Study Guide

What is History?

Map Skills & Landforms

6th Grade

~ Be able to identify the four main eras.

Prehistory: up to 3500 B.C. (time before writing)

Ancient History: 3500 B.C. – A.D.500

Middle Ages: A.D. 500 – A.D. 1400

Modern History: A.D. 1400 to present

~ Why study history?

* Cause and effect of events.
* Why events happen and their effects on life today.
* Learning about the past helps us understand the

present.

* Knowing what went wrong in the past can help us make

better decisions today when we face similar choices.

~ Calendars and timelines

* ***Julian calendar*** was invented by Julius Caesar.
* It counted years from the beginning of Rome
* Julian calendar had 365 days each year and one extra day every

fourth year (leap year)

* Our calendar is based on Julian calendar
* Julian calendar had a problem – it lost several minutes each year

so one day was lost every 128 years.

~ ***Gregorian calendar*** was invented by Pope Gregory XIII (to fix Julian calendar)

* started with birth of Jesus (years after the birth of Jesus marked with A.D.)
* included leap years
* used B.C. and A.D.
* still used by most of the world today

To keep track of days and months, we use a **calendar**.

A **time line** shows the order of events in a period of time.

~ Be able to recognize the five themes of Geography

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

~ Be able to use and identify the key elements of a map – title, compass rose, scale, key or legend.

~ Three basic types of maps as covered in class – physical, political and thematic

~ Various landforms including:

* Plateau - large area of flatland that is higher than the land around it
* Mountain - large, tall rock that extends into the air; taller than a hill
* Plain - large area of flat land
* Isthmus - thin strip of land that connects two larger land areas
* Peninsula - thin strip of land that extends into a body of water
* Bay - a natural area of ***water*** that is ***mostly*** surrounded by ***land***
* Volcano - opening in the earth's crust from which lava or ash escapes
* Canyon - a large crack in the earth caused by a river or earthquakes

Draw a sketch of each of the above landforms beside or below its description.

~ *Continents & Oceans*

* Be able to label the seven continents and five oceans