



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview



CROSSROADS
Sixth Grade Integrated
Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

General Information

Length: full year
Grade: 6

Format: integrated program;
meets every day for four class periods

Course Description

Crossroads is a year-long alternative to the traditional sixth grade curriculum. The program combines the study of language arts, social studies, and science to explore issues related to communities and cultures.

Students study the cultures of their families, community, nation, and world. They investigate how those groups have an impact on them and how they have an impact on those groups. Students work both individually and cooperatively as they acquire academic skills and information through the study of culture. There are fewer tests and quizzes and a greater emphasis on individual and cooperative projects that allow students to demonstrate what they learn.

Course Objectives:

Essential Questions

- What is culture, and how does it develop and change over time?
- What is the inter-relationship between individuals and the cultures in which they exist?
- What creates conflict within and between cultures, and how can those conflicts be resolved?
- How did the earth's physical geography come to exist, and how does that geography impact culture?
- What is the connection between physical geography and climate, and how does climate impact culture?
- How did inequality of wealth and development come to exist in the world?
- How does technology and science impact our understanding of the world and the universe, and how does this understanding shape culture?
- How can literature be a lens into culture?
- How do foundational non-fiction documents reflect and affect the culture in which they were written?
- How do conventions of writing allow us to communicate effectively, and how does this means of communication vary from culture to culture?

Common Assessments:

Students in Crossroads take the same common assessments as those in sixth grade language arts, science, and social studies.

Common Assessments: English/L.A.

1. Literary analysis of use of figurative language (WLB – Text Dependent Analysis)
2. Annotate a non-fiction article about....and write a well-developed paragraph explaining the author's purpose
3. Read a story and explain why it is a folktale (Explanatory)
4. Research Project in conjunction with Social Studies

Common Assessments: Social Studies

1. Geographer's Toolkit (October)
2. Persuasive Essay - Physical geography impact on culture (2nd marking period)
3. Persuasive Essay – Written Language Benchmark Assessment (3rd marking period)
4. Research Project in conjunction with language arts (4th marking period)

Common Assessments: Science

NMSI Assessments (four of the following, TBD)

1. Minerals and Rocks
2. Geologic Time and Plate Tectonics
3. Weather
4. Climate and Seasons
5. Atmosphere
6. Space Science I: Earth, Moon, Solar System

Major Units of Study:

Crossroads students explore culture through four primary realms:

- Culture of Family
- Culture of Community
- Culture of Nation/The United States of America
- Cultures of the World

This final realm, cultures of the world, covers over half of our school year, and is broken up into multiple sub-units, including:

- Cultures of South and Central America
- Cultures of Europe and Russia
- Cultures of Africa
- Cultures of Asia

Materials & Texts

Crossroads uses the same essential texts used in the traditional sixth grade language arts, science, and social studies courses.

English/Language Arts Required Texts and Resources:

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

The Mousetrap, a play by Agatha Christie
Grammar Workshop, Sadlier 2013
Wordly Wise 3000 Book 6, Educators Publishing Service, or
Wordly Wise 3000 Book 7, Educators Publishing Service

Social Studies Required Texts and Resources:

National Geographic World Cultures and Geography Copyright 2013: National Geographic Learning, Cengage Learning

Science Required Texts and Resources:

Earth Materials and Processes, Glencoe, 2002
The Air Around You, Glencoe, 2002
Astronomy, Glencoe, 2002
CK-12: Online Flexbook, 2013
National Math and Science Initiative, 2012

Other teacher created or selected texts and resources will be used in order to differentiate instruction and meet the needs of all students.

Summer Assignment

Radnor Middle School posts school wide summer reading assignments in the spring of each year.

There are no summer assignments specific to this course.

