

Cambridge Public Schools
HISTORY SOCIAL SCIENCE Learning Expectations: GRADE 6

EARLY CIVILIZATIONS: DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUITY
(BOLD TEXT ENTRIES ARE REQUIRED, *ITALIC ENTRIES ARE RECOMMENDED*, UNDERLINED ENTRIES ARE OPTIONAL FOR STUDY)

Generative Topic: Ancient Civilizations: What Elements of the Past Persist Through Time?

Overarching Understanding Goals (Throughlines) :

1. Students will understand the concept and characteristics of civilization.
2. Students will understand that modern democracy evolved in and is still influenced by ancient civilizations.
3. Students will understand the role of geography, the environment and religion in the development of early civilizations.
4. Students will understand that human culture develops as a result of adaptation and interaction with the environment.

Approximate Unit Length	Massachusetts Standard	Topic/Theme	Key Understandings	Assessments/Evidence
6-8 weeks (Assuming 28 weeks, 80% of school year would be covered by a smaller unit, leaving 6-8 weeks for optional topics. The higher number of weeks on each topic would cover a full 36 week year)	Concepts and Skills 1-7	Introduction to Geography /Where in the World? -Overview and concepts (REQUIRED)	Students will understand and be able to use throughout the 6 th and 7 th grade history/social science curriculum : -the five themes of geography. -map and globe skills. -geographic skills. -atlases. -charts, graphs, illustrations, tables -study and research skills. -reading and writing in history and geography. -culture as a means of adaptation to the environment.	

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6-7 weeks	7.1-7.5 7.6 7.7-7.11 7.17-7.18 A.1-A.5 WA 1-5	Beginnings -Human Origins (REQUIRED) Mesopotamia (REQUIRED CASE) <u>Phoenicia (OPTIONAL CASE)</u>	Students will be able to: Describe the origins of human societies in Africa. Identify the characteristics of civilization. Describe the characteristics of river civilizations and explain the importance of rivers and trade in early human history. Explain how five geographic factors influenced human development in ancient Africa and the Middle East.	
Approximate Unit Length	Massachusetts Standard	Topic/Theme	Key Understandings	Assessments/Evidence
6-7 weeks	A-3 WA-1 WA-3 7.12-7.16 7.19-7.23	Monotheism -Egypt (REQUIRED) -Ancient Israel (REQUIRED)	Students will be able to: Review the concept of river civilization in ancient Egypt. Describe the development and achievements of ancient Egypt/Kush. Compare the religious belief systems developed by the Egyptians and the Hebrews. Understand that monotheism appeared twice in early civilizations. Understand the impact of Hebrew monotheism on Western legal systems and ethical/moral beliefs.	

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Approximate Unit Length	Massachusetts Standard	Topic/Theme	Key Understandings	Assessments/Evidence
6-8 weeks	7.24-7.34	Democracy -Greece (REQUIRED)	Students will be able to: Understand the origins of democratic political concepts in ancient Greece. Identify the major accomplishments of the Greeks and their impact upon later societies. Understand the role of geography and trade in the development of the city-state and the spread of Greek culture.	
Approximate Unit Length	Massachusetts Standard	Topic/Theme	Key Understandings	Assessments/Evidence
4-6 weeks	7.38	<i>-Introduction to Rome/ Bridge Unit to 7th grade (RECOMMENDED)</i>	Describe the influence of the Greeks on later civilizations, particularly Rome.	