

Galway Social Studies Curriculum Guide **6th Grade**

Grade 6: The Eastern Hemisphere

The grade 6 social studies program emphasizes the interdependence of all people, keying on the Eastern Hemisphere. Many of the lessons and activities for this grade level draw on specific examples of nations and regions in the Eastern Hemisphere chosen by the district. It is highly recommended that lessons also compare and contrast this specific information with similar data from the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

The grade 6 program focuses on a social science perspective emphasizing the interaction of geography and economics. The core disciplines of geography and economics are used to develop and draw relationships and understandings about social/cultural, political, and historic aspects of life in the Eastern Hemisphere. Historical insights are used as a means of developing a total perspective rather than an organizing framework. The focus should be on major turning points that sequence into the 7th-grade social history of the United States.

Each district has a responsibility for extending the student's content examples from cultures other than the student's own, and from a variety of geographic, socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial groups.

History of Eastern Hemisphere nations

- Time can be measured in years, decades, centuries, and millennia.
- Key turning points and events in the histories of Eastern Hemisphere nations can be organized into different historical time periods. The study of Eastern Hemisphere nations should include countries from each continent.
- Different peoples may view the same event or issue from different perspectives.
- The Neolithic Revolution was a technological development that radically changed the nature of human society.
- As the river civilizations of the Eastern Hemisphere (Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and the Indus Valley) turned to agriculture, world populations grew. (Focus on two of these.)
- Across time, technological innovations have had both positive and negative effects on people, places, and regions. For example, the invention of writing made more complex civilizations and more advanced technologies possible.
- Civilizations and cultures of the Eastern Hemisphere (China, India, Greece, and Rome) are explored through the arts and sciences, key documents, and other important artifacts.
- Religions and other belief systems (animism, ancestor worship, Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam) have both united and divided the peoples of the Eastern Hemisphere.
- The civilizations and cultures of the Eastern Hemisphere have contributed important ideas, beliefs, and traditions to the history of humankind.
- From earliest times, networks of trade have connected the various civilizations of the Eastern Hemisphere.
- Individuals and groups in the Eastern Hemisphere have played important roles and made important contributions to world history.
- Slavery has existed across eras and regions in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- Internal and external factors altered civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere and eventually contributed to their decline.
- During the late Middle Ages and Renaissance periods, new long distance trade routes emerged, linking the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Europe.
- In Europe, the Renaissance was marked by major achievements in literature, music, painting, sculpture, and architecture.
- The crime of genocide crosses cultures and eras. Jews and other groups experienced devastation at the hands of Nazi Germany.

Geography of Eastern Hemisphere nations

- The use of various grids, symbols, and notations makes it possible to locate specific places and indicate distance and direction in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- Special purpose maps can be used to show various geographic aspects of Earth's surface as seen in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- The nations and regions of the Eastern Hemisphere can be studied using maps, globes, aerial and other photographs, satellite-produced images, and models. (Taken from: *National Geography Standards*, 1994).
- The nations and regions of the Eastern Hemisphere can be analyzed in terms of spatial organization, places and regions, physical settings (including natural resources), human systems, and environment and society.
- A region is an area which is tied together for some identifiable reason, such as physical, political, economic, or cultural features.
- Civilizations developed where geographic conditions were most favorable.
- Geographic features and climatic conditions in the Eastern Hemisphere influence land use.

- The geographic diversity of the Eastern Hemisphere has significantly influenced physical mobility and the course of human development.
- The migration of groups of people has led to cultural diffusion because people carry their ideas and ways of life with them when they move from one place to another.
- Overpopulation and widespread poverty threaten the political stability of some nations in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- Urbanization has been a characteristic of the civilizations and cultures of the Eastern Hemisphere.
- The environment is affected by people as they interact with it.
- The effects of geographic conditions are moderated by technology.

Economies of Eastern Hemisphere nations

- The three basic economic questions that must be addressed by every society are: What goods and services shall be produced and in what quantities? How shall goods and services be produced? For whom shall goods and services be produced?
- The ways resources are used impact the economic, political, and historic aspects of life throughout the world.
- People have unlimited needs and wants which they must meet with limited resources.
- A nation with limited natural resources must interact with other nations to secure its resource needs.
- In many areas of the world, improvement in life expectancy and health care have contributed to rapid population growth.
- Throughout the Eastern Hemisphere, there is great diversity in the standard of living.
- Concepts such as scarcity, supply and demand, markets, opportunity costs, resources, productivity, economic growth, and systems can be used to study the economies and economic systems of the various nations of the Eastern Hemisphere.
- The economic systems of the world have become an interdependent network.
- Different economic systems have evolved to deal with economic decision making.
- In traditional economies, decision making and problem solving are guided by the past.
- In market economies, decisions regarding what is to be produced are based upon patterns of consumer purchases.
- In command economies, decisions regarding the control and use of the means of production and distribution are planned by the government.
- In many countries “mixed” economies have evolved to deal with economic decision making.
- Nations have joined with one another in organizations which promote economic development and growth. For example, the European Union was formed to promote free trade and a common economic policy among its members.
- As the economic systems of the global community have become more interdependent, decisions made in one nation or region have implications for all regions.
- Some of the nations of the Eastern Hemisphere play leadership roles in the global economy.
- Many of the communist nations and former communist nations in the Eastern Hemisphere are moving toward market economies.

Governments of Eastern Hemisphere nations

- Family, clan, and tribal groups act to maintain law and order.
- As settlement patterns changed, new forms of political order developed to meet the more complex needs of societies.
- Across time and place, the people of the Eastern Hemisphere have held differing assumptions regarding power, authority, governance, and law.
- Governments change over time and place to meet the changing needs and wants of their people.
- Present systems of government have their origins in the past.
- The values of Eastern Hemisphere nations affect the guarantee of human rights and how human needs are met.
- The values of Eastern Hemisphere nations are embodied in their constitutions, statutes, and important court cases.
- In modern political states, formalized governmental structures play a major role in maintaining social order and control.
- Political boundaries change over time and place.
- The extent to which human rights are protected becomes a key issue in totalitarian societies.
- International organizations were formed to promote peace, economic development, and cultural understanding. The United Nations was created to prevent war and to fight hunger, disease, and ignorance.
- Citizens of the nations of the Eastern Hemisphere have rights and responsibilities as defined by their constitutions and by other laws of their nations.

