

Georgia Standards of Excellence Grade 6 Social Studies



“Where Young Men Soar to Greater Heights”

Sixth grade is the first year of a two-year World Area Studies course. Sixth grade students study Latin America, Canada, Europe, and Australia. The goal of this two-year course is to acquaint middle school students with the world in which they live. The geography domain includes both physical and human geography. The intent of the geography domain is for students to begin to grasp the importance geography plays in their everyday lives. The government/civics domain focuses on selected types of government found in the various areas so that students begin to understand the variety of governments in the world. The economics domain builds on the K-5 economics standards; however, the focus shifts from the United States to how other countries answer the basic questions of economics. The history domain focuses on major events in each region during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

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Unit 1: Connecting Themes

1 – 2 weeks

Standards: This unit is designed to teach the themes used in the course. There are no standards and elements for this

introductory unit.

In this unit, students will be introduced to the unit connecting themes of:

- **Conflict and Change**
- **Culture**
- **Gain from Trade**
- **Governance**
- **Human Environmental Interaction**
- **Location**
- **Movement/Migration**
- **Production, Distribution, and Consumption**
- **Time, Change, and Continuity**
- **Gain from Trade**
- **Scarcity**

Unit 2: Europe: Geography and Economics – Making the Connection

3 – 4 weeks

Standards: SS6G7, SS6G8, SS6G9, SS6E8, SS6E9

Location of select countries and physical features in Europe.

Environmental Issues: Acid Rain (Germany), Air Pollution (United Kingdom), Nuclear Disaster (Chernobyl, Ukraine)

Location, physical features, and natural resources impact trade and population distribution

Voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers

How specialization encourages trade

International trade requires a system for exchanging currencies

European Union

Literacy rates affect standard of living

Relationship between investment in human capital, capital goods, natural resources, entrepreneurship and GDP (United Kingdom, Germany, Russia)

Unit 3: Europe: Past Shapes the Present

3 – 4 weeks

Standards: SS6G10, SS6H3, SS6CG3, SS6E7

Cultural characteristics: diversity of languages, major religions

Post WWI developments

Rise of Nazism

German Reunification

Collapse of the Soviet Union

Various Forms of government and citizen participation (United Kingdom, Germany, Russia)

Forms of democracy – parliamentary and presidential

Compare different economic systems

Mixed economic system

Compare economic systems of United Kingdom, Germany, Russia

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Unit 4: Latin America: Physical and Human Geography

3 – 4 weeks

Standards: SS6G1, SS6G2, SS6G3, SSH1a,b

Location of select countries and physical features in Latin America

Environmental Issues: Air Pollution (Mexico City), Destruction of rain forest (Brazil)

Location, physical features, and natural resources impact **population distribution** (Mexico, Brazil, Cuba)

Influence of African slavery

Influence of Spanish and Portuguese

Unit 5: Latin America: Past Shapes the Present

3 – 4 weeks

Standards: SS6H1c, SS6CG1, SSE1, SS6E2b

Cuban Revolution

Current relationship – Cuba and United States

Various forms of government and citizen participation (Mexico, Cuba, Brazil)

Forms of democracy – parliamentary and presidential

Compare difference economic systems

Mixed economic systems of Mexico, Cuba, Brazil

Types of trade barriers (focus on embargo)

Unit 6: Modern Latin America

3 – 4 weeks

Standards: SS6H1d, SS6G3, SS6E2, SS6E3

Impact of poverty, war on drugs, migration to United States

Location, physical features and natural resources impact **trade** (Mexico, Brazil, Cuba)

Voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers

How specialization encourages trade

Types of trade barriers

NAFTA

International trade requires a system for exchanging currencies

Literacy rates affect the standard of living

Relationship between investment in human capital, capital goods, natural resources, entrepreneurship and GDP (Mexico, Cuba, Brazil)

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Unit 7: Impact of Canada's Geography

3 – 4 weeks

Standards: SS6G4, SS6G5, SS6G6, SS6E5, SS6E6d

Location of Canada, Quebec, and physical features on a world and regional political-physical map

Environmental Issues: Pollution and acid rain (Great Lakes), Extraction of natural resources (Canadian Shield)

Location, physical features, and natural resources impact population distribution and trade

Voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers

How specialization encourages trade

Types of trade barriers

International trade requires a system for exchanging currencies

NAFTA

Role of natural resources in Canada's economy

Unit 8: Canada Today

3 – 4 weeks

Standards: SS6H2, SS6CG2, SS6E4, SS6E6abce

Quebec's independence movement

Citizen participation in selecting a leader (parliamentary democracy)

Analyze different economic systems and their location on a continuum

Economic system in Canada

Literacy rates affect the standard of living

Relationship between investment in human capital, capital goods, entrepreneurship and GDP (Canada)

Unit 9: Impact of Australia's Geography

3 – 4 weeks

Standards: SS6G11, SS6G12, SS6E10, SS6E11, SS6E12d

Location of Australia and physical features on a world and regional political-physical map

Location, physical features, and natural resources impact population distribution and trade

Analyze different economic systems and their location on a continuum

Mixed economic system

Economic system in Australia

Voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers

How specialization encourages trade

Types of trade barriers

International trade requires a system for exchanging currencies

Role of natural resources in Australia's economy

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Unit 10: Australia Today

3 – 4 weeks

Standards: SS6H4, SS6CG4,
SS6E12abce

Impact of English colonization on
Aborigines

Citizen participation in selecting
leader (parliamentary democracy)

Literacy rates affect the standard
of living

Relationship between investment
in human capital, capital goods,
entrepreneurship and GDP
(Australia)

Unit 11: Your Financial Future

3 – 4 weeks

Standards: SS6E13

Basic principles of effective personal
money management

How to live within one's income

Income is received from work and is
limited

Budget is a tool to plan the spending
and saving of income

Reasons and benefits of saving

Uses and costs of credits

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Unit 1: Connecting the Themes Used in 6th Grade Social Studies

Unit Focus:

This unit is designed to introduce students to the seven themes that are featured prominently in the sixth-grade social studies course. Activities will focus on **conflict and change, culture, governance, human environmental interactions, location, production, distribution and consumption, time, change and continuity**. At the conclusion of this unit, students should demonstrate effective use of the enduring understandings and can apply the enduring understandings to their lives and prior knowledge.

Standards/Elements:

This unit is designed to teach the themes used in the course. There are no standards and elements for this introductory unit.

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Unit 2: Europe: Geography and Economics – Making the Connection

Standards/Elements:

Geographic Understandings

SS6G7 Locate selected features of Europe.

- a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the Danube River, Rhine River, English Channel, Mediterranean Sea, European Plain, the Alps, Pyrenees, Ural Mountains, and Iberian Peninsula.
- b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the countries of France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, and United Kingdom.

SS6G8 Explain environmental issues in Europe.

- a. Explain the causes and effects of acid rain in Germany.
- b. Explain the causes and effects of air pollution in the United Kingdom.
- c. Explain the causes and effects of the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl, Ukraine.

SS6G9 Explain the impact of location, climate, natural resources, and population distribution on Europe.

- a. Compare how the location, climate, and natural resources of Germany, the United Kingdom and Russia impact trade and affect where people live.

Economic Understandings

SS6E8 Analyze the benefits of and barriers to voluntary trade in Europe.

- a. Explain how specialization encourages trade between countries.
- b. Compare and contrast different types of trade barriers such as tariffs, quotas, and embargoes.
- c. Explain why international trade requires a system for exchanging currencies between nations.
- d. Describe the purpose of the European Union and the relationship between member nations.

SS6E9 Describe factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia.

- a. Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living.
- b. Explain the relationship between investment in human capital goods (education and training) and gross domestic product (GDP per capita).
- c. Explain the relationship between investment in capital (factories, machinery, and technology) and gross domestic product (GDP per capita).
- d. Describe the role of natural resources in a country's economy.
- e. Describe the role of entrepreneurship.

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Standards/Elements:

Unit 3: Europe: Past Shapes the Present

Geographic Understandings

SS6G10 Describe selected cultural characteristics of Europe.

- a. Describe the diversity of languages spoken within Europe.
- b. Identify the major religions in Europe: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Historical Understandings

SS6H3 Explain conflict and change in Europe.

- a. Describe the aftermath of World War I: the rise of communism, the Treaty of Versailles, the rise of Nazism, and worldwide depression.
- b. Explain the rise of Nazism including preexisting prejudices, the use of propaganda, and events which resulted in the Holocaust.
- c. Explain how German reunification contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union and led to the end of the Cold War.

Government/Civic Understandings

SS6CG3 Compare and contrast various forms of government.

- a. Explain citizen participation in autocratic and democratic governments. [i.e., role of citizens in choosing the leaders of the United Kingdom (parliamentary democracy), Germany (parliamentary democracy), and Russia (presidential democracy)].
- b. Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential.

Economic Understandings

SS6E7 Analyze different economic systems.

- a. Compare how traditional, command, and market economies answer the economic questions of 1-what to produce, 2-how to produce, and 3-for whom to produce.
- b. Explain that countries have a mixed economic system located on a continuum between pure market and pure command.
- c. Compare the basic types of economic systems found in the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia.

Unit 4: Latin America: Physical and Human Geography

Geographical Understandings

SS6G1 Locate selected features of Latin America.

- a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: Amazon River, Amazon Rainforest, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Panama Canal, Andes Mountains, Sierra Madre Mountains, and Atacama Desert.
- b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the countries of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, and Panama.

SS6G2 Explain the impact of environmental issues in Latin America.

- a. Explain the causes and effects of air pollution in Mexico City, Mexico.
- b. Explain the environmental issue of destruction of the rain forest in Brazil.

SS6G3 Explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Latin America.

- a. Explain how the location, climate, and distribution of natural resources impact trade and affect where people live in Mexico, Brazil, and Cuba.

Historical Understandings

SS6H1 Explain conflict and change in Latin America.

- a. Describe the influence of African slavery on the development of the Americas.
- b. Describe the influence of the Spanish and the Portuguese on the language and religions of Latin America.

Unit 5: Latin America: Past Shapes the Present

Historical Understandings

SS6H1 Explain conflict and change in Latin America.

- c. Explain the impact of the Cuban Revolution and describe the current relationship between Cuba and the United States.

Government/Civic Understandings

SS6CG1 Compare and contrast various forms of government.

- a. Explain citizen participation in autocratic, and democratic governments. [i.e. the role of citizens in choosing the leaders of Mexico (presidential democracy), Cuba (autocratic), and Brazil (presidential democracy)].
- b. Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential.

Economic Understandings

SS6E1 Analyze different economic systems.

- a. Compare how traditional, command, and market economies answer the economic questions of 1-what to produce, 2-how to produce, and 3-for whom to produce.
- b. Explain that countries have a mixed economic system located on a continuum between pure market and pure command.
- c. Compare and contrast the basic types of economic systems found in Mexico, Cuba, and Brazil.

SS6E2 Give examples of how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Latin America.

- b. Compare and contrast different types of trade barriers, such as tariffs, quotas, and embargos

Unit 6: Modern Latin America

Historical Understandings

SS6H1 Explain conflict and change in Latin America.

- d. Explain the impact of poverty, the war on drugs, and migration to the United States on Latin America.

Geographic Understandings

SS6G3 Explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Latin America.

- a. Explain how the location, climate, and distribution of natural resources impact trade and affect where people live in Mexico, Brazil, and Cuba.

Economic Understandings

SS6E2 Give examples of how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Latin America.

- a. Explain how specialization encourages trade between countries.
- b. Compare and contrast different types of trade barriers, such as tariffs, quotas, and embargos.
- c. Explain why international trade requires a system for exchanging currencies between nations.
- d. Explain the functions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

SS6E3 Describe factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico.

- a. Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living.
- b. Explain the relationship between investment in human capital (education and training) and gross domestic product (GDP per capita).
- c. Explain the relationship between investment in capital goods (factories, machinery, and technology) and gross domestic product (GDP per capita).
- d. Describe the role of natural resources in a country's economy.
- e. Describe the role of entrepreneurship.

Unit 7: Impact of Canada's Geography

Geographic Understandings

SS6G4 Locate selected features of Canada.

- a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the St. Lawrence River, Hudson Bay, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, the Great Lakes, Canadian Shield, and Rocky Mountains.
- b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map Canada and the province of Quebec.

SS6G5 Explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Canada.

- a. Describe how Canada's location, climate, and natural resources impact trade and affect where people live.

SS6G6 Explain the impact of environmental issues in Canada.

- a. Explain the causes and effects of pollution and acid rain in Canada to include the Great Lakes.
- b. Explain the causes and effects of the extraction of natural resources on the Canadian Shield (e.g., mining and logging).

Economic Understandings

SS6E5 Give examples of how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Canada.

- a. Explain how specialization encourages trade between countries.
- b. Compare and contrast different types of trade barriers, such as tariffs, quotas, and embargoes.
- c. Explain why international trade requires a system for exchanging currencies between nations.
- d. Explain the functions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

SS6E6 Describe factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Canada.

- d. Describe the role of natural resources in a country's economy.

Unit 8: Canada Today

Historical Understandings

SS6H2 Describe Quebec's independence movement.

Government/Civic Understandings

SS6CG2 Explain citizen participation in the Canadian government.

- a. Explain the role of citizens in choosing the leader of Canada (parliamentary democracy).

Economic Understandings

SS6E4 Analyze different economic systems.

- a. Compare how traditional, command, and market economies answer the economic questions of 1-what to produce, 2-how to produce, and 3-for whom to produce.
- b. Explain that countries have a mixed economic system located on a continuum between pure market and pure command.
- c. Describe the economic system of Canada.

SS6E6 Describe factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Canada.

- a. Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living.

- b. Explain the relationship between investment in human capital (education and training) and gross domestic product (GDP per capita).
- c. Explain the relationship between investment in capital goods (factories, machinery, and technology) and gross domestic product (GDP per capita).
- e. Describe the role of entrepreneurship.

Unit 9: Impact of Australia's Geography

Geographic Understandings

SS6G11 Locate selected features of Australia.

- a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea, Uluru/Ayers Rock, Indian and Pacific Oceans, Great Dividing Range, and Great Victoria Desert.

SS6G12 Explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Australia.

- a. Describe how Australia's location, climate, and natural resources impact trade and affect where people live.

Economic Understandings

SS6E10 Analyze different economic systems.

- a. Compare how traditional, command, and market economies answer the economic questions of 1-what to produce, 2-how to produce, and 3-for whom to produce.
- b. Explain that countries have a mixed economic system located on a continuum between pure market and pure command.
- c. Describe the economic system used in Australia.

SS6E11 Give examples of how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Australia.

- a. Explain how specialization makes trade possible between countries.
- b. Compare and contrast different types of trade barriers, such as tariffs, quotas, and embargoes.
- c. Explain why international trade requires a system for exchanging currency between nations.

SS6E12 Describe factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Australia.

- d. Describe the role of natural resources in a country's economy.

Unit 10: Australia Today

Historical Understandings

SS6H4 Explain the impact of English colonization on current Aboriginal basic rights, health, literacy, and language.

Government/Civic Understandings

SS6CG4 Explain forms of citizen participation in government.

- a. Explain citizen participation in democratic governments [i.e. the role of citizens in choosing the leaders of Australia (parliamentary democracy)].

Economic Understandings

SS6E12 Describe factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Australia.

- a. Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living.
- b. Explain the relationship between investment in human capital (education and training) and gross domestic product (GDP per capita).
- c. Explain the relationship between investment in capital goods (factories, machinery, and technology) and gross domestic product (GDP per capita).
- e. Describe the role of entrepreneurship.

Unit 11: Your Financial Future

Economic Understandings

SS6E13 Understand that a basic principle of effective personal money management is to live within one's income.

- a. Understand that income is received from work and is limited.
- b. Understand that a budget is a tool to plan the spending and saving of income.
- c. Understand the reasons and benefits of saving.
- d. Understand the uses and costs of credit.