6th Grade Social Studies

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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. This course will be the first concentrated study of world history and geography and will utilize appropriate informational texts and primary sources.

Hyperlink to local curriculum, state standards, and/or competencies
https://www.knoxschools.org/cms/lib/TN01917079/Centricity/Domain/1013/Sixth%20Grade%20Standards.pdf

INSTRUCTION:

- **General Pacing**
  Student move through 8 different modules to successfully master all 6th grade S.S. state performance indicators:
  - **Module 1:** Foundations of Human Civilization c. 10,000-3500 B.C./BCE (10%)
  - **Module 2:** Mesopotamia c.3500-1200 B.C/B.C.E (10%)
    - We discuss polytheism
  - **Module 3:** Ancient Egypt: c.3000-1200 B.C./B.C.E (10%)
    - We discuss polytheism
  - **Module 4:** Ancient Israel c.2000 B.C./B.C.E.-70 A.D./C.E. (10%)
    - We discuss Judaism & monotheism
  - **Module 5:** Ancient India (10%)
    - We discuss Hinduism, Buddhism & polytheism
  - **Module 6:** Ancient China (12%)
    - We discuss Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism, Buddhism
  - **Module 7:** Ancient Greece: c.80-300 B.C./B.C.E. (20%)

- We discuss polytheism
  - o Module 8: Ancient Rome: c.500-B.C./B.C.E-500 A.D./C.E. (18%)
    - We discuss Christianity, monotheism, & polytheism

- **Materials Needed**

  - ✓ Pens/Pencils
  - ✓ <mark>1 inch binder with notebook paper</mark> or spiral notebook & folders
  - ✓ Colored pencils
  - ✓ Computer laptop
  - ✓ Headphones or earbuds

- **Fees   TBA if necessary**
- **Resources:**

  ***Textbooks*:** Our textbook is *Ancient Civilizations* (2019 edition). Houghton Mifflin Harcourt is the publisher. Each student will be able to access the textbook online.
  - o ***Online Resources*:**

    CANVAS, IXL, Quizlet, lizardpoint.com, and Quizizz. Other websites used tba.

Video List- **All or parts of the listed videos may be shown in social studies as part of the study modules. The videos 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*
- *Epic of Gilgamesh*
- *Mr. Corwin's World History Series-you tube*
- *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.

  o ***Hyperlink for Compliance with Instructional Materials Policy & Procedure I-211 is below:***
  https://www.knoxschools.org/cms/lib/TN01917079/Centricity/domain/974/board%20polici es/I-211%20Selection%20of%20Instructional%20Materials%20Other%20than%20Textbooks.pdf

ASSESSMENT:

- **Grading Policy:**
- All grades are based on total points. The more points that your student earns, the higher their grade. Students will be graded on daily warm-ups, quizzes, tests, and other daily work. The expectation is that all assignments be completed with quality. However, if a student makes below a 74 on a formative assessment (daily work, homework, and quizzes), students can correct the assignment and resubmit the assignment for a higher grade <u>before the end of the module</u>.

- 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-** Students will be expected to type and post most of their daily assignments through CANVAS. They will also earn grades through learning websites such as Quizizz, Quizlet, and IXL.

- **Make-Up Work Policy/Late Work Policy**

- <u>Make up Work:</u>
  Please note that if a student has missed a class it is the <u>student's responsibility</u> to ask for the work that was missed! We follow the Knox County make-up work policy. Check your student's HMS handbook

for details. If you know your student will be absent for several days, please notify the attendance secretary or your child's social studies teacher so that we can compile work to be completed at home.

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

- **Grade Posting Policy – Teacher Commitment to Post Grades online _at least_ once per week on Aspen. For example:**
  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:
  - o Use of racist, profane, or obscene language or materials
  - o Using the network for financial gain, political or commercial activity
  - o Attempting to or harming equipment, materials or data
  - o Attempting to or sending anonymous messages of any kind
  - o Using the network to access inappropriate material
  - o Knowingly placing a computer virus on a computer or the network
  - o Using the network to provide addresses or other personal information that others may use inappropriately
  - o Accessing of information resources, files, and documents of another user without permission
  - o 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.
  - o 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. All virtual students are held to the same attendance policies/guidelines as students who are in traditional schools. See Knox County Board of Education Attendance Policy (J-120) regarding absence documentation.
  - **Classroom Policy/Procedures**
  - **Honor Code**

- **Teacher** (*please remember to include co-teachers*):
  - **Communication Strategy:**
    - **Office Hours/Contact Information/Email:**
    - **Canvas – commitment to maintain and update daily**

How will I communicate with my students?	How will I communicate with my families?
▪ 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.	▪ 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** (*tutoring, extra help, resources*)**:**
- **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. <u>Parents should be involved in making the decision.</u>

<mark>**Per Tennessee State Board of Education Policy, the following MUST be posted on each syllabus:**</mark>

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:

- 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.

o 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.

<mark>**All syllabi must be posted in Canvas by August 13, 2021.**</mark>

Please tear off and return to the teacher.

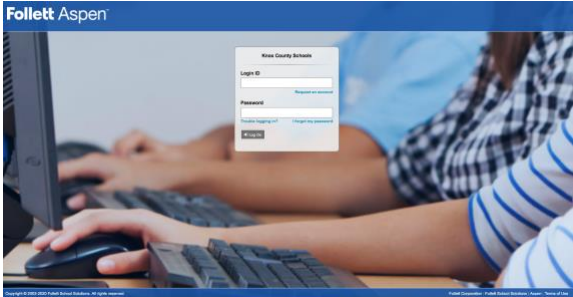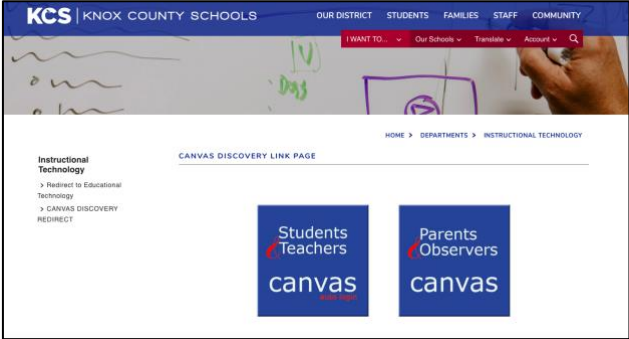**I have read this syllabus and understand the requirements and regulations.**

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?
Teachers will post grades to **Aspen Family Portal** at least once per week. Teachers will **email** a weekly update to the email address listed in Aspen Parent Portal. 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.	 **https://aspen.knoxschools.org**
Teachers will post announcements, assignments, and resources to **Canvas** each week. Teachers will use the **calendar** in Canvas to communicate due dates for tests and assignments.	 **https://knoxschools.instructure.com/**
I will communicate course expectations in this syllabus.	*See posted syllabus in your child's Canvas course.*

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