



## Tewksbury Public Schools Grade 6 Social Studies

Our Grade Six Social Studies curriculum takes the student from the emergence of the human as a viable, social, and interactive being to the rise of civilizations, trade, learning, and language.

During the first term, the students study the importance of archaeology as a science that studies the remains of past human life. During the prehistory component, students will be exposed to those times when human life was learning to survive in a bitter environment, where the average life span was 24 years - if you could survive infancy! The student then follows the settlements of people along the banks of rivers. These rivers provided transportation, food, water, and trade. These settlements led to the great river civilizations in the Middle East particularly in Mesopotamia and leading to the Egyptian Empire.

In the second term, students continue with the interesting study of ancient Egypt and its religion, monumental architecture, and customs. Especially interesting to the students are the study of daily life, the pyramids, and the Egyptian custom of embalming, or mummification. The students next learn about the great trading civilization of Phoenicia and the emergence of the Hebrew nation and monotheism, the influence of Judaism and its cultural contributions to western civilization. Finally, before the first semester ends students survey the great military civilizations of Assyria, Chaldia, and Persia.

As the second semester begins and Term 3 starts, we take the entire term to investigate ancient Greece. We begin with the Minoans and Mycenaean civilizations out of which Hellenic (Greek) civilization grew. Students will then focus on the polis, the Greek city-state, and the political and cultural center of Greek life. Along with the rise Sparta and Athens and their diverse cultures, the Peloponnesian Wars, conflicts with Persia and finally the conquests of Phillip of Macedonia and his son Alexander the Great.

During the fourth and final term, we segue into the Roman Civilization beginning with the settlement of the Italian peninsula and following Roman civilization through its time of leadership under kings, the revolt to topple such government, to the Roman Republic and lastly to the *Pax Romana* , the Golden Age of Rome and its Empire. This leads into the growth of Christianity and how this religion evolved from an outlawed practice to the official religion of the empire.

The last term also includes a time of individual research leading to our annual Social Studies Expo. Each sixth grade student is expected to produce a major research project, the topic of which is either an individual decision or a specific topic decided by your student's Social Studies teacher. This is a time when the student utilizes his/her research skills and follows accepted scholarly principles of research – particularly in regards to citing all outside sources.