

# Improving Reading Comprehension in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

Educational research indicates that there is a clear connection between successful reading comprehension and adequate background knowledge. Therefore, to improve students' reading comprehension, we must first help them to increase their knowledge of the very topics and ideas we want them to read about.

Below is a suggested list of fiction and nonfiction books that will help students learn more about the curriculum we will study in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies. Although this is not an exhaustive list, it is certainly a good place to begin. It is recommended that you have books on a variety of topics and at varying reading levels available for students to select from.

Additionally, as a family you can watch and discuss programs on the Discovery Channel, History Channel and others. Not only will these programs give students helpful visual information, subsequent conversation helps to build topic-specific language skills – both are important factors in building good reading comprehension.

Lastly, take family museum trips to Princeton Art Museum, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology, or the Metropolitan Museum. All of these locations have exciting and magnificent artifacts and displays to stimulate learning and understanding.

## Nonfiction and Short-Story Social Studies Related Books

Prehistory

***The First Dog*** by Jan Brett

Mesopotamia

***Ancient Mesopotamia: The Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians*** by Virginia

Schomp

***Gilgamesh the King*** by Ludmilia Zeman

Ancient Egypt

*Ancient Egypt Revealed* by Peter Chrisp

*Eyewitness Books Ancient Egypt* by Dr. George Hart

*Discoveries Ancient Egypt* by Dr. George Hart

Ancient Greece

*Eyewitness Books Ancient Greece* by Anne Pearson

*Greek Life* by John Guy

*Oh My Gods!* by Megan Bryant

*Usborne Greeks* by Susan Peach

Ancient Rome

*Roman Life* by John Guy

*Usborne Discovery Roman Army* by Ruth Brocklehurst

Ancient India

*Ancient India* by Virginia Schomp

*National Geographic Ancient India* by Anita Dalal

Religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Greek and Roman Gods)

*Eyewitness Books Religion* by Myrtle Langley

### **Fictional Social Studies Related Novels**

*A Bone from a Dry Sea* by Peter Dickinson (Prehistory)

*A Place in the Sun* by Jill Rubalcaba (Ancient Egypt)

*Atticus of Rome, 30 B.C.* by Barry Denenberg (Ancient Rome)

*Cleopatra: Daughter of the Nile* by Kristiana Gregory (Ancient Egypt)

*Detectives in Togas* by Henry Winterfield (Ancient Rome)

*Egypt Game* by Z.K. Snyder (Ancient Egypt)

*Egyptian Box* by Jane Louise Curry (Ancient Egypt)

*Golden Goblet* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw (Ancient Egypt)

*Golden Bull* by Marjorie Cowley (Mesopotamia)

*His Majesty, Queen Hatshepsut* by Dorothy Sharp (Ancient Egypt)  
*Magnificent Mummy Maker* by Elvira Woodruff (Ancient Egypt)  
*Maia of Thebes, 1463 B.C.* by Ann Turner (Ancient Egypt)  
*Mara, Daughter of the Nile* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw (Ancient Egypt)  
*Odysseus in the Serpent Maze* by J. Yolen & R. Harris (Ancient Greece)  
*Pandora of Athens 399B.C.* by Barry Denenberg (Ancient Greece)  
*Pharaoh's Daughter: A novel of Ancient Egypt* by J. Lester (Ancient Egypt)  
*Sphinx's Princess* by Esther Friesner (Ancient Egypt)  
*Sphinx's Queen* by Esther Friesner (Ancient Egypt)  
*Tales from the Odyssey Part One* by Mary Pope Osborne (Ancient Greece)  
*Tiger, Tiger* by Lynne Reid Banks (Ancient Rome)  
*Ugly Goddess* by Elsa Marston (Ancient Egypt)  
*Wind Rider* by Susan Williams (Prehistory)

### **Series Books**

R. L. LaFevers

*Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos* (Ancient Egypt)  
*Theodosia and the Staff of Osiris* (Ancient Egypt)

Roman Mysteries by Caroline Lawrence:

*Thieves of Ostia* (Ancient Rome)  
*Secrets of Vesuvius* (Ancient Rome)  
*Pirates of Pompeii* (Ancient Rome)  
*Assassins of Rome* (Ancient Rome)  
*Dolphins of Laurentium* (Ancient Rome)  
*The Twelve Tasks of Flavia Gemina* (Ancient Rome)  
*The Enemies of Jupiter* (Ancient Rome)  
*The Gladiators from Capua* (Ancient Rome)

Michelle Paver

***Wolf Brother*** (Prehistory)

***Spirit Walker*** (Prehistory)

***Soul Eater*** (Prehistory)

***Outcast*** (Prehistory)

***Oath Breaker*** (Prehistory)

Rick Riordan – Percy Jackson and the Olympians

***The Lightning Thief*** (Ancient Greece)

***The Sea of Monsters*** (Ancient Greece)

***The Titan's Curse*** (Ancient Greece)

***The Battle of the Labyrinth*** (Ancient Greece)

***The Last Olympian*** (Ancient Greece)

Rick Riordan – Kane Chronicles

***Red Pyramid*** (Ancient Egypt)

***Throne of Fire*** (Ancient Egypt)

***Serpents Shadow*** (Ancient Egypt)