



6th Grade Social Studies

Weeks	Curriculum Units <small>(hover over link to access resources)</small>	Essential Questions	Lesson Sequence	Vocabulary/Key Concepts
4 weeks	Unit 1: Foundations of World Geography	-How can the approaches and perspectives of different social scientists better help us understand our world? -How can the five themes of geography help us investigate our world? -What makes an issue or problem global in scope?	1. What Is Geography? 2. What Do Geographers Do? 3. What Tools Do Geographers Use? 4. How Can We Use the Five Themes of Geography to Investigate our World? 5. What Other Social Scientists Help Us Understand Our World? 6: What Makes a Problem or Solution Global? 7. Analyzing a Geography Textbook 8. If the World Were a Village	five themes of geography, geographic features, geographic inquiry, geographic thinking, geographic tools and technologies, global human vs. physical geography, perspective, social science fields (anthropology, civics, economics, geography, history, sociology) spatial scales
6 weeks	Unit 2: The World in Spatial Terms	-What factors should we consider when using maps and why? -How and why do people organize (categorize or regionalize) the world to study global issues or problems? -How do the physical (natural) features and physical processes of Earth present challenges and opportunities for human societies? -How and why does a natural hazard become a global natural disaster?	1. How Can Maps Help Us Better Understand the Earth? 2. How Can the Global Grid Help Us Better Understand the Earth? 3. How Do Perspective and Purpose Influence the Creation of Maps? 4. What Are the Significant Physical Features of Earth? 5. What Are Some Ways to Organize or Regionalize the Earth? 6. What Opportunities and Challenges Do the Physical Features of Earth Present to Humans? 7. Investigating Global Events: Natural Hazards 8. Investigating Global Events: Natural Disasters 9. Why Do the Effects of Natural Disasters Vary	climate, distortion, geographic representations, global, global grid, human/environment interaction, human vs. physical, geography/features, map projection, natural disasters, natural hazards, natural or physical processes, perspective, region, spatial patterns, spatial scales
4 weeks	Unit 3: Population and Migration	-How do social scientists investigate population issues? -How are population, migration, and urbanization issues connected? -In what ways are issues related to population, migration and urbanization global problems? -How do social, political, and economic decisions societies make reflect and influence demographics?	1. Where are the People? Population Distribution and Density Lesson 2. Population Growth 3. Exploring a Demographic Transition Model 4. Why Does the Age of a Population Matter? 5. Migration 6. Theories of Migration 7. Urbanization 8. What are Some Global Problems Related to Population? 9. Generating Solutions to Common Urban Problems	demographic transition, theory/model, demography, emigration, global problem, human/environment, interaction, immigration, land, bridge theory, push/pull factors, migration, population density, population distribution, population growth, population pyramid, refugee, urbanization
4 weeks	Unit 4: Culture	-How and why are groups of people culturally similar and different? -Why is it necessary to understand culture when studying a global problem and potential solutions? -How has globalization influenced cultural diversity?	1. What is Culture? 2. What are Important Characteristics of Culture? 3. Affect How People Live? People How People Live? 4. Cultural Landscapes: How Do People Shape the 5. Environment Where They Live? 6. How and Why Do Cultures Change? 7. What are Some Barriers and Responses to Cultural Diversity? 8. What Role Do Fads Play in Cultural Change? 9. What is the Impact of Globalization on Cultural Diversity? 10. Are We Heading Toward One Global Culture? 11. How and Why Should We Protect Our Cultural Heritage?	adaptation, anthropology, culture, cultural change, cultural diffusion, cultural diversity, cultural heritage, cultural landscape, global, problem, globalization, human/environment, interaction, values and beliefs
6 weeks	Unit 5: Human/Environment Interaction	-How do humans create and address global environmental problems? -How can environmental changes in one location become a global issue? -How does energy production and distribution affect the environment? -How does the distribution and utilization of natural resources influence the ways societies interact?	1. How do Humans Interact with the Environment? 2. What Are Natural Resources and How Do People Use Them? 3. What Are the Consequences of Using Natural Resources? 4. Energy 5. Energy and Climate Change 6. How and Why Do People Modify the Environment? 7. Land, Air, and Water: Additions and Removals 8. What Are Some Consequences of Human Modification of the Environment? 9. How Does Technology Impact the Environment? 10. Supplemental Materials 11. How Are Environmental Issues Related to Conflict?	adaptation, climate change, conflict, energy, global issues, human-environment, interaction, modification of the environment, natural resources, renewable vs. nonrenewable energy, resource depletion, resource distribution, resource utilization, spatial scale, technology
4 weeks	Unit 6: Economics and World Trade	-How has globalization affected the interactions between buyers and sellers? -How can the social science fields of geography, history, economics and political science help explain why some countries are “rich” while others are “poor”? - To what extent are trade restrictions an	1. What is Economics? 2. Comparing Economics Systems: What Role Does Government Play? 3. Why are Some Countries “Rich and Others “Poor”? 4. How did imperialism Affect the Future Economic Growth and Development of Colonized Countries? 5. Why Do Countries Trade? 6. How and Why Do Countries Resist Trade?	Balance of trade, circular flow, colonization, economic growth, economic systems, globalization/global trade, imperialism, interdependence, level of development, productive resources, role of the government, specialization, technology, trade restrictions/ barriers.
7 weeks	Unit 7: Civics, Government, and Global Politics	- Why do people institute different forms of government? - How do nations of the world interact? - How can people address global problems?	1. Why Do People Institute Governments? 2. Why Are There Different Forms of Government? 3. A Closer Look at Dictatorships, Monarchies, Theocracies and Democracies 4. To What Extent Do Democracies Promote Freedom? 5. How and Why Do Governments Interact? 6. How Do People Work Together to Address Global, Interregional, or Regional Problems? 1	Civics and government, cooperation, forms of government, freedom/liberty, global problems, international/regional organizations, representative government, rights of citizens, sovereignty, treaty