

APPENDIX V – 42

Multicultural Social Studies Framework

Multicultural Education recommends organizing sixth Grade Social Studies into thematic units. A thematic framework encourages students to examine the past/present from multiple perspectives, make connections between similar events over time, and identify recurrent ideas and patterns of behavior, both within individual units and between units of study,

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Begin the year with themes that resonate with students' moral and social development - themes such as identity, membership, and belonging - teachers engage students not only in studying themselves but also in studying peoples of the past. Students develop a deeper understanding of particular historical moments when these moments are connected to universal themes that resonate with students' lives. Questions such as "What does it mean to be a member of a community?" and "How does our perspective shape the way we view others?" are as applicable to analyzing the social world of young adolescents as they are to understanding civilizations throughout world history. Therefore, the subsequent themes reinforce the idea of multicausation and multieffects, over time, and encourage students to make connections, to think about context, and to consider historical/contemporary evidence from many types of sources.

THEMES

1. Individual and Cultural Identity
 - Personal identity as a function of an individual's culture, time, geography, interaction with groups, influences from institutions, and lived experiences – *Who am I?*
 - Aspects of culture such as belief systems, religious faith, or political ideals as influences on other parts of a culture such as its institutions or literature, music, and art
 - Cultural diffusion and change over time as facilitating different ideas and beliefs
2. Geography, Humans and The Environment
 - Relationship between human populations and the physical world (people, places, and environments)
 - Impact of human activities on the environment
 - Interactions between regions, locations, places, people, and environment
3. Development and Transformation of Social Structures
 - Role of gender, race, ethnicity, education, class, age, and religion in defining social structures within a culture
 - Social and political inequalities
 - Expansion and access of rights through concepts of justice and human rights

4. Power, Authority, and Governance
 - Purposes, characteristics, and functions of various governance systems as they are practiced
 - Individual rights and responsibilities as protected and challenged within the context of majority rule
 - Fundamental principles and values of constitutional democracy
 - Origins, uses, and abuses of power - *Conflict, diplomacy, and war*
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ADDITIONAL THEMES

5. Civic Ideals and Practices
 - Basic freedoms and rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic republic
 - Role of the citizen in the community and nation and as a member of the global community
 - Respect for diversity
 - Struggle for rights, access to citizenship rights, and universal human rights
6. Creation, Expansion, And Interaction of Economic Systems
 - Economic Systems - Production, distribution, and consumption
 - Scarcity of resources and the challenges of meeting wants and needs
 - Supply/demand and the coordination of individual choices
 - Trade, interdependence, and globalization
 - Role of government in the economy
 - Personal finance
7. Science, Technology, and Innovation
 - Applications of science and innovations in transportation, communication, military technology, navigation, agriculture, and industrialization
 - Relationship between science, technology, and innovation and social, cultural, and economic change
8. Global Connections and Exchange
 - Past, current, and likely future global connections and interactions
 - Cultural diffusion; the spread of ideas, beliefs, role of technology, and goods
 - Benefits/consequences of global interdependence (social, political, economic)
 - **Causes and patterns of migration**
 - Tension between national interests and global priorities