



# Social Studies Curriculum 6<sup>th</sup> Grade World History

Approved by the Board of Education

June 17, 2014

COURSE TITLE: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade World History

GRADE LEVEL: 6<sup>th</sup>

CONTENT AREA: Social Studies

### Course Description:

This is an introductory world history course. This course integrates history, geography, economics, government and the study of diverse cultures while investigating Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient India, ancient China and Early Latin America. Students will gain a better understanding of the world they live in by studying the past through primary and secondary sources, critical thinking, simulations and cooperative learning.

### Course Rationale:

Social studies creates students who learn skills ranging from reading a map to framing an argument, and it teaches students to assess the validity of evidence, evaluate conflicting points of view and apply facts in order to make decisions and articulate compelling arguments. These real world skills enable students to become critical thinkers, independent learners, problem solvers, and effective communicators so that they will be able to acquire information, an understanding of cultural diversity and the skills necessary to become full participants in our democratic society.

### Course Scope and Sequence

<b>Unit 1: Mesopotamia</b> 16-20 class periods (80 min class periods)	<b>Unit 2: Ancient Egypt</b> 16-20 class periods (80 min class periods)	<b>Unit 3: Ancient India</b> 10-14 class periods (80 min class periods)
<b>Unit 4: Ancient China</b> 12-16 class periods (80 min class periods)	<b>Unit 5: Early Latin America</b> 10 -14 class periods (80 min class periods )	

### Course Materials and Resources:

*Discovering our Past: A History of the World: Early Ages* by McGraw-Hill Education  
2014 Suite (Print edition and 7-year online editions)

# Unit Objectives

## Unit 1: Mesopotamia

- Students will describe the human characteristics of the people in the Fertile Crescent (focusing on education, language, economies, religions, settlement patterns, government, etc.).
- Students will describe the physical characteristics of the Fertile Crescent and how those characteristics impacted resources and resource use.
- Students will examine why people created groups and institutions to meet the needs of individuals. Define: limited government, rule of law, majority rule, minority rights
- Students will understand the economic concepts that played a role in the development of the Fertile Crescent (scarcity, supply and demand, trade, opportunity cost, sources of wealth).

## Unit 2: Ancient Egypt

- Students will identify the influential figures and events of Ancient Egypt.
- Students will evaluate the positive and negative effects the geography of Ancient Egypt had on the lives of the Ancient Egyptians.
- Students will be able to explain the cultural contributions of Ancient Egyptians.

## Unit 3: Ancient India

- Students will identify the influential people and events of Ancient India.
- Students will be able to use geography to interpret the past, explain the present and plan for the future. (With an emphasis on population distribution, demographics and migrations and the impact of these patterns.)
- Students will analyze the cultural and religious components of Ancient India.

## Unit 4: Ancient China

- Students will understand how our world is influenced by China's achievements.
- Students will be able to use the economic terms to describe trade patterns along the Silk Road and how it influenced people's lives. (Emphasis should be placed on the following terms: goods and services; human, natural and capital resources; scarcity; supply and demand; trade; income; wealth and sources of wealth)
- Students will explain the different belief systems of ancient China and analyze their impact on the culture.

## Unit 5: Early Latin America

- Student will locate major population centers of the ancient Americans. (Aztec, Inca, and Mayan)
- Students will compare the three societies - Mayans, Aztecs, Incas.
- Students will be able to describe the advances in science, math and architecture.
- Students will be able to analyze the effects of Spanish exploration and conquest on Aztec and Incan societies.