

Welcome to 6th Grade Social Studies!

Dear Sixth Grade Bragg Families,

Welcome to an exciting year of learning in 6th grade Social Studies! Students will explore the early history of North America—from Indigenous cultures to European exploration and colonial life during the first nine weeks. My goal is to help students understand how the past shapes the present and to build critical thinking and historical inquiry skills.

What We're Learning for the First Nine Weeks

Indigenous Societies Before European Contact

Students will begin the year by learning about the diverse cultures, governments, and lifestyles of Native peoples before colonization.

European Exploration & The Age of Discovery

We'll study why Europeans began exploring the world, the goals of early explorers, and the consequences of their arrival in the Americas.

The Crusades & The Renaissance

We'll look at how these events in Europe helped launch the Age of Exploration by encouraging curiosity, trade, and innovation.

Colonization & Its Impact

Students will learn how European settlers built colonies in North America and how this process affected Indigenous communities and the environment.

Life in the 13 Colonies

We'll explore the geography, economy, and culture of each region, and how colonists began to govern themselves.

Religion & Social Change

Students will examine religious freedom, the challenges some groups faced, and how movements like the Great Awakening influenced society.

Slavery in Colonial America

We'll study the transatlantic slave trade, slave codes, and the lives of enslaved people, along with early resistance to slavery.

Trade & the Colonial Economy

Students will learn about systems like triangular trade, and how geography and climate influenced daily life and economic development.

Review & Assessments

Throughout the year, students will review key concepts and demonstrate their understanding through discussions, projects, and assessments. Students will keep track of notes using their history composition notebook. Students are expected to check my online notebook in Schoology to keep up with classwork if they are absent.

Classroom Expectations

To support a focused and respectful learning environment:

Cell phones and smartwatches must be turned off and kept away during class.

AI tools (like ChatGPT) may only be used with teacher permission for specific assignments.

Students are encouraged to ask questions, participate actively, and treat classmates and history with respect.

Students are expected to follow our classroom rule: Do nothing that disrupts the learning of others.

We will use A Plus and DBQ Project materials in our lessons along with other resources.

We're excited for a meaningful year of learning together! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time.

Warm regards,

Lisa Hyde

6th Grade Social Studies Teacher / Bragg Middle School

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