

Grade 6

Social Studies is based on the history and geography of the Eastern Hemisphere, including the development of cultures, civilizations, and empires, interaction between societies, and the comparison of trends in government and economics. It also incorporates elements of some of the social sciences. The course is divided into eight Key Ideas that cover a time span from pre-history into the 1300s.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE TODAY

- 6.1 The diverse geography of the Eastern Hemisphere has influenced human culture and settlement patterns in distinct ways. Human communities in the Eastern Hemisphere have adapted to or modified the physical environment.
 - 6.1a Maps can be used to represent varied climate zones, landforms, bodies of water, and resources of the Eastern Hemisphere.
 - 6.1b The Eastern Hemisphere can be divided into regions. Regions are areas that share common identifiable characteristics, such as physical, political, economic, or cultural features. Regions within the Eastern Hemisphere include:
 - **Middle East** (North Africa and Southwest Asia)
 - **Sub-Saharan Africa**
 - **Europe** (West, North, South, Central, and Southeast)
 - **Russia and the Independent States** (Russia, Caucasus, Central Asia, the region of Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine)
 - **East Asia** (People's Republic of China, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan)
 - **Southeast Asia** (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar [Burma], Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines)
 - **South Asia** (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan)
 - **Oceania** (Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific)
 - 6.1c The physical environment influences human population distribution, land use, economic activities and political connections.

THE FIRST HUMANS THROUGH THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE

- 6.2 The first humans modified their physical environment as well as adapted to their environment.
 - 6.2a Human populations that settled along rivers, in rainforests, along coastlines, in deserts, and in mountains made use of the resources and the environment around them in developing distinct ways of life.
 - 6.2b Early peoples in the Eastern Hemisphere are often studied by analyzing artifacts and archaeological features. Archaeologists engage in digs and study artifacts and features in a particular location to gather evidence about a group of people and how they lived at a particular time.
 - 6.2c The Neolithic Revolution was marked by technological advances in agriculture and domestication of animals that allowed people to form semi-sedentary and sedentary settlements.
 - 6.2d Historians use archaeological and other types of evidence to investigate patterns in history and identify turning points. A turning point can be an event, era, and/or development in history that has brought about significant social, cultural, ecological, political, or economic change.

EARLY RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE

- 6.3 Between 3500 B.C.E. and 600 B.C.E., complex societies and civilizations developed in the Eastern Hemisphere. Although these complex societies and civilizations have certain defining characteristics in common, each is also known for unique cultural achievements and contributions. Early human communities in the Eastern Hemisphere adapted to and modified the physical environment.
 - 6.3a Humans living together in settlements develop shared customs, beliefs, ideas, and languages that give identity to the group.
 - 6.3b Complex societies and civilizations share the common characteristics of religion, job specialization, cities, government, language/record keeping system, technology, and social hierarchy.
 - 6.3c People in the Mesopotamia, Yellow River valley, Indus River valley, and Nile River valley developed complex societies and civilizations adapted to and modified their environment to meet the needs of their population.
 - 6.3d Political and social hierarchies influenced the access that groups and individuals had to power, wealth, and jobs and influenced their roles within a society.

COMPARATIVE WORLD RELIGIONS

- 6.4 Between 600 B.C.E. and 630 C.E., major religions and belief systems developed in the Eastern Hemisphere. There were important similarities and differences between these belief systems.
 - 6.4a Civilizations and complex societies developed belief systems and religions that have similar as well as different characteristics.
 - 6.4b Belief systems and religions are based on a set of mutually held values.
 - 6.4c Belief systems and religions often are used to unify groups of people and may affect social order and gender roles.

COMPARATIVE CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE

- 6.5 As complex societies and civilizations change over time, their political and economic structures evolve. A golden age may be indicated when there is an extended period of time that is peaceful, prosperous, and demonstrates great cultural achievements.
 - 6.5a Geographic factors influence the development of classical civilizations and their political structures.
 - 6.5b Political structures developed to establish order, to create and enforce laws, and to enable decision-making.
 - 6.5c A period of peace, prosperity, and cultural achievements may be indicative of a golden age.

MEDITERRANEAN WORLD: FEUDAL WESTERN EUROPE, THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE, AND THE ISLAMIC CALIPHATES

- 6.6 The Mediterranean world was reshaped with the fall of the Roman Empire. Three distinct cultural regions developed: feudal Western Europe, the Byzantine Empire, and the Islamic caliphates. These regions interacted with each other and clashed over control of holy lands.
 - 6.6a Overexpansion, corruption, invasions, civil wars, and discord among the Christians led to the fall of Rome. Feudalism developed in Western Europe in reaction to a need for order and to meet basic needs.

- 6.6b The Byzantine Empire preserved elements of the Roman Empire, controlled lands within the Mediterranean basin, and began to develop Orthodox Christianity.
- 6.6c Islam spread within the Mediterranean region from southwest Asia to northern Africa and the Iberian Peninsula.
- 6.6d Competition and rivalry over religious, economic, and political control over the holy lands led to conflict such as the Crusades.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE MONGOLS ON THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE

- 6.7 Mongols affected the Eastern Hemisphere through their expansion and interactions.
 - 6.7a Mongol nomadic culture had unique ways of meeting its basic needs and providing order and stability.
 - 6.7b As the Mongols created a large empire across regions, Mongol nomadic culture changed over time.
 - 6.7c. Mongols served as important agents of change and cultural diffusion, conquering Eurasia and fostering connections between the East and the West.

INTERACTIONS ACROSS THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE

- 6.8 Trade networks promoted the exchange and diffusion of language, belief systems, tools, intellectual ideas, inventions, and diseases.
 - 6.8a The Silk Roads, the Indian Ocean, and the Trans-Saharan routes formed the major Afro-Eurasian trade networks connecting the East and the West. Ideas, people, technologies, products, and diseases moved along these routes.
 - 6.8b The desire for knowledge and luxury items led to the revitalization of some trade routes and increased cross-cultural exchanges.
 - 6.8c Complex societies and civilizations adapted and designed technologies for transportation that allowed them to cross challenging landscapes and move people and goods efficiently.
 - 6.8d The location of resources, particularly in Africa, was a determining factor in the location of trade routes. The exchange of resources had economic impacts on different regions.