in influencing policy decisions and the democratic process. Evaluate the impact of public policies on various groups within society.

Theme 6: Manifest Destiny and Indian Removal

Time period: 1815 - 1860 CE

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
The Expansion West	Analyzing Multiple Perspective	Inquiry Anchor Standard 2: Evaluate Sources and Evidence	Examine Primary sources to understand the viewpoints on Manifest Destiny. Compare and contrast the perspectives on issues related to land ownership and sovereignty.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Evaluate how different groups viewed westward expansion and the policies of Indian Removal.

Theme 6: Manifest Destiny and Indian Removal

Time period: 1815 - 1860 CE

	Understanding Historical Context	History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Investigate the economic, social, and political factors that contribute to the idea of Manifest Destiny and westward expansion. Analyze the impact of technological advancements on the ability to settle in and transport goods to the western frontier.
		Civics Anchor Standard 8: Processes, Rules, and Laws	Examine the conflicting interests between Native American Tribes and the U.S. government, as well as the legal and political frameworks that shaped Indian Removal policies.
	Cause and Effect	Civics Anchor Standard 8: Processes, Rules, and Laws	Identify key events and policies related to westward expansion.
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Examine the historical and ongoing consequences of Indian Removal on Native American communities, their cultures, and their relationships with the U.S. government.
		Geography Anchor Standard 16: Human Environment Interaction: Place, Regions and Culture	Evaluate the impact of westward expansion on different regions and its contribution to the Civil war.

Theme 6: Manifest Destiny and Indian Removal

Time period: 1815 - 1860 CE

Trail of Tears	Ethical Decision-Making	History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Investigate the historical and contemporary impacts of westward expansion on people and the environment. Investigate the role of individuals and groups in shaping responses to Indian Removal policies.
		Inquiry Anchor Standard 5: Informed Civic Discourse and Engagement	Reflect on lessons from history to engage in discussions about the impact of history on modern society.

Theme 7: The Civil War and Reform Movements

Time Period: 1837 CE - 1877 CE

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
The Civil War	Analyzing Primary and Secondary Sources	Inquiry Anchor Standards 2: Evaluate Sources and Evidence	Identify and analyze primary sources to gain insights into experiences of individuals during this era Examine secondary sources to understand how interpretation of events differ.
	Analyzing Primary and Secondary Sources	History Anchor Standard 21: Perspective	Analyze viewpoints from different time periods to evaluate changing perspectives.

Theme 7: The Civil War and Reform Movements

Time Period: 1837 CE - 1877 CE

	Understanding Historical Context	History Anchor Standard 21: Perspective	Investigate the economic, political, and social factors that contribute to the sectional tension leading to succession and the outbreak of the Civil War.
		History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	-Analyze the social and cultural factors that led to the rise of social and political reform movements.
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Analyze the social and cultural factors that led to the rise of social and political reform movements.
	Cause & Effect	History Anchor Standard 22: Historical Sources and Evidence	Identify the key events of the Civil War and their significance in shaping the outcome of the conflict and the nation.
		History Anchor Standard 23: Change, Continuity, and Context	Examine the social and political changes brought about by the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments. Evaluate the impact of reform movements on historical and contemporary societies.

Theme 7: The Civil War and Reform Movements

Time Period: 1837 CE - 1877 CE

	Civic Participation and Decision-Making	History Anchor Standard 23: Change, continuity, and Context	Analyze the contributions of key individuals to the advancement of civil rights and social change. Investigate the role of social movements in shaping the political and cultural landscapes.
		Inquiry Anchor Standard 5: Informed Civic Discourse and Engagement	Engage in collaborative discussions about the ongoing struggle for civil rights, equal justice, and the responsibilities of citizenship in a diverse society.

Theme 8: Reconstruction

Time Period: 1865 - 1877

Unit	Topic	Anchor Standard	Learning Outcomes <i>The student demonstrates an understanding of...</i>
Reconstruction	Analyzing Primary and Secondary Sources	History Anchor Standard 22: Historical Sources and Evidence	Identify and analyze primary sources to gain insight into the experiences of African Americans during Reconstruction.
		Inquiry Anchor Standard 2: Evaluate Sources and Evidence	Examine secondary sources to understand differing interpretations of the Reconstruction era.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Compare and contrast viewpoints from different historical perspectives to evaluate changing attitudes toward race, citizenship, and civil rights.
	Understanding Historical Context	History Anchor Standard 22: Historical Sources and Evidence	Investigate the social, economic, and political conditions that led to Reconstruction.
		History Anchor Standard 21: Perspectives	Examine the lingering effects of slavery on the lives of newly freed African Americans. Analyze the resistance to change and the rise of white supremacist ideologies as significant challenges during Reconstruction.

Theme 8: Reconstruction

Time Period: 1865 - 1877

	Cause and Effect	Civics Anchor Standard 8: Processes, Rules, and Laws	Identify the key policies and legislation of Reconstruction, including the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, and assess their significance in advancing civil rights. Evaluate the establishment of white supremacist organizations and the enforcement of Jim Crow laws
	Ethical Decision-Making	History Anchor Standard 24: Historical Thinking	Investigate the historical and contemporary impact of Reconstruction.
		Civics Anchor Standard 7: Participation and Deliberation	Reflect on lessons from history to engage in discussions about the ongoing struggle to promote social change in modern society.

Theme 9: Research and Inquiry

Inquiry Anchor Standard <i>Learner demonstrates an understanding of...</i>	Learning Outcomes	Suggested Learning Connections
1: Develop questions and plan inquiries 2: Evaluate sources and evidence 3: Develop claims 4: Communicate and critique conclusions 5: Informed civic discourse and engagement	The learner will be able to conduct research by selecting, evaluating, and synthesizing information from diverse sources. This skill will be applied to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, by using sound reasoning and presenting sufficient evidence.	See Appendix