



SOCIAL STUDIES 6

SOC106 — 1.0 Credit

Middle School Course

Course Description

Students in grade six expand their understanding of history; civics and government; geography; economics; and individuals, society, and culture by studying the people and events that ushered in the dawn of the major Western and non-Western ancient civilizations. Geography is of special significance in the development of the human story. Students will have the opportunity to explore civilizations by learning about the history, culture, citizenship, economy, religions, and government of the different cultures present at that time. In so doing, the students will utilize math, science, technology, and critical thinking skills in daily learning. Students analyze the interactions among the various cultures, emphasizing their enduring contributions and the link between our world today and these ancient worlds.

Course Objectives

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the life of various civilizations.
- Compare and contrast the ways of the ancient world to our world today.
- Sequence, categorize, and identify cause-and-effect relationships of important events of ancient times. Explain how resources, belief systems, economic factors, and political decisions have affected different civilizations.
- Understand, describe, and analyze the similarities and differences within and among cultures that includes the cultures' government, economy, education, and religion.
- Identify examples of architecture, art, music, and literature of today that have survived from ancient times.
- Understand and describe how citizenship varies among different societies.
- Create written and visual materials such as journals, reports, graphic organizers, outlines, and bibliographies fluently at the sixth-grade level with very few grammar or spelling errors.

Course Length

Two semesters

Required Text

None

Course Outline

Overview of Ancient Civilizations

- Identify the locations of human communities that populated the major regions of the world
- Describe how humans adapted to a variety of environments

Stone Age

- Transition from nomadic hunters to agricultural societies
- Describe the hunter-gatherer societies including the development of tools and the use of fire

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Early Civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush

- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations
- Mesopotamian civilizations: Sumer 5000 B.C.; Babylon 1800 B.C.; Assyria 1200 B.C.; Persia 539 B.C.; Egypt; Kush

Ancient Hebrews

- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the ancient Hebrews

Ancient Greece

- Geography
- Crete, Minoans, and Mycaeneans
- Government and citizenship
- Philosophy
- Art and literature
- Alexander the Great
- Hellenism and Judaism

Persian Empire

- Geography
- Rise and fall of the Persian Empire
- Ancient Asian Civilizations of India, China, and Japan
- India — History; Religion; Hinduism
- China — History; Philosophy; Culture; Buddhism; Confucius
- Japan — Buddhism

Ancient Rome

- Geography
- Art and architecture
- Religion
- Culture
- Roman Republic
- Roman Empire — Western; Eastern; Fall of the Western Empire