

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

# Objectives

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The students will be able to identify the type of bias or other fallacy in a math example by using critical thinking skills.

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The students will be able to explain why this example is biased or contains a fallacy.

# The 6 Types of Fallacies

Type of fallacy

Definition

Example

**Experimenter bias**

Results may be incorrect in an experiment because information may have been given to participants which may have influenced their decisions.

Ancient Greece played an important role in politics, geography, government, and culture. Which place in ancient history do you believe is credited with the start of democracy?

**Confirmation bias**

Accepting something as true because you want it to support your ideas

A presenter states to the audience, “The Columbian Exchange was an excellent event in for areas to gain access to new fruits, meats, and vegetables.” However, it also spread disease.

**Correlation is not causation**

Two or more things are related, but one does not cause the other.

The Crusades was fought by groups of Christians, Jews, and Muslims over the Holy Land. The birth of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam headed toward the Crusades.

# The 6 Types of Fallacies

Type of fallacy

Definition

Example

**Random chance**

A way in which luck or chance occurred for an event to happen with no strategy being involved.

Many civilizations were destroyed by war, disease, or famine, but Pompeii was different because it was wiped out by a volcanic eruption. This city was completely destroyed by chance.

**Lack of control group**

An experiment or researched study does not include a group being experimented on in which to compare.

The Aztec civilization had the greatest warriors. No other civilization was compared to the Aztecs when making this decision.

**Overgeneralization**

The belief that one event or action is an example for the whole.

Silk Road was dangerous for merchants, so all merchants and trading were risky.

# Group Activity

Get in a group of 3-5 students. Choose a topic. Each group should choose a different fallacy type. Then write an example using the chosen topic and fallacy type.

## Topics

Ancient civilizations  
Early inventions  
Exploration  
Trading and bartering  
World religions  
History of democracy  
African empires

## Fallacies

Experimenter bias  
Confirmation bias  
Correlation is not causation  
Lack of control group  
Random chance  
Overgeneralization



# Discussion

Each group should read their example. The other groups should write down the fallacy type. Then discuss the answer and how the example has that fallacy in it.



# Review

Type of fallacy

Definition

**Experimenter bias**

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**Confirmation bias**

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**Correlation is not causation**

Two or more things are related, but one does not cause the other.

Type of fallacy

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