

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Parent Guide

## Unit 1

### “Connecting Themes used in Seventh Grade Social Studies”

#### Unit Focus

The focus of this important first unit is on the themes and enduring understandings rather than specific standards. These connecting themes will be integrated in multiple units throughout the Seventh Grade Social Studies curriculum. Understanding of these themes will be linked to students’ own experience and knowledge as well as lay the foundation for the rest seventh grade social studies course. At the conclusion of this unit students will be able to demonstrate effective use of the enduring understandings and can apply them to their daily lives.

#### Concepts Explored

- How conflict between or within societies cause change
- The culture of a society is the product of the religion, beliefs, customs, traditions, and government of that society
- As Society increases in complexity and interacts with other societies, the complexity of the government also increases
- Humans, their society, and the environment affect each other
- How location affects a society’s economy, culture, and it’s development
- The movement or migration of people and ideas affects all societies
- The production, distribution, and consumption of goods/services produced by the society are affected by the location, customs, beliefs, and laws of the society
- While change occurs over time, there is continuity to the basic structure of that society

#### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### **Print Resources (suggested text only others may be used)**

- People by Peter Spier.
- World Geography, Middle Grades & Up (Daily Skill Builders) by Wendi Silvano.

#### **Digital Resources (suggested text only others may be used)**

- <http://www.gpb.org> What is Culture? This United Streaming video clip describes the components of culture
- <http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/strands> NCSS curriculum standards provide a framework for what should occur in a Social Studies program. This site provides information on each standard in detail.

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## Unit 2

### “The Modern Middle East”

#### Unit Focus

In this unit students will gain an understanding of the modern cultural and physical landscape of Southwest Asia (Middle East). Students will examine how conflict and change have shaped and continue to shape the political boundaries of this region. When examining the specific elements of culture, students will work towards a deeper understanding of the prominent religions in the area. Students will examine the governance of the region including the role religion plays in governance and international relations of this area. Students will locate selected countries and physical features in the region and examine how location, climate, and physical characteristics have affected where people live, the types of work they do, and how they travel.

#### Concepts Explored

- Analyze continuity and change in Southwest Asia (Middle East) leading to the 21st century.
- Locate selected features in Southwestern Asia (Middle East).
- Explain the impact of location, climate, physical characteristics, Distribution of natural resources and population distribution on Southwest Asia (Middle East).
- Describe the diverse cultures of the people who live in Southwest Asia (Middle East).
- Compare and contrast various forms of government.
- Explain the structures of the national governments of Southwest Asia (Middle East).

#### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### Print Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- [Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood](#) by Ibtisam Barakat
- [Middle East](#) by Philip Steele

#### Digital Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/452778/Persian-Gulf-War> Academic Research on the Persian Gulf War
- <http://7thgradegps.wikispaces.com/file/view/Islam%20Sunni%20and%20Shia.pdf/217453192/Islam%20Sunni%20and%20Shia.pdf>  
Islam: Sunnis and Shiites

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## Unit 3

### “Impact of Environment and Economy on Southwest Asia (Middle East)”

#### Unit Focus

Southwest Asia (Middle East) has been involved in trade and a world influence since ancient times. The region has experienced a cycle of economic growth and decline over the last several decades. The dramatic rise in oil prices, the continuing struggles with the availability and control of fresh water resources, and diversification of agriculture facilitated this growth and decline. Most nations in Southwest Asia (Middle East) benefit from increased oil revenues. In this unit students will compare and assess the human environment interaction of the region by examining the distribution, pollution and use of natural resources in the area. In addition, students will explore factors influencing the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services in the region through trade and world influences.

#### Concepts Explored

- Discuss environmental issues across Southwest Asia (Middle East).
- Explain the impact of location, climate, physical characteristics, Distribution of natural resources and population distribution on Southwest Asia (Middle East).
- Analyze different economic systems.
- Explain how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Southwest Asia (Middle East).
- Describe factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.

#### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### Print Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- [Water on Sand: Environmental Histories of the Middle East and North Africa](#) by Alan Mikhail
- [Saudi Arabia: A Question And Answer Book](#) by Kathleen W. Deady,
- [Oil](#) by Ditchfield, Christin

#### Digital Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- <http://teacherpages.hallco.org/webpages/dpeake/webquests.cfm?subpage=1101980> Webquest on Economics of SW Asia
- <http://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/profiles/Pakistan> Facts and Stats about Pakistan

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## Unit 4

### “Origins of Modern Southwest Asia (Middle East)”

#### Unit Focus

Historical events in Southern and Eastern Asia have shaped the governments, nations, economies, and culture. Through conflict and change. Southwest Asia (Middle East ) is the birthplace of three of the world’s major religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. All share the common belief in one God, the God of Abraham. Throughout history these religions have attracted believers and influenced culture and world events, and political landscape of the region. The student will understand that the religious differences are cause for conflict and change in the region that has affected nations of the world politically and socially. Students will examine the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and European partitioning.

#### Concepts Explored

- Analyze continuity and change in Southwest Asia (Middle East) leading to the 21st century.
- Describe the diverse cultures of the people who live in Southwest Asia (Middle East).

#### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### Print Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- [Islam](#) by the World Almanac Library
- [Early Islamic empires](#) by Flatt, Lizann

#### Digital Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- [http://www.classzone.com/books/wc\\_survey05/page\\_build.cfm?id=none&u=5](http://www.classzone.com/books/wc_survey05/page_build.cfm?id=none&u=5) Online activities and conducting research on the Internet.
- [http://www.rethinkingschools.org/just\\_fun/games/mapgame.html](http://www.rethinkingschools.org/just_fun/games/mapgame.html) Online Interactive Maps

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## Unit 5

### “Southern and Eastern Asia in the 20th Century and Today”

#### Unit Focus

In this unit students will gain an understanding of the modern cultural and physical landscape of Southern and Eastern Asia. By learning of the diverse cultures, students will gain insight into the prominent religions of Southern and Eastern Asia and how literacy rates affect the standard of living. When examining the specific elements of culture, students will work toward a deeper understanding of how they have been integral in governance and international relations. Students will locate selected countries and physical features in the region and examine how location, climate, and physical characteristics affect where people live, the work they do, and how they travel.

#### Concepts Explored

- The features of Southern and Eastern Asia.
- The impact of location, climate, physical characteristics, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Southern and Eastern Asia.
- The diverse cultures of the people who live in Southern and Eastern Asia.
- Compare and contrast various forms of government.
- The national governments in Southern and Eastern Asia.

#### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### Print Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- Population 1.3 Billion by Scholastic
- Yellow River by Kim Dramer

#### Digital Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- <http://www.kidport.com/RefLib/WorldGeography/China/China.htm> Highlights on China
- <http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/timeline.htm> Timeline and Maps

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## Unit 6

### “Impact of Environment and Economy on Southern and Eastern Asia”

#### Unit Focus

Southern and Eastern Asia has been involved in trade and world influence since ancient times. In this unit students will compare and assess the human environment interaction of the region by examining the population distribution, pollution, and use of natural resources. As the production, distribution, and consumption of goods has increased and economies in this region have grown and prospered, the human environment interaction has taken its toll. Nations are addressing the problems associated with overpopulation, industrial pollution, accessibility to drinking water, and natural disasters, which affect Southern and Eastern Asia and influence the rest of the world.

#### Concepts Explored

- Environmental issues across Southern and Eastern Asia.
- An analysis of different economic systems and how voluntary trade benefits the buyers and sellers of the region.
- Description of factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in India, China, and Japan.

#### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### Print Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- [Air pollution & health](#) by Sanna, Emily
- [Japan and the United States : economic competitors](#) by Mary Ellen Snodgrass.

#### Digital Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- <http://ncta.osu.edu/Asia%20Outsourcing%20or%20Not%20Rush.pdf> “Commentary: Outsourcing Jobs—Bad or Good?”
- <http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2014/03/european-economy-guide> European Economy Guide

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## Unit 7

### “Historical Background for Southern and Eastern Asia”

#### Unit Focus

Historical events in Southern and Eastern Asia have shaped the governments, nations, economies, and culture through conflict and change. The student will understand how European partitioning and colonialism, nationalist, and independence movements influenced the continent politically and socially. Students will also examine the development of Japan after WWII and the rise and containment of communism in the region.

#### Concepts Explored

- The continuity and change in Southern and Eastern Asia leading to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### Print Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- [Snow falling in spring : coming of age in China during the cultural revolution](#) by Moying Li
- [Tiananmen Square : massacre crushes China's democracy movement](#) by Andrew Langley.

#### Digital Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- <http://www.beyondintractability.org/bi-aff-project/msct/home> Basic conflict transformation skills for personal, community, national, and international situations.
- <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/kowar/kowar.htm> The Korean War, June 1950 - July 1953  
Introductory Overview and Special Image Selection.

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## Unit 8 "Africa Today"

### Unit Focus

In this unit students will gain an understanding of the modern cultural and physical landscape of Africa. When examining the specific elements of culture, students will gain an understanding of the diversity of religion and ethnic groups in Africa. Self-rule through governance has been an ongoing challenge as African nations have transitioned from colonial rule to one party rule to fledgling democracies. Students will analyze how political stability affects the standard of living in Africa. Students will locate selected countries and physical features in the region and examine how location, climate and physical characteristics have affected where people live, the types of work they do and how they travel.

### Concepts Explored

- Locate select features of Africa and explain the impact of location, climate, and physical characteristics on population distribution in Africa.
- The diverse cultures of the people who live in Africa.
- Compare and contrast various forms of government.
- The structures of the modern governments of Africa.
- How politics in Africa impacts standard of living.

### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### Print Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- [Modern Africa](#) by Rob Wilson Bowden
- [South Africa the People](#) by Domini Clark

#### Digital Resources (suggested text only others may be used)

- <https://www.cia.gov/index.html>
- <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/index.html> Information on Africa's 54 Countries, over a 1000 languages, and 797 million people

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## Unit 9

### “Impact of Environment and Economy on Africa”

#### Unit Focus

Africa has been involved in trade and a world influence since ancient times. In this unit, students will analyze the human environment interaction of the region by examining the population distribution, pollution, and use and misuse of natural resources in the area. As the production, distribution, and consumption of goods has increased and economies in this region have grown and prospered, the human environmental interaction has taken its toll on the region. Nations are addressing the problems associated with overpopulation, industrial pollution, accessibility to drinking water, deforestation, and desertification that affect Africa and the rest of the world.

#### Concepts Explored

- Environmental issues across the continent of Africa.
- The different economic systems in Africa, and how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Africa.
- Factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Nigeria and South Africa.

#### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### **Print Resources (suggested text only others may be used)**

- [Discover South Africa](#) by Peter Joyce
- [Discover South Africa](#) by Chris Ward

#### **Digital Resources (suggested text only others may be used)**

- <http://www.sadc.int/> Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/> Printable maps of Africa

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## Unit 10

### “Connecting Africa’s Past with Africa’s Present”

#### Unit Focus

Historical events in Africa have shaped the governments, nations, economies, and culture through conflict and change. The student will understand how European partitioning and colonialism, nationalist movements and independence movements impacted the continent politically and socially.

#### Concepts Explored

- Continuity and change in Africa leading to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### **Print Resources (suggested text only others may be used)**

- [The Royal Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay Life in Medieval Africa](#) by Patricia and Fredrick McKissack
- [Africa](#) by Rebecca Hirsch

#### **Digital Resources (suggested text only others may be used)**

- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/index\\_section11.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/index_section11.shtml) The Story of Africa’s history of the continent from an African perspective.
- <http://192.211.16.13/projects/wallpainting/New%20curriculum/8-12%20All/8-12%20Social%20Studies/8-12%20Social%20Studies%20Lesson.doc> Apartheid Simulations

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## Unit 11 “Your Financial Future”

### Unit Focus

This unit will reinforce economic concepts taught throughout the sixth grade course. The theme of production, distribution, and consumption will be examined in terms of the students own money management choices. Students will investigate income, spending, credit, saving, and investing.

### Concepts Explored

- Personal money management choices in terms of income, spending, credit, saving, and investing.

### How You Can Support Your Child

You can support your child by providing them quality text/resources related to the unit content. Below you will find a few suggested resources.

#### **Print Resources** (suggested text only others may be used)

- Finance Matters by Leann Voss
- Not Your Parents’ Money Book by Jean Chatzky and Irwin Haya

#### **Digital Resources** (suggested text only others may be used)

- <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/> A guide to career information about hundreds of occupations
- <http://wethesavers.com/heres-an-update-on-planet-orange-and-orangekids-com/> An interactive lesson on saving