

Course Syllabus for 7th Grade Eastern Hemisphere Studies

Course Length: 1 year

Course Description:

The first semester of the seventh grade social studies curriculum introduces students to cultures of the East, with emphasis on the contemporary geography of Africa and Asia. Through the study of geography, students learn the locations of significant places in each of these world regions; explore the cultural and natural features that characterize each region; trace movement of people, ideas, and products within the regions; and discover ways that regions can be divided into sub-regions. Historical background is provided to enable students to understand how a region developed from the past to the present. Throughout the course, students will study public issues of global significance in the East. Through analysis, discussion, and writing, students will consider what actions, if any, should be taken with respect to these regions.

The second half of the course is devoted to the study of the first three eras in World History. These units lay a foundation for the future study of World History in high school. Calling on the geography, economics, and civics that they have previously studied, students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. Students learn how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of skills and ideas. The course concludes with an in-depth investigation of different world religions. After exploring how these religions spread, students consider some of their influences in early world history.

Methods of Instruction:

Students will be engaged in a variety of learning activities which may include listening, discussing, taking notes, completing written assignments, cooperative learning, research, and hands-on projects for each unit of work.

Course Objectives:

The student will:

- Develop the skills necessary for the effective study of history and geography.
- Know and use basic social studies terminology in context.
- Recognize the similarities and differences that exist between people, places and events through time.
- Identify basic issues related to place/space on a local, national and global scale.

Course Topics /Units and approximate pacing schedule:

- Unit 1: Geography of the Eastern Hemisphere (2 weeks, 1st marking period)
- Unit 2: Africa: People, Places, and Issues (6 weeks, 1st & 2nd marking periods)
- Unit 3: West Asia: People, Places, and Issues (4 weeks, 3rd marking period)
- Unit 4: East Asia: People, Places, and Issues (4 weeks, 4th marking period)
- Unit 5: Era I: The Beginnings of Human Society:
Beginnings to 4000 B.C.E. (4 weeks, 5th marking period)
- Unit 6: Era II: Early Civilizations: 4000 - 1000 B.C.E
(4 weeks, 6th marking period)
- Unit 7: Era III: Classical Traditions and Major Empires:
1000 B.C.E. - 300 C.E. (6 weeks, 6th & 7th marking periods)
- Unit 8: Era III: World Religions (4 weeks, 8th marking period)

Grading Policy:

Grading scale will be established by the teacher and will be provided to students at the beginning of the school year. Grade reporting will occur every five weeks.

Classroom Rules & Expectations:

Teachers will establish rules and explain policies and expectations during the first week of school.

Attendance Policy:

District attendance and tardy policy is posted in the classroom and will be strictly followed.