

6th Grade Social Studies Syllabus:

Course Overview: Welcome to 6th grade Social Studies! This course is designed to explore various aspects of history, geography, civics, and economics. Through engaging activities, discussions, projects, and readings, students will develop a deeper understanding of the world around them and their place within it.

Units of Study:

- 1. Introduction to Social Studies** ◦ Overview of the purpose and importance of Social Studies
◦ Basic map skills and geography terminology
- 2. Early American History** ◦ Exploration and settlement of North America ◦ Native American cultures and interactions with European explorers ◦ Colonial America: life in the thirteen colonies, including economy, government, and daily life
- 3. The American Revolution** ◦ Causes and events leading to the American Revolution ◦ Key figures and documents, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution ◦ Impact of the Revolution on American society and government
- 4. Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny** ◦ Exploration and settlement of the western United States ◦ Impact on Native American tribes and cultures ◦ The Oregon Trail and other westward migration routes
- 5. Civil War and Reconstruction** ◦ Causes and events leading to the Civil War ◦ Key battles, leaders, and outcomes of the war ◦ Reconstruction era: challenges and changes in the post-Civil War United States
- 6. Geography and Cultural Diversity** ◦ Continents, countries, and major physical features of the world ◦ Cultural diversity: traditions, languages, and customs of different regions ◦ Exploring cultural celebrations and holidays around the world
- 7. Government and Citizenship** ◦ Basics of democracy and citizenship rights and responsibilities ◦ Levels of government: local, state, and federal ◦ Importance of civic participation and community involvement.
- 8. Reconstruction Era (1865-1877)** The end of the Civil War, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, Reconstruction policies and their impacts, the rise of the Jim Crow Laws.
- 9. The Gilded Age (1877-1900)** Industrialization and urbanization, Labor movements and strikes, political corruption and reform.
- 10. The Progressive Era (1900-1917)** Social and political reforms, Women's suffrage movement.

11. **World War I and the Roaring Twenties** (1917-1929) US involvement in the war, economic and cultural changes of the 1920s.

12. **The Great Depression and the New Deal** (1929-1941) Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs and social and economic reforms.

13. **World War II** (1939-1945) Major battles and post-war consequences.

14. **The Cold War Era** (1945-1991) Origins of the Cold War, Civil Rights Movement.

15. **Modern American** (1991-present) Post-Cold War foreign policy, technological advances and the internet age, economic changes and globalization, social and political developments.

Skills Development:

Throughout the course, students will enhance their skills in:

- Reading and analyzing primary and secondary sources
- Writing informative essays and narratives related to historical events and figures
- Using maps, charts, and graphs to interpret geographical and historical information
- Engaging in respectful discussions and debates about historical events and societal issues
- Conducting research and presenting findings using digital tools and multimedia platforms

Classroom Expectations:

- Respectful behavior towards classmates and the teacher
- Active participation in class discussions and activities
- Completion of assignments on time with effort and attention to detail
- Openness to learning from different perspectives and viewpoints

Classroom Policies:

Attendance and punctuality are essential for participation and success. Respectful behavior towards peers and the teacher is expected at all times. Remember, you do not have to like your teacher or classmates, but you DO have to RESPECT me and them. Practice the 5P's...Be prompt, polite, prepared, productive and patient. Use of electronic devices is permitted only for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Students will be assessed and graded throughout the course. Assessments will include a variety of methods such as quizzes, tests, projects, presentations, and class participation. Students will have opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of content knowledge as well as their ability to apply critical thinking skills to

historical and geographical concepts. Students will also be graded on their performance within the classroom (behavior and actively participating in the given assignment or activity). There will be a behavior expectation scale in which all students will be graded based on a rubric. Specific assignments will be weighted. All students should aim to be a good role model, have work completed on time and have effort that goes above and beyond.

Communication: I encourage open communication between students, parents/guardians, and myself.

Conclusion: I am excited to explore the rich tapestry of American history, geography, civics, and economics with each of you. Together, we will discover how the past has shaped the present and how we can contribute positively to our future. Let's make this year in Social Studies an engaging and enlightening experience! My email: jessica.vasiliou@accomack.k12.va.us

CLASS FAMILY PROMISE

As a family, we promise to treat others how we want to be treated. We will show respect by helping each other be our best. We will be positive, friendly, and fair. We will be problem solvers! We can do hard things! We will learn from our mistakes and rest when we need a break. We will apologize when we are wrong and forgive one another. We are a class family. This is who we are and what we do, even when no one is watching!

Materials (for both English and history classes):

Please have all spiral notebooks, composition books and folders labeled ahead of time with your name and class. It would also be helpful to write which block you are in on these items.

- 2 (24 packs) of #2 pencils...enough to last the year
- 2 wide ruled composition notebooks (Both for English)
- 2 9x11" spiral notebook by Pen & Gear at Walmart (1 for English, 1 for history)
- black expo markers
- scissors
- glue sticks
- colored pencils or crayons
- yellow highlighters
- 3 plastic pocket folders: 1 yellow (writing), 1 purple (reading), 1 any other color (history)
- 1 pack of wide ruled paper (Will be used in English and history)
- 1 pack of file folders OR 1 pack of clear sheet protectors (Used in English and history)
- colored pens (red for editing and other colors for note taking)
- post-it notes
- 2 pencil bags or 1 big bag for your supplies
- Optional: Agenda or calendar to write assignments and important information.