

WISSAHICKON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002-3496

Social Studies Standards
For
Sixth Grade

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5. Civics and Government Standards – Sixth Grade

5.1.6 Demonstrate understanding of the principles of government through discussion and analysis of current events

Explain the purpose of government

Explain the importance of the rule of law for the protection of individual rights and the common good in the community, state, nation and world

Describe the principles and ideas shaping government

- Equality
- Majority rule/Minority rights
- Popular sovereignty
- Privacy
- Checks and balances
- Separation of powers

Explain the basic principles and ideas within documents of United States government

Explain the meaning of the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States

Describe the proper use, display and respect for the United States Flag and explain the significance of patriotic activities

- Reciting The Pledge of Alliance
- Standing for The National Anthem

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Describe and compare the making of rules by direct democracy and by representative democracy

Describe how the government protects individual rights and promotes the common good

Describe the purpose of symbols and holidays

Explain the role of courts in resolving conflicts involving the principles and ideals of government

- Local
- State
- Federal

Explain the basic principles and ideas found in famous speeches and writings

5.2.6 Demonstrate understanding and practice of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship through discussion and analysis of current events

Compare rights and responsibilities of citizenship

- Political rights
- Economic rights
- Personal responsibilities of the individual and to society
- Civic responsibilities of the individual and to society
- Traits of character of individuals and to constitutional democracy

Explain the relationship between rights and responsibilities

Explain ways citizens resolve conflicts in society and government

Describe the importance of political leadership and public service

Identify examples of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship

Describe the impact of the consequences of violating rules and laws in a civil society

Explain the importance of participating in government and civic life

5.3.6 Demonstrate understanding of how government works through discussion and analysis of current events

Explain how government actions affect citizens' daily lives

Identify major leaders of local, state and national governments and their primary duties and their political party affiliation

Describe the voting process

- Pennsylvania
- United States

Describe how the government protects individual rights

- Presumption of Innocence
- Right to Counsel
- Trial by Jury (e.g., play animated)
- Bill of Rights (e.g., play animated)

Identify individual interests and how they impact government (e.g., election lessons)

Describe the influence of media in reporting issues

5.4.6 Demonstrate understanding of how international relationships function through discussion and analysis of current events

Explain the concept of nation-states

Describe how nation-states coexist in the world community

Describe the governments of the countries bordering the United States and their relationships with the United States (e.g., Mexico, Canada, Caribbean)

Describe the processes that resulted in a treaty or agreement between the United States and another nation state (e.g., Treaties with Panama, NAFTA)

Explain how nations work together on common environmental problems, natural disasters and trade (e.g., Canada, Mexico)

6. Economics Standards – Sixth Grade

6.1.6 Demonstrate understanding of economic systems

Describe and identify the characteristics of traditional, command and market economic systems

Explain the three basic questions that all economic systems attempt to answer

- What goods and services should be produced?
- How will goods and services be produced?
- Who will consume goods and services?

Define measures of economic activity and relate them to the health of the economy

- Prices
- Employment
- Output

6.2.6 Demonstrate understanding of economic markets and how they function
Describe market transactions in terms of goods, services, consumers and producers
Describe the cost and benefits of competition to customers in markets
Explain the function of money and its use in society
Define economic institutions (e.g., banks, labor unions).
Explain how the interaction of buyers and sellers determines prices and quantities exchanged
Describe how prices influence both buyers and sellers and explain why prices may vary for similar products
Explain how taxes affect the price of goods and services
Explain how advertisements influence perceptions of the costs and benefits of economic decisions
Explain what an exchange rate is

6.3.6 Demonstrate understanding of the economic concepts: scarcity and choice
Explain how scarcity influences choices and behaviors <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Personal decision-making● Family decision-making● Community decision-making
Explain how limited resources and unlimited wants cause scarcity in society
Describe the human, natural and capital resources used to produce a specific good or service
Explain the costs and benefits of an economic decision
Define opportunity cost and describe the opportunity cost of a personal choice
Explain how negative and positive incentives affect choices people make

6.4.6 Explain how specialization, division of labor and trade lead to interdependence among producers and customers and between and among nations
Explain the advantages and disadvantages of specialization and division of labor
Explain how specialization leads to more trade between people and nations
Identify and define imports, exports, inter-regional trade and international trade
Explain how specialization and trade lead to interdependence
Explain how opportunity costs influence where goods and services are produced locally and regionally

6.5.6 Describe how and why people work and receive earnings – and what they might do with their earnings

Recognize that the availability of goods and services is the result of work by members of the society

Describe how people accumulate tangible and financial assets through income, savings, and financial investment

Identify the costs and benefits of savings

- Piggy banks
- Savings accounts
- U.S. savings bonds

Describe why there is a difference between interest rates for saving and borrowing

7. Geography Standard – Sixth Grade

7.0.6 Explain and apply the “Five Fundamental Themes of Geography”
Location: The absolute and relative position of a place on Earth’s surface
Place: How physical and human characteristics define and distinguish a place
Human-environment Interactions: How humans modify and adapt to natural settings
Movement: How people, ideas and materials move between and among locations
Regions: How an area displays unity in terms of physical and human characteristics

7.1.6 Demonstrate understanding of the concepts and tools for basic geographic literacy

Describe geographic tools and their uses

- Basis on which maps, graphs and diagrams are created
 - Aerial and other photographs
 - Reference works
 - Field Observations
 - Surveys
- Geographic representations to display spatial information
 - Absolute location
 - Relative location
 - Flows (e.g., goods, people, traffic)
 - Topography
 - Historic events
- Mental maps to organize an understanding of the human and physical features of regions studied
- Basic spatial elements for depicting the patterns of physical and human features
 - Point, line, area, location, distance, scale
 - Map grids
 - Alpha-numeric system
 - Cardinal and intermediate directions

Describe and locate places and regions

- Coordinate systems (e.g., latitude and longitude, time zones)
- Physical features
 - Mountains, Great Plains, In the Western Hemisphere
- Human features
 - Countries (e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Mexico)
 - States (e.g., Veracruz, Oaxaca, Chiapas)
 - Provinces (e.g., Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia)
 - Major human regions (e.g., Andes, Amazon, Basin, Laniention, Highlands)
 - Major cities (e.g., Toronto, Montreal, Mexico City, Buenos Aires)

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- Ways in which different people view places and regions (e.g., as places to visit or to avoid)

- Community connections to other places
 - Dependence and interdependence
 - Access and movement

7.2.6 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the physical characteristics of places and regions

Describe the physical characteristics of places and regions

- Components of Earth's physical systems (e.g., clouds, storms, relief and elevation [topography], tides, biomes, tectonic plates)
- Comparison of the physical characteristics of different places and regions (e.g., soil, vegetation, climate, topography)

Describe the physical processes that shape patterns of Earth's surface

- Earth-sun relationships (i.e., differences between equinoxes and solstices, reasons they occur and their relationship to latitude)
- Climate types (e.g., tropical rainforest, desert, highlands)

7.3.6 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the human characteristics of places and regions

Describe the human characteristics of places and regions by their population characteristics

- Spatial distribution, size, density and demographic characteristics of population at the regional level
- Causes of human movements
 - Mobility (e.g., shopping, commuting, recreation)
 - Migration models (e.g., push/pull factors, barriers to migration)

Describe the human characteristics of places and regions by their cultural characteristics

- Ethnicity of people at the country and regional levels (e.g., customs, celebrations, languages, religions)
- Spatial arrangement of cultures creates distinctive landscapes (e.g., cultural regions based on languages, customs, religion, building styles)

Describe the human characteristics of places and regions by their settlement characteristics

- Current and past settlement patterns in the local area
- Factors that affect the growth and decline of settlements (e.g., immigration, transportation development, depletion of natural resources, site and situation)

Describe the human characteristics of places and regions by their economic activities

- Spatial distribution of economic activities in the local area (e.g., patterns of agriculture, forestry, mining, retailing, manufacturing, services)
- Factors that influence the location and spatial distribution of economic activities (e.g., market size for different types of business, accessibility, modes of transportation used to move people, goods and materials)
- Spatial distribution of resources and their relationship to population distribution
 - Historical settlement patterns and natural resources use (rivers and

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bays)

- Natural resources-based industries (e.g., agriculture, mining, fishing, forestry)

Describe the human characteristics of places and regions by their political activities

- Spatial pattern of political units in countries of the Western Hemisphere
- Functions of political units (e.g., states and provinces within countries)

7.4.6 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interactions between people and places

Describe the impacts of physical systems on people

- How people depend on, adjust to and modify physical systems on a regional scale (e.g., coastal industries, development of coastal communities, flood control)
- Ways in which people adjust to live in hazard-prone areas (e.g., Pacific Rim and earthquakes, Caribbean and hurricanes)

Describe the impacts of people on physical systems

- Changing spatial patterns on Earth's surface that result from human activities (e.g., acid rain in Canadian lakes, destruction of Amazon rainforest)
- Ways humans adjust their impact on the habitat (e.g., endangered species act, replacement of wetlands, logging and replanting trees)

8. History Standards – Sixth Grade

8.1.6 Demonstrate understanding of historical analysis and develop skills to use it

Explain chronological thinking

- Calendar time
- Time lines
- Patterns of continuity and change
- Sequential order
- Context for events

Explain and define historical comprehension

- Literal meaning of a historical passage
- Data in historical maps, graphs and tables
- Historical perspectives
- Visual data from maps and tables
- Mathematical data from graphs and tables
- Visual data presented in historical evidence (e.g., historical places, monuments)

Explain the fundamentals of historical interpretation

- Difference between fact and opinion
- Multiple points of view
- Illustrations in historical stories
- Cause and result
- Author or source of historical narratives
- Central issues

Describe and explain historical research

- Event (time and place)
- Facts, folklore and fiction
- A historical question
- Primary sources

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- Secondary sources
- Conclusions (e.g., stimulations, group projects, skits and plays)

8.4.6 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major events in world history (featuring the Western Hemisphere)

Recognize the importance of individuals and groups who have made a difference in the history of the world

- Americas (e.g., Francisco Pizarro, Atahualpa, Aztecs, Incas, Spanish, Montezuma, Hernan Cortzes)

Identify and describe the importance of historical evidence

- Americas (e.g., Tenochtitlan masks)

Contrast historical change and continuity within societies

- Americas (e.g., Impact of European conquest on Amerindians)

Explain how domestic instability, labor relations, racial and ethnic relations, immigration and migration impact relationships among groups that may lead to cooperation or conflict in Latin America and Canada

9. Arts and Humanities Standards – Sixth Grade

9.1.6 Produce, perform and exhibit works in Dance, Music, Theater, and the Visual Arts

Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities

- Elements
 - Theatre, scenario, script/text, set design (e.g., Amistad play)
- Principles
 - Music, composition, form, genre, harmony, rhythm, texture

Recognize, know, use and demonstrate a variety of appropriate arts elements and principles to produce, review and revise original works in the arts

- Theatre, stage productions, read and write scripts, improvise, interpret a role, design sets, direct
- Visual Arts, craft (e.g., Aztec, Inca, Maya art projects)

Know and demonstrate how arts can communicate experiences, stories or emotions through the production of works in the arts

Identify the function and benefits of rehearsal and practice sessions

Apply traditional and contemporary technologies for producing, performing and exhibiting works in the arts or the works of others

- Experiment with traditional technologies (e.g., ceramic/wooden tools, earthen clays, masks, instruments, etching tools).
- Experiment with contemporary technologies (e.g., color fills on computers, texture methods on computers, fonts/point systems, animation techniques, multimedia techniques, internet access, library computer card catalogues).

9.2.6 Identify and explain historical and cultural contexts of work in the Arts and Humanities

Explain the historical, cultural and social context of an individual work in the arts

Analyze a work of art from its historical and cultural perspective

Analyze how historical events and culture impact forms, techniques and purposes of work in the arts (e.g., Amistad play and movie)

Relate works in the arts to geographic regions:

- Central America
- North America (e.g., Mexico)
- South America

Identify, explain and analyze traditions as they relate to works in the arts (e.g., story telling – plays, oral histories – work songs)

Identify, explain and analyze common themes, form and techniques from works in the arts

9.3.6 Be able to offer critical response to works in the Arts and Humanities

Describe works in the arts comparing similar and contrasting characteristics

9.4.6 Identify and explain aesthetic response in both the creators and audiences of works in the Arts and Humanities

Identify uses of expressive symbols that show philosophical meanings in works in the arts and humanities