



Southmoreland School District

Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum Overview

6th Grade Social Studies Overview:

In sixth grade, students will be introduced to social studies concepts on a middle school level. More specific detail will be given to ideas that will help the transitioning learner understand the development of historical events over time from early humans through the enlightenment period which includes the study of ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, ancient Greece, ancient Rome, and Medieval Europe. A major focus will be on connecting the past with the present to develop an understanding of human history. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to understand why the past matters and how it is a road map to the future.

Module Titles:

Module 1: Early Civilizations

Module 2: Ancient World

Module 3: Empires and Faiths

Module 4: Middle Ages and Changing World

Module Overviews:

Module 1: First Civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Ancient Israel

In the first quarter of the school year students will learn about the transition from early nomadic hunter and gatherers to the farming revolution resulting in the first early settlements. They will learn how agricultural development led to early civilizations. Direct focus will be on Mesopotamia as the origin of early civilization. Students will learn how early civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Israel built a foundation for the world we live in today.

Module 2: Ancient Greece and Greek Civilization

In this module students will learn how contributions by the Greeks allowed for new ideas about government, science, mathematics, and literature to develop into Western civilization as we know it today. A direct emphasis will be on the Hellenistic ideas of democracy and education. They will develop an understanding of the direct link of our present culture to ancient Greek culture.

Module 3: Rome, Christianity, and Islam

In module three, students will learn how the rise and fall of the Roman Empire shaped our modern world governmentally and technologically. They will develop an



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understanding of how advanced Roman infrastructure led to the establishment of Christianity in the Western world. Students will learn how the Islamic faith filled a void left by the collapse of the Roman empire in the Middle East and North Africa.

Module 4: Medieval Europe, Renaissance, and Reformation

In the last module, students will learn how Medieval Europe paves the way for modern Western society. They will form an understanding of how the ethnic development of Europe formed geographically resulting in what would become today's modern European countries. They will describe how the end of the medieval period allowed for a "rebirth" of the classic Greek and Roman ideas as well as the changes in the Christian church during the Reformation.