



SOCIAL STUDIES

6

FOR FAMILIES

SIXTH GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age understand how to see the world from different points of view and are interested in learning new things. In social studies this year, they will explore how spatial patterns (the organization and placement of people and objects) form, change over time and relate to one another in the Western Hemisphere (North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean). This information is a snapshot of learning in sixth-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Be able to identify, locate on a map and describe major landforms and bodies of water in the Western Hemisphere.
- Understand the impact of natural disasters on human populations affected by them.
- Describe the major political and economic systems in the Western Hemisphere.
- Know the countries, major urban centers and regions in the Western Hemisphere.
- Analyze reasons for conflict and cooperation among groups, societies, countries and regions of the Western Hemisphere.
- Describe the major cultural regions of the Western Hemisphere and their general locations.
- Understand how world trade operates and how global economies are dependent on one another.
- Describe how geography impacts population location, growth and change.
- Understand what developed countries have in common and what developing countries have in common.
- Explain the impact of the distribution of major renewable and nonrenewable resources.

What to do at home:

- Plan a trip using a paper map, not GPS.
- Explore places in the Western Hemisphere with your child through virtual field trips.
- Ask your child to help you come up with a family plan to recycle and conserve energy and water.
- Ask your child to share examples of cooperation in your community (for example, a neighborhood organizes a day to make repairs, plant flowers and clean up a park).
- Ask your child to help you come up with a family plan if there is a natural disaster.
- Ask your child to find out where the products in your house were made.
- Create a map of the Western Hemisphere with your child.

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support social studies learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Provide opportunities for your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- Where would you like to travel? How would you get there? What would you need?
- What makes a good leader? Why?
- If you had a magic wand, what would you create that would make the biggest difference in the world?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- How can you make a positive difference for someone today?
- If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class? Why?
- Did you learn something that challenged you today, or was there something you didn't understand? Let's talk about it.

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help your child understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Have you made a list of books you have already read? Why would it be good to keep a list like that?
- How is this book like another book you have read or a movie you have seen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- As you are reading, what questions do you have for the author?
- How does this book remind you of a book you have already read or something you already know?
- How can you find out the meaning of words you don't understand?

AFTER READING

- How did the setting of the story affect the characters and plot?
- What was the theme or central meaning of the book? What lesson do you think the author wanted the reader to learn?
- How would you rewrite the ending to the story? Why would you change it?

Join the conversation!

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