

Social Studies Syllabus

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Social Studies is the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence. Within the school program, social studies provides coordinated, systematic study drawing upon such disciplines as anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology, as well as appropriate content from the humanities, mathematics, and natural sciences. The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world. – *National Council for the Social Studies*

Introduction: The social studies program for 7th grade provides exposure to the social sciences, while analyzing and evaluating concepts such as land-man relationships, creative problem solving, cause and effect relationships in the past and present, exploration, migration, and global interdependence. Students analyze primary and secondary source documents to apply critical thinking skills. The vocabulary and reading across the curriculum standards are integrated within each unit of study. Keeping in mind that the standards are recursive in nature, it should be noted that many of the standards are revisited in different units throughout the year.

Procedures: Students are expected to come to class on time, prepared to learn with paper, pen or pencil, and a good attitude. Student should have a designated folder or section in their binders devoted to social studies notes, handouts, and activities. A 1-inch binder with separators is recommended. Two packs of lined 3x5 or 4x6 index cards are required.

Class Work/Homework - Very little homework will ever be assigned. Class work that is not finished in the time given can become homework. Completed assignments will be turned in at the beginning of class in the basket designated for that class. Late work will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances such as sickness or a family emergency. Students will have as many days as they were absent to make up late work. Students can access my weblog and/or my Quizlet page to study vocabulary and concepts (see resources below for web address).

Lecture/Discussion - Students will use new vocabulary to participate in class discussions about the social studies concepts and unit material. Students are encouraged to ask probing questions such as how and why, in order to gain a deeper understanding. On occasion, students will be required to record information in their notebooks and will be responsible for keeping an organized social studies folder and notes.

Class Activities - Students will learn through a variety of activities intended to stimulate their multiple intelligences and unique learning styles. These activities include, but are not limited to, map activities, role-plays, creative work, educational games, research, use of technology, making presentations, etc. Activities will be performed individually and in cooperative groups.

Projects - When extended projects are assigned, the process will be broken into smaller increments with due dates.

Assessment - Student learning is assessed with rubrics, quizzes, and tests, as well as through observation and conferencing with students. Projects, presentations, debates, skits, visual aides or models are typically assessed using a rubric. Students play a role in designing the criteria for the rubric. Weekly quizzes are used to assess student understanding of vocabulary. Tests are given at the end of a unit of study. Students will have an opportunity to review as a class prior to the test. If students need additional help, they can request extra help. Students are observed during class discussion and while they are working individually and in groups. Students and the teacher have informal conferencing during activities to monitor their progress and to push for deeper understanding according to the student's particular needs and abilities.

Program Overview:

Unit	Approximate Duration
<i>Social Studies Concepts and the Middle East (Southwest Asia)</i>	9 weeks
<i>Middle East (cont.) and East Asia</i>	9 weeks
<i>East Asia (cont.) and Africa</i>	9 weeks
<i>Africa (cont.), personal finance, independent studies</i>	9 weeks
<i>Georgia Milestones testing</i>	1 week

Grading Scale:	Citizenship Grade:	Standards Based Grading:
A 90-100 Excellent	E - Excellent	Tests, quizzes and projects will be graded on a 100 point scale and will count toward standards mastery
B 80-89 Good	S- Satisfactory	<i>Progress Monitoring: 1, 2, 3, 4 (will not count toward grade)</i>
C 75-79 Average	NI- Needs Improvement	
D 70-74 Poor	U- Unsatisfactory	
F 69-0 Failing		

Texts and Resources - National Geographic World publications, Nystrom World Atlas, Rand McNally online maps, BrainPop, Discovery Education, 7th Grade Social Studies Workbook, and various scholarly websites and educational applications. See my weblog for more links and updates on class activities: www.ramblerweblog.com/chrisconley

Class Rules: Be honest, be respectful, and be responsible. There are always consequences for the choices we make. Make good choices and there will be positive outcomes. Students receive praise, Rambler Pride cards, and stamps for good choices. For poor choices students will be warned, lose stamps, receive silent lunch detention, and possibly ISS.

Please sign below after you have read and understand the expectations of my class and send this back to school. Once checked, I will send it back to you for future reference. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or suggestions so I can help your student have a successful year.

Student's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____