

# Student Guide to the California Standards

The Student Guide to the California Standards offers a simplified, student-friendly rephrasing of the language of the California History–Social Science Standards. This guide is provided in two versions: a two-page version that can be three-hole punched, and a fold-up version (with photos). Use this guide to introduce the standards to students and parents.

## Using the Student Guide to the California Standards

1. *Duplicate and distribute the guide to students.* Have them place the two-page version in their notebook. Copy the fold-up version back to back, on sturdy stock, for students to use as a bookmark in their textbook.
2. *Refer students to the Student Guide to the California Standards when introducing new standards.* After previewing the standards that will be covered in a new chapter, tell students to find the corresponding topic on the student guide. Ask students to rephrase the standard in their own words.
3. *As topics are covered in class, have students mark these on the student guide.* Refer students back to their student guide toward the end of each lesson. Have them check off each topic covered or note a specific page number in their textbook or Interactive Student Notebook where the topic is covered.
4. *Provide parents with either version of the Student Guide to the California Standards.* Attach a copy to the letter you send home so that the family knows what topics will be taught throughout the year.
5. *Encourage students to use this guide for review.* Reading over the standards that have been covered serves as a good review at the end of a chapter or before the midyear and year-end benchmark exams.



# Student Guide to the Grade 6 California Standards

This guide explains the California History–Social Science standards for Grade 6. Think of standards as your learning targets. Listed below each standard are the key events and ideas for you to understand.

As you begin a unit of instruction, look at the standards to see what your learning targets are. Before a test, review this guide as an outline of what you will be expected to know. Keeping the learning targets in mind will help you focus on the most important information.

## 6.1 Early Humans from Hunter-Gatherers to the First Farmers

Describe how early people lived and adapted to their environments.

- Hunter-gatherer way of life
- Locations of early settlements and how people learned to live in different kinds of places
- Changes people made to their surroundings that gave rise to settled farming societies.

## 6.2 Early Civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush

Examine the land and ways of life of these three civilizations.

- River systems where the earliest civilizations began
- New ways to grow crops, and the beginnings of cities
- Importance of religion in early civilizations
- Significance of Hammurabi’s Code, one of the first collections of laws
- Egyptian art and architecture
- Extent and importance of ancient Egyptian trade
- Importance of two Egyptian rulers: Queen Hatshepsut and Ramses the Great
- The African civilization of Kush and its dealings with Egypt
- The growth of languages and writing

## 6.3 Ancient Hebrews

Analyze the geography, government, economy, religion, and social relationships of the ancient Hebrews.

- Beginnings and importance of Judaism, the first religion based on monotheism, or the belief in one God who sets moral laws for humanity
- Basic beliefs of Judaism and their lasting influence on Western civilization
- Influence of ancient Hebrew leaders on Judaism
- Migrations and settlements of the ancient Hebrews, including their departure from Egypt, known as the Exodus
- How Judaism survived as the ancient Hebrew population scattered

## 6.4 Ancient Greece

Analyze the geography, government, economy, religion, and social relationships of ancient Greece.

- Connections between Greek geography and the beginnings of city-states and trade
- Changes in government from harsh rule by one or a few persons to early forms of democracy
- Differences between direct democracy and representative democracy
- Importance of Greek mythology in ancient times and today
- Rise of a powerful neighbor, the Persian Empire
- Athens and Sparta—their different ways of life and their role in Greek wars
- Alexander the Great, his conquests, and the spread of Greek culture
- Lasting influence of ancient Greek writers, artists, and scientists

### **6.5 Ancient India**

Analyze the geography, government, economy, religion, and social relationships of ancient India.

- The lands and rivers of ancient India
- Importance of Aryan migration from the north into India
- Hinduism's beginnings in the belief in Brahma, the religion of ancient India
- The caste system, a way of dividing people into social classes
- The life and teachings of the Buddha and the spread of his ideas
- The Mauryan Empire in ancient India
- Lasting influence of ancient Indian writers, artists, scientists, and mathematicians

### **6.6 Ancient China**

Analyze the geography, government, economy, religion, and social relationships of ancient China.

- The lands and rivers of ancient China
- Geographic features that separated Chinese from each other and China from the rest of the world
- Importance of Confucius and his teachings, called Confucianism, and of Daoism, an ancient philosophy
- Attempts by Confucius to solve political and social problems
- Achievements of the emperor Qin Shihuangdi in unifying parts of China
- Achievements of Han rulers in expanding China's boundaries and developing the civil service system
- Location and importance of the trade routes known as the Silk Roads
- Spread of Buddhism to China

### **6.7 Ancient Rome**

Analyze the geography, government, economy, religion, and social relationships of ancient Rome.

- Beginnings of the Roman Republic
- Important characteristics of the government of the Roman Republic
- Process of change from the Roman Republic to the expanding Roman Empire
- Importance of Julius Caesar and Caesar Augustus
- Migration of the Jews and effects of their conflicts with the Romans
- Beginnings and basic beliefs of Christianity
- Spread of Christianity—how and where
- Lasting influence of Roman works of art and architecture, technology and science, literature, language, and law

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