



Social Studies Curriculum 7th Grade World History

Approved by the Board of Education

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Curriculum Committee Members

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COURSE TITLE: 7th Grade World History

GRADE LEVEL: 7th

CONTENT AREA: Social Studies

Course Description:

This is an introductory world history course. This course integrates history, geography, economics, government and the study of diverse cultures while investigating Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Middle Ages and African Trading Kingdoms. Students will gain a better understanding of the world they live in by studying the past through primary and secondary sources, critical thinking, simulations and cooperative learning.

Course Rationale:

Social studies creates students who learn skills ranging from reading a map to framing an argument, and it teaches students to assess the validity of evidence, evaluate conflicting points of view and apply facts in order to make decisions and articulate compelling arguments. These real world skills enable students to become critical thinkers, independent learners, problem solvers, and effective communicators so that they will be able to acquire information, an understanding of cultural diversity and the skills necessary to become full participants in our democratic society.

Course Scope and Sequence

Unit 1: Ancient Greece 20 (80 min class periods)	Unit 2: Ancient Rome 20 (80 min class periods)	Unit 3: Middle Ages 20 (80 min class periods)
Unit 4: African Kingdoms 20 (80 min class periods)		

Course Materials and Resources:

Discovering our Past: A History of the World: Early Ages by McGraw-Hill Education
2014 Suite (Print edition and 7 year online editions)

Unit Objectives

Unit 1: Ancient Greece

- Students will know how geography affected the early Greeks.
- Students will know the different types of government that developed among the Greek city-states.
- Students will know the ideas that the ancient Greeks expressed in their literature, drama, art, and architecture.
- Students will compare and contrast Athens and Sparta.

Unit 2: Ancient Rome

- Students will know the effect geography had on the settlement and rise of Rome.
- Students will know the role economics played in the rise and fall of the Roman Empire.
- (Emphasis will be placed on: trade, the movement of goods and services, inflation, resources, supply and demand, profits, sources of wealth, scarcity, Gross Domestic Product, profit motive, productivity, investment and opportunity cost.)
- Students will be able to identify the events and people that led to the rise and fall of the Roman Empire.
- Students will be able to describe and explain the human characteristics of the Roman Republic and Empire (such as people's education, language, diversity, economics, religions, settlement patterns, ethnic background, and political systems)
- Students will know how the Romans interacted and influenced other regions and the environment.

Unit 3: Middle Ages

- Students will know the key geographic areas of the Middle Ages.
- Students will understand the development of kingdoms after the fall of Rome.
- Students will understand feudalism and why it was an important social structure in the Middle Ages.
- Students will be able to analyze the human characteristics of the Middle Ages (such as people's education, language, diversity, economics, religions, settlements, ethnic backgrounds and political systems)
- Students will be able to explain how religion impacted the Middle Ages.

Unit 4: African Kingdoms

- Students will explain how Islam arrived in Africa.
- Students will investigate the trans-Saharan caravan trade of the African Empires.
- Students will be able to analyze the human characteristics of the African Kingdoms