

Grade 6: Ancient Civilizations

Thinking Geographically/Unit 1

Unit Overview

In this unit, we will focus on the basics of social studies and geography: looking at how to *think* like a social scientist and a geographer. You will have an opportunity to reacquaint yourself with some writing and research skills you have learned in the past, you will consider the basics of geography, and you will develop a stronger understanding of academic vocabulary.

Significant Concepts & Skills

In this unit, we will answer the following big questions: Why do people live where they do? How do maps help us understand and navigate the world around us? How can geography help us understand the relationship between people and their environment?

As we answer these questions, we will spend our time learning the following skills:

- **Applying Disciplinary Concepts:** I can explain how a location shapes human culture, identity, and behavior.
- **Evaluating Sources & Using Evidence:** I can find and use evidence that supports my claims.
- **Communicating Conclusions:** I can write a well-organized explanation backed by reasoning, examples, and details.

Assessments & Pacing

You can expect to have two major assessments during this unit.

1. Group Map Construction (Formative)
2. Map Explanation Assessment (Summative)

We should have this unit wrapped up by late September.

If I have any concerns about how you are doing throughout this unit, I will talk with you personally and will email you and your parents. If you or your parents have any questions or concerns about the unit, please talk with me before or after class or email Ms. VanCleave at mvanceleave@acsamman.edu.jo

Important Note Regarding the Use of AI

While AI can be a helpful tool for learning, and we will use it at times in class under teacher supervision, this unit and its assessments will focus on students' own thinking and work, and therefore students will not be permitted to use AI.