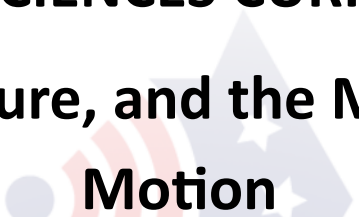


# 6th Grade American Online School

## SOCIAL SCIENCES CURRICULUM

### Geography, Culture, and the Modern World in Motion



Version May/2025

## 1. Introduction

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### The Role of Social Sciences Education in 6th Grade

In 6th grade, students begin to see the world as interconnected and historically shaped. Through the study of global geography, major regions, and pivotal historical and economic systems, learners explore how people, environments, and ideas evolve together. This curriculum builds historical empathy, spatial thinking, and global awareness while offering age-appropriate insight into key moments in world and U.S. history.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Describe major physical and human geographic features of the world.
  - ✓ Analyze cause and effect in historical, social, and economic contexts.
  - ✓ Explore key turning points in U.S. and world history, including post-Civil War developments.
  - ✓ Compare cultural traditions, natural hazards, and economic systems.
  - ✓ Develop research, critical thinking, and map skills to engage with global issues.
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## 2. Core Competence Areas

### SoSCI.1 Physical and Human Geography

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Interpret maps, charts, and satellite images of world regions.
- ✓ Analyze how geography shapes climate, resources, and societies.
- ✓ Examine the relationship between humans and natural environments.

#### Competencies

##### SoSCI.1.A.1 – Understanding landforms, water systems, and climate zones.

- Explore mountain ranges, rivers, deserts, oceans, and tectonic zones.
- Investigate Japan’s Ring of Fire and Europe’s Alpine water sources.

##### SoSCI.1.A.2 – Exploring population and urbanization trends.

- Use demographic maps and city case studies.
- Evaluate the impact of resource access on community development.

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### SoSCI.2 History: Reconstruction to Great Depression

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Identify major events and social changes after the Civil War.
- ✓ Understand the causes and consequences of the Great Depression.
- ✓ Recognize the historical roots of contemporary American society.

#### Competencies

##### SoSCI.2.A.1 – Analyzing Reconstruction and Westward Expansion.

- Study Freedmen’s Bureau, homesteading, and Native American displacement.
- Examine the expansion of railroads and industrialization.

## **SoSCI.2.A.2 – Understanding 20th century economic and social change.**

- Trace the stock market crash, New Deal programs, and Dust Bowl effects.
  - Compare urban vs. rural experiences during economic hardship.
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## **SoSCI.3 The Modern Middle East**

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Understand the geography, religions, and cultures of the Middle East.
- ✓ Analyze historical roots of modern Middle Eastern societies.
- ✓ Explore themes of oil, conflict, and regional cooperation.

### **Competencies**

#### **SoSCI.3.A.1 – Exploring physical geography and cultural complexity.**

- Identify countries, capitals, climate patterns, and natural resources.
- Compare cities such as Istanbul, Mecca, and Dubai.

#### **SoSCI.3.A.2 – Investigating religion and modern change.**

- Study Islam's origins, key traditions, and global presence.
  - Discuss social change, youth movements, and technology in Middle Eastern nations.
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## **SoSCI.4 Global Economic Systems**

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Compare traditional, market, and command economies.
- ✓ Analyze supply and demand, production, and trade.
- ✓ Reflect on global interdependence and resource distribution.

## Competencies

### SoSCI.4.A.1 – Understanding how economies function.

- Use simulations to model economic choices and opportunity cost.
- Discuss GDP, labor, and specialization.

### SoSCI.4.A.2 – Exploring global trade and sustainability.

- Track product origins and economic ties between nations.
  - Evaluate fair trade and environmental impacts of global commerce.
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## SoSCI.5 World Cultures and the Ring of Fire

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Examine natural disasters and their cultural impacts.
- ✓ Analyze how Japanese society responds to natural threats.
- ✓ Reflect on resilience, innovation, and adaptation.

## Competencies

### SoSCI.5.A.1 – Understanding seismic activity in Japan.

- Map earthquake zones and tsunami-prone areas.
- Study how architecture, education, and urban planning adapt to risk.

### SoSCI.5.A.2 – Appreciating Japanese culture and global influence.

- Explore Japanese rituals, anime, cuisine, and youth culture.
  - Connect values such as harmony, minimalism, and collective care to global citizenship.
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## 3. Assessment and Evaluation

### Formative Assessments – Inquiry and Evaluation

- ✓ Map labeling and interpretation tasks.
- ✓ Exit tickets and reflection journals.
- ✓ Group debates and concept sorting.

### Summative Assessments – Demonstration of Mastery

- ✓ Unit quizzes and essay responses.
- ✓ Global simulation projects and presentations.
- ✓ Interactive notebooks or digital portfolios.

### Performance-Based Assessments – Civic and Global Engagement

- ✓ Cultural interview or virtual museum project.
- ✓ Policy roleplay (e.g., economist, mayor, activist).
- ✓ “Future Historians” Capstone: Reflecting on today as history.

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## 4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

### Narrative and Inquiry-Based Approach

- ✓ Use essential questions and case studies.
- ✓ Encourage students to generate questions and pursue inquiry paths.

### Project-Based and Culturally Responsive Instruction

- ✓ Connect learning to global and personal identities.
- ✓ Incorporate stories, simulations, and real-world dilemmas.

### Digital and Geographic Tools Integration

- ✓ Google Earth, ArcGIS, TimeMaps, Padlet timelines.
- ✓ Interactive timelines, infographics, and collaborative wikis.

## Learning Culture

- ✓ Foster respectful discussion and global curiosity.
- ✓ Value student voice in interpreting the past and present.
- ✓ Create space for emotional connection, reflection, and civic imagination.



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