**6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES WORK TO BE DONE AT HOME**

**INSTRUCTIONS**: Complete each reading and annotation, then answer the questions from that reading section by **restating the question** and writing the **answer in a complete sentence**.

**Read and annotate geography teacher notes- page 3**

1. Describe the climate of Mexico.

The climate of **Coastal Mexico is hot and humid**, and the climate of **the interior is mostly dry and temperate**.

1. Where is arable land found in Mexico?

The arable land is found in the **interior** of Mexico.

1. Why have millions of Mexicans moved to Mexico City?

Millions of Mexicans have moved to Mexico City **to find employment in the industrial sector**.

1. Describe Brazil’s climate.

Brazil’s climate is **mostly tropical in the north** of the country, and there are **temperate zones south of the Tropic of Capricorn**.

1. What are three of Brazil’s agricultural commodities?

Brazil’s agricultural commodities include **oranges, papayas, sugarcane, soybeans and timber**.

1. Describe the climate of Cuba.

The climate of Cuba is **subtropical**.

1. What are three of Cuba’s natural resources?

Cuba’s natural resources include **coffee, sugar, tobacco and fish**.

**Read and annotate history teacher notes “African Slavery” section- page 8**

1. Why did Europeans have a need for a cheap and steadily available labor force?

Europeans had a need for a cheap and available labor force **to help them establish and maintain colonial industries and infrastructures**.

1. What two crop exports were crucial?

Two crucial crop exports were **sugarcane and coffee**.

1. Which population did the Spanish and Portuguese landowners first used as a labor force?

The Spanish and Portuguese landowners first used the conquered **indigenous people of Latin America** as their labor force.

1. What was the effect of European arrival in the New World for the indigenous populations?

The Europeans brought with them **diseases such as smallpox which killed off the indigenous people causing the population to rapidly decline**.

1. From where did the Spanish and Portuguese import their slave labor force?

The Spanish and Portuguese began importing slaves from West Africa.

1. Describe the conditions on the slave ships (include the mortality rate).

The conditions on the ships were horrible, and typically 25% of the slaves died on their journey.

1. Where did the Africans work in Latin America (name two locations)?

The Africans worked on **plantations and haciendas** throughout Latin America.

1. When was slavery abolished in Latin America?

Slavery lasted in Latin America through **the 1880’s**.

1. What gave a rise to a new cultural identity in Latin America, prevailing today?

The **intermarriages** among the Spanish and Portuguese people with the indigenous people of Latin America and black Africans gave rise to a new cultural identity in Latin America prevailing today.

**Read and annotate history teacher notes “Impact of Spanish” section- pages 8-9**

1. The **Colombian** Exchange, which began with Christopher **Columbus** in 1492, was not merely a question of agricultural **commodities** exchange between Europe and the Americas. This 15th century example of **globalization** was also cultural in scope.
2. Spanish and Portuguese are Romance languages. What does “Romance” mean?

Romance languages are languages derived **from the Latin language** that was once used throughout the Roman Empire.

1. Where is the influence of Spanish most pronounced?

Spanish influence is most pronounced in **Mexico, Central America (except in Belize), northern and western South America, and the western Caribbean**.

1. What is the official language of Brazil?

**Portuguese** is the official language of Brazil.

1. What religion was spread by the Spanish and Portuguese?

**Christianity** is the religion that was spread by the Spanish and Portuguese.

**Read and annotate history teacher notes “Cuban Revolution” section- pages 9-10**

1. US investment in Cuba was booming due to which industry?

US investment in Cuba was booming due to the **sugar** industry.

1. Who seized power on 1 January 1959?

**Fidel Castro** seized power on January 1, 1959.

1. What type of government was established in 1959?

Castro established a **communist** government.

1. What became property of the state/government (name two)?

**All American-owned property** as well as **Cuban-owned private businesses, factories, and farmland** became property of the state/government.

1. Basic personal freedoms of expressions were **suspended**; media outlets were **shut down**; even churches were **closed** and their property **seized**.
2. In response to Castro’s repressive takeover, what did the United State place on Cuba?

The United States placed an **embargo** on Cuba in response which blocked Cuba from exporting sugar to America markets.

1. What was the Soviet Union’s response to the US’s embargo?

The Soviet Union responded to this by **agreeing to buy the sugar as well as by providing** the Castro regime with **weapons and military training**.

1. What were two improvements that the Castro regime provided?

The Castro Regime provided improvements to **education and healthcare**.

1. Why did the US feel uneasy about Cuba’s communist government?

The US felt uneasy about Cuba’s communist government because **Cuba is very close to American soil**.

1. Summarize the “watershed moment of the Cold War” that was discovered by US intelligence in 1962.

The United States discovered that **the Soviet Union had built a missile launching complex on the island of Cuba**. They also had intermediate and medium-range missiles there.

1. How was Kennedy able to diffuse the Cuban Missile Crisis?

Kennedy was able to diffuse the Cuban Missile Crisis **through diplomatic means**.

1. Name two ways in which diplomatic relations have been normalized between the US and Cuba?

**Each nation reopened its embassy in the other’s capital**, and **the US eased trade restrictions on Cuba**.

1. Who was the first US president to visit Cuba in 88 years?

**Barack Obama** was the 1st US president to visit Cuba in 88 years.

**Read and annotate history teacher notes “Current Events” section- page 10**

1. Rampant **poverty** is a major concern throughout Latin America as a whole.
2. What is Brazil’s level of rural poverty?

The level of rural poverty in Brazil is **50%**.

1. What are two reasons that one in five Latin Americans live in chronic poverty?

One in five Latin Americans live in chronic poverty because there is a **lack of high-quality, high-skill employment opportunities and there is insufficient investment in and access to education**.

1. How many Latin Americans are functionally illiterate (unable to read and write)?

**Over half** of 15-year-olds in Latin America are functionally illiterate.

1. What term describes many of the Latin American countries?

**“Developing Nation” or “Third World Countries”** are terms that describes many of the Latin American countries.

1. US backed efforts to **inhibit** drug trafficking have only been marginally **successful**.
2. Why has the effort only been marginally successful?

The US efforts have only been marginally successful because of **government corruption and collusion with various drug cartels of the region**.

1. What is one effect of narco-terrorism in Latin America?

**Civilian casualties** is one effect of narco-terrorism in Latin America.

1. Why have many Latinos emigrated to the United States (name two reasons)?

Many Latinos emigrated to the United States because of **the war on drugs and the general lack of economic opportunities** in the region.

1. What do they hope to gain by moving to the US (name two)?

They hope to find **safer living conditions and a more stable work environment**.

1. How has the migration affected the United States?

The United States has experienced an unprecedented **surge of unaccompanied Central American minors entering our country**.

1. What is largest minority group in the United States today? **Latinos** make up the largest minority group in the United States.

**Read and annotate the government teacher notes- page 24**

1. World governments, and the roles citizens are permitted to play therein, can be classified as either **autocratic** systems or **democratic** systems.
2. Where does the authority rest in an autocracy?

In an autocracy all authority rests with a **single leader**.

1. In an autocracy, citizens are ALLOWED or NOT ALLOWED to have a say in the decisions of the government.

In an autocracy, citizens are **NOT ALLOWED** to have a say in the decisions of the government.

1. Where does the political power vest in a democracy?

Democracies vest political power with the **citizens**.

1. How is political power exercised in a democracy?

Political power in a democracy is exercised through **voting**.

1. Name two examples of democracies in Latin America.

**Mexico and Brazil** are two examples of democracies in Latin America.

1. What are two types of elections held in both nations?

Both nations hold elections at the **local and national** levels.

1. Infer: why is it beneficial for citizens to have multiple political parties to choose from?

It is beneficial for citizens to have multiple political parties to choose from **to ensure their interests are represented and equitable laws are passed**.

1. What is the job of the executive leader (i.e., president)?

The job of the executive leader is to **enforce the laws** and lead their nation.

1. What is the voting age in Mexico?

Citizens must be **18** years of age to vote in Mexico.

1. What is the voting age in Brazil?

Voting is permitted at age **16, but all Brazilians aged 18-70 are required to vote**.

1. What type of government does Cuba have?

Cuba’s government is an **autocracy**.

1. Why is the Cuban vote essentially meaningless?

The Cuban vote is meaningless because **all legislative representatives must be members of the Cuban Communist Party**.

1. How is the nation’s president “elected”?

The president is **appointed by the nation’s communist party**.

1. Who is the current leader of Cuba (hint: check the update)?

The current leader of Cuba is **Miguel Diaz-Canel**.

1. Describe the difference between a parliamentary and presidential democracy.

In a **presidential democracy the citizens elect both the nation’s legislators and the chief executive (president)**. In a **parliamentary democracy the citizens elect members of the legislature (parliament). The parliament elects the nation’s chief executive (prime minister).**

1. Who is the leader in a presidential democracy?

In a presidential democracy the leader is the **president**.

1. Who is the leader in a parliamentary democracy?

In a parliamentary democracy the leader is the **prime minister**.

**Read and annotate the economics teacher notes- pages 25-28**

1. What are the three basic economic questions?

**What should the nation produce/provide?**

**How should the nation produce/provide this product/service?**

**For whom should the nation produce/provide this product/service?**

1. Describe characteristics of a traditional economy.

In a traditional economy **the 3 economic questions are based on customs and habits**. **Jobs are passed down from generation to generation**. **Bartering for goods and services is typical**.

1. In which economic system would you most likely find bartering?

You would most likely find bartering in a **traditional** economy.

1. Who makes all the economic decisions in a command economy?

**The government** makes all economic decisions in a command economy.

1. Who makes all the economic decisions in a market economy?

**The people/citizens** make the economic decisions in a market economy.

1. All modern world economies can be described as **mixed economies**.
2. Draw the economic continuum and label where Cuba, Mexico, and Brazil are located.



1. What is the lifeblood of the energy sector in Mexico?

The lifeblood of the energy sector in Mexico is **the nation’s oil and gas reserves**.

1. What does Mexico specialize in?

Mexico specializes in **petroleum**.

1. What does Cuba specialize in?

Cuba specializes in **sugar refining**.

1. Explain why a country would put a tariff in place.

A tariff is used **to artificially inflate the price of a cheaper foreign product which makes the price of a domestic product more competitive**.

1. Explain why a country would put a quota in place.

A quota is used **so that cheaper imports do not flood domestic markets which could put domestic producers out of business**.

1. Explain why a country would put an embargo in place.

An embargo is placed on a country **as a punishment or for safety reasons**.

1. How is a boycott different from an embargo?

**A boycott is when citizens of a country decide not to buy a product**. No official embargo is in place. **An embargo is when a country’s government decides to block all trade with another country**.

1. What is the name of the Mexican currency?

Mexican currency is called the **peso**.

1. What is the name of the Brazilian currency?

Brazil’s currency is the **real**.

1. Finish the sentence: The goal of [NAFTA] was to increase …

The goal of [NAFTA] was to increase **multinational trade and economic cooperation across North America as well as to raise the standard of living**.

1. Give two positive outcomes of NAFTA.

Any of the following would be correct:

* The elimination of import tariffs
* A reduction in the overall price of consumer goods
* An increase in oil exports from Mexico to the US which decreases American’s dependence on Mideast oil imports
* An increase in foreign investment among the 3 nations (US, Mexico, Canada)
1. Give two unforeseen (negative) consequences of NAFTA.

Any of the following would be correct:

* The outsourcing of many manufacturing jobs from the US to Mexico
* The loss of many farm-related jobs in Mexico due to cheaper agricultural products coming into the country from the US
* Damage done to the Mexican environment by Canadian mining companies looking to extract oil.
1. Which country (Cuba, Mexico, or Brazil) has the lowest literacy rate AND what is it?

**Brazil** has the lowest literacy rate at **92.6%**

1. What is gross domestic product (GDP)?

GDP is the **estimated total value of final goods and services produced in a nation in a year’s time**.

1. What about a nation does the GDP represent?

GDP represents **a nation’s wealth**.

1. What is human capital?

Human capital is the **relative health, education, and training of a nation’s labor force**.

1. Countries who invest in human capital tend to see a **rise** in GDP per capita incomes.
2. What does GDP per capita measure?

GDP per capita measures **the average income of citizens in a given country**.

1. Give three examples of capital goods.

Three examples of capital goods are **machinery, technology, and factories**.

1. What types of capital goods have Mexico and Brazil invested in?

The capital goods that Mexico and Brazil have invested in are **petroleum extraction and refining technologies**.

1. Give an example of natural resources in Brazil.

The **lumber extracted from the Amazon Rainforest** is an example of a natural resource in Brazil.

1. Give examples of natural resources in Cuba.

Cuba’s natural resources include **minerals such as cobalt, nickel, iron ore, and copper**.

1. Give examples of natural resources in Mexico.

Natural resources in Mexico include **petroleum and mineral deposits**.

1. Who are entrepreneurs and what do they do?

Entrepreneurs are **private citizens who invest their own capital resources towards creating a new business or industry**.