

SOCIAL STUDIES – GRADE 6

Course Overview

Focus Areas: *Geography, Cultural Diversity, Government, Economics, Sociology*

The content of the social studies curriculum is based upon Montana Content Standards and Benchmarks for Social Studies 1-6. These standards include the use of geography in order to understand the present and past history of the Americas. The standards also encompass the study of cultural diversity, Latin American history, government and its function, economics of Latin America and Canada, and the sociology of Latin America and Canada. Students will be expected to develop and apply various strategies including accessing, organizing, analyzing, applying, evaluating, and reporting through the context of the course content. Students will engage in a variety of learning experiences that address individual learning styles. Assessment will include participation in class projects and presentations, teacher observation, and performance assessment of learning activities and tasks.

Social Studies Content Strands

The following strands contain instructional elements integrated throughout the social studies grade and subject level content standards and benchmarks. Focus areas for integrated elements are 1) participation and application skills and 2) citizenship skills. The depth of implementation in each strand area varies with grade/subject and developmental levels of students. The outlined elements will also help students understand the use of communication skills in learning information in all content areas.

I. Participation and Application Skills

A. Study and Organization Skills

1. Notetaking and Outlining

- Introduction to various methods
- Text orientation as it applies to notetaking

2. Demonstrating a Sense of Chronology

- Timeline activities

3. Identifying, Classifying and Summarizing Ideas

- Skills activities as they apply to identifying and classifying
- Determining historical, geographic, economic and cultural factors of greatest significance
- Practice with group and individual verbal and written summaries

B. Communication Skills

1. Writing and Research

(Content Strands cont.)

- Individual and group reports
- Discussion of written response on assignments
- 2. Listening and Oral
 - Class discussions
 - Group and individual oral presentations
- 3. Reading and Vocabulary
 - Focus on basic terminology
 - Text and supplementary reading
- C. Map and Globe Skills
 - Specific map assignments as applicable
 - Map skills assignments from skills development lessons
- D. Group Participation Skills
 - 1. Conflict Resolution
 - Discussions related to current events
 - Discussions related to classroom events
 - 2. Simulations
 - Group simulations as they apply to topic areas
 - 3. Class Discussion
 - On-going part of class
 - Both teacher- and student-developed topics
 - Current event topics

II. Citizenship Skills

- A. Comparing Different Traditions and Cultures
 - 1. Study different groups of people who have affected our own culture
- B. Critical and Analytical Skills
 - 1. Drawing Inferences
 - 2. Distinguishing Fact, Bias and Propaganda
 - 3. Introducing Cause and Effect Relationships
 - 4. Interpreting Charts, Graphs, and Visuals

Social Studies Content Standards and Benchmarks

Standard 1: Students will demonstrate a grade-level knowledge of geography. (SSCS—3)

Benchmarks

- 1.1** Students will use maps, globes and various tools to assist in the understanding of the present and past history of the Americas (excluding the past history of Canada). (3.8.1, 3.8.4)

Students will:

	Essential Learnings	Assessment	Map
1.1.1	locate and identify all of the countries of modern North and South America.	V, W, O, P for all.	I, D for all.
1.1.2	develop an awareness of various map projections by comparing two or more special maps of the same area.		
1.1.3	locate and identify mountains, rivers, and plains of Canada, Mexico, Central America and South America.		
1.1.4	recognize that latitude, altitude, physical features, and ocean currents affect the climate of an area.		
1.1.5	recognize that climate can change over time.		
1.1.6	identify human and natural resources in geographic areas and their effects on the economics, political and cultural systems.		
1.1.7	learn that geographical location and environment influence the development of a region.		

Standard 2: Students will explore the diversities and cultures of present-day Canada. (SSCS—4)

Benchmarks

- 2.1** Students will identify key elements in present-day Canada. (4.8.4)

Students will:

	Essential Learnings	Assessment	Map
2.1.1	explore the various cultural groups of Canada.	V, W, O, P for all.	I for all.
2.1.2	recognize the problems of the different cultural groups.		

Standard 3: Students will explore the history of Latin America. (SSCS—4)

Benchmarks

- 3.1** Students will identify key elements in the development of Latin America. (4.8.1-2, 4.8.5)

Students will:

	Essential Learnings	Assessment	Map
3.1.1	trace the cultures of Latin America from their beginnings to the present—focus on the Aztecs, Mayas, and Incas.	V, W, O, P for all.	I for all.
3.1.2	trace the exploration of Latin America.		
3.1.3	recognize the problems of Latin Americans and their efforts to overcome them.		
3.1.4	recognize that artifacts, documents, and records provide information about history and culture.		

Standard 4: Students will explore and understand the basic structure and function of government. (SSCS—2)

Benchmarks

4.1 Students will compare and contrast the basic governmental systems of Canada and Latin America. (2.8.4, 2.8.6)

Students will:

	Essential Learnings	Assessment	Map
4.1.1	recognize that people, adapt, or attempt to adapt their governments to their changing needs.	V, W, O, P for all	I
4.1.2	compare and contrast political systems with our own.		I
4.1.3	identify the need to have and obey laws that meet the needs of society.		D
4.1.4	develop an awareness of current events in Canada and Latin America.		I
4.1.5	become aware of the growing need for good relations between the United States, Latin America and Canada.		I

Standard 5: Students will develop a basic knowledge of economics in Canada and Latin America. (SSCS—5)

Benchmarks

5.1 Students will use concepts of trade to describe the interdependence among countries. (5.8.1, 5.8.4-5)

Students will:

	Essential Learnings	Assessment	Map
5.1.1	gain knowledge of how countries allocate resources	V, W, O, P for all.	I for all.
5.1.2	realize how our country depends upon products and markets of Canada and Latin America.		
5.1.3	recognize that a country may change its way of producing goods through technology, new ways of using resources and inventions.		

Standard 6: Students will develop a basic knowledge of sociology regarding Canada and Latin America. (SSCS—5)

Benchmarks

6.1 Students will acquire an understanding of problems and conditions facing Canada and Latin America. (5.8.2, 5.8.4)

Students will:

	Essential Learnings	Assessment	Map
6.1.1	recognize the interdependence of people.	V, W, O, P for all.	I, D
6.1.2	describe the concept of human rights.		I
6.1.3	realize that the arts are a means of expressing and interpreting human behavior.		I