

# Unit 6

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**  
Length: **3 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Introduction

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Fiscal Policy: It's been said that most Americans vote their pocketbook. Taxes and the size of government are near the top of any current events discussion. An evaluation of fiscal policy seems useful in such a landscape.

## Standards

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SOC.6.1.12.9	Contemporary United States (1970-Today)
SOC.6.1.12.C.9.a	Explain how government can adjust taxes, interest rates, and spending and use other policies to restore the country's economic health.
SOC.6.1.12.C.13.c	Evaluate the effectiveness of social legislation that was enacted to end poverty in the 1960s and today by assessing the economic impact on the economy (e.g., inflation, recession, taxation, deficit spending, employment, education).
SOC.6.1.12.C.14	Economics, Innovation, and Technology
SOC.6.1.12.C.14.a	Use economic indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of state and national fiscal (i.e., government spending and taxation) and monetary (i.e., interest rates) policies.
SOC.6.2.12.C.6.c	Assess the role government monetary policies, central banks, international investment, and exchange rates play in maintaining stable regional and global economies.

## Essential Questions

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What are some of the constitutional authorities for government taxation?

What are common complaints heard regarding the national and state and local taxing policies in the US?

What are some of the dilemmas that face both politicians and voters on taxation matters?

What are some reasonable solutions to the problems and dilemmas of taxation?

## Content / Skills

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Identify from Article I Section 8 of the US Constitution the power granted Congress to tax and the limitations

placed on it.

Identify pertinent Supreme Court Cases concerning the government's taxing authority.

Compare and contrast a progressive tax with a regressive tax.

Identify the relative strengths and weaknesses from each.

Identify the terms "public debt" and "deficit spending" and offer views pro and con regarding them.

Propose compromises or solutions to the conflicting points of view dividing advocates for progressive and regressive taxation and also the importance of public debt and deficit spending (i.e. Keynesian Economics and balanced budget advocates).