

Social Studies

SIXTH GRADE

United States Studies: 1877 to the Present

Sixth-grade content standards focus on the United States from 1877 to the present. Historical events studied by sixth graders include the Spanish-American War, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, and major events of the latter part of the twentieth century. Emphasis is placed on economic, geographic, social, and political changes that impacted every aspect of life during these time periods, including communication and technological advances, changes in national boundaries, and the movement of the United States into the role of world leader.

Students will:

1. Describe the Westward Expansion and its technological, economic, and social influence on the people of the United States prior to World War I.
 - Locate states, capitals, and important geographic features west of the Mississippi River
 - Identify major groups and individuals involved with the Westward Expansion
 - Identify groups of western settlers engaged in areas of conflict and cooperation and trading practices, including farmers, ranchers, Mormons, and Hispanics
 - Analyze the impact of closing the frontier on Native Americans
 - Locate areas settled in the United States between 1877 and 1900
2. Describe the impact of industrialization, free markets, urbanization, communication, and cultural changes in the United States prior to World War I.
 - Discuss the construction of the Panama Canal
 - Explain how the United States acquired Alaska and Hawaii
3. Identify causes and consequences of the Spanish-American War.
 - Identify major people involved in the Spanish-American War
 - Locate major territories that were part of the treaty ending the Spanish-American War
4. Describe changing social conditions during the Progressive Period
 - Describe countries of origin and experiences of new immigrants to the United States
 - Identify political and social leaders of the Progressive Movement
 - Analyze the impact of early civil rights movements on the lives of Americans

- Identify cultural changes from 1900-1920 resulting from religious beliefs, industrialization, urbanization, and changes in communication and technology
5. Identify causes of World War I and reasons for entry into the war by the United States.
 - Describe the role of the United States in World War I both militarily and on the home front
 - Identify important people involved in World War I
 - Discuss technological advances and their impact on the economy of the United States
 - Locate on a map or globe major countries involved in World War I and boundary changes after the war
 - Explain rejection of world leadership by the United States after World War I
 6. Identify cultural and economic developments in the society of the United States from 1877 through the 1930s.
 - Discuss contributions of inventors from 1877 to World War I
 - Describe development of the modern woman
 - Identify notable people of the 1920s
 - Describe results of the economic policies of the Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover Administrations
 7. Identify causes of the Great Depression.
 - Describe the effect of the Great Depression on the people of the United States
 - Locate on a map the area of the United States known as the Dust Bowl
 - Describe the importance of the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as President of the United States
 - Describe the impact of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) on the life of Alabamians
 - Locate river systems utilized by TVA
 8. List key figures, significant events, and reasons for the involvement of the United States in World War II.
 - Locate on a map or globe countries controlled by the Axis powers from 1939-1942
 - Locate on a map or globe Allied countries and key battles in World War II
 - Describe the development and use of the atomic bomb
 - Describe social costs associated with World War II
 - Explain the importance of treaties ending World War II
 9. Identify changes in the American home front during World War II.
 - Describe the changing role of women in the society of the United States during World War II

- Describe the changing role of African Americans and Japanese Americans in the society of the United States during World War II
10. Identify major social and cultural changes in the United States from 1945 to 1960.
 11. Identify critical events occurring in the United States and throughout the world from the Truman through the Johnson Administrations, including the Cold War, Berlin Airlift, Korean Conflict, space race, construction of Berlin Wall, Bay of Pigs invasion, Cuban Missile Crisis, and Vietnam War.
 - Identify Alabama's role in the Cold War
 - Locate on a map areas of international conflict from 1945-1969
 12. Identify components of John F. Kennedy's New Frontier and Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society.
 13. Describe the role of major civil rights leaders and significant events occurring during the modern Civil Rights Movement.
 14. Identify cultural and economic changes throughout the United States from 1960 to the present.
 - Describe the impact of technological and social changes on the society of the United States from 1970 to the present
 15. Explain major political events from the Nixon Administration to the present, including the Vietnam War; Watergate; the collapse of the Soviet Union; the Gulf War; the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and the War on Terrorism.
 - Identify important legislation created from the Nixon Administration to the present
 - Describe the changing role of women and minorities in society from 1970 to the present
 - Locate on a map sites of significant historical events occurring between 1970 and the present