

GRADE 6 - THE GROWTH OF CIVILIZATION

OVERVIEW

Where did man come from? How did civilization evolve? Man has pondered these questions for centuries. In the sixth grade curriculum, students look at the evolution of man and civilization from prehistoric times to the modern day. The primary emphasis focuses on the development of civilization.

In teaching the curriculum, use a foundation-forming approach instead of an in-depth approach. This will enable the student to develop a general understanding about the ancient and medieval world. With this foundation, the student will be prepared for the study of modern cultures.

Current events are an integral part of the curriculum and should be reviewed and discussed on a regular basis, keeping in perspective the suitability of the topic for the grade level. Current events should reflect themes from other content areas as well.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Geography

1. How do maps and geographic tools allow geographers to gain information?
2. How is geography used to understand where people settle and why they settle there?
3. How does geography help people understand their world?
4. What specific geographic features impacted civilizations?

History

5. What can people learn from the past? Why do people study history?
6. How did specific civilizations survive?
7. How did the achievements of past civilizations contribute to future civilizations? What achievements can still be evidenced in the present day?
8. What significant events happened in a specific time? How did those significant events impact civilizations during that time?
9. Is new technology always more superior than old technology?

Civics, Government, and Society

10. What does it mean to be civilized?
11. Why do civilizations have rules and laws? Why did civilizations develop different laws?
12. What role has religion played in different civilizations?
13. Why did civilizations develop diverse types of government?
14. How did differing governments impact the development of civilizations? How have government systems transformed throughout historical periods?
15. What can people learn about a culture by studying its art forms?

Economics

16. How did trade impact past societies?
17. What types of trading developed in past societies? Why did different civilizations develop different styles of trading?
18. How did geography impact trade in past societies?

**SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM GUIDELINES
GRADE 6**

Topic I: The World

Trimesters Covered

Pennsylvania
Standards

1

2

3

Topic I

I. The Earth

A. Five themes of geography

1. Location
2. Description of place
3. Human-environment interaction
4. Movement
5. Regions

B. Map and Globe Skills

1. Name and locate hemispheres, continents, oceans, seas, and major river systems
2. Types of maps
 - a) Physical
 - b) Political
 - c) Landform
 - d) Distribution
 - e) Topographical/contour
 - f) Resource

II. Map terminology

- A. Cardinal directions
- B. Intermediate directions
- C. Scale
- D. Symbol
- E. Map key/legend
- F. Longitude
- G. Latitude
- H. Equator
- I. Prime Meridian
- J. Parallels
- K. Degrees

III. Geographical Features

- A. Landforms– i.e. plain, plateau, mountain, etc.
- B. Bodies of Water – ocean, river, lake, mouth, source, etc.
- C. Vegetation
- D. Climate
 1. Define climate

Geography
7.1.6.A-B

History
8.4.6.B

Economy
6.1.6.A-B
6.2.5.A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Types of climates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Polar b) Temperate c) Tropical <p>IV. The people of the world – From Prehistoric to Historic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Development of culture B. Definition of culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prehistoric cultures – BCE or BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Old Stone Age b) New Stone Age 2. Historic Cultures – CE or AD 3. Written language development 						
Topic II: Ancient World Civilizations						
Trimesters Covered						Pennsylvania Standards
1		2		3		Topic II
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The geography of Ancient Egypt 2. Development of Egyptian Civilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Religion b. Governance / Pharaohs c. Architecture B. The Fertile Crescent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The geography of the Fertile Crescent 2. Development of Mesopotamian Civilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sumerians b. Assyrians c. Babylonians / Chaldeans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Code of Hammurabi 2. Epic of Gilgamesh d. The birth of Judaism C. The Indus River Valley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The geography of Ancient India 2. Development of Indus River Valley Civilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Development of planned cities b. Hinduism / Buddhism c. Aryan Migration D. China <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The geography of Ancient China 2. Development of Chinese Civilization 						<p><u>Geography</u> 7.2.6A-B 7.3.6A 7.4.6A-B</p> <p><u>History</u> 8.1.6.A-C 8.4.6.A-D</p> <p><u>Civics</u> 5.1.6.F 5.2.6.A-C 5.3.6.D, F 5.4.6.A-B</p> <p><u>Economy</u> 6.1.6.B 6.2.6.A 6.3.6.A, B, D 6.4.6.A-B 6.5.6.A-B</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Importance of dynasties b. Inventions c. Spread of Buddhism d. Government 						
Topic III: Europe - The Bridge to the Middle Ages						
Trimesters Covered						Pennsylvania Standards
1		2		3		Topic III
<p>A. The Greeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geography of Ancient Greece 2. Government of Ancient Greece <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Development of the city-state (polis) b. Athens – “Birthplace of democracy” c. Sparta d. Corinth e. Thebes 3. Daily life and social structure 4. Legacy of Ancient Greece <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Religion b. The Arts c. Architecture d. Science and Technology e. Athletics – The Olympics 5. Spread of Greek ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Alexander the Great b. Hellenistic culture <p>B. The Romans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geography of Ancient Rome 2. Development of Roman Civilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Roman Republic and important leaders b. Roman Empire and important leaders 3. Daily life and social structure 4. Legacy of Ancient Rome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Religion b. The Arts c. Architecture d. Science and Technology 5. Birth of Christianity 6. Collapse of the Roman Empire 						<p><u>Geography</u></p> <p>7.1.6.B</p> <p>7.2.6.A</p> <p>7.3.6.A</p> <p>7.4.6.A</p> <p><u>History</u></p> <p>8.1.6.A-C</p> <p>8.4.6.A-D</p> <p><u>Civics</u></p> <p>5.1.6.B-C, F</p> <p>5.2.6.A-C</p> <p>5.3.6.D, F, I</p> <p>5.4.6.A-B</p> <p><u>Economy</u></p> <p>6.1.6.B, D</p> <p>6.2.6.A</p> <p>6.3.6.A, B, D</p> <p>6.4.6.A-B</p> <p>6.5.6A</p>

Topic IV: The Middle Ages

Trimesters Covered						Pennsylvania Standards
1		2		3		Topic IV
<p>A. The Early Middle Ages [500 – 1000 CE (AD)]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Geography of Europe in 500 CE (AD) 2. Life in the Early Middle Ages <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Feudalism b. Role of the emerging Catholic Church <p>B. The Later Middle Ages [1000 – 1500 CE (AD)]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Geography of Europe in 1000 CE (AD) 2. Life in the Later Middle Ages <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Crusades b. Growth of towns and commerce 3. The legacy of the Middle Ages <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Magna Carta b. Development of Parliament <p>C. The Renaissance [1350 – 1600 CE (AD)]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revival of interest in art and learning of Ancient Greece and Rome 2. Artists, writers, sculptors and the creations of the Renaissance <p>D. The Reformation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Causes of the Reformation 2. Role of Martin Luther 3. Invention of the Printing Press 4. The effects of the Reformation on Europe <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Elizabethan England b. Religious wars c. Formation of modern nation-states 						<p><u>Geography</u></p> <p>7.1.6.B</p> <p>7.2.6.A</p> <p>7.3.6.A</p> <p>7.4.6.B</p> <p><u>Civics</u></p> <p>5.1.6.F</p> <p>5.2.6.A-C</p> <p>5.3.6.D, F</p> <p>5.4.6.A-B</p> <p><u>History</u></p> <p>8.1.6.A-C</p> <p>8.4.6.A-D</p>

ELEMENTARY STANDARDS GLOSSARY

GRADES 3-8

HISTORY

Artifact:	Any object made by human work or skill
Conflict:	The opposition of persons or groups that gives rise to dramatic action. Such actions could include the use of force as in combat.
Context of Evidence:	The circumstances that form the environment within which something that is particularly significant, interesting, exciting, or unusual exists or takes place.
Culture:	The beliefs, customs, practices, and social behavior of a particular nation or people.
Document:	A formal piece of writing that provides information or acts as a record of events or arrangements.
Economics:	Relating to the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.
Ethnicity:	Identification of people sharing common history, cultural, racial, and religious backgrounds.
Graphic Representations:	Visual examples.
Historical Source:	A person, organization, book, map, table, or other text that supplies information or evidence.
Human Geography:	This classification, sometimes called cultural geography, involves all phrases of human social life in relation to the physical earth.
Inquiry:	A request for information,
Opinion:	The view somebody takes about an issue, especially when it is based solely on personal judgment.
Political:	Relating to government.
Primary Source:	First hand historical account that may be written, illustrated, or recorded through other means.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDS GLOSSARY

GRADES 3-8

CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

Amendment: (Constitutional)	Changes in or additions to a constitution. Proposed by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress or by a convention called by Congress at the request of two-thirds of the state legislatures. Ratified by approval of three-fourths if the states.
Authority:	Right to control or direct the actions of others, legitimized by law, morality, custom or consent.
Bill of Rights:	First Ten Amendments to the Constitution. Ratified in 1791, these amendments limit government power and protect the basic rights and liberties of individuals.
Checks and Balances:	Constitutional mechanisms that authorize each branch of government to share powers with the other branches and thereby check their activities. For example, the president may veto legislation passed by Congress; the Senate must confirm major executive appointments; and the courts may declare acts of Congress or the president unconstitutional.
Citizen:	Member of a political society who therefore owes allegiance to and is entitled to protection by and from the government.
Citizenship:	Status of being a member of a state; one who owes allegiance to and is entitled to protection by and from the government.
Civic Life:	A manner of existence of an individual concerned with the affairs of communities and the common good rather than solely in pursuit of private and personal interests.
Civil Rights:	Protections and privileges given to all United States citizens by the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
Common or Public Good:	Benefit or interest of a politically organized society as a whole.
Conflict Resolution:	The process of attempting to solve a dispute or conflict.
Country:	The acceptable political boundaries or borders recognized throughout the world.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDS GLOSSARY

GRADES 3 – 8

Democracy:	Form of government in which political control is exercised by the people, either directly or through their elected representatives.
Diplomacy:	The art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations.
Direct Democracy:	Form of government in which the people completely exercise political decisions.
Documents of Government:	Papers necessary for the organization and powers of government.
Electoral College:	The group of presidential electors that casts the official votes for president after the presidential election. Each state has a number of electors equal to the total of its members in the Senate and House of Representatives.
Equal Protection:	An idea that no individual or group may receive special privileges from nor be unjustly discriminated against by the political authority of the legal system.
Equality:	The condition of possessing substantially the same rights, privileges and immunities, and being substantially responsible for the same duties as other members of society.
Foreign Policy:	Actions of the federal government directed to matters beyond United States' borders, especially relations with other countries.
Government:	Institutions and procedures through which a territory and its people are ruled.
Individual Rights:	Just claims due a person by law, morality or tradition as opposed to those due to groups.
Interest Group:	Organized body of individuals who share goals and try to influence public policy to meet those goals.
Justice:	That which may be obtained through fair distribution of benefits and burdens, fair correction of wrongs and injuries, or use of fair procedures in gathering information and making decisions.
Leadership:	State or condition of one who guides or governs.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDS GLOSSARY

GRADES 3-8

Liberalism:	A perspective on international politics that is based on a positive view of human nature, the inevitability of social progress and the harmony of natures.
Liberty:	Freedom from restraint under conditions essential to the equal enjoyment of the same right by others.
Mass Media:	Television, radio, newspapers, magazines, internet and other means of popular communication.
Nation:	Tends to refer to an ethnic group with a cultural and social community. A self-defined cultural community with a common identity and a common origin that spans generations.
Nationalism:	A feeling of pride or passionate identification with a state on that part of its citizens.
Personal Rights:	Private legal privileges and decisions that individuals are free to participate in without intervention from government. Personal rights would include the right to vote, petition, assemble and seek public office.
Political Party:	Any group, however loosely organized, that seeks to elect government officials under a given label.
Political Philosophy:	Begins with the fundamental question about the relationship between a citizen and his/her state.
Public Service:	Action of benefit to local, state or national communities through appointed or elected office.
Realism:	A perspective on international politics emphasizing the inevitability of conflict among nations, the centrality of power and the ever-present threat of war.
Republic:	Form of government in which political control is exercised through elected representatives.
Republican Form of Government:	System of government in which power is held by the voters and is exercised by elected representatives responsible for promoting the common welfare.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDS GLOSSARY GRADES 3-8

Rule of Law:	Principle that every member of a society, even a ruler, must follow the law.
Sanctions:	Measures to stop or limit trade with another nation in order to change its behavior.
State:	A commonwealth; a nation; a civil power.
United Nations:	International organization comprising most of the nation-states of the world. It was formed in 1945 to promote peace, security and economic development.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDS GLOSSARY
GRADES 3-8
GEOGRAPHY

Climate:	Long-term patterns in weather elements and atmospheric conditions.
Environment:	Everything in and on Earth's surface and its atmosphere within which organisms, communities, or objects exist.
Geographic Tools:	Tools used by geographers to organize and interpret information. Tools range from the very simple (maps and globes) to the complex (Geographic Information Systems, population pyramids, satellite images, and climate graphs).
Human Features:	Tangible and intangible ideas associated with the culture, society, and economy of places or areas. These include the special arrangement of land uses (i.e., countries, states, cities, and neighborhoods); latitude and longitude; time zones; transportation and trade; cultural ties; and, population patterns (i.e., population density and mobility).
Place:	An area with distinctive human and physical characteristics distinguished from other areas.
Physical Systems:	Systems that have an impact on the geographical formation of an area, such as weather systems, erosion, and hydrology.
Region:	An area with one or more common characteristics or features that gives it a measure of consistency and makes it different from surrounding areas.
Resource:	An aspect of the physical environment that people value and use to meet a need for fuel, food, industrial products, or something else of value.
Spatial:	Pertains to space on Earth's surface.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDS GLOSSARY

GRADES 3-8

ECONOMICS

Capital Resources:	The physical equipment used in the production of goods and services.
Comparative Advantage:	Economic theory that a country/individual should sell goods and services which it can produce at relatively lower costs and buy goods and services which it can produce at relatively higher costs.
Competition:	The rivalry among people and/or business firms for resources and/or consumers.
Consumer:	One who buys or rents goods or services and uses them.
Corporation:	A business firm that is owned by stockholders and is a legal entity with rights to buy, sell, and make contracts. Its chief advantage is that each owner's liability is limited to the amount of money he or she has invested in the company.
Cost:	What is given up when a choice is made; monetary and/or non-monetary.
Demand:	The different quantities of a resource, good or service that potential buyers are willing and able to purchase at various prices during a specific time period.
Depression:	A severe recession in terms of magnitude and/or length.
Division of Labor:	A method of organizing production whereby each worker specializes in part of the productive process.
Economic Systems:	The way societies organize to determine what goods and services should be produced, how goods and services should be produced, and who will consume goods and services. Examples include traditional, command, and market.
Economics:	The study of the behavior of individuals and institutions engaged in the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.
Entrepreneurship:	One who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDS GLOSSARY

GRADES 3-8

Equilibrium Price:	The outlay at which quantity demanded equals quantity supplied; market clearing price.
Goods:	Objects that can satisfy people's wants.
Incentives:	Factors that motivate or influence human behavior.
Intangible Assets:	Unlike tangible assets (buildings and equipment), intangible assets are often difficult to quantify but play a large role in economic activity. Examples of intangible assets include an entrepreneur's organizational ability, the ability of workers to provide customer satisfaction, and the knowledge of a region's tastes and styles.
Interdependence:	Ideas, goods, and services in one area affect the decisions and events in other areas reducing self-sufficiency.
Market:	A place or process through which goods and services are exchanged.
Multinational Corporations:	Corporations that produce goods or services in many countries as well as engage in international trade.
Non-Profit Economic Institutions:	These institutions serve as an important niche in an economic system. Unlike institutions for profit, the non-profit bodies do not seek to build wealth for distribution to shareholders, management, or workers, but employ monetary sources for the purpose of maintaining the organization and offering programs and services that are not within the realm of governmental agencies. For example, a special <i>foundation</i> , an <i>endowment</i> , even a <i>charity</i> may offer a seminar to build local entrepreneurship or workforce collaboration skills.
Opportunity Cost:	The highest valued alternative given up when a decision is made.
Price:	The amount people pay in exchange for a particular good or service.
Private Economic Institutions:	Non-government organizations that participate in economic activities (i.e., banks, labor unions, businesses, etc.).
Producer:	One who makes goods or provides services.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDS GLOSSARY

GRADES 3-8

Public Goods:	Goods and services provided by the government rather than by the private sector. Goods and services that more than one person can use without necessarily preventing others from using them.
Recession:	A contraction in national production that lasts six months or longer. A recession might be marked by job layoffs and high unemployment, stagnant wages, reductions in retail sales, and slowing of housing and car markets.
Resources:	Inputs used to produce goods and services; categories include natural, human and capital.
Scarcity:	An economic condition that exists when demand is greater than supply.
Services:	Actions that are valued by others.
Specialization:	A form of division of labor in which each individual or firm concentrates its productive efforts in a single or limited number of activities.
Supply:	The different quantities of a resource, good or service that potential sellers are willing and able to sell at various prices during a specific time period.
Tangible Assets:	Assets having physical existence, such as cash, equipment, and real estate.
Trade:	Voluntary exchange between two parties in which both parties benefit.
Wants:	Desires that can be satisfied by consuming goods, services or leisure activities.