



6th Grade Social Studies, World History Ginger Cook

COURSE OUTCOME:

Course Description:

Sixth grade students will study the beginning of early civilizations through the fall of the Roman Empire. Students will study the geographical, social, economic, and political foundations for early civilizations progressing through the Roman Empire. They will analyze the shift from nomadic societies to agricultural societies. Students will study the development of civilizations, including the areas of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Ancient Israel, Greece, and Rome. The study of these civilizations will include the impact of geography, early history, cultural development, and economic change. The geographic focus will include the study of physical and political features, economic development and resources, and migration patterns. The sixth grade will conclude with the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. Students will be learning about world religions in the 6th grade curriculum. In Module 2, 3, 7, and 8 we are studying polytheism with Sumerian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. We are studying Judaism (Module 4), Hinduism (Module 5), Buddhism (Module 6), and Christianity (Module 8). This course will be the first concentrated study of world history and geography, and will utilize appropriate informational texts and primary sources.

- **Honor Students: If your child is taking honors social studies, they are required to process 6th grade curriculum in a more in-depth manner. Increasing rigor will expose students to new ideas, skills, and concepts that allow for academic growth. Writing in social studies will occur often; students will take what they have learned and write summaries as well as possible essays.**

Curriculum Link: to review 6th grade Social Studies standards, please see the link below for more information.

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/ss/Social_Studies_Standards.pdf

INSTRUCTION:

- **General Pacing:**
Students move through 8 different modules to successfully master all 6th grade S.S. state performance indicators:
 - **Module 1:** Human Origins in Africa through the Neolithic Age
 - **Module 2:** Mesopotamia c.3500-1200 B.C./B.C.E.
 - We discuss polytheism
 - **Module 3:** Ancient Egypt: c.3000-1200 B.C./B.C.E.
 - We discuss polytheism
 - **Module 4:** Ancient Israel c.2000 B.C./B.C.E.-70 A.D./C.E.
 - We discuss Judaism, monotheism & polytheism
 - **Module 5:** Ancient India
 - We discuss Hinduism, Buddhism & polytheism



- **Module 6:** Ancient China
 - We discuss Confucianism, Legalism, & Buddhism
- **Module 7:** Ancient Greece: c.80-300 B.C./B.C.E.
 - We discuss polytheism
- **Module 8:** Ancient Rome: c.500-B.C./B.C.E. 500 A.D./C.E.
 - We discuss Christianity, monotheism, & polytheism
- **Materials Needed:**

A student should have their computer with them daily, in class, **charged** and ready to use. The following materials are needed in class daily: pens/pencils, colored pencils, notebook paper, folder, and glue sticks.
- **Resources:**
 - **Textbooks:** The textbook we use is *Into Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations* and the publisher of this text is Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Students will have access to the online textbook and will be shown how to access the textbook during the first few weeks of class.
 - **Online Resources:**
 - *IXL*
 - *CommonLit*
 - *EdPuzzle*
 - *Edulastic*
 - *Flipgrid*
 - *Padlet*
 - *Quizzizz*
 - *BrainPop*
 - *Moby Max*
 - *Others as Needed*

Movie List- All or parts of the listed videos may be shown in social studies as part of the study of each module. There will also be Discovery Ed, You Tube, and Brain Pop videos that are approved by Knox County Schools and have been previewed by the teacher.

- *History of the World: Turks, Africa, South America, and Europe*
- *Alexander the Great: Ruler of the World*
- *History of Roman Civilization (3 parts)*
- *Early Civilizations*
- *Egypt and Mesopotamia*
- *History Alive for Students: Living in the Roman Empire*
- *History Alive for Students: Living in Ancient Greece*
- *Egypt: Gift of the Nile*
- *Ancient Civilizations for Children: Ancient Mesopotamia*
- *Ancient Civilizations: The Land of the Pharaohs*
- *Ancient Civilizations: Athens and Ancient Greece*
- *Ancient Civilizations: Rome and Pompeii*
- *Understanding the World's Religions: Hinduism*
- *Understanding the World's Religions: Buddhism*



- *Understanding the World's Religions: Judaism*
- *Understanding the World's Religions: Christianity*
- *What is an Archaeologist?*
- *Artifacts*
- *Journals through History: Mesopotamia, Human Origins, Egypt, Rome, Greece, China, India, Israel*
- *Chaos in the Empire: Constantine/Diocletian*
- *Story of the Roman Empire- full documentary BBC*
- *Life of Christ Animation*
- *Ancient Rome Struggles for Power*
- *Mr. Nicky: Ancient Mesopotamia, Rome, Greece, China, India, Egypt, Israel, Human Origins*
- *G.R.A.P.E.S. you tube*
- *Silkworm farm you tube*
- *Roman Religion*
- *Punic Wars*
- *Greek Mythology Series*
- *Rules of the Roman Republic*
- *Persian Wars*
- *Epic of Gilgamesh*
- *If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to me in writing and an alternative assignment and/or materials will be provided. The request should include your name, the child's name, the specific activity/materials in which you do not want your child to participate or to which you do not want them exposed, and the nature of your objection.

ASSESSMENT:

- **Grading Policy:**

Grades are earned according to proficiency of materials mastered. Students are expected to earnestly complete every assignment. Social Studies grades will be divided into two categories. Daily work, homework, quizzes, projects, module tests, and benchmark tests will be a part of the **formative** category worth 90% of the student's grade. **The difference will be that daily work, homework and quizzes will not carry as many points as projects, module tests, and benchmark tests.** TCAP scores will be a part of the **summative** category worth 10% of the student's grade. Extra credit opportunities for students are given at specific times throughout the semester and are related to the content. Original assignments must be completed with quality work.

Knox County Schools' grade scale is as follows:

A	93-100
B	85- 92
C	75- 84
D	70- 74
F	0- 69

- **Explanation of Assignments & Projects:**

- **Daily Work:** Assignments that are given during class is for students to work and cover the skill/standard that's being taught for that day. For the most part, these assignments are due by the next class period. Parents and students can look on the Canvas calendar for due dates of each assignment.
- **Test & quizzes:** A pre-test is given before each module to assess where students are in their knowledge for each module and is not taken as a grade. A post-test is given at the end of each module to show students growth from the beginning of the module to the end of the module



with the grade added into Aspen. Quizzes are assigned periodically as “spot checks” to assess students throughout each module.

- **Projects:** One project will be assigned each semester to allow students to be creative in showcasing what they have learned. **Honor’s students maybe assigned more projects during the semester depending on the module that’s being taught.**
- **Benchmark Tests:** Benchmark tests are given each nine weeks throughout the school year to assess the standards that were taught during that time period.

- **Make-Up Work Policy:**

Please note that if a student has missed a class it is the student’s responsibility to ask for the work that was missed. Please note the Knox County policy on make-up work in your student handbook.

- **Late Work Policy:**

Students who do not complete assignments on time may receive a ten-point reduction on that assignment. Once a test has been administered for each module of study, **students will no longer be able to turn in missing work for that module.** Students will then receive a zero for that assignment and a zero will bring down their social studies grade.

- **Grade Posting Policy:**

One way in which I am able to communicate with the student and parent is through Parent Portal. In order to give timely feedback, I will update grades at least once per week.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

Student Expectations in Virtual and Face-to-Face Classes

(These expectations are for synchronous learning where students participate in the class at the same time. This could be in a physical or virtual space.)

- Students must adhere to the KCS Policy J-260 Dress Code.
- Students are expected to follow KCS Policy J-191 Misbehaviors and Disciplinary Options to provide a safe and respectful environment for teachers and students.
- Students are expected to follow the KCS Policy I-220-3 when utilizing technology. Proper behavior, as it relates to the use of computers, is no different than proper behavior in other aspects of school activities. All users are expected to use the computers and computer networks in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner. KCS reserves the right to monitor all technology resource activity.
- Students are responsible for the content posted through their login and account activity. Sharing or using usernames and passwords with others or using other’s usernames and passwords is strictly prohibited.
- Follow KCS grade-level expectations for digital citizenship. (<https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship/curriculum>)
- Students will attend in-person or virtual lessons with teachers.
- Students must maintain a log of usernames and passwords for all virtual learning platforms.
- Students will be expected to adhere to all assessment policies for diagnostic, benchmark, and Standards Based Assessments.
- Students are expected to check Canvas or other teacher communication formats daily.
- Student attendance will be recorded daily and entered into Aspen.
- Students are expected to be active participants in in-person and virtual activities as directed by the teacher.
- Submit assignments as directed by the teacher. Assignments may be assigned with flexibility to submit weekly. (Example: Saturday by midnight)



- If a student fails to complete an assignment and there is no communication within 5 school days, then the students shall earn a failing grade for the assignment.
- Advocate for personal needs and additional support when needed. Students are expected to meet the teacher policy regarding assignment submission, late work, and incomplete work. Students are expected to meet all deadlines.
- Students will be held accountable for meeting teacher virtual classroom policies.
- Students will attend mandatory in person assessment days at the base school.
- Report any technical issues through the Tech Help Desk (865-594-1830) as soon as an issue arises. The help desk is manned from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday - Friday.

BEST PRACTICES

- ❖ Consider the environment behind you that can be seen in video chats and ensure there are no inappropriate images, materials, etc. for school.
- ❖ Mute audio when entering chats.
- ❖ Mute audio when not speaking.
- ❖ Be appropriate and respectful in your actions.
- ❖ Listen to the educator or individual speaking.
- ❖ Stay engaged throughout the lesson or activity.
- ❖ Ensure that all work is your own.
- ❖ Bring a charged laptop to class every day.

- **Device Use/Misuse:**

Improper use of any computer or the network is prohibited. This includes the following:

- Use of racist, profane, or obscene language or materials
- Using the network for financial gain, political or commercial activity
- Attempting to or harming equipment, materials or data
- Attempting to or sending anonymous messages of any kind
- Using the network to access inappropriate material
- Knowingly placing a computer virus on a computer or the network
- Using the network to provide addresses or other personal information that others may use inappropriately
- Accessing of information resources, files, and documents of another user without permission
- Vandalism, any malicious attempt to harm or destroy district equipment or materials, data of another user of the district's system, or any of the agencies or other networks to which the district has access is prohibited. Deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt system performance may be viewed as violations of district guidelines and, possibly, as criminal activity under applicable state and federal laws. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creating of computer viruses.
- Forgery or attempted forgery of electronic messages is prohibited. Attempts to read, delete, copy, or modify the electronic mail of other system users or deliberate interference with the ability of other system users to send/receive electronic mail is prohibited. Forgery or attempted forgery of documents or currency is prohibited. Deliberate attempts to create, copy or modify official documents or currency using district technology resources may be viewed as a violation of district guidelines and, possibly, as criminal activity under applicable state and federal laws.



Failure to comply with these standards may result in temporary or permanent removal of user access to KCS Virtual Instruction.

- **Students:**
 - **Attendance Policy**

Parents/guardians have the legal responsibility to ensure that their child is fully participating in virtual and in-person school by monitoring their progress and time spent on daily course work. When a student is unable to participate in daily instruction, parent notes/doctor notes should be submitted. See Knox County Board of Education Attendance Policy (J-120) regarding absence documentation.
 - **Classroom Expectations:**
 - **Be Ready**
 - Arrive on time with charged Chromebook
 - Stay on task
 - Participate in all activities
 - **Be Respectful**
 - Communicate and engage with positive interactions
 - Turn off/put away phone and other distractions
 - **Be Responsible**
 - Submit assignments on time
 - Organize workspace and materials
 - **Be Safe**
 - Sit appropriately in seat
 - Follow health and safety procedures
 - Keep aisles clear
 - **Honor Code**
 - Students will complete their own work and ask for help from the teacher when needed.
- **Teacher:** *Ginger Cook*
- **Communication Strategy:** Although you can leave a message through the school office, the easiest way to reach me is through email. I will respond to email within two business days.
- **Email:** virginia.cook@knoxschools.org
 - **Canvas:** will be updated to meet the needs of my students.
 - **Remind:** I use the Remind app to send parents daily messages about topics covered in class, specific homework assigned, upcoming tests, projects and much more. Please download the app and be ready to stay informed. Parents can check their child's Canvas for their class code on Remind.



How will I communicate with my students?

- I will post grades to Parent Portal (Aspen) at least once per week.
- I will post announcements, assignments, and resources to Canvas each week.
- I will use Microsoft Teams for virtual class meetings.
- I will communicate course expectations in this syllabus.

How will I communicate with my families?

- I will email parents using the email address listed in Parent Portal.
- I will post grades to Parent Portal at least once per week.
- I will post announcements, assignments, and resources to Canvas each week.
- I will communicate course expectations in this syllabus.

- **Intervention Strategy:**

Beginning in September on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00, tutoring will be available at the school. Please call the school office at 865-594-1300 to request a copy of the tutoring form.

- **PLAGIARISM**

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition:

Plagiarism is defined as “presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased.” It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.

Cheating is defined as representing any other person’s work or work from any source as your own.

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either re-doing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents will be notified if a student is caught plagiarizing.

Per Tennessee State Board of Education Policy, the following MUST be posted on each syllabus:

Board Policy 1-431

Issues 7/95, Revised 6/08

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following:



Holston Middle School
Syllabus/Parent Communication Guidelines
2021-2022

- Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs, provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
 - The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature, and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and
 - Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech, and debate.
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- Additionally, if a course features religion within the curriculum and instructional materials, this information must be included within the syllabus, and the syllabus must be publically posted. Within the syllabus, teachers must include specific religion-aligned selections that will be used throughout the year or semester.
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Please tear off and return to the teacher.

I have read this syllabus and understand the requirements and regulations.

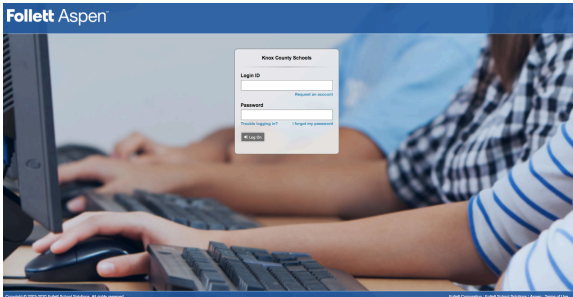
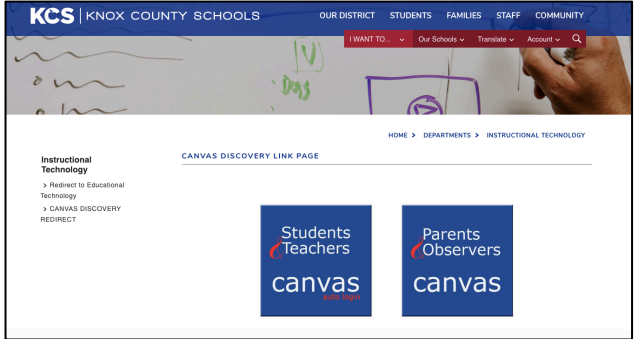
Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____



REFRIGERATOR REMINDERS

Keep this information handy so you can reference it throughout the school year!

How will Holston teachers communicate with students?	Where are these resources?
<p>Teachers will post grades to Aspen Family Portal at least once per week.</p> <p>Teachers will email a weekly update to the email address listed in Aspen Parent Portal.</p> <p>I will use Microsoft Teams for virtual class meetings; it is similar to Zoom. I will post links to Microsoft Teams in Canvas when the class meets virtually.</p>	 <p>https://aspen.knoxschools.org</p>
<p>Teachers will post announcements, assignments, and resources to Canvas each week.</p> <p>Teachers will use the calendar in Canvas to communicate due dates for tests and assignments.</p>	 <p>https://knoxschools.instructure.com/</p>
<p>I will communicate course expectations in this syllabus.</p>	<p><i>See posted syllabus in your child's Canvas course.</i></p>

How do I . . . ?	Where are these resources?
<p>How do I email a teacher or staff member?</p>	<p>The Holston Staff Directory includes names, faces, subject areas, and email addresses.</p> <p>https://www.knoxschools.org/Page/7448</p>
<p>How do I contact my child's school counselor?</p>	<p>Find the Refer a Student Link in the bottom right corner.</p> <p>https://www.knoxschools.org/domain/3449</p>
<p>How do I find due dates for assignments?</p>	<p>Check the class calendar in Canvas.</p>
<p>How do I sign up for Aspen and Canvas? How do I get help with my child's Chromebook?</p>	<p>Call the KCS Helpdesk at 865-594-1830</p> <p>--OR--</p> <p>Enter your request at this link: https://knoxschools.happyfox.com/new/</p>