



Sixth Grade Social Studies Outcomes for Parents

Introducing Historical and Geographic Thinking

- Explain why and how historians use eras and periods as constructs to organize and explain human activities over time.
- Describe how geographers use mapping to represent places and natural and human phenomena in the world.
- Draw a sketch map from memory of the Western Hemisphere showing the major regions (Canada, United States, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean).
- Explain why maps of the same place may vary, including cultural perspectives of the Earth and new knowledge based on science and modern technology.
- Use information from modern technology such as *Geographic Positioning System (GPS)*, *Geographic Information System (GIS)*, and satellite remote sensing to locate information and process maps and data to analyze spatial patterns of the Western Hemisphere to answer geographic questions.
- Use the fundamental themes of geography (location, place, human environment interaction, movement, region) to describe regions or places on earth.

United States and Canada

- Describe the early migrations of people among Earth's continents (including the Beringia Land Bridge).
- Examine the lives of hunting and gathering people during the earliest eras of human society (tools, weapons, language, fire).
- Explain how the environment favored hunter gatherer, pastoral and small scale agricultural ways of life in different parts of the Western Hemisphere.
- Use multiple sources of evidence to describe how the culture of early peoples of North America reflected the geography and natural resources available (e.g., Inuit of the Arctic, Kwakiutl of the Northwest Coast; Anasazi and Apache of the Southwest).
- Describe how geographers use mapping to represent places and natural and human phenomena in the world.
- Explain that communities are affected positively or negatively by changes in technology (e.g., Canada with regard to mining, forestry, hydroelectric power generation, agriculture, snowmobiles, cell phones, air travel).
- Identify ecosystems and explain why some are more attractive for humans to use than are others (e.g., mid-latitude forest in North America, high latitude of Peru, tropical forests in Honduras, fish or marine vegetation in coastal zones).
- Identify and explain examples of cultural diffusion within the Americas (e.g., baseball, soccer, music, architecture, television, languages, health care, Internet, consumer brands, currency, restaurants, international migration).



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- List and describe the advantages and disadvantages of different technologies used to move people, products, and ideas throughout the world (e.g., call centers in the Eastern Hemisphere that service the Western Hemisphere; the United States and Canada as hubs for the Internet; transport of people and perishable products; and the spread of individuals' ideas as voice and image messages on electronic networks such as the Internet).
- Identify places in the Western Hemisphere that have been modified to be suitable for settlement by describing the modifications that were necessary (e.g., Vancouver in Canada; irrigated agriculture; or clearing of forests for farmland).
- Describe the cultural clash of First Peoples, French and English in Canada long ago, and the establishment of Nunavut in 1999.
- Describe how variations in technology affect human modifications of the landscape (e.g., clearing forests for agricultural land in South America, fishing in the Grand Banks of the Atlantic, expansion of cities in South America, hydroelectric developments in Canada, Brazil and Chile, and mining the Kentucky and West Virginia).
- Compare and contrast a military dictatorship such as Cuba, a presidential system of representative democracy such as the United States, and a parliamentary system of representative democracy such as Canada.
- Explain how incentives vary in different economic systems (e.g. acquiring money, profit, goods, wanting to avoid loss in position in society, job placement).
- Describe the impact of governmental policy (sanctions, tariffs, treaties) on that country and on other countries that use its resources.
- Diagram or map the movement of a consumer product from where it is manufactured to where it is sold to demonstrate the flow of materials, labor, and capital (e.g., global supply chain for computers, athletic shoes, and clothing).
- Explain how communications innovations have affected economic interactions and where and how people work (e.g., internet-based home offices, international work teams, international companies).
- Explain and compare how economic systems (traditional, command, and market) answer four basic questions: What should be produced? How will it be produced? How will it be distributed? Who will receive the benefits of production? (e.g., compare United States and Cuba, or Venezuela and Jamaica.)

Mexico

- Compare and contrast several different calendar systems used in the past and present and their cultural significance (e.g., Olmec and Mayan calendar systems, Aztec Calendar Stone, Sun Dial, Gregorian calendar - B.C./A.D.; contemporary secular - B.C.E./C.E. Note: in 7th grade Eastern Hemisphere the Chinese, Hebrew, and Islamic/Hijri calendars are included).



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- Describe the importance of the natural environment in the development of agricultural settlements in different locations (e.g., available water for irrigation, adequate precipitation, and suitable growing season).
- Explain how the environment favored hunter gatherer, pastoral and small scale agricultural ways of life in different parts of the Western Hemisphere.
- Describe how the invention of agriculture led to the emergence of agrarian civilizations (seasonal harvests, specialized crops, cultivation, and development of villages and towns).
- Use evidence to identify defining characteristics of early civilizations and early pastoral nomads (government, language, religion, social structure, technology, and division of labor).
- Analyze the role of environment in the development of early empires, referencing both useful environmental features and those that presented obstacles.
- Describe similarities and differences among Mayan, Aztec, and Incan societies, including economy, religion, and role and class structures.
- Describe the regional struggles and changes in governmental systems among the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan Empires.
- Construct a timeline of main events on the origin and development of early and classic ancient civilizations of the Western Hemisphere (Olmec, Mayan, Aztec, and Incan).
- Account for topographic and human spatial patterns (where people live) associated with tectonic plates such as volcanoes, earthquakes, settlements (Ring of Fire, recent volcanic and seismic events, settlements in proximity to natural hazards in the Western Hemisphere) by using information from GIS, remote sensing, and the World Wide Web.
- Explain that communities are affected positively or negatively by changes in technology (e.g., Canada with regard to mining, forestry, hydroelectric power generation, agriculture, snowmobiles, cell phones, air travel).
- Describe patterns of settlement by using historical and modern maps (e.g., coastal and river cities and towns in the past and present, locations of megacities - modern cities over 5 million, such as Mexico City, and patterns of agricultural settlements in South and North America).
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Central America and the Caribbean

- Compare and contrast several different calendar systems used in the past and present and their cultural significance (e.g., Olmec and Mayan calendar systems, Aztec Calendar Stone, Sun Dial, Gregorian calendar - B.C. /A.D.; contemporary secular - B. C.E. /C.E. Note: in 7th grade Eastern Hemisphere the Chinese, Hebrew, and Islamic/Hijri calendars are included).
- Use evidence to identify defining characteristics of early civilizations and early pastoral nomads (government, language, religion, social structure, technology and division of labor).
- Describe similarities and difference among Mayan, Aztec, and Incan societies including economy, religion, and role and class structure.
- Describe the regional struggles and changes in governmental systems among the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan Empires.
- Construct a timeline of main events on the origin and development of early and classic ancient civilizations of the Western Hemisphere (Olmec, Mayan, Aztec, and Incan)
- Describe how geographers use mapping to represent places and natural and human phenomena in the world.
- Draw a sketch map from memory of the Western Hemisphere showing the major regions (Canada, United States, Mexico, Central America, S. Am., and Caribbean).
- Identify ecosystems and explain why some are more attractive for humans to use than others (e.g., mid-latitude forest in North America, high latitude of Peru, tropical forests in Honduras, fish or marine vegetation in coastal zones).
- Describe the environmental effects of human action on the atmosphere (air), biosphere (people, animals, and plants), lithosphere (soil), and hydrosphere (water) (e.g., changes in the tropical forest environments in Brazil, Peru, and Costa Rica).
- Describe the effects that a change in the physical environment could have on human activities and the choices people would have to make in adjusting to the change (e.g., drought in northern Mexico, disappearance of forest vegetation in the Amazon, natural hazards and disasters from volcanic eruptions in Central America and the Caribbean and earthquakes in Mexico City and Columbia).
- Define the characteristics of a nation-state (a specific territory, clearly defined boundaries, citizens, and jurisdiction over people who reside there, laws, and government), and how Western Hemisphere nations interact.
- Explain the geopolitical relationships between countries (e.g., petroleum and arms purchases in Venezuela and Ecuador; foreign aid for health care in Nicaragua).



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Caribbean

- Analyze how culture and experience influence people's perception of places and regions (e.g., the Caribbean Region that presently displays enduring impacts of different immigrant groups - Africans, South Asians, Europeans - and the differing contemporary points of view about the region displayed by islanders and tourists).
- Identify factors that contribute to conflict and cooperation between and among cultural groups (control/use of natural resources, power, wealth and cultural diversity).
- Compare and contrast a military dictatorship such as Cuba, a presidential system of representative democracy such as the United States, and a parliamentary system of representative democracy such as Canada.
- Explain the challenges to governments and the cooperation needed to address international issues in the Western Hemisphere (e.g., migration and human rights).
- Describe the impact of governmental policy (sanctions, tariffs, treaties) on that country and on other countries that use its resources.
- Explain and compare how economic systems (traditional, command, and market) answer four basic questions: What should be produced? How will it be produced? How will it be distributed? Who will receive the benefits of production? (e.g., compare the United States and Cuba, or Venezuela and Jamaica.)

South America

- Describe the importance of the natural environment in the development of agricultural settlements in different locations (e.g., available water for irrigation, adequate precipitation, and suitable growing season).
- Use evidence to identify defining characteristics of early civilizations and early pastoral nomads (government, language, religion, social structure, technology, and division of labor).
- Explain the role of economics in shaping the development of early civilizations (trade routes and their significance - Inca Road, supply and demand for products).
- Describe similarities and difference among Mayan, Aztec, and Incan societies including economy, religion, and role and class structure.
- Describe the regional struggles and changes in governmental systems among the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan Empires.
- Construct a timeline of main events on the origin and development of early and classic ancient civilizations of the Western Hemisphere (Olmec, Mayan, Aztec, and Incan).
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- Draw a sketch map from memory of the Western Hemisphere showing the major regions (Canada, United States, Mexico, Central America, S. Am., and Caribbean).
- Use data to create thematic maps and graphs showing patterns of population, physical terrain, rainfall, and vegetation, analyze the patterns and then propose two generalizations about the location and density of the population.
- Explain how and why ecosystems differ as a consequence of differences in latitude, elevation, and human activities (e.g., S. Am.'s location relative to the equator, effects of elevations on temperature and growing season, proximity to bodies of water and the effects on temperature and rainfall, effects of annual flooding on vegetation along river flood plains such as the Amazon).
- Identify ecosystems and explain why some are more attractive for humans to use than others (e.g., mid-latitude forest in North America, high latitude of Peru, tropical forests in Honduras, fish or marine vegetation in coastal zones).
- Describe the environmental effects of human action on the atmosphere (air), biosphere (people, animals, and plants), lithosphere (soil), and hydrosphere (water) (e.g., changes in the tropical forest environments in Brazil, Peru, and Costa Rica).
- Describe how variations in technology affect human modifications of the landscape (e.g., clearing forests for agricultural land in S. Am., fishing in the Grand Banks of the Atlantic, expansion of cities in S. Am., hydroelectric developments in Canada, Brazil and Chile, and mining the Kentucky and West Virginia).
- Identify the ways in which human-induced changes in the physical environment in one place can cause changes in other places (e.g., cutting forests in one region may result in river basin flooding elsewhere; building a dam floods land upstream and may permit irrigation in another region).
- Describe the effects that a change in the physical environment, could have on human activities and the choices people would have to make in adjusting to the change (e.g., drought in northern Mexico, disappearance of forest vegetation in the Amazon, natural hazards and disasters from volcanic eruptions in Central America and the Caribbean and earthquakes in Mexico City and Columbia).
- Define the characteristics of a nation-state (a specific territory, clearly defined boundaries, citizens, and jurisdiction over people who reside there, laws, and government), and how Western Hemisphere nations interact.
- Explain the geopolitical relationships between countries (e.g., petroleum and arms purchases in Venezuela and Ecuador; foreign aid for health care in Nicaragua).
- Explain how incentives vary in different economic systems (e.g., acquiring money, profit, goods, wanting to avoid loss in position in society, job placement).
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Global Issues

- Describe and use themes of history to study patterns of change and continuity.
- Use historical perspective to analyze global issues faced by humans long ago and today.
- **Contemporary Investigations** - Conduct research on contemporary global topics and issues, compose persuasive essays, and develop a plan for action (H1.4.2, G1.2.6, See P3 and P4) .
- **Investigations Designed for Ancient World History Eras** - Conduct research on global topics and issues, compose persuasive essays, and develop a plan for action. H1.4.3, G1.2.6, Se P3 and P4) Note: Additional global investigation topics have been identifies for connections to World History Eras 1, 2 and 3 studies. Students investigate contemporary topics and issues that they have studies in an ancient world history context. The investigation may be addressed at the conclusion of each Era or may be included at the conclusion of the course. (See page 52)
- Clearly state an issue as a question or public policy, trace the origins of an issue, analyze various perspectives, and generate and evaluate alternative resolutions. Deeply examine policy issues in group discussions and debates to make reasoned and informed decisions. Write persuasive/argumentative essays expressing and justifying decisions on public policy issues, plan and conduct activities intended to advance views on matters of public policy, report the results, and evaluate effectiveness.
 - Identify public policy issues related to global topics and issues studied
 - Clearly state the issue as a question of public policy orally or in written form
 - Use inquiry methods to acquire content knowledge and appropriate data about the issue
 - Identify the causes and consequences and analyze the impact, both positive and negative
 - Share and discuss findings of research and issue analysis in group discussions and debates
 - Compose a persuasive essay justifying the position with a reasoned argument
 - Develop an action plan to address or inform others about the issue at the local to global scales.
- Demonstrate knowledge of how, when, and where individuals would plan and conduct activities intended to advance views in matters of public policy, report the results, and evaluate effectiveness.
- Engage in activities intended to contribute to solving a national or international problem studied.
- Participate in projects to help or inform others (e.g., service learning projects).