

Curriculum Map – 7th grade Social Studies/Southwest Asia (Middle East)

Unit Focus: In this unit students will explore the historical, geographic, economic, and political characteristics of the region known as Southwest Asia (or the Middle East). Students will examine historical occurrences, such as the origins of religion and the rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire, in order to understand the major developments in the Middle East during the 20th century. Students will also identify important physical and human characteristics in Southwest Asia while explaining how those characteristics impact various countries. In addition, students will analyze how governments in this region make decisions based on their political structures, economic systems, and cultural characteristics.

Connecting Enduring Understandings Across the Social Studies Curriculum:

1. Conflicts over land, wealth, power, and between cultures drive changes in history that continue over time.
2. Geographic principles influence how the history, economic and civic characteristics change over time.
3. Political systems develop from conflicts over wealth, power and the need for independence and economic structure.
4. Economic systems change and develop over time due to fluctuations in wealth and trade and conflicts between cultures and political systems.

GPS Strand

History
Geography
Civics
Economics

Unit Connecting Themes/Concepts

Conflict and Change
Environment and Society
Power and Authority
Wealth and Trade



