



School District of Horicon

Course Outline

Learning Targets

6th Grade Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations

UNIT: 1: Early Humans and the Rise of Civilization

- Understand how social scientists examine artifacts.
- Learn how early people moved from hunting and gathering to farming.
- Explore key problems faced by early Mesopotamians and how they evolved into city-states.
- Learn about the characteristics of a civilization.
- Discover what happened to the Sumerians and who ruled Mesopotamia after them.

UNIT: 2: Ancient Egypt

- Recognize how environmental factors influenced human settlements.
- Learn about four Egyptian Pharaohs and their monuments.
- Experience life in Ancient Egypt.
- Explore the rival kingdom of Kush.

UNIT: 3: Ancient China

- Compare five geographic regions in China and discover how geography affected where they settled.
- Excavate a Shang dynasty tomb and learn about his early civilization's government, religion, social structure, art, writing and technology.
- Learn about China's next line of rules, the Zhou Dynasty.
 - Understand the three philosophies of: Confucianism, Daoism and Legalism.
- Share the struggles of the first emperor of China, Qin Shihuangdi.
- Visit the Han Dynasty and discover this period's government, warfare, agriculture, industry, art, science and medicine.
- Travel the Silk Road and learn about goods and ideas exchanged along its route.

UNIT: 4: Ancient Greece

- Explore how geography influenced the way the ancient Greeks lived.
- Explore the four forms of government that developed in the Greek city-states.
- Examine the differences between two rival city-states: Athens and Sparta!
- Discover how Athens and Sparta came together to fight a common enemy: The Persian Empire.
- Tour Athens during its Golden Age.
- Follow Alexander the Great as he creates and rules an empire.
- Learn to recognize the contributions of ancient Greece to the world today.

UNIT: 5: Ancient Rome

- Revisit the founding of Rome and see the influences of the Greek and Etruscan civilizations.
- Learn how the Romans formed a republic.
- Discover how the republic grew into a mighty empire.
- Experience life of Romans: parties, home life, school, food, laws.
- Discover how and why the Roman Empire fell.

Students will be able to meet the learning targets above as evidenced by formative and summative classroom assessments.