



## **Social Studies, Grade 6 (SOCS) 6B Syllabus**

### **Course Name**

SOCS 6B

Social Studies, Grade 6 – Semester B

### **Course Information**

SOCS 6B is the first semester of this two-semester course.

#### ***Our World, From the Past to the Present***

How has our world changed since the Middle Ages? What has brought about the changes? What are some things that have remained the same? Why have we borrowed from the ancient cultures? How have we adapted to our environment? How have the countries throughout the world become interdependent? Why do we still have developing countries? We will be able to answer these questions and many others as we look at our constantly changing world by regions.

This course will examine how the expansion of trade affected countries and how political boundaries have changed through the years. We will compare how countries gained their independence through different kinds of revolutions and analyze the reasons for wars in the 20th century. We will evaluate the various economic systems of the world, as well as the different types of government. We will also explore how geographical features have affected the many countries of the world and how people's lives changed with the Industrial Revolution.

Why should we study our past? Can we learn from mistakes in the past? Will it help us predict our future? What can you do as a citizen to make a difference in the 21st century?

Now let us see how many questions we can answer and what other questions we can raise while we problem-solve to make our world more peaceful and a better place to live. I hope that by the time you have finished this course, you will have a better understanding of our world and the diversity in it. After all, Social Studies is about learning to get along with people, including those who may be different from you.

## 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](http://www.k12.ttu.edu).

## Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. describe how historical events such as invasions and conquests contributed to the characteristics of contemporary societies;
2. create graphic organizers, journal entries, reports, and outlines;
3. organize and interpret information found on maps and time lines;
4. understand how cultures have developed and explain the significance of culture borrowing;
5. understand the contributions of individuals and groups from various cultures;
6. compare and contrast different customs and cultures of the world;
7. describe and measure levels of economic development;
8. compare how governments function in selected world societies; and
9. express ideas orally based on research experiences.

SOCS 6 addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](http://www.tea.state.tx.us) website.

## Textbook and Materials

### **Textbook(s)**

The required textbook for this course is:

- Bearson, Michael. (2003). *Horizons: World Regions*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, Inc. ISBN 978-0-15-320183-7.

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](http://Adobe.com))

- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

## 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.

### **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.

<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Approximate Time for Completion</b>
<b>Lesson 1</b>	Southwest Asia	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 2</b>	North Africa	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 3</b>	Africa South of the Sahara	One week
<b>Lesson 4</b>	Plains and Plateaus	One week

<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Approximate Time for Completion</b>
<b>Lesson 5</b>	South Asia and its Cultures	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 6</b>	East Asia	One week
<b>Lesson 7</b>	Southeast Asia	One week
<b>Lesson 8</b>	Australia and New Zealand	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 9</b>	The Pacific Islands and Antarctica	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 10</b>	Our Fascinating World	Two weeks
<b>Final Exam</b>		

## 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.

<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>1</b>	1-2	Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded) Lesson 1: Assignment – Part I (Short Answer) Lesson 1: Assignment – Part II (Matching) Lesson 1: Assignment – Part III (Graphing Skills) Lesson 1: Assignment – Part IV (Graphic Organizer) Lesson 1: Assignment – Part V (Multiple Choice) Lesson 1: Assignment – Part VI (Chart) Lesson 1: Assignment – Part VII (Mapping Skills) *Lesson 1: Summative Assignment: Short Answer/Essay
<b>2</b>	3-4	Lesson 2: Assignment – Part I (Matching) Lesson 2: Assignment – Part II (Timeline) Lesson 2: Assignment – Part III (Multiple Choice) Lesson 2: Assignment – Part IV (Short Answer) Lesson 2: Assignment – Part V (Map Skills) *Lesson 2: Summative Assignment: Essay
<b>3</b>	5	Lesson 3: Assignment – Part I (Matching) Lesson 3: Assignment – Part II (Short Answer) Lesson 3: Assignment – Part III (Design Your Own Kente) *Lesson 3: Summative Assignment: Oral Presentation Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)

<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	Lesson 4: Assignment – Part I (Multiple Choice) Lesson 4: Assignment – Part II (Matching) Lesson 4: Assignment – Part III (Short Answer) *Lesson 4: Summative Assignment: Application
<b>5</b>	<b>7-8</b>	Lesson 5: Assignment – Part I (Vocabulary) Lesson 5: Assignment – Part II (Multiple Choice) Lesson 5: Assignment – Part III (Short Answer) Lesson 5: Assignment – Part IV (Essay) Lesson 5: Assignment – Part V (Map Skills) *Lesson 5: Summative Assignment: Design
<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	Lesson 6: Assignment – Part I (Short Answer) Lesson 6: Assignment – Part II (Research) *Lesson 6: Summative Assignment: Chapter 16 Review and Test Preparation
<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	Lesson 7: Assignment – Part I (Vocabulary) Lesson 7: Assignment – Part II (Multiple Choice) Lesson 7: Assignment – Part III (Timeline) Lesson 7: Assignment – Part IV (Circle Graph Activity)
<b>8</b>	<b>11-12</b>	Lesson 8: Assignment – Part I (Vocabulary) Lesson 8: Assignment – Part II (Multiple Choice) Lesson 8: Assignment – Part III (Short Answer) Lesson 8: Assignment – Part IV (Acrostic Poem) Lesson 8: Assignment – Part V (Comparing Line Graphs) *Lesson 8: Summative Assignment: Personal Characteristics
<b>9</b>	<b>13-14</b>	Lesson 9: Assignment – Part I (Matching) Lesson 9: Assignment – Part II (Multiple Choice) Lesson 9: Assignment – Part III (Short Answer) Lesson 9: Assignment – Part IV (Map Skills) *Lesson 9: Summative Assignment: Travel Brochure
<b>10</b>	<b>15-16</b>	*Lesson 10: Summative Assignment: Course Project Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
		<b>Final Exam</b>

## 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: Short Answer/Essay (20 points)
  - Lesson Two Summative Assignment: Essay (20 points)
  - Lesson Three Summative Assignment: Oral Presentation (15 points)
  - Lesson Four Summative Assignment: Application (25 points)
  - Lesson Five Summative Assignment: Design (15 points)
  - Lesson Six Summative Assignment: Chapter 16 Review and Test Preparation (34 points)
  - Lesson Eight Summative Assignment: Personal Characteristics (32 points)
  - Lesson Nine Summative Assignment: Travel Brochure (20 points)
  - Lesson Ten Summative Assignment: Course Project (50 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.