

# Grade 6

Adopted 2019

## Social Studies Practices

- 1. Students will understand the principles of government, the benefits of democratic systems, and their responsibilities as citizens. P.1**
  - A. demonstrate an understanding of the virtues that citizens should use when interacting with each other and the virtues that guide official government institutions. P.1.A
  - B. demonstrate an understanding of the important institutions of their society and the principles that these institutions are intended to reflect. P.1.B
  - C. demonstrate understanding of the processes and rules by which groups of people make decisions, govern themselves, and address public problems. P.1.C

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- 2. Students will determine the kinds of sources that will be helpful in answering essential, compelling, and supporting questions addressing authentic civic issues. P.2**
  - A. demonstrate the capability for developing essential, compelling, and supporting questions that address authentic civic issues. P.2.A
  - B. demonstrate the ability to investigate problems taking into consideration multiple points of view represented in arguments, structure of an explanation, and other sources. P.2.B

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- 3. Students will utilize interdisciplinary tools and master the basic concepts of the social studies in order to acquire and apply content understanding in all related fields of study. P.3**
  - A. develop skills and practices which demonstrate an understanding that historical inquiry is based on the analysis and evaluation of evidence and its credibility. P.3.A
  - B. demonstrate an understanding of geographic concepts and develop mastery of geographic tools and ways of thinking in order to become geographically informed. P.3.B
  - C. analyze the principles of economic systems and develop an understanding of the benefits of a market system in local, national, and global settings. P.3.C

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**4. Students will engage in critical, active reading of grade-level appropriate primary and secondary sources related to key social studies concepts, including frequent analysis and interpretation of informational sources. P.4**

A. comprehend, evaluate, and synthesize textual sources to acquire and refine knowledge in the social studies. P.4.A

B. apply critical reading and thinking skills to interpret, evaluate, and respond to a variety of complex texts from historical, ethnic, and global perspectives. P.4.B

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**5. Students will apply effective communication skills by developing a variety of evidence-based written products designed for multiple purposes and tasks, in order to demonstrate their understandings of social studies concepts, ideas, and content. P.5**

A. summarize and paraphrase, integrate evidence, and cite sources to create written products, research projects, and presentations for multiple purposes related to social studies content. P.5.A

B. engage in authentic inquiry to acquire, refine, and share knowledge through written presentations related to social studies. P.5.B

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**Content Standards  
(PreK-8)**

**1. The student will analyze data from a geographic perspective using the skills and tools of geography. 6.1**

1. Apply geographic information to support analysis from primary and secondary sources located in a variety of texts. 6.1.1

2. Describe how various map projections distort the surface of the earth; apply the concepts of scale, distance, direction, relative location, absolute location, and latitude and longitude. 6.1.2

3. Integrate visual information, draw conclusions, and make predictions from geographic data and analyze spatial distribution and patterns by interpreting that data as displayed on geographic tools. 6.1.3

4. Integrate visual information and develop the skill of mental mapping of the political and physical features of Earth's surface in order to organize information about people, places, and environments. 6.1.4

5. Describe and analyze the role of geographic factors on current events and issues. 6.1.5

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**2. The student will analyze the physical systems of the major regions of the Western Hemisphere. 6.2**

1. Use visual information to identify and describe on a physical map the landforms, bodies of water, climate, and vegetation zones that are important to each region. 6.2.1
2. Explain how the processes and factors of latitude, elevation, Earth-Sun relationships, prevailing winds, and proximity to bodies of water influence climate. 6.2.2
3. Describe the predominant natural resources found in each region. 6.2.3
4. Describe the relationship and summarize the impact of the distribution of major renewable and nonrenewable resources on each region. 6.2.4

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**3. The student will identify the characteristics, distribution, and demographic patterns of human populations and systems of the Western Hemisphere. 6.3**

1. Identify on a political map the major countries and population centers of each region. 6.3.1
2. Identify and describe cultural traits of language, ethnic heritage, religion, and traditions practiced among peoples. 6.3.2
3. Analyze the impact of geography on population distribution, growth, and change, applying geographic concepts of population density, the availability of resources. 6.3.3
4. Describe how the push and pull factors of migration have affected settlement patterns and the human characteristics of places over time. 6.3.4
5. Compare the systems of government, including representative governments (democracy, republic, constitutional monarchy) and authoritarian systems (dictatorship, absolute monarchy). 6.3.5
6. Identify the role of the citizen in the selection of government officials and lawmaking; compare individual liberties under different forms of government. 6.3.6
7. Identify and explain topics related to indigenous sovereignty. 6.3.7
8. Evaluate how the three levels of economic activities (primary, secondary, tertiary) contribute to the development of a nation and region. 6.3.8
9. Describe benefits and limitations of the traditional, market, and command economic systems, including how government policies affect economic activities and trade relationships. 6.3.9
10. Identify the common characteristics of developed and developing countries, including the impact of education and technology; analyze data used by geographers such as literacy rate, life expectancy, per capita income, and infant mortality. 6.3.10

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**4. The student will analyze the interactions of humans and their environment in the Western Hemisphere. 6.4**

1. Describe the commercial agriculture and industrial regions that support human development. 6.4.1
2. Evaluate the effects of human modification on the natural environment through transformation caused by subsistence and commercial agriculture, industry, demand for energy, and urbanization. 6.4.2
3. Analyze the impact of climate and natural disasters on human populations, including forced migration, scarcity of consumer goods, economic activities, and loss of life. 6.4.3
4. Analyze environmental challenges of each region. 6.4.4
5. Evaluate the role of ecotourism in creating environmental awareness of resources, climate, cultures, and wildlife. 6.4.5
6. Describe the role of citizens as responsible stewards of natural resources and the environment. 6.4.6

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**5. The student will compare common physical and human characteristics of regions which create identity or uniqueness and influence people's perceptions of the Western Hemisphere. 6.5**

1. Define the concept of region and identify the major political, physical, cultural, and economic regions. 6.5.1
2. Explain how cultural diffusion, both voluntary and forced, impacts societies of a region. 6.5.2
3. Describe patterns of global economic interdependence and trade, including the concepts of balance of trade and supply and demand; compare measures of economic growth including Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP). 6.5.3
4. Analyze global interdependence which explains the outsourcing of technological and manufacturing jobs to developing regions. 6.5.4
5. Analyze reasons for conflict and cooperation among and between groups, societies, nations, and regions. 6.5.5