

# Sixth Grade Curriculum

## Sixth Grade Language Arts

### Reading

Students use their knowledge of word origins and word relationships, as well as historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning of grade-level-appropriate words.

- Read aloud narrative and expository text fluently and accurately and with appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression.
- Identify and interpret figurative language and words with multiple meanings.
- Recognize the origins and meanings of frequently used foreign words in English and use these words accurately in speaking and writing.
- Monitor expository text for unknown words or words with novel meanings by using word, sentence, and paragraph clues to determine meaning.
- Understand and explain "shades of meaning" in related words (e.g., softly and quietly).

### Reading Comprehension

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose.

- Identify the structural features of popular media (e.g., newspapers, magazines, online information) and use the features to obtain information.
- Analyze text that uses the compare-and-contrast organizational pattern.
- Connect and clarify main ideas by identifying their relationships to other sources and related topics.
- Clarify an understanding of texts by creating outlines, logical notes, summaries, or reports.
- Follow multiple-step instructions for preparing applications (e.g., for a public library card, bank savings account, sports club, league membership).
- Determine the adequacy and appropriateness of the evidence for an author's conclusions.
- Make reasonable assertions about a text through accurate, supporting citations.
- Note instances of unsupported inferences, fallacious reasoning, persuasion, and propaganda in text.

### Writing

Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits students' awareness of the

audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed. Use a variety of effective and coherent organizational patterns, including comparison and contrast; organization by categories; and arrangement by spatial order, order of importance, or climactic order. Revise writing to improve the organization and consistency of ideas within and between paragraphs.

### **Writing Applications**

Students write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive texts of at least 500 to 700 words in each genre. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the research, organizational, and drafting strategies outlined by teacher.

### **Sentence Structure and Grammar**

Use simple, compound, and compound-complex sentences; use effective coordination and subordination of ideas to express complete thoughts. Identify and properly use indefinite pronouns and present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect verb tenses; ensure that verbs agree with compound subjects.

### **Punctuation**

Use colons after the salutation in business letters, semicolons to connect independent clauses, and commas when linking two clauses with a conjunction in compound sentence.

### **Capitalization**

Use correct capitalization.

### **Spelling**

Spell frequently misspelled words correctly (e.g., their, they're, there).

## Sixth Grade Mathematics

### **Number Sense**

- Compare and order positive and negative fractions, decimals, and mixed numbers and place them on a number line.
- Interpret and use ratios in different contexts (e.g., batting averages, miles per hour) to show the relative sizes of two quantities, using appropriate notations ( $a/b$ ,  $a$  to  $b$ ,  $a:b$ ).
- Use proportions to solve problems (e.g., determine the value of  $N$  if  $4/7 = N/21$ , find the length of a side of a polygon similar to a known polygon). Use cross-multiplication as a method for solving such problems, understanding it as the multiplication of both sides of an equation by a multiplicative inverse.
- Calculate given percentages of quantities and solve problems involving discounts at sales, interest earned, and tips.
- Solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of positive fractions and explain why a particular operation was used for a given situation.

- Explain the meaning of multiplication and division of positive fractions and perform the calculations (e.g.,  $5/8 \div 15/16 = 5/8 \times 16/15 = 2/3$ ).
- Solve addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems, including those arising in concrete situations, that use positive and negative integers and combinations of these operations.
- Determine the least common multiple and the greatest common divisor of whole numbers; use them to solve problems with fractions (e.g., to find a common denominator to add two fractions or to find the reduced form for a fraction).

## Algebra and Functions

- Write and solve one-step linear equations in one variable.
- Write and evaluate an algebraic expression for a given situation, using up to three variables.
- Apply algebraic order of operations and the commutative, associative, and distributive properties to evaluate expressions; and justify each step in the process.
- Solve problems manually by using the correct order of operations or by using a scientific calculator. Convert one unit of measurement to another (e.g., from feet to miles, from centimeters to inches).
- Demonstrate an understanding that rate is a measure of one quantity per unit value of another quantity.
- Solve problems involving rates, average speed, distance, and time. Use variables in expressions describing geometric quantities (e.g.,  $P = 2w + 2l$ ,  $A = 1/2bh$ ,  $C = d$  - the formulas for the perimeter of a rectangle, the area of a triangle, and the circumference of a circle, respectively).
- Express in symbolic form simple relationships arising from geometry.

## Measurement and Geometry

- Understand the concept of a constant such as  $\pi$ ; know the formulas for the circumference and area of a circle.
- Know common estimates of  $\pi$  (3.14;  $22/7$ ) and use these values to estimate and calculate the circumference and the area of circles; compare with actual measurements.
- Know and use the formulas for the volume of triangular prisms and cylinders (area of base  $\times$  height); compare these formulas and explain the similarity between them and the formula for the volume of a rectangular solid.
- Identify angles as vertical, adjacent, complementary, or supplementary and provide descriptions of these terms.
- Use the properties of complementary and supplementary angles and the sum of the angles of a triangle to solve problems involving an unknown angle.

- Draw quadrilaterals and triangles from given information about them (e.g., a quadrilateral having equal sides but no right angles, a right isosceles triangle).

### **Statistics, Data Analysis, and Probability**

- Compute the range, mean, median, and mode of data sets.
- Understand how additional data added to data sets may affect these computations of measures of central tendency.
- Understand how the inclusion or exclusion of outliers affects measures of central tendency.
- Know why a specific measure of central tendency (mean, median) provides the most useful information in a given context.
- Compare different samples of a population with the data from the entire population and identify a situation in which it makes sense to use a sample.
- Identify different ways of selecting a sample (e.g., convenience sampling, responses to a survey, random sampling) and which method makes a sample more representative for a population.
- Analyze data displays and explain why the way in which the question was asked might have influenced the results obtained and why the way in which the results were displayed might have influenced the conclusions reached.
- Identify data that represent sampling errors and explain why the sample (and the display) might be biased.
- Identify claims based on statistical data and, in simple cases, evaluate the validity of the claims.
- Represent all possible outcomes for compound events in an organized way (e.g., tables, grids, tree diagrams) and express the theoretical probability of each outcome.
- Use data to estimate the probability of future events (e.g., batting averages or number of accidents per mile driven).
- Represent probabilities as ratios, proportions, decimals between 0 and 1, and percentages between 0 and 100 and verify that the probabilities computed are reasonable; know that if  $P$  is the probability of an event,  $1 - P$  is the probability of an event not occurring.
- Understand that the probability of either of two disjoint events occurring is the sum of the two individual probabilities and that the probability of one event following another, in independent trials, is the product of the two probabilities.
- Understand the difference between independent and dependent events.

### **Mathematical Reasoning**

- Analyze problems by identifying relationships, distinguishing relevant from irrelevant information, identifying missing information, sequencing and prioritizing information, and observing patterns.
- Formulate and justify mathematical conjectures based on a general description of the mathematical question or problem posed.
- Determine when and how to break a problem into simpler parts. Use estimation to verify the reasonableness of calculated results.
- Apply strategies and results from simpler problems to more complex problems.
- Estimate unknown quantities graphically and solve for them by using logical reasoning and arithmetic and algebraic techniques.
- Use a variety of methods, such as words, numbers, symbols, charts, graphs, tables, diagrams, and models, to explain mathematical reasoning.
- Express the solution clearly and logically by using the appropriate mathematical notation and terms and clear language; support solutions with evidence in both verbal and symbolic work.