

Grade 6 Social Studies Understandings

1. All civilizations go through the same life cycle/pattern with a rise, a peak (e.g., Golden Age), and a decline.
2. The development of civilization is affected by geography.
3. Political boundaries change over time.
4. Surplus leads to the development of civilizations.
5. Goods and services are produced or acquired in various ways in response to demands.
6. Many variables affect economy.
7. Present cultures have their origins in the past.
8. The values of groups are reflected in their traditions, ceremonies, rituals, and belief systems.
9. Through interdependence and interaction, civilizations influence each other's culture.
10. Across time, technological innovations impact people, places, and regions.
11. Social stratification is a product of civilization.
12. Civilizations and cultures can be explored through the arts and sciences, key documents, and other important artifacts.
13. Human rights and social order are influenced by complex institutions.

Geography

September

Know

Terms

- 5 Themes of Geography
 - Absolute location
 - Relative location
 - Place
 - Human Environment Interaction
 - Movement
 - Region
- latitude
- longitude
- Prime Meridian
- Equator
- Tropic of Cancer/Capricorn
- Hemisphere
- Climate
- Maps
 - Political
 - Physical
 - Topographic
 - Economic
 - Climate
 - Population

People

Places

- Continents
- Oceans

Facts

- Various map projections serve different purposes

Events

Contributions

Key Understandings for this Unit

Do

- Locate and plot points using latitude/longitude
- Identify and locate 7 continents and 4 oceans
- Interpret information from various maps
- Utilize the 5 themes of geography in the study of culture

THEME	ECC
Change	Population (factors affecting)
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map skills• Eastern Hemisphere• Migration of people leads to cultural diffusion• Environmental impact on civilization• Natural resources
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production of goods and services• Colonization (use of resources)• Availability of resources
Culture	Occupations and trade
Interdependence	Trade and mercantilism (goods and ideas)

Early Man

September-October

Know

Terms

- Hunters/gatherers
- Producers/raisers
- Home territory
- Migrate
- Bands
- Archaeology
- Anthropology
- Artifact
- Prehistory
- Surplus
- Specialization
- Permanent settlements
- Population
- Agriculture
- Domestication

People

- Lucy

Places

Facts

- Surplus of food lays the foundation for specialization

Events

- Neolithic Revolution
- Beginning of history

Contributions

- Stone tools
- Metal tools
- Development of language

Key Understandings for this Unit

4, 5, 10, 11, 12

Do

- Compare/contrast Paleolithic and Neolithic Age with regard to:
 - Housing

- Obtaining food
- Foods consumed
- Tools
- Religion
- Art
- Government
- Identify the cause and effects of the Neolithic Revolution

THEME	ECC
Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early people, Early River Civilizations, Neolithic Revolution ● Population
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eastern Hemisphere ● Migration of people leads to cultural diffusion ● Environmental impact on civilization ● Natural resources
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agricultural economy ● Production of goods and services ● Economic systems ● Availability of resources
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing systems ● Religions and other belief systems

Mesopotamia

October-November

Know

Terms

- City-states
- Artisans
- Ziggurat
- Scribe
- Priest-kings
- Empire
- Culture
- Civilization
- Reform
- Reign
- Priests
- Polytheism
- Specialization
- Golden Age

Places

- Mesopotamia (Present-day Iraq)
- Sumer
- Ur
- Babylon
- Tigris River
- Euphrates River
- Fertile Crescent

People

- Sargon I
- Hammurabi

Facts

- All civilizations share the same five characteristics
- Sumer = first known civilization
- Lack of natural resources led to the need for trade

Events

Contributions

- Cuneiform writing
- The wheel
- The plow
- The sailboat

- Number system based on 60
- Irrigation
- Canals
- 1st written code of law = Hammurabi's Code

Key Understandings for this Unit

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13

Do

- Identify and label Fertile Crescent on a map
- Describe the characteristics of a city-state
- Describe Mesopotamia using the five themes of geography
- Explain how one Mesopotamian city-state could be considered a civilization using the five characteristics of civilization
- Interpret the laws from Hammurabi's Code
- Represent the life cycle of the Mesopotamian Empire (Rise, Golden Age, Decline)

THEME	ECC
Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early people, Early River Civilizations • Political • Societal • Population (factors affecting)
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map skills • Eastern Hemisphere (regions of) • Migration of people leads to cultural diffusion • Environmental impact on civilization • Natural resources
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural economy • Colonization (use of resources) • Production of goods & services • Economic systems • Availability of resources
Political Systems & Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change based on needs • Development of law & authority • Values affecting human rights

Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing systems• Arts & science• Occupations & trade• Education• Religions & other belief systems
Interdependence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trade and mercantilism
Science & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technological advances led to more complex civilizations• Positive and negative effects of people, places, and regions• Revolution's affect on society• Modern technology

Ancient Egypt

November-December

Know

Terms

- shadoof
- pharaoh
- pyramid
- embalming
- mummy
- hieroglyphics
- papyrus
- Book of the Dead
- polytheism
- Rosetta Stone
- delta
- cataracts
- Old/middle/new kingdoms
- cartouche
- canopic jars
- sarcophagus
- desert

People

- Menes/ Narmer
- Hatshepsut
- Amenhotep IV/Akhenaten
- Hyksos
- Tut
- Howard Carter
- Sphinx
- Various Gods

Places

- Nile River
- Sahara desert
- Valley of the Kings
- Giza
- Upper/ Lower Egypt
- Mediterranean Sea

Contributions

- Medicine
- Math – geometry
- Technology – pyramids, irrigation

Facts

- Egypt is a river civilization
- Nile flows south to north
- Geography (cataracts, deserts) provide protection
- Reasons for change from one kingdom to the next

Key Understandings for this Unit

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Do

- Identify and label major geographic features of Egypt
- Compare/Contrast the three kingdoms of Ancient Egypt
- Describe the social class structure of Ancient Egypt (using pyramid format)
- Describe Ancient Egypt using the five the themes of geography
- Describe Ancient Egypt using the five characteristics of civilization
- Explain how religion influenced Ancient Egyptian life

THEME	ECC
Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early River Civilizations• Political• Societal• Population
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map skills• Eastern Hemisphere• Environmental impact on civilization• Natural resources
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agricultural economy• Colonization (use of resources)• Production of goods & services• Economic systems• Diversity in standard of living• Availability of resources
Political Systems & Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change based on needs• Development of laws and authority• Values affecting human rights• Governments of Eastern

	Hemisphere
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing systems • Arts & science • Occupations & trade • Education • Philosophy • Values reflected in traditions, ceremonies & rituals • Religions
Interdependence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic network of global community • Trade & mercantilism (goods & services)
Science & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology advances led to more complex civilizations • Positive & negative effects of people, places, and region • Modern technology

Ancient Greece

January-February

Know

Terms

- agora
- citizenship
- helots
- acropolis
- monarchy
- despot
- aristocracy
- tragedy
- triremes
- aristocrats
- polis
- oligarchy
- democracy
- tyranny
- comedy

Places

- Crete
- Asia Minor
- Sparta and Athens
- Mt. Olympus
- Macedonia
- Troy
- Ionia
- Aegean and Mediterranean Seas
- Acropolis

People

- Xerxes
- Mycenaeans
- Plato
- Pericles
- Alexander the Great
- Minoans
- Socrates
- Aristotle
- Philip II
- Hippocrates

Facts

- Democratic Constitution
- Olympic Games
- Climate of Greece
- Greek gods and goddesses

Events

- Trojan War
- Peloponnesian War
- Persian War

Contributions

- Advancements in math and science
 - Scientific method
 - Hippocratic Oath
 - Pythagorean Theorem
- Greek Theatre
- Architecture
- Philosophy

Key Understandings for this Unit

1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Do

- Create a time line of Greek civilization beginning with the Minoans and ending with the Peloponnesian War
- Compare and contrast the Ancient Olympic Games with Modern Games
- Compare and contrast Greek Democracy and Modern Democracy
- Write a creative story written in the style of a myth
- Read the story of *Alexander and His Horse*
- Debate the pros and cons of the life styles of Sparta and Athens
- Draw architectural columns: Doric. Ionian, Corinthian
- Create a replica of the Parthenon
- Create a replica of a Greek urn – drawing or clay
- Create a collage of the symbolism of Greek gods and goddesses in today’s culture

THEME	ECC
Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political• Societal
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map skills• Migration of people leads to cultural diffusion• Environmental impact on civilization• Natural resources
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agricultural economy• Colonization (use of resources)• Production of goods & services• Economic systems• Diversity in standard of living• Availability of resources
Political Systems & Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change based on needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Values affecting human rights• Governments of Eastern Hemisphere
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arts & sciences• Occupations & trade• Education• Philosophy• Values reflected in traditions, ceremonies• Religions and other belief systems• Writing systems
Science & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technology advances led to more complex civilization• Modern technology• Positive and negative effects on people, places and regions

Ancient Rome

March-April

Know

Terms

- Pax Romana
- Legionaries
- Dictator
- Triumvirate
- Republic
- Monarchy
- Census
- Tariff

People

- Augustus
- Constantine
- Julius Caesar
- Hannibal
- Gladiators
- Senate
- Plebeian
- Patrician
- Consuls
- Emperor

Places

- Tiber River
- Adriatic Sea
- Po River
- Rome
- Carthage
- Sicily
- Balkan Peninsula
- Apennines Mtns.
- Alps
- Coliseum
- Pantheon
- Circus Maximus

Events

- Punic Wars

Contributions

- Roman alphabet/ numerals
- Architecture – domes, arches, aqueducts, roads
- Julian Calendar
- Standardized laws
- Roman baths

Facts

- Political, Economic, Foreign reasons for the fall of Rome
- Expansion of the Roman Empire
- Reasons for transitions from Republic to Empire

Key Understandings for this Unit

1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Do

- Label and color a map of important physical features in Ancient Rome.
- Relate how the five themes of geography impact Roman culture.
- Identify examples of Roman architecture.
- Research and explain construction of aqueducts.
- Keep an ongoing timeline to show the rise and fall of civilizations as they are completed.
- Compare and contrast a monarchy, republic, and empire as forms of government.
- Compare and contrast the "Golden Age" of Greece and Rome.
- Debate the Patricians' verses the Plebeians' way of life.
- Compare and contrast the Roman Republic with the United States Republic.
- Explain why the *Pax Romana* can be characterized as the "Golden Age."
- Identify the political, economic, and social effects of the Punic Wars.
- Develop a social pyramid for the Roman population.

THEME	ECC
Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political• Social
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map skills• Migration of people leads to cultural diffusion• Environmental impact on civilization• Natural resources
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colonization (use of resources)• Production of goods and services• Economic systems

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity in standard of living • Availability of resources
Political Systems & Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of law and authority
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing systems • Arts & sciences • Occupations & trade • Education • Diversity in standard of living • Availability of resources
Interdependence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic network of global community • Trade and mercantilism (goods and services)
Science & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological advances led to more complex civilizations • Positive and negative effects on people, places, and regions • Modern technology

Middle Ages

May-June

Know

- Terms
 - feudalism
 - tithe
 - dubbing
 - fief
 - guild
- Places
 - manor
 - monasteries
 - castle
 - town
- People
 - lord/lady
 - vassal
 - freeman
 - monk
 - nun
 - serf
 - knight
 - noble
 - priest
- Facts
 - code of chivalry
 - tournaments
 - knighthood
 - Church/government
- Events
 - The Crusades
- Contributions

Key Understandings for this Unit

1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Do

- Role play the process of becoming a knight.
- Complete a Middle Ages DBQ.
- Complete Middle Ages Constructed Responses.
- Diagram the layout of a manor.

- Research a topic/complete a Performance Task.
- Design a coat of arms.
- Identify the personalities of the Middle Ages.
- Diagram the routes and history of the Crusades.

THEME	ECC
Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renaissance • Revolutions • Political • Societal • Population (factors affecting)
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map skills • Migration of people leads to cultural diffusion • Environmental impact on civilization
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural economy • Production of goods & services • Economic systems • Diversity in standard of living
Political Systems & Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change based on needs • Development of law and authority • Values affecting human rights & responsibilities
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing systems • Occupations and trade • Education • Values reflected in traditions, ceremonies, & rituals • Religions and other belief systems