



# Essential Standards

## Essential Standards Quick Guide – World Geography & History 6-12

This document outlines the essential standards for World Geography and History Grades 6-12.

Essential standards are explicitly taught, assessed more than once, and targeted for intervention if students have not yet reached proficiency. Assessments can be both formative and summative. Interventions are implemented within the classroom to support students who are not yet proficient.

All Idaho Content Standards are detailed in the Essential Standards Extended Guide.

<b>Essential Standards</b>
6-9.WG.1.1 Describe major aspects of the civilizations in regions throughout the world prior to European contact including government, religion/belief systems, arts/architecture, technology, physical geography, economics, and social order.
6-9.WG.1.4 Investigate the historical origins, central beliefs, and spread of major religions and belief systems, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism and Indigenous knowledge and belief systems.
6-9.WG.2.5 Identify major biomes and explain ways in which the natural environment and climate of places in regions throughout the world are related to affect settlement patterns and everyday life.
6-9.WG.2.7 Identify the names and locations of countries and major cities in regions around the world.
6-9.WG.2.9 Identify patterns of population distribution and growth in regions throughout the world and explain changes in these patterns that have occurred over time.
6-9.WG.2.14 Give examples of how landforms, water, climate, and natural vegetation have influenced historical trends and developments in regions throughout the world.
6-9.WG.3.1 Describe abundance, scarcity, and distribution of resources; explain their impact on decision-making, such as trade, settlement, stewardship of the natural environment, and development of infrastructure.
6-9.WG.3.3 Compare the standard of living of various regions today using quality of life indicators and discuss their impact on everyday life locally, nationally, and globally.
6-9.WG.3.7 Investigate how physical geography, natural resources, specialization, and trade have influenced the way people meet their material needs.
6-9.G.WG.4.1 Identify the major forms of government in regions throughout the world and compare them with the government of the United States.
6-9.WG.5.1 Discuss how social institutions, including the family, religion, and education, influence behavior in different societies in regions throughout the world.
6-9.WG.5.3 Define ethnocentrism and give examples of how it can lead to miscommunication and cultural misunderstandings.

<b>Essential Standards</b>
6-9.WG.5.5 Describe the costs and benefits of global connections including trading, seeking solutions to mutual problems, learning from technological advances, acquiring new perspectives, and benefiting from developments in culture.
6-9.WG.6.2 Explain and use the components of maps, compare different map projections, and explain the appropriate uses for each.
6-9.WG.6.3 Analyze visual and statistical data presented in charts, tables, graphs, maps, and other graphic organizers to assist in interpreting a historical event.
6-9.WH.1.1 Analyze types of evidence used by anthropologists, archaeologists, and other scholars to reconstruct early human and cultural development.
6-9.WH.1.4 Analyze the characteristics of early civilizations throughout the world, including government, religion/belief systems, arts/architecture, technology, physical geography, economics, and social order.
6-9.WH.1.7 Identify examples of how writing, art, architecture, mathematics, and science have evolved over time, such as in Ancient, Middle Age, Early-Modern, or Modern societies and civilizations throughout the world.
6-9.WH.1.8 Analyze different social classes and their impact on societies and civilizations throughout the world, including Ancient, Middle Age, Early-Modern, and Modern.
6-9.WH.1.9 Explain the relationship between religion and belief systems and people's understanding of the natural world.
6-9.WH.2.2 Identify the main reasons for major migrations of people.
6-9.WH.2.5 Explain how transportation routes stimulate the growth of cities and the exchange of goods, knowledge, and technology.
6-9.WH.2.10 Describe why the conservation of resources is necessary to maintain a healthy environment.
6-9.WH.3.3 Analyze the role of money and alternative means of exchange.
6-9.WH.4.2 Analyze the various political systems that shaped civilizations throughout the world, including the City-State, Monarchy, Republic, Nation-State, or Democracy.
6-9.WH.5.1 Explain the political, economic, religious, or cultural causes of conflicts in various civilizations and their consequences.
6-9.WH.5.4 Analyze the causes, events, and consequences of the Holocaust while exploring the impacts of discrimination and prejudice.
6-9.WH.6.1 Synthesize evidence from information sources including, but not limited to artifacts, primary and secondary sources, charts, graphs, and/ or images to interpret historical events.

---

**For Questions Contact**

Content and Curriculum

Leslie Younger

lyounger@sde.idaho.gov  
Idaho Department of Education  
650 W State Street, Boise, ID 83702  
208 332 6800 | [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov)