



6th Grade Social Studies Curriculum

Reading and Writing Standards

Marking Period	Reading Standards	Writing Standards
1	5 Themes of Geography Research Poster	5 Steps of Geographic Inquiry Research Project
2	Refugee by Alan Gatz- reading	Earth Moves ArcGIS Geoinquiry Lab
3	City Planning Simulation	Family Culture Project
4	Global Economics Current Event Report	Global Climate Change DBQ Essay



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Scoring Guide for Written Work

Criteria	Limited	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Demonstrate Understanding of the Content	Demonstrates a limited understanding of the topic, providing incomplete or inaccurate information with significant gaps.	Demonstrates a partial understanding of the topic, providing some accurate and concise information but may lack depth or completeness.	Shows a solid understanding of the topic, providing accurate and concise information, addressing all key aspects of the prompt.	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic, providing comprehensive, accurate, and concise information. Complete: Addresses all aspects of the assigned topic or prompt Accurate: Provides accurate and relevant information supported by evidence or examples Concise: Presents ideas and information in a clear and concise manner without unnecessary repetition or digressions
Structure and Formatting	Lacks an engaging hook, inconsistent or insufficient use of citations, minimal use of CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and unclear or weak topic sentences.	Attempts to engage the reader with a hook, includes citations, attempts to use CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and provides topic sentences, but with some inconsistencies or lack of clarity.	Begins with an engaging hook, includes proper citations, effectively utilizes CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and presents clear topic sentences.	Engages the reader with a captivating hook, includes proper citations, effectively utilizes CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and presents clear and well-developed topic sentences. Hook: Engages the reader with a compelling opening that grabs attention Citation: Includes appropriate citations and references to give credit to sources used CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning): Constructs well-developed claims supported by relevant evidence and logical reasoning Topic Sentences: Clearly and effectively introduces the main ideas of paragraphs
Critical Thinking / Original Point of View	Shows limited evidence of critical thinking skills, with arguments or perspectives lacking coherence or supporting evidence.	Shows some evidence of critical thinking skills, but arguments or perspectives may be limited in depth or clarity.	Displays sound critical thinking skills, offering well-reasoned arguments and perspectives supported by relevant evidence.	Exhibits exceptional critical thinking skills, offering unique and insightful perspectives supported by strong reasoning and evidence. Demonstrates critical thinking skills by analyzing and evaluating information or arguments Presents a unique and original perspective or interpretation of the topic Supports arguments or ideas with thoughtful reasoning and evidence
Research / Reference	Relies on minimal sources, lacks integration of research findings, and shows inconsistent or inadequate citation and referencing.	Incorporates some sources, but may not fully integrate research findings or include proper citation and referencing consistently.	Incorporates appropriate sources, integrates research findings to support the content, and follows proper citation and referencing conventions with minor errors.	Research / Reference: Utilizes a wide range of relevant and credible sources, effectively integrating research findings into the writing, and consistently follows proper citation and referencing conventions. Utilizes relevant and credible sources to support arguments or claims Effectively incorporates research findings to strengthen the overall content and understanding of the topic Demonstrates the ability to properly cite and reference sources in the appropriate format (MLA)
Academic Writing	Contains frequent and significant errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure that impede readability.	Contains noticeable errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or sentence structure that occasionally hinder readability.	Demonstrates proficient spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure with occasional minor errors that do not hinder readability.	Demonstrates exemplary spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure with no or minimal errors. Spelling: Exhibits correct spelling throughout the writing Grammar: Demonstrates mastery of grammar rules, including proper subject-verb agreement, verb tense consistency, and pronoun usage Punctuation: Applies appropriate punctuation marks, such as commas, periods, and quotation marks, correctly Sentence Structure: Constructs clear and varied sentence structures, including complex and compound sentences



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Content Topics and Pacing

Topic	Duration	Guiding Questions	Reading/Writing Assignments
Foundations of World Geography	6 weeks	<p>How can the approaches and perspectives of different social scientists better help us understand our world?</p> <p>How can the five themes of geography help us investigate our world?</p> <p>What makes an issue or problem global in scope?</p> <p>How do we plot locations using the global grid?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Map skills2.) 5 themes of geography research poster3.) 5 steps of geographic inquiry research project4.) Close and guided reading of geographic inquiry examples5.) Weekly current events assignment6.) Unit vocabulary
The World in Spatial Terms	6 weeks	<p>What factors should we consider when using maps and why?</p> <p>How and why do people organize (categorize or regionalize) the world to study global issues or problems?</p> <p>How do the physical (natural) features and physical processes of Earth present challenges and opportunities for human societies?</p> <p>How and why does a natural hazard</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Map skills2.) ArcGIS map labs3.) Natural hazards research poster4.) Natural disasters skit writing5.) Organization of world regions assignment6.) Weekly reading assignments7.) Unit vocabulary



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		become a global natural disaster?	
Population and Migration	5 weeks	How do social scientists investigate population issues? How are population, migration, and urbanization issues connected? In what ways are issues related to population, migration, and urbanization global problems? How do social, political, and economic decisions that societies make reflect and influence demographics?	1.) Map skills 2.) ArcGIS map labs 3.) City planning simulation 4.) Weekly reading assignments 5.) Unit vocabulary
Culture	5 weeks	How and why are groups of people culturally similar and different? Why is it necessary to understand culture when studying a global problem and potential solutions? How has globalization influenced cultural diversity?	1.) Definitions of culture writing 2.) Folktales analysis 3.) Family culture project 4.) ArcGIS map labs 5.) Weekly reading assignments 6.) Unit vocabulary
Human/Environment Interaction	6 weeks	How do humans create and address global environmental problems? How can environmental problems in one location become a global issue? How does energy production and distribution affect the environment? How does the distribution and utilization of natural resources influence the ways societies interact?	1.) Global climate change 3 paragraph DBQ essay 2.) ArcGIS map labs 3.) Weekly reading assignments 4.) Unit vocabulary



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Economics and World Trade	3 weeks	<p>How has globalization affected the interactions between buyers and sellers?</p> <p>How can the social science fields of geography, history, economics, and political science help us explain why some countries are “rich” while others are “poor”?</p> <p>To what extent are trade restrictions an effective tool in a globalized economy?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Economic current events report2.) Global trade simulation3.) ArcGIS map labs4.) Weekly reading assignments5.) Unit vocabulary
Civics, Government, and Global Politics	3 weeks	<p>Why do people institute different forms of government?</p> <p>How do nations of the world interact?</p> <p>How can people address global problems?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Country project final project2.) ArcGIS map labs3.) Weekly reading assignments4.) Unit vocabulary