

6th Grade Social Studies Instructional Focus

In Grade 6, students study people and places of the contemporary world. The focus of study is organized around the broad concepts of relationships, movement, cultures, systems, and connections. The subject-specific concepts addressed at Grade 6 include location and geographical characteristics; relationships among cultures; economic and governmental systems including limited and unlimited governments and citizenship; and, technology as it affects the development of societies. In addition, point of view and conflict are addressed through a study of current events and the impact history has had on those events.

The units for Grade 6 are recursive in that the concepts occur over and over across the year. The four units for Grade 6 are designed to be interwoven; therefore, a time line has not been given as to how long each unit is to be taught. This is left to the discretion of the teacher.

Overall, the emphasis at Grade 6 is for students to develop a conceptual understanding of the world and their place in the world. The purpose is for students to gain an overview of all the regions in the world zooming in on the “hot spots” as they occur in the news; therefore, current events are crucial, and the media and the internet are vital links to the Grade 6 classroom.