

# World Cultures - 6th Grade Social Studies

## **Course Overview:**

In 6th grade World Cultures, students will embark on a year-long journey around the globe, exploring the people, places, and traditions that shape our world. We will use the framework of **P.E.G.S** - Political, Economic, Geography, & Social to study each area. Through interactive lessons, projects, and discussions, we will examine geography, culture, history, government, and economics while building skills in critical thinking and global awareness. Students will learn to read and interpret maps, understand the diversity of human experiences, and make connections between current events and historical contexts.

By the end of the year, students will have a stronger understanding of the physical and cultural landscapes of our planet – and a deeper appreciation for the similarities and differences that unite and distinguish us.

## **Course Outline:**

### **1st Quarter**

- Unit 1 - Foundational Skills: Introduction to geography and culture; learning essential map skills; exploring different systems of government and basic economic principles.
- Unit 2 - North America (Part 1): United States & Canada - examining geography, cultural diversity, and economic development.
- Unit 3 - North America (Part 2): Mexico, Central America, & the Caribbean - exploring rich histories, traditions, and modern-day challenges.
- Unit 4 - South America (Part 1): Physical geography, cultural heritage, and the influence of environment on society.

### **2nd Quarter**

- Annual 6th Grade Water Walk: A hands-on learning event connecting to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on global water access, sustainability, and community responsibility.
- Unit 4 - South America Continued
- Unit 5 - Europe: Physical and political geography, cultural achievements, and

contemporary issues.

- Unit 6 - Russia & Central Asia: History, geography, and diverse cultures of this vast region.

### **3rd Quarter**

- Unit 7 - Middle East (Southwest Asia & North Africa): Religious and cultural crossroads, natural resources, and regional conflicts.
- Unit 8 - Sub-Saharan Africa: Diversity of landscapes, histories, and modern-day developments.
- Unit 9 - South Asia: Ancient civilizations, religious traditions, and modern economies.
- Unit 10 - East Asia (Part 1): Geography, history, and cultural contributions of China, Japan, Korea, and neighboring regions.

### **4th Quarter**

- Unit 10 - East Asia Continued
- Unit 11 - Southeast Asia: Geography, trade networks, and cultural diversity.
- Unit 12 - Oceania + Antarctica: Unique ecosystems, indigenous cultures, and environmental challenges.

## **Course Goal:**

To equip each student with a solid foundation in world geography and an informed appreciation of the world's many cultures, fostering curiosity, respect, and empathy for the global community.