

Curriculum at a Glance
Social Studies
Grade 6 / World Geography and Culture I

World Geography and Culture is a two year course for grades 6 and 7. Students study world regions and through the lens of geography explore and learn about economies, history and civics throughout the world. Relevant global issues provide opportunities for generating and researching compelling questions. Mapping and geography skills are emphasized. In addition, 6th grade students learn to analyze different kinds of sources, utilizing multiple note taking and active reading techniques. Students identify central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source and provide an accurate summary of the source. Students distinguish among fact, opinion and reasoned judgement in a text. Students analyze sources for reliability. Students determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text including vocabulary specifically related to history/social studies.

Unit Name	Content
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Exploration of what “culture” is
Middle East	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Geography - Countries / regions of the Middle East; Tigris and Euphrates rivers● Indigenous culture - nomads, Bedouin● Cultural heritage/ancient civilizations: Mesopotamia (Sumeria, Babylon, Assyria) and Ancient Egypt● Government - Impact of religion and government primarily in Saudi Arabia● Impact of natural resources - Effect of petroleum reserves on economies● Population/ethnic diversity - Muslims, Jews, Christians / Sunni vs. Shia● Legacy of colonization - U.S. and UK involvement in Israel
Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Geography - Northern, Saharan, sub-Saharan Africa / latitude and longitude

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate and environment - Varieties of climates, ocean currents ● Indigenous culture - extreme ethnic diversity ● Cultural heritage - Ancient African kingdoms ● Government - Dealing with dictators at home, US/European involvement from afar ● Impact of natural resources - Riches of oil/gold/diamonds contrasted against poverty of nation w/out resources ● Population/ethnic diversity - “Africa is not a country” theme; history of tribal conflict ● Legacy of colonization - Consequences of Berlin Conference, slavery, and Apartheid
East Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geography - “Ring of Fire” ● Climate and environment ● Indigenous culture & religion - Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, et al. ● Cultural heritage - Chinese dynasties, Japanese isolationism, Silk Road ● Government - Dynasties; Communism vs. Nationalism; Japan = Meiji Restoration to today ● Impact of natural resources - Japan = lack thereof; China = labor ● Population/ethnic diversity - Chinese peasant class during Cultural Revolution, Consequences of One Child Policy ● Legacy of colonization - Forced opening of Japan, spheres of influence in China
India Subcontinent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geography - Indian Ocean region; Himalayas, Partition of 1947, Indus, Ganges rivers ● Climate and environment - Monsoon ● Indigenous culture - Indian history pre-colonization; caste system ● Cultural heritage - Hinduism, Buddhism, Silk Road ● Government - Situation with Tibet/China, handling of explosive population growth; legacy of caste system; “World’s Largest Democracy” ● Impact of natural resources - labor ● Population/ethnic diversity - Caste system; Pakistan vs. India (Islam vs. Judaism) ● Legacy of colonization - UK retreat and consequences

Australia and Oceania

- Geography - Australia: the continent and the country
- Climate and environment - South Pacific islands and climate change; disappearing Kiribati
- Indigenous culture - Aborigine
- Cultural heritage - folktales
- Government - past abuses of “White” Australia against “Black” Australia
- Impact of natural resources - Making due with a lack of freshwater and other forms of scarcity
- Population/ethnic diversity - Aboriginal vs. colonial British power
- Legacy of colonization - British colonial power and the consequences for native peoples