Social Studies
6th Grade Public Overview

World Cultures
1st 9 Weeks

What are we learning? How can I help at home?
Unit 1: Introduction to Geography – Physical and Human Geography **Essential Questions:** How does where you live impact how you live? **Timeline:** 8/11--8/27 **Priority Standards:** 6.3A, 6.3C, 6.3D, 6.5B, 6.20A-6.20D Link to TEKS Content: Unit Overview: In this two-concept unit, students will study physical and human geography. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of the difference between physical and human geography. At-Home Connection: • Talk About Places You Know Have your child describe a place and identify physical features (land, weather) vs. human features (buildings, culture). • Compare Two Locations Discuss differences between two places and how environment influences how people live. • Use a Map Together Look at a map and point out natural features (rivers, mountains) and human features (cities, roads). • Neighborhood Walk Identify examples of physical geography (trees, land) and human geography (homes, streets) in your area. • Watch the Weather Talk about how weather affects daily life (clothes, activities), connecting physical geography to human behavior.
Unit 2: Understanding Culture and the Basic Institutions of Society **Essential Question:** How do people from one place influence people in another place?

Timeline: 8/28-10/01
Priority Standards: 6.4A, 6.6A, 6.6B, 6.7A, 6.7B, 6.8A, 6.8B, 6.9A, 6.9B, 6.9C, 6.10A, 6.10B, 6.10C 6.11B, 6.13A, 6.14A, 6.14A, 6.14B, 6.14C, 6.15A, 6.15B, 6.17A, 6.17B,6.20C, 6.20C, 6.20C, 6.20C

Link to TEKS

Content: Unit Overview
In this four-concept unit, students will study culture, religion, government, and economics. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of the elements of culture, including religion, government, and economics.
At-Home Connection:

- Discuss Family Traditions
  Talk about your family's customs, holidays, and traditions to help your child understand culture and how it shapes people's lives.
- Connect Government to Daily Life
  Talk about rules at home, school, or in the community and relate them to how government systems help organize and guide societies.
- Talk About Money and Choices
  Involve your child in simple decisions like budgeting, shopping, or saving to help them understand economics and how people make choices.

1st and 2nd Nine Weeks

Unit 3: U.S. & Canada: Discovery, Democracy, and Diversity
Essential Question: How does where you live impact how you live? How are we impacted by the past? Why do societies have systems in place?

Timeline: 10/2-11/11
Priority Standards: 6.1A, 6.2A, 6.3A, 6.3B, 6.3C, 6.3D, 6.6A, 6.6C, 6.7A, 6.7B, 6.7C, 6.8A, 6.8B, 6.9A, 6.11A, 6.11B, 6.12A, 6.12B, 6.13A, 6.13B, 6.13C, 6.14A, 6.14C, 6.15D, 6.18A, 6.19D

Link to TEKS

Content: Unit Overview:
In this three-concept unit, students will study the culture region of the United States and Canada. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding the history, government, and multiculturalism of the United States and Canada.

At-Home Connection:

- Talk About U.S. and Canada History
  Discuss important events or figures from the United States and Canada to help your child understand how history shapes each country.
- Explore Government Systems

Talk about how the U.S. and Canada have governments (rules, leaders, rights) and how they are similar and different.

- Celebrate Cultural Diversity
  Discuss the many cultures, languages, and traditions found in both countries and how multiculturalism makes them unique.
- Make Connections to Daily Life
  Point out examples of U.S. or Canadian culture (food, music, holidays) and how they reflect different cultural groups
- Compare Regions
  Look at different regions within the U.S. and Canada and discuss how people, history, and culture can vary from place to place.

2nd Nine Weeks

Unit 4: Latin America: Conquest, Colonialism, and Converging Cultures

Essential Questions: How does where you live impact how you live?
How are we impacted by the past?
Why do societies have systems in place?

Timeline: 11/12-12/18
Priority Standards: 6.1A, 6.2B, 6.3A, 6.3C, 6.3D, 6.4B, 6.6A, 6.7A, 6.7C, 6.8A, 6.8B, 6.11A, 6.11B, 6.12B, 6.13A, 6.13D, 6.14A, 6.14C, 6.15A, 6.16A
Link to TEKS

Content: Unit Overview:
In this three-concept unit, students will study the culture region of Latin America, including Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean Islands. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding how the culture of the region has been shaped by the influences of European exploration.

At-Home Connection:

- Explore Cultural Influences
  Talk about how Latin American cultures include a mix of Indigenous, European, and African influences, especially from European exploration.
- Discuss Language and Traditions
  Notice that many countries in Latin America speak Spanish or Portuguese and share traditions that were influenced by European colonization.
- Learn About History Together
  Discuss how European explorers impacted the region, including changes to populations, culture, and governments
- Connect Food and Culture
  Try or talk about foods from Latin America and discuss how ingredients and recipes reflect a blend of cultures.
- Compare Regions
  Look at Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean and discuss how each area has unique cultures shaped by similar historical influences.

3rd Nine Weeks
Unit 5: Europe: Lasting Legacies and Current Challenges **Essential Question:** How does where you live impact how you live? How are we impacted by the past? Why do societies have systems in place? **Timeline:** 1/06-2/04 **Priority Standards:** 6.2B, 6.3A, 6.3C, 6.3D, 6.6A, 6.7A, 6.8A, 6.9A, 6.9B, 6.12A, 6.13A, 6.13D, 6.14A, 6.15A, 6.16B, 6.16C **Link to TEKS** Content: Unit Overview: In this three-concept unit, students will study the geographic region of Europe. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of how the history of Europe's cycle of conflict has led to worldwide changes. At-Home Connection: • Discuss European History Talk about major events (wars, alliances, empires) and how repeated conflicts in Europe influenced other parts of the world. • Connect Past to Present Discuss how past conflicts in Europe helped shape today's countries, borders, and global relationships. • Explore Maps of Europe Look at a map and notice how many countries are close together. Discuss how geography contributed to conflict and cooperation. • Make World Connections Talk about how European conflicts (like world wars) affected people and countries around the globe. • Compare Conflict and Cooperation Discuss how Europe has moved from conflict to cooperation (like the European Union) and why working together is important.
Unit 6: Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA): Religion and Rivalries **Essential Question:** How does where you live impact how you live? How are we impacted by the past? Why do societies have systems in place? **Timeline:** 2/05-3/18 **Priority Standards:** 6.1A, 6.1B, 6.3A, 6.3C, 6.3D, 6.4B, 6.6A, 6.7A, 6.8A, 6.8B, 6.9C, 6.11B, 6.13A, 6.13D, 6.14A, 6.14C, 6.15D **Link to TEKS**

Content: Unit Overview:
In this three-concept unit, students will study the culture region of Southwest Asia and North Africa. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of how the region's rich history in geography has led to religious and economic conflict.

At-Home Connection:

- Explore the Region on a Map
  Look at Southwest Asia and North Africa together. Discuss how deserts, rivers, and location have influenced how people live and interact.
- Connect Geography to Daily Life
  Discuss how limited resources like water or oil impact jobs, trade, and lifestyles in the region
- Talk About Conflict and Resources
  Discuss how access to resources and important locations has sometimes led to disagreements or conflict.
- Learn About Culture and Traditions
  Explore food, clothing, and traditions from the region and how they are shaped by history and environment.

3rd and 4th Nine Weeks

Unit 7: Sub-Saharan Africa: Natural Resources and Nationalism
Essential Question: How does where you live impact how you live?
How are we impacted by the past?
Why do societies have systems in place?

Timeline: 3/22-4/15
Priority Standards: 6.2B, 6.3A, 6.3C, 6.3D, 6.6A, 6.6C, 6.7A, 6.7B, 6.8B, 6.11B, 6.13A, 6.13B, 6.14A, 6.14C, 6.18B

Link to TEKS

Content: Unit Overview:
In this four-concept unit, students will study Africa south of the Sahara Desert. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding how Europe took advantage of region's natural and labor resources.

At-Home Connection:

- Explore the Region on a Map
  Look at Africa south of the Sahara Desert and identify countries, major landforms, and natural resources.
- Discuss Natural Resources
  Talk about resources like gold, diamonds, and farmland and why they are valuable.
- Learn About History Together
  Discuss how European countries came to Africa and used its land and labor, and how that impacted the region.
- Connect Past to Present

Talk about how this history still affects countries in Africa today, including economies and development.

- Celebrate Culture and Strengths
  Explore the diverse cultures, languages, music, and traditions of the region and how people have adapted and thrived.

4th Nine Weeks

Unit 8:

Essential Question: How does where you live impact how you live?
How are we impacted by the past?
Why do societies have systems in place?

Timeline: 4/16-5/07
Priority Standards: 6.3A, 6.3C, 6.3D, 6.5A, 6.5C, 6.6A, 6.7A, 6.8A, 6.8B, 6.11A, 6.11B, 6.12B, 6.13A, 6.14A, 6.14B, 6.14C, 6.18C

Link to TEKS

Content: Unit Overview:
In this three-concept unit, students will study South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of how the history influences the present and, even with much progress, history is still a large part of everyday life for the large population of the region.

At-Home Connection:

- Talk About History's Impact Today
  Discuss how past events (empires, colonization, traditions) still influence governments, cultures, and daily life in Asia today.
- Explore Cultural Traditions
  Learn about holidays, foods, and customs from South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia and how they reflect long histories.
- Use Maps to Understand the Region
  Look at where countries are located and talk about how geography supported large populations and early civilizations.
- Make Connections to Modern Life
  Discuss how countries in these regions are modern and growing, while still keeping strong cultural traditions from the past.
- Compare Past and Present
  Ask your child how life today in these regions is similar to or different from the past, and why history still plays an important role.

Unit 9:

Essential Question: How does where you live impact how you live?
How are we impacted by the past?

Why do societies have systems in place?

Timeline: 5/10-5/27
Priority Standards: 6.3A, 6.3C, 6.5A, 6.5B, 6.5C, 6.6A, 6.7A, 6.7B, 6.8A, 6.8B, 6.11A, 6.11B, 6.12B, 6.13A, 6.14A, 6.14C, 6.18C
Link to TEKS

Content: Unit Overview:
In this three-concept unit, students will study Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica. The major focus of this unit is that students build an understanding of how the isolation of the region has created a unique culture of its own.

At-Home Connection:

- Explore the Region on a Map
  Look at Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica and discuss how distance and isolation affect travel, culture, and communication.
- Discuss Unique Cultures
  Learn about Indigenous cultures in Australia and the Pacific Islands and how isolation helped preserve traditions.
- Connect Geography to Lifestyle
  Talk about how people adapt to living on islands or remote areas, including housing, food, and transportation
- Learn About Antarctica
  Discuss why no one lives there permanently and how scientists study the continent in isolation.
- Compare to Other Regions
  Ask your child how being far from other continents might shape culture, language, and daily life differently.