

6th Grade Spectrum Social Studies Class Syllabus

Mr. Miller

Room 208, Team 6B

Course Overview

Social Studies at the 6th grade level is a full year course focused on the study of ancient civilizations and their legacy. The history, culture, and geography of the world's people will be explored through a variety of perspectives. Many key concepts in civilization, ancient through modern, will be explored. Students will develop skills related to the work of real geographers and historians, such as conducting research, creating and interpreting maps, making inferences, and examining primary sources.

Essential Questions

1. How have past cultures impacted our society today?
2. How is the work of historians and geographers performed in an authentic way?
3. How does point-of-view and individual perspective affect our understanding of cultures and civilizations?
4. How have the origin and impact of ideas and technological development affected history and social change?
5. What key elements are necessary for a civilization to begin, prosper, change, or perhaps disappear?
6. What is the effect of globalization on the various cultures and governments of the world?
7. What does it mean to be a responsible and informed citizen of the world?

Required Materials

A list of supplies required for all classes is posted at
<http://ecksteineagles.org/files/2009/08/supply-list-for-2009-2010.pdf>

Included in this list under "For 6th Grade" is a 1½" three-ring binder. On team 6B, we will store this binder in the social studies classroom to organize our notes, maps, quizzes, and other assignments throughout the year.

Suggested Materials

- USB thumb drive (please remove software that auto-installs when inserted into Windows PC's)
- Color pencils
- A reusable water bottle

Please let me know if you are unable to provide materials or if you are able to donate any of the supplies listed above. Also, I would appreciate donations of boxes of tissue (we go through these quickly in a classroom), 8½" x 11" printer paper, and regular lined paper.

Planners

Students are required to have their planner (provided by school) in class with them each day. Time will be provided in class every Monday for students to record all of the assignments that will be due during the week.

Assignments, Quizzes, and Homework

Students will be assigned an average of two - three assignments each week, including a weekly current events assignment and one brief quiz each week. Occasionally, work started in class may need to be completed as homework. Some assignments will have a section titled "Challenge". These additional requirements are required for Spectrum students.

Eastern Hemisphere Museum Project

At part of the 6th grade Eastern Hemisphere Museum night, team 6B students will be creating an artifact related to Africa. Some of the research for the artifact will happen in class, but students typically need to complete much of the construction of the project at home. The museum night will be held in March, so students should expect to begin work on this large project in February.

Grading Scale

Percentage of Points	Letter Grade
100% - 90%	A
89% - 80%	B
79% - 70%	C
69% - 60%	D
Below 60%	E

Note about Late Work

Assignments turned in after the due date will be marked down 10% each day late until the equivalent grade would earn a 60%. Thus, late assignments can still earn a passing grade.

Consequences for Not Meeting Expectations:

1. Verbal warning
2. In-class consequence
3. Parents will be contacted
4. Student will receive an administrative referral

Tardiness

Students must be on time to class each period. This means being in the seat when the teacher begins class. Parents will be contacted after the third tardy and the fourth will result in an administrative referral.

The Source and Online Communication

The Source is an online portal in which students and parents can find up to date information about grades, attendance, and school information. Students can login with their Seattle Schools account (eck_fm1ast) and parents can register a login name. You may access the Source at <https://source.seattleschools.org>

In addition to posting grades on the Source, I also write about my curriculum on my blog at <http://ecksteineagles.org/6b-ss/> and twitter account at <http://twitter.com/eck208>

Contact Information

Eric Miller
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Prep period: 5th period
School phone: 252-5010

Please sign below to show that you have reviewed this information and have your student return it to class by Friday, September 11, 2009.

Student signature

Parent/guardian signature

Keep this your binder for future reference.