

6th Grade Social Studies

Mr. Ripperger

Description

This class will cover the introductory elements of the field of geography, with a focus on the Five Themes of Geography, maps and map making, renewable and non-renewable resources, climate types, internal/external forces, elements of human and physical of geography. Following the introduction students will be immersed in the different regions of the Western Hemisphere starting with North America, then moving into Latin America and concluding with Europe.

Students should gain an appreciation of the rest of the world by looking at how people have adapted and interacted with their environment and neighbors.

Standards

- SS.6.13 Identify what makes up a culture and examine how people acquire their cultural beliefs and value systems.
- SS.6.14 Explain how groups form in our society, and how groups, as well as the individuals within those groups, can influence each other
- SS.6.15 Distinguish how varying economic systems impact a nation and its citizens.
- SS.6.16 Utilize and construct geographic representations to explain and analyze regional, environmental, and cultural characteristics.
- SS.6.17 Analyze and explain the cultural, physical, and environmental characteristics of places and regions and how this affects the life of the people who live there.
- SS.6.18 Explain how changes in transportation, communication, and technology influence the movement of people, goods, and ideas in various countries.
- SS.6.19 Explain how global changes in population distribution patterns affect changes in land use in particular countries or regions
- SS.6.20 Analyze connections among historical events and developments in various geographic and cultural contexts.
- SS.6.21 Explain how and why perspectives of people have changed throughout different historical eras.
- SS.6.22 Explain multiple causes and effects of events and developments in the past.
- SS.6.23 Compare Iowa's geography, natural resources and climate to other regions of the world.

Units

- Unit 1: Introduction to Geography
- Unit 2: United States and Canada
- Unit 3: Central America
- Unit 4: South America
- Unit 5: Europe
- Unit 6: Russia

Behavior

Your responsibility is toward yourself and your peers. Yourself, by conducting your behavior in a manner that allows you to learn at your optimal level. Your peers by not disrupting their learning environment so they can learn to the best of their ability.

Mr. Ripperger's classroom rules are posted in the front of the classroom.

Grading Scale

<i>Grading Weights:</i>	<i>Grading Scale</i>	C+	79-78
Process 30%	A+ 100	C	77-72
Content 70%	A 99-92	C-	71-70
	A- 91-90	D+	69-68
	B+ 89-88	D	67-62
	B 87-82	D-	61-60
	B- 81-80	F	59-50

Homework

While late work is not encouraged, there is no penalty for late work. That does not mean you do not have to do it. Homework is designed to provide you with understanding the essential concepts of the unit and prepare for chapter quizzes. You can have multiple attempts to improve your grade by re-submitting homework, but once the quarter is complete, you will no longer have that opportunity. This also covers homework missed during absences. Late work will not be accepted once the grades have been turned in at each quarter. Please be respectful of my time and not turn in multiple assignments at one time.

Absences

When students are absent, they are accountable for catching up on material missed during that absence. All class meetings will be recorded as part of Google Meet and students can join if they are able to from home. Once class is concluded, the video of class will be shared with you to your "Shared With Me" folder on Google Drive. You will be responsible for watching that video to stay current with class.

Quiz re-takes

You can re-take any quiz that you received a 59% or lower score on. The philosophy is that we are looking for you to prove that you have mastered the content and we want to be able to see that. Maybe you had a bad day, maybe you just went blank, or maybe you didn't have time to study. I am willing to give you another opportunity to prove that you know the material. All quizzes will be different from the original, so there will be different questions than on the first quiz covering the same topics we discussed in class. You will only be given one opportunity to re-take that quiz, so make sure you are studying for the re-take.

Cheating

Cheating from another student, book, and/or notes is a major offense. If caught cheating, the student will lose credit for the work. If a student is caught cheating with another student, BOTH students will lose credit. Parents will be contacted by their student and informed of the offense.

Plagiarism is when a student does not give credit to an author or producer of a piece of work (i.e. music, books, magazines, websites, etc.). If a student is caught plagiarizing, the student will lose credit for their work. In the real world, college students have been expelled, lawsuits have been filed against performers.

Technology

Phones/iPods/Computers: Phones should be put away during instructional time. There will be times where phones will be allowed to be used in an appropriate manner. Students will be given an initial verbal warning. If another warning is issued, the student will be asked to hand over their phone until the end of the class period. If you are a habitual offender, your phone will be sent to the office and a parent will need to come in and retrieve it per the student handbook.

Computers: Computers are tools that serve an instructional purpose. They are not to be used for games or observing social media. If students are abusing their computer privileges, they may be barred from using during that class period.

Classroom Expectations

1. Open up your computer and access the day's Current Events. Try to figure out what the headline is and make sure that you are maintaining notes. A quiz will be given every two weeks.
2. You will be assigned seats, but you will be expected to remain in those seats for the semester. This allows me to take attendance quicker, and will make it easier for any substitutes who may have to cover class.
3. Occasionally we will have writing assignments, so please make sure that you have a writing utensil and paper available at all times.
4. You can chew gum, but please no bubble blowing. You will be told to spit it out. If gum is discovered in places it shouldn't, then there may be a moratorium instituted.
5. Please respect my materials and the school property in the classroom.
6. Don't believe everything I say. Look for proof that what I am saying is true. Look it up!
7. Don't be afraid to fail. Learn from those mistakes and errors. Become a better student and person from your setbacks.