

# FACTS YOU MUST KNOW IN SIXTH GRADE WORLD STUDIES

## Geography

1. Geography is the study of the earth and everything on it (physical and human features).
2. The study of geography is broken down into the Five Themes of Geography.
3. *Location* tells where a place is on the earth.
4. *Place* describes a place in terms of physical and human features.
5. *Human/Environment Interaction* tells how humans and the environment affect each other.
6. *Movement* tells how people and places are connected through transportation and communication.
7. *Region* describes areas with characteristics in common with each other.
8. Latitude lines go around the earth from side to side and are measured in degrees north or south of the equator.
9. Longitude lines go from pole to pole and are measured in degrees east or west of the prime meridian.
10. A latitude and longitude coordinate is used to tell exactly where a place is on the earth.
11. Climate zones, seasons, and average daily temperatures are related to latitude.
12. The Tropic of Cancer is the northernmost limit of direct rays from the sun during our summer.
13. The Tropic of Capricorn is the southernmost limit of direct rays from the sun during our winter.
14. The seasons in the southern hemisphere are the opposite of seasons in the northern hemisphere.
15. A place's culture, crops, housing, transportation, and industry are all influenced by the place's latitude.
16. Time zones are related to longitude.

## History

17. Geography has shaped the course of events in world history.
18. Archaeologists are scientists who unearth the remains of the past.
19. Historians use archaeologists' findings to study and write about the people and events of the past.
20. In the Western calendar, "B.C." stands for the years "before Christ."
21. In the Western calendar, "A.D." stands for "anno domini," which is a Latin phrase meaning "in the year of the Lord."
22. To date events before the birth of Christ, historians count backwards from A.D. 1 (there is no year "0").
23. To date events after the birth of Christ, historians count forwards from A.D. 1.

## The First Civilizations

24. Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) people adapted to their environment and invented many tools help them survive.
25. Neolithic (New Stone Age) people started farming, building communities, producing goods and trading.
26. Mesopotamia is located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and is known as the Cradle of Civilization.
27. The people of Sumer invented the wheel, plow, sail, school, writing and our system of measuring time based on the number 60.
28. Sumerian city-states gave way to empires, including the Babylonian Empire under Hammurabi.
29. Hammurabi's Code contains many ideas found in the Bible and in our laws today.

## Ancient Egypt

30. Egyptian civilization arose in the fertile Nile River valley, where natural barriers protected them from invasion.
31. Around 3100 B.C., Lower and Upper Egypt united into one kingdom.
32. Egyptians believed in many gods and goddesses, and built pyramids as tombs for their pharaohs.
33. Egypt enjoyed a golden age of peace and culture during the time known as the Middle Kingdom.
34. In the New Kingdom, Egypt reached its height of power, with pharaohs building a huge empire and great monuments.
35. The Nubians settled to the south of Egypt and built a civilization based on farming and trade.
36. Kush emerged as a leading power after its people learned iron-making skills.

## **Ancient Israelites**

37. Ancient Israelites are also called Hebrews or Jews.
38. The Israelites were the first people known to practice monotheism, which is belief in one god.
39. The Bible is the recorded history of the Israelites.
40. The Hebrews believed the covenant between God and man made them God's chosen people.
41. Moses led the Israelites out of slavery from Egypt.
42. The Ten Commandments contain ideas for moral behavior and laws that are still in our culture today.
43. The Israelites were conquered and forced to leave their country at least three times in their history.

## **Ancient Greece**

44. The mountains of Greece influenced the development of early Greek civilization.
45. Colonies and trade spread Greek culture, which included the idea of citizenship.
46. Sparta was a city-state whose people focused more on military strength than the arts and education.
47. Athens was a city-state whose people invented democracy and had a great influence on our culture today.
48. Sparta and Athens joined forces to defeat the Persians, who had taken over many Greek colonies.
49. The Peloponnesian Wars were fought between Athens and Sparta for control of Greece.
50. The Olympics began in ancient Greece and influenced the way we honor athletes.
51. Socrates urged people to believe only what can be proven by reason. He was executed for corrupting the youth of Athens.
52. Plato was Socrates' student; he studied government and did not approve of democracy.
53. Aristotle was Plato's student; he said reality must be proven with physical evidence.
54. Philip II of Macedonia was able to conquer the Greeks because they were divided instead of united.
55. Alexander the Great conquered the Persians and spread Greek culture throughout his empire.
56. Hellenistic scientists made major discoveries in mathematics and science.

## **Ancient Rome**

57. Rome's location on the Apennine (or Italian) Peninsula aided its rise to power.
58. Rome was a republic ruled by a Senate and two Consuls before Julius Caesar.
59. Roman society consisted of patricians (aristocrats), plebeians (common people) and slaves.
60. Rome defeated the Carthaginians and took control of the Mediterranean region.
61. The military hero Julius Caesar seized power and began the downfall of the Roman republic.
62. Augustus became the first emperor of Rome; his reforms brought about an era of peace and prosperity called the Pax Romana.
63. Roman artists and writers borrowed many ideas from the Greeks, while Roman engineers invented new structures, including arches, domes, aqueducts, and paved roads.
64. Pompeii and Herculaneum were buried in volcanic ash, which preserved them and gave us important information about Roman life.
65. Poor leadership, a declining economy, and attacks by Germanic tribes weakened the Roman Empire.
66. The Eastern Roman, or Byzantine, Empire was based on Roman, Greek, and Christian ideas. It grew rich and powerful as the Western Roman Empire fell apart.
67. Rome passed on many achievements in government, law, language, engineering, and the arts.
68. The Justinian Code was a code of law that emphasized that all people are equal under the law, and that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

## **Early India**

69. Monsoons and the rivers of the India subcontinent influenced the rise of India's first civilizations.
70. The Aryans conquered India and introduced new ideas, including the caste system.
71. Hinduism grew out ancient beliefs of the Aryans.
72. A new religion, Buddhism, appealed to many people in India and other parts of Asia.
73. The Mauryan and Gupta empires made important contributions in literature, mathematics, and science.

## Early China

74. Rivers, mountains, and deserts helped shape China's civilization.
75. Rulers known as the Sang became powerful because they controlled land and had strong armies.
76. Chinese society had three main social classes: landowning aristocrats, farmers, and merchants.
77. Chinese philosophies, especially those of Confucius, grew out of a need for order in China.
78. New inventions improved life for all Chinese during the Han dynasty.
79. The Silk Road carried Chinese goods as far as Greece and Rome.

## The Rise of Christianity

80. Jesus is the founder of Christianity.
81. While Judea was under Roman rule, Jesus preached God's love and forgiveness.
82. Christianity, based on Jesus' teachings, became a separate religion from Judaism but shares many of the same beliefs.
83. The Romans persecuted Christians until the emperor Constantine accepted Christianity
84. Christianity was spread throughout the Roman Empire because Roman roads and the Pax Romana made travel safe and easy.

## The Rise of Islam

85. The deserts, coastline, and oases of Arabia helped shape the Arab way of life.
86. Muhammad is the founder of Islam, but is not worshipped as a savior.
87. Muslims share many of the same beliefs of the Jews and Christians, including belief in Allah (God).
88. Arabs spread Islam through conquest, preaching, and trade.
89. Islam split into two divisions in the A.D. 600s, and the tensions between the Sunnis and Shiites still exists today.
90. Muslims invented chemistry and algebra, and made major contributions in astronomy, medicine, geography, history, and the arts.

## The Renaissance, Reformation, and Enlightenment

91. Italian city-states began a rebirth of learning and art in Europe, known as the Renaissance.
92. Humanists studied the ancient Greeks and Romans.
93. Martin Luther protested practices of the pope and the Catholic Church and started Protestantism.
94. Catholics and Protestants fought each other for political power.
95. European explorers sailed to Asia, Africa, and the Americas.
96. European culture was spread to the Americas beginning with Christopher Columbus.
97. The Enlightenment got its name from the idea that people were being enlightened by knowledge, science, and reason.
98. Enlightenment ideas were spread quickly throughout Europe and the world because of Gutenberg's printing press.
99. Enlightenment ideas include equality, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and the press, basic rights of all people, and three branches of government.
100. Enlightenment ideas influenced the beginnings of the United States and our government.

You will have a geography quiz whenever "A" day is on a Monday and "B" day is on a Tuesday. The quiz will be just like an FYMK quiz, except that it is over geography definitions and illustrations/photos instead of FYMK. No grade will be taken on the quizzes during the months of August and September; however, each geography quiz from October through May will be for a grade. Save and study your Geography Definitions sheet. You will also be required to identify types of landforms and water features in illustrations and/or photographs.

Parents, please make sure your student keeps this FYMK paper for the **whole year**. Your child's semester and year-end final tests are over these facts. He/she has all the answers to those two tests right here. I have also sent a letter with your child explaining the FYMK program. It is extremely important that you read that letter completely. If your child doesn't show you the letter, please ask him/her for it.

Please sign below to indicate that you've read and understand both this note and the full-page letter about the FYMK program.

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Parent signature

Student signature