6th Grade Social Studies Vocabulary

1. **Mnemonic**- a memory device (way of remembering)
2. **Geography**-the study of the Earth
3. **Culture**-beliefs, customs, practices & behaviors of a particular nation or group of people
4. **Oral History-** a cultures background passed down in spoken stories and songs
5. **Tradition**- The passing down of elements of a culture from generation to generation
6. **Anthropology**-the study of cultures
7. **Cartography**-map making
8. **Degree**- a unit that measures angles
9. **Cardinal directions**- north, south, east or west
10. **Intermediate directions**-northeast, northwest, southeast, or southwest
11. **Hemisphere**- a half of the Earth
12. **Climate**-average weather of a place over many years
13. **Weather**- condition of air or space at a certain time
14. **Precipitation**-water falling from sky in form of rain, snow or hail
15. **Latitude**-east-west circles around the Earth that measure the distance north and south of the Equator
16. **Parallels**-another name for lines of Latitude
17. **Equator**- 0 degrees latitude
18. **Tropic of Cancer**-line of latitude 23 ½ N of the equator
19. **Tropic of Capricorn** line of latitude 23 ½ S of equator
20. **Tropics**- hot region between Tropics of Cancer & Capricorn
21. **Longitude-** north south circles around the Earth that measure the distance east or west of the Prime Meridian
22. **Prime Meridian**- line of longitude that passes through Greenwich England & is considered 0 degrees longitude
23. **Meridians**- another name for lines of longitude
24. **Absolute Location**- describes a place’s exact position on Earth
25. **Relative Location**- describes where a place is by describing places near it.
26. **Place**-includes the locations physical and human features (its essence)
27. **Region**-a group of places near each other that share physical or human features
28. **Human-environment interaction**- how people react to or effect their environment
29. **Movement**- the movement of people, ideas, or goods from one place to another
30. **Scale**- ratio of an area on a map to an area on Earth
31. **Projection**- ways of representing the round earth on flat pieces of paper called maps
32. **Key/legend**- tells what symbols on a map mean
33. **Compass Rose**- model of a compass that shows directions on a map
34. **Physical map**-show natural features such as landforms
35. **Political Map**- show political units such as countries and states and their boundaries
36. **Elevation**-height above sea level
37. **Acid Rain**- acidic precipitation caused by the burning of fossil fuels like coal
38. **Primary Source**-information that comes directly from a person who experienced the event
39. **Secondary Source**-information about an event that does not come directly from person who experienced the event
40. **Bias**-unfair preference or dislike of something.
41. **AD**-Anno Dominus Latin which means year of our lord so it is the first year Jesus was born & the start of the Christian calendar
42. **BC-**before Christ which is before the Christian calendar begins
43. **Natural Resources**-a resource that earth or people can replace
44. **Non-renewable Resource-** a resource that earth or people cannot replace
45. **Pollution**- waste that makes soil or water less clean
46. **Economics**-study of how people meet their wants and needs
47. **Supply**- the amount of a good or service that is a available for use
48. **Demand**-the desire for a certain good or service
49. **Scarcity**-having a limited quantity of resources to meet an unlimited wants
50. **Surplus**- when there is more supply of a good than demand
51. **Producer**-people /businesses that make & sell products
52. **Opportunity cost**- cost of what you have to give up
53. **Consumer**- people/businesses that buy/use products
54. **Incentive**-factor that encourages people to act in a certain way
55. **Profit**- money a company has left after subtracting cost of doing business
56. **Revenue**-money earned by selling goods & services
57. **Specialization**-the act of concentrating on a limited number of goods and services
58. **Competition**- the struggle among producers for consumer’s money
59. **Inflation**-general increase in prices
60. **Recession**-decline in economic growth for 6 months in a row
61. **Traditional Economy**- economy where people make economic decisions based on tradition or habit
62. **Market Economy**-economy where individual consumers and producers make economic decisions
63. **Command Economy**- economy where government makes all economic decisions
64. **Mixed Economy**-economy that combines elements of traditional, market and command economies
65. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**-total value of all goods and services produced in a country in a year
66. **Developed Country**-country with strong economy and high standard of living
67. **Developing Country**-less developed economies and lower standards of living
68. **Trade**-exchange of goods & services in a market
69. **Import**-goods & services bought from other countries
70. **Export**- goods sold to another country
71. **Trade Barrier-government policy that restricts trade**
72. **Tariff**—tax on imports or exports
73. **Quota-** limits on the number of imports
74. **Embargo-**prohibition of trade with a certain country
75. **Free Trade**- removal of trade barriers and tariffs
76. **Birth rate**-number of births per 1000 people per year
77. **Death Rate**- number of deaths per 1000 people per year
78. **Infant Mortality Rate**- number of infant deaths per 1000 per year
79. **Literacy rate-**the percentage of people in a country that can read and write
80. **Population Density**-number of people in a sq mi of land
81. **Urban**- cities
82. **Rural**- country areas
83. **Suburban**-area around the city
84. **Democracy**-state where citizens hold political power
85. **Parliamentary Democracy**-executive is chosen by the legislative branch
86. **Presidential Democracy**-executive has powers independent of legislature and is elected by the people
87. **Monarchy**-state ruled by king/queen who inherits power
88. **Dictatorship**
89. **Autocracy**-state where one person holds all power
90. **Communism**-system where the government owns all property
91. **Unitary System**- central government makes all laws for the entire country
92. **Federal System**-power is divided between federal, regional & local governments
93. **Confederal System**-group of independent states join together and give limited powers to a common govt.
94. **Sovereignty**- says that every state has supreme authority over its territory
95. **Crusades**-series of wars Christians fought to take their Holy Land against Muslims
96. **Renaissance**- “rebirth” a time of renewed interest in learning and art
97. **Age of Exploration**- time period when entire world became connected and led to European dominance
98. **Caravel**-small triangular-sailed oceangoing ships
99. **Industrial Revolution**-shift from hand tools driven by animal or human power to machinery powered by fuels
100. **Imperialism**-empires seizing territory either physically or by defacto means
101. **Militarism**-the buildup of military and adopting warlike attitudes
102. **Nationalism**-devotion to one’s nation
103. **Cold War**-period of hostility between US led west and Soviet Union led Eastern Europe where each side struggled to win without blowing up the planet
104. **Marshall Plan**-US recovery plan to help Europe recover from WWII
105. **Berlin Wall**- wall built to keep East Germans from escaping to West Germany
106. **European Union**-an economic and political confederation created in 1990s
107. **Reformation**-religious movement in which calls for reform led to a non-Catholic or Protestant Churches
108. **Cultural Diffusion**-spreading culture
109. **Secular**-not religious
110. **Steppes**-vast grasslands
111. **Permafrost**-permanently frozen soil
112. **Tsar (czar)**-emperor a term derived from Caesar
113. **Serf**-peasant who is legally bound to live and work on land owned by his or her lord
114. **Soviet**-what the communists called workers
115. **Collectivization**-movement from individual property to group property
116. **KGB**-Soviet Union’s secret police
117. **Censor**- to keep information from being shown to public
118. **Superpower**- extremely powerful nation
119. **Northwest Passage**-a route that European Explorers were hoping to find to get them thru the Americas to Asia
120. **First Nations**-Native groups who lived south of arctic
121. **New France**-what French explorers called Canada
122. **Province**-territory that is under control of a country
123. **Dominion**-territory that governs itself but is tied to another country
124. **Peninsular**-people who came to Mexico from Spain
125. **Criollo**-people of Spanish descent born in Mexico
126. **Mestizo**-people of mixed Spanish and native background
127. **Mulatto-** people of mixed European and African background
128. **Nahuatl**-language of the Aztecs
129. **Conquistador-**Spanish conqueror
130. **Deforestation**-removal of trees that leads to soil erosion
131. **Encomienda**-legal system to control Native Americans in Spanish colonies much like feudalism
132. **Terraced farming**-sculpting the hillside into different levels for crops
133. **Caudillo**-dictator
134. **Paramilitaries**-armed forces unauthorized by the government
135. **Austerity measures**-policies meant to save money
136. **Nationalized**-government taking over an industry
137. **Insurgent**-rebel
138. **Guerrilla** -soldiers who make surprise raids on their enemies
139. **Land distribution**- how land is divided among people
140. **Outback**-a sparsely inhabited region with low plateaus and plains
141. **Coral reef**-formation of rock-like material made up of skeletons of tiny sea creatures
142. **Aborigines**-original inhabitants of Australia
143. **Indigenous**-people native to a region

Aqueduct- canal built to carry water from a distant source to a city

Fjords- long, narrow, deep inlet of the sea created by a glacier

Volga- Longest river in Europe that flows through Russia

Empire- vast collection of lands ruled by a single government

Peninsula- piece of land nearly surrounded by water

Plain- mostly flat land

Fief- piece of land given to a vassal by a lord

Democracy- system of government where people govern themselves

Climate- average precipitation and temperature over a period of time

Weather- day to day changes in temperature and precipitation

Gulf Stream- warm winds from Florida that moderates the climate of Western Europe

Absolutism

Triangular Trade

Northwest Passage

Plantation

Caravel

Tsar (czar)

Kremlin

Serf

Bolsheviks

Soviet

Collectivization

acid rain, agriculture, Alps Mountains, Belgium, Chernobyl, Ukraine; climate, Danube River, emigrate, English

Channel, ethnic groups, Eurasia, European Plain, France, Germany, glaciers, gulf stream, Iberian Peninsula, Italy,

Mediterranean Sea, natural resources, Poland, peninsula, Pyrenees Mountains, Russia, ,Rhine River, Spain,

tundra, nonrenewable energy, pollution, renewable resources, Scandinavian Peninsula, Siberia, Ural Mountains