

Grade 6 - Social Studies
Mrs. Barry
2016-17

Course Overview

Social studies in sixth grade begins by looking at how and why people study the past. First, we go back to the earliest peoples, before there was writing, and discover how they progressed from surviving with simple basic needs to the development of agriculture, which led to the growth of towns. From there, we examine three river civilizations - ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, and ancient Kush. We see how each group used geography to develop and grow into a more sophisticated civilization, and closely examine their farming, government, religion, writing, architecture, and trade. Next, we find out how the Greeks became one of the great ancient civilizations, studying their geography, government, and mythology. We'll discover their fierce fighting skills and their amazing building expertise, along with their rich legacy of art and thought. Ancient Rome is our last stop, where we will learn about the history of the Roman Republic and its growth from a small city into one of the most powerful civilizations of the ancient world. Rome became an empire, adopted Christianity, and eventually fell, leaving behind cultural elements that have endured for centuries. Throughout these units we will continually compare the past to our own culture, and gain a greater understanding of how we are connected to history.

Classroom Rules & Expectations

- Help Others, Work Hard, Ask Questions!
- Be On Time – Everyone should be in their seats when the bell rings.
- Be Prepared – Always bring your textbook, binder, agenda book, and a writing utensil. Your journal will be stored in the classroom.
- Participate – Everyone is expected to share their ideas and thoughts, and to pull their weight, individually and in groups.

Grading Policy

- Projects/Tests/Quizzes 65%
 - Classwork & Journal 35%
- *These percentages may vary slightly each quarter

Homework Guidelines

- All assignments are designed to reinforce concepts and skills learned in class. Often, the assignment is to complete work not finished during class time.
- Students are responsible for recording homework assignments (take a picture of board, write down in agenda book, etc.).
- All assignments will be written on the board and accessible online.
- Complete assignments when they are due.

I will be available on Tuesdays for extra help after school, as well as other times if you contact me in advance. Communication among teacher, parent and student is an important part of a successful education. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have concerns or questions during the year.

I look forward to working with you!

Beth Barry

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