Social Studies, Grade 6 (SOCS) 6A Syllabus

Course Name
SOCS 6A
Social Studies, Grade 6 – Semester A

Course Information
SOCS 6A is the first semester of this two-semester course.

Our World, From the Past to the Present
Have you ever wondered where we got our calendars, numbers, cultures, or customs? In this course, we will be going back in time, to see where these things and many others originated. Our world is a fascinating place. After completing this course, you will see how our cultures and customs have been handed down from as far back as you could possibly imagine.

From the beginning of the Stone Age to the present time, people have worked for basically the same reasons. Some of these are to have shelter, food, and relationships. You will soon see how the early people were like us in many ways.

Course Delivery Method
Online

Contacting Your Instructor
You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at www.k12.ttu.edu.

Course Objectives
After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. identify and locate the various geographic regions of the world;
2. describe and explain the shaping and reshaping of the world;
3. create graphic organizers;
4. organize information found on maps and interpret time lines;
5. compare and contrast different customs and cultures of the world;
6. analyze the cultural adjustments that came about through political, social, and economic change, and
7. explain how different cultures in the new empires of Europe, Asia, and the Americas had contact with each other and developed traditions.

SOCS 6 addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the Texas Education Agency website.

Textbook and Materials

Textbook(s)
The required textbook for this course is:


This book is available in a one-volume edition. It is used for both semesters of sixth-grade social studies.

Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Word processing software such as Microsoft Word
- Adobe Reader (download from Adobe.com)
- Flash Player (download from Adobe Flash Player)
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (to scan hand-written documentation for graded assignments)

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see Requirements for Creating PDFs on the course home page)
Course Organization

This course consists of ten lessons and a final examination. Each lesson contains the following:

- Introduction and Instructions
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Learning Activities
- Assignments

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

Assignments

The lesson assignments will cover map skills, vocabulary, and higher thinking skills such as cause-and-effect and interpreting time lines, as well as multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Some lessons will include essays and illustrations. Well researched and thorough work is expected on the short-answer questions, writing assignments, and projects, including correct spelling and complete sentences. The writing assignments and projects will be explained in detail later.

Each assignment has been given an appropriate point value. You can see these point values within the assignment or in My Grades.

- Do each lesson thoroughly and follow directions carefully.
- Always check your work before sending it to be graded. Check for spelling and grammar errors. Remember, computer spell check does not find all the errors.
- Do your work neatly.
- Be creative with your art and written projects. Use your creativity to enhance your work, not distract from it.
- Some of the reading assignments will not correspond with a section summary since it is review material. Nevertheless, you will be responsible for the information.

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Resources

There are many great websites to help you with the assignments. With your parent’s guidance, search the Internet for additional information. Some sites recommended for research and exploration are:

- **CIA: The World Factbook**
  This site gives valuable data about countries of the world and provides very good maps of each country.

- **HyperHistory**
  This site gives information about people, events, history, and maps. Color-coding in the areas of science/technology, economics, culture, religion, and politics and war are helpful.

- **Smithsonian Kids**
  This site is provided by the Smithsonian. It has several ideas, feature articles, history, and worldwide interest.

- **National Geographic Classroom Resources**
  This site allows you to explore the world in spatial terms, places and regions, human and physical systems, the environment, and society.

Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Approximate Time for Completion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 1</td>
<td>Geography of the World</td>
<td>Two weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson 2</td>
<td>Life’s Patterns</td>
<td>One week</td>
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<td>Lesson 3</td>
<td>The United States of America</td>
<td>One week</td>
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<td>Lesson 4</td>
<td>Canada, Our Neighbor to the North</td>
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<td>Lesson 5</td>
<td>Mexico, Yesterday and Today</td>
<td>Two weeks</td>
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<td>Lesson 6</td>
<td>Central America and the Caribbean: A Land of Volcanoes, Islands, and Hurricanes</td>
<td>One week</td>
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<td>Lesson 7</td>
<td>Life in South America</td>
<td>Two weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson 8</td>
<td>Islands, Peninsulas, and Mountains of Western Europe</td>
<td>Two weeks</td>
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<td>Lesson</td>
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<td>Lesson 9</td>
<td>Lands and Resources of Eastern Europe</td>
<td>Two weeks</td>
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<td>Lesson 10</td>
<td>The Eurasian Republics and Russia</td>
<td>Two weeks</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Assignment Schedule**

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</table>
| 1      | 1-2   | Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded)  
Lesson 1: Assignment – Part I (Matching)  
Lesson 1: Assignment – Part I (Short Answer)  
Lesson 1: Assignment – Part II (Vocabulary)  
Lesson 1: Assignment – Part III (Matching)  
Lesson 1: Assignment – Part IV (Short Essay)  
Lesson 1: Assignment – Part V (Short Answer)  
Lesson 1: Assignment – Part VI (Multiple Choice)  
*Lesson 1: Summative Assignment: Picture |
| 2      | 3     | Lesson 2: Assignment – Part I (Vocabulary)  
Lesson 2: Assignment – Part II (Short Answer)  
Lesson 2: Assignment – Part III (Short Essay)  
*Lesson 2: Summative Assignment: Timeline |
| 3      | 4     | Lesson 3: Assignment – Part I (Short Answer)  
Lesson 3: Assignment – Part II (Multiple Choice)  
Lesson 3: Assignment – Part III (Vocabulary)  
Lesson 3: Assignment – Part IV (Map Skills)  
*Lesson 3: Summative Assignment: Essay  
Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded) |
| 4      | 5     | Lesson 4: Assignment – Part I (Vocabulary)  
Lesson 4: Assignment – Part II (Graphic Organizer)  
Lesson 4: Assignment – Part III (Flow Chart)  
Lesson 4: Assignment – Part IV (Short Answer)  
*Lesson 4: Summative Assignment: Travel Brochure |
| 5      | 6-7   | Lesson 5: Assignment – Part I (Vocabulary)  
Lesson 5: Assignment – Part II (Recalling Facts & Critical Thinking) |
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<th>Lesson</th>
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<td>Lesson 5: Assignment – Part II (Short Answer)</td>
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<td>Lesson 5: Assignment – Part III (Short Answer)</td>
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<td>Lesson 5: Assignment – Part IV (Graphic Organizer)</td>
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<td>Lesson 5: Assignment – Part V (Short Essay)</td>
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<td>*Lesson 5: Summative Assignment: Illustration</td>
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<td>Lesson 6: Assignment – Part I (Multiple Choice)</td>
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<td>Lesson 6: Assignment – Part II (Short Answer)</td>
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<td>Lesson 6: Assignment – Part III (Vocabulary)</td>
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<td>*Lesson 6: Summative Assignment: Short Essay</td>
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<td>Lesson 7: Assignment – Part I (Multiple Choice)</td>
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<td>Lesson 7: Assignment – Part II (Short Answer)</td>
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<td>Lesson 7: Assignment – Part III (Map Skills)</td>
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<td>Lesson 7: Assignment – Part IV (Interpreting Graphs)</td>
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<td>Lesson 7: Assignment – Part V (Vocabulary)</td>
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<td>*Lesson 7: Summative Assignment: Travel Brochure</td>
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<td>11-12</td>
<td>Lesson 8: Assignment – Part I (Vocabulary)</td>
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<td>Lesson 8: Assignment – Part III (Map Skills)</td>
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<td>Lesson 8: Assignment – Part IV (Analyze Diagrams)</td>
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<td>Lesson 8: Assignment – Part V (Cause and Effect)</td>
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<td>*Lesson 8: Summative Assignment: Editorial Cartoon</td>
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<td>13-14</td>
<td>Lesson 9: Assignment – Part I (Multiple Choice)</td>
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<td>Lesson 9: Assignment – Part III (Short Answer)</td>
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<td>Lesson 9: Assignment – Part IV (Using a Timeline)</td>
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<td>Lesson 9: Assignment – Part V (Analyzing Graphs)</td>
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<td>Lesson 9: Assignment – Part VI (Map Skills)</td>
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<td>*Lesson 9: Summative Assignment: Application</td>
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<td>Lesson 10: Assignment – Part I (Short Answer)</td>
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<td>Lesson 10: Assignment – Part II (Graphic Organizer)</td>
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<td>Lesson 10: Assignment – Part III (Application)</td>
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<td>Lesson 10: Assignment – Part IV (Vocabulary)</td>
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<td>*Lesson 10: Summative Assignment: Short Essay</td>
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<td>Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average, including the final exam;
- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson’s learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course. Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in Remote Proctoring in the Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- Summative Assessments (20% of Course Grade)
  - Lesson One Summative Assignment: Picture (25 points)
  - Lesson Two Summative Assignment: Timeline (35 points)
  - Lesson Three Summative Assignment: Essay (35 points)
  - Lesson Four Summative Assignment: Travel Brochure (35 points)
  - Lesson Five Summative Assignment: Illustration (15 points)
  - Lesson Six Summative Assignment: Short Essay (30 points)
  - Lesson Seven Summative Assignment: Travel Brochure (35 points)
  - Lesson Eight Summative Assignment: Editorial Cartoon (15 points)
  - Lesson Nine Summative Assignment: Application (15 points)
  - Lesson Ten Summative Assignment: Short Essay (20 points)

- Summative Final Exam (30% of Course Grade)
Course Completion and Extensions

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date. Student may purchase a single three-month extension for a fee.
- Extensions are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

Student Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for Online Discussion Netiquette. Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.
Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.

Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by email. For assignments that require you to upload a PDF or other document, please title your assignment files “lastName_firstName_assignmentName.xxx (.pdf, .doc, .xl, .jpg, etc.).”

Technical Difficulties

Getting Help

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit TTU K-12 Support.

Computer Problems

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

Server Problems

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

Lost or Corrupted Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students’ own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.