

SAU 9 Sixth Grade Competencies Explained

Competency refers to a student's ability to transfer and apply knowledge and skills in and across content areas. They represent the big ideas and are assessed at multiple times over the course of a school year. Below is an overview of the different competencies (in bold), as well as some of the related standards.

LITERACY

Reading Literary & Informational Texts – Students will comprehend and draw conclusions about the author's intent in a variety of increasingly complex literary and informational texts, citing textual evidence to support their analyses.

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of text as well as inferences
- Determine a text's theme or central idea; summarize without opinion
- Analyze development of plot, theme, characters, setting, and ideas
- Determine the meaning of words/phrases, including figurative language
- Analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone
- Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of ideas
- Explain author's purpose and how an author develops point of view
- Compare and contrast the experience of reading to listening or viewing
- Compare / contrast multiple genres about the same topic or theme
- Trace and evaluate arguments and claims in a text
- Independently reads texts from a variety of genres with fluency, accuracy, and comprehension

Writing - Students will write effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences. They will be able to:

- Produce coherent argument writing to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
- Produce coherent explanatory texts to examine topics and convey ideas/information
- Produce coherent narratives
- Strengthen writing by utilizing the writing process
- Use technology to collaborate on, produce, and publish writing, demonstrating ability to type 3 pages in a single sitting
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research

Language - Students will demonstrate command of standard English conventions of grammar and mechanics in writing and speaking. They will be able to:

- Vary sentence patterns for effect/style
- Spell correctly
- Use punctuation and capitalization appropriately
- Determine/clarify meanings of unknown and multiple-meaning words and figurative language, choosing to use those words for effect

Speaking & Listening – Students will initiate and effectively participate in a range of discussions, critically listening and speaking effectively, clearly and persuasively. They will be able to:

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly
- Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study
- Delineate a speaker's argument, claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons/evidence from claims that are not
- Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, details and multimedia; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation

SOCIAL STUDIES

Civics & Government – Students will analyze, interpret, and explain the purposes, functions, and structure of ancient civilizations, middle ages, and various other governments.

Economics - Students will analyze, interpret and explain basic economic systems and the roles they have played on past, present and global events

Geography – Students will analyze, interpret and explain how the five themes of geography (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement and region) impact past, present, and future worlds

History – Students will analyze, interpret and explain significant historical events and themes.

RESEARCH

Students will develop and present, research-based projects which synthesize and integrate information from multiple sources and texts, refocusing the inquiry when appropriate. They will:

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- Gather relevant information from multiple sources, assessing credibility
- Quote or paraphrase data and conclusions of others, avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.

MATHEMATICS

Symbolic Expression - Students will reason abstractly and manipulate symbolic expressions to represent relationships and interpret equations to determine an unknown value. They will be able to:

- Write and evaluate expressions using whole number exponents
- Write, read, and evaluate expressions in which letters represent numbers
- Apply the properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions
- Represent/analyze relationships between dependent/independent variables

Numbers & Number Systems - Students will expand their understanding of number systems, thinking flexibly and attending to precision and reasonableness when solving problems using rational numbers. They will be able to:

- Understand positive and negative numbers in real world contexts
- Understanding the placement of a rational number as a point on the number line, and on a coordinate grid
- Understand ordering and absolute value of rational numbers
- Solve real-world problems by graphing points in four quadrants

Reasoning & Computational Strategies - Students will expand the use of computational strategies, algorithms, and proportional reasoning to rational numbers. They will be able to:

- Divide fractions to solve word problems
- Add, subtract, multiply, divide multi-digit whole numbers and decimals
- Find common factors and multiples
- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities

Geometry – Students will solve problems involving reasoning using properties of two- and three-dimensional shapes to analyze, represent, and model geometric relationships in authentic applied contexts. They will be able to:

- Solve real-world problems involving area, surface area, and volume
- Find the area of right triangles, other triangles, special quadrilaterals, and polygons to solve real world problems
- Draw polygons in the coordinate plane given coordinates for the vertices; use coordinates to find the length of a side joining points with the same first coordinate or the same second coordinate

- Represent three-dimensional figures using nets made up of rectangles and triangles, and find the surface area of these figures
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Algebraic Functions, Patterns & Relations - Students will describe and compare situations that involve change or patterns and use the information to make conjectures and justify conclusions/solutions. They will be able to:

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems
- Use variables to represent two quantities in a real world problem and use graphs/tables

Data Analysis, Probability & Statistics – Students will design investigations and gather data involving data sets. They will formulate questions, gather data and build representations to support conclusions.

SCIENCE

Students will demonstrate their understanding of scientific concepts and how they are connected through the application of science and engineering practices. They will study topics that make connections between Earth, Physical and Life sciences. They will explore questions such as

- How do humans impact organisms around the world and what can we do about it
- What factors create regions with extreme climates and how people use technology to survive in them
- How can we use environmental and genetic factors to explain changes in organisms
- How do our bodies produce and use the energy needed to move objects

WORK STUDY PRACTICES

Communication - Students will be able to share their work using a variety of tools, ask questions to learn more, and ask for help when needed.

Creativity - Students will take risks in their learning, listening to and respecting the ideas of others, gathering information from various sources to create unique products and solutions.

Collaboration - Students will work with a group to complete a job. They listen to others, respecting their ideas, and also express their own ideas.

Self-Direction - Students will work through a challenge, setting goals, asking for help, identifying areas for improvement, and completing tasks.