

Grade 6 Social Studies Achievement Level Descriptors

The Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) describe the knowledge, skills, and cognitive processes that students should exhibit with relative consistency and accuracy in a variety of contexts. Some deviations or exceptions may be observed.

	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
General Social Studies Descriptors	Students at the Approaching Basic level demonstrate a limited understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content in world history from ancient civilizations through the Renaissance.	Students at the Basic level demonstrate a general understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in world history from ancient civilizations through the Renaissance.	Students at the Mastery level demonstrate a strong understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in world history from ancient civilizations through the Renaissance.	Students at the Advanced level demonstrate a thorough understanding of history, civics, geography, and economics content and concepts in world history from ancient civilizations through the Renaissance.
Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
Claims and Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and express flawed claims that provide vague explanations of connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place. • Use little or no evidence from the sources and limited knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts. • Rely on either knowledge from the course or information provided in the sources to make vague or incomplete connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and express reasonable claims, but provide inconsistent or incomplete explanations of connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place. • Use disconnected evidence from the sources and general knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts. • Use knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make obvious connections among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and clearly express logical claims that provide consistent and complete explanations of the connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place. • Use appropriate evidence from the sources and strong knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts. • Integrate knowledge from the course with information provided in the sources to make reasoned and informed connections that show the relationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and effectively express valid claims that provide cohesive and in-depth explanations of the connections and relationships among ideas, people, and events within or across time and place. • Use well-chosen evidence from the sources and thorough knowledge from the course to respond to questions about social studies content and concepts. • Synthesize knowledge from the course and information provided in the sources to make sophisticated connections that show the interrelationships among social studies themes and disciplines (history, geography, civics, economics).

Sample Content Connections	Category	Approaching Basic	Basic	Mastery	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political factors influenced the social and economic development of ancient civilizations. Resources and land use contributed to the development and expansion of trade between world regions. Geographic factors shaped the social and economic development of ancient civilizations. 	History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe achievements of early humans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the achievements of early humans that led to the development of civilization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze how the achievements of early humans led to the development of civilization. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the characteristics and achievements of some ancient river valley civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the characteristics and achievements of ancient river valley civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how the characteristics and achievements of ancient river valley civilizations influenced their development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the characteristics and achievements of ancient river valley civilizations that influenced their development.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify characteristics and achievements of ancient Greece and Rome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the development, characteristics, and achievements of ancient Greece and Rome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the development, characteristics and achievements of ancient Greece and Rome and their influence of on other civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the development, characteristics, and achievements of ancient Greece and Rome and their influence on other civilizations.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe characteristics related to the origins of major world religions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe characteristics related to the origins and spread of major world religions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the influence of the origins and spread of major world religions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the origins and spread of major world religions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key features of the West African kingdom of Ghana, Mali, or Songhai. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe key features of the West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize the key features of the West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how key features influenced the development of the West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key social and economic characteristics of Chinese dynasties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key political, social, and economic characteristics of Chinese dynasties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe key political, social, and economic characteristics of Chinese dynasties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how key political, social, and economic characteristics shaped the development of Chinese dynasties.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe social or economic characteristics of the Middle Ages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe social and economic characteristics related to key ideas and events during the Middle Ages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the characteristics, significance and influence of key ideas and events during the Middle Ages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the causes and effects of key ideas and events during the Middle Ages.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe ideas that influenced the Renaissance in Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe ideas and people that influenced the Renaissance in Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the significance of the ideas and people that influenced the Renaissance in Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze how key ideas and people influenced the Renaissance in Europe.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The growth and expansion of trade influenced migration patterns and cultural diffusion between world regions. 	Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate and identify major lines of latitude and longitude using maps and globes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine climate zones and time zones by locating and identifying lines of latitude and longitude using maps and globes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the characteristics of different climate zones and their effects on world civilizations using a variety of sources. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify physical and political boundaries of civilizations by plotting coordinates of latitude and longitude using maps and globes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe physical and political boundaries of civilizations and determine location or change of location by plotting coordinates of latitude and longitude using maps and globes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast physical and political boundaries of civilizations using a variety of sources. 	

	Geography (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine migration patterns using maps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine migration patterns and population trends using maps, charts, and graphs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the influence of migration patterns, population trends, and cultural diffusion using a variety of sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the causes and effects of migration patterns, population trends, and cultural diffusion using a variety of sources.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify physical features that contributed to early human migration and settlement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe physical features and climate conditions that contributed to early human migration and settlement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how physical features and climate conditions influenced early human migration and settlement. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the physical geography of ancient civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the connection between physical geography and its influence on the development of civilization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the role of physical geography in the development of civilization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the role of physical geography in the development of civilization.
	Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe characteristics of Greek city-state government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the characteristics of Greek city-state government that influenced democracy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how key ideas and people associated with Greek city-state government influenced democracy. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe characteristics of the government of the Roman Republic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the characteristics of the government of the Roman Republic that influenced democracy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the government of the Roman Republic and explain how it influenced the development of democracy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how key ideas and people associated with government in the Roman Republic influenced the development of democracy.
	Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify examples of job specialization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe job specialization as it relates to the development of civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the impact of job specialization in the development of civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the relationship between job specialization and the development of civilizations.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the characteristics of barter exchange and monetary exchange. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the reasons for the transition from barter exchange to monetary exchange. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the progression from barter exchange to monetary exchange.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the development and expansion of trade in ancient civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the development of trade and taxation and the economic motivations for expanding trade and territorial conquests in ancient civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the influence of the development of trade and taxation on economic growth and economic motivations on the expansion of trade and territorial conquests in ancient civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the influence of trade on economic growth and evaluate the economic motivations that contributed to the expansion of trade and territorial conquests in ancient civilizations.