



# SIXTH GRADE Learning Objectives for **Social Studies**



## **HISTORY/CULTURE/CIVICS/ECONOMICS**

### **Topic: Human Beginnings and Early Civilizations (prehistory to 1000 B.C.E.)**

#### **The learner will**

- study the methods employed by archaeologists, geologists and other scientists to study the evolution of early man.
- understand the role that the environment played in the development of different human communities.
- describe similarities and differences of social and cultural characteristics of hunter-gatherer communities in various continental regions.
- understand the movement of people from farms to cities.

### **Topic: Ancient Mesopotamia**

#### **The learner will**

- to understand the civilization (Sumer, Babylonia and Assyria) in terms of economic, social, cultural, religious (polytheism) and political developments.
- determine how science and technology influenced their development.
- understand the importance of the location with regard to invasions, trade, farming and life.
- understand the importance of writing and its effect on society.
- learn about other Mediterranean civilizations of this time.
- understand what led to the emergence of Judaism and describe its contributions to civilization.
- learn about the basic beliefs of Judaism.
- compare Judaism to other known religions and understand the effects it has on these religions.

### **Topic: Ancient Egypt/Nubia**

#### **The learner will**

- learn about the types of communities that appear on the Nile and how it was used for trade.
- understand the civilizations in terms of economic, social, cultural, religious and political developments.
- determine the advances made in science and technology and how they influenced development.
- understand the importance of the location with regard to invasions, trade, farming and life.
- learn about the history of kingships, dynasties and kingdoms.
- describe the purpose of mummification and know about the belief in the afterlife.

### **Topic: Ancient Greece**

#### **The learner will**

- understand how the geography of the Mediterranean influenced the economy.
- know the major cultural achievements of Greek civilization and the lasting impact on Greek culture and learning on western and world history.
- study the achievements of Homer, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.
- know about the growth of art and architecture during the Golden Age.
- become familiar with democracy and how it was established in Athens; how it compares to democracy in the US and South Africa.
- know about life in Athens compared to life in Spars, including the role of women in society.
- understand the causes of the decline of the Athenian Empire.
- know about the myths of ancient Greece (gods/goddesses).



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## **HISTORY/CULTURE/CIVICS/ECONOMICS**

### **Topic: Ancient Rome**

#### **The learner will**

- ☑ understand how geography of the Mediterranean influenced the development of civilizations in Rome and the economy in Rome.
- ☑ know the myth of the founding of Rome.
- ☑ know the term “republic” and the role each of the following: Consuls, Assemblies and the Senate.
- ☑ know about the Roman expansion into other areas of the Mediterranean including the ability of the Romans to rule diverse groups of people.
- ☑ know about the myths of ancient Rome (gods/goddesses) and how they relate to Greek myths.
- ☑ study the fall of the Republic, the rise of Caesar and the growth of imperial Rome.

### **Topic: Incas, Mayans and Aztecs, people of South America today (rainforest)**

#### **The learner will**

- ☑ learn about the empire established by the Incas in South America.
- ☑ learn about the Mayan culture and Middle America.
- ☑ find out about the powerful Aztec empire.
- ☑ understand how the Amazon River changes as it flows from its source to the Atlantic Ocean.
- ☑ know about life in the rainforests of South America and middle America and use this information to learn about life in other rainforests around the world.
- ☑ understand how the global economy is impacted by the destruction of the rainforest.
- ☑ debate jobs created by logging verses the loss of habitat.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

#### **The learner will**

- ☑ understand how geography influenced the development of each civilization studied.
- ☑ know the lines of longitude and latitude.
- ☑ locate/find using longitude and latitude.
- ☑ understand time zones.
- ☑ give/receive/record directions.
- ☑ know the difference between political, physical, topographic, grid and street maps and when it is appropriate to use each.
- ☑ read a map and map scales/keys.
- ☑ create their own maps using other maps.
- ☑ know geography terms and identify several places in the world which match each term, e.g., archipelago-Hawaiian Islands.
- ☑ know the five themes of geography: location, place, region, movement, human-environment interaction.
- ☑ understand the physical characteristics of the Earth influence of geography on human development, including migration.

## **RESOURCES**

Prentice Hall World Studies: The Ancient World

Additional teaching resources and materials