

Norwood Public Schools

Grade Eight World History I

Curriculum Overview

Course Description: This course examines world history and cultures from the medieval to early modern period.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will build their knowledge and appreciation of other world cultures.
- Students will develop their literacy skills of effective reading and writing.
- Students will increase their ability to effectively research and analyze historical topics.

Learning Experiences:

Reading Skills

Textbook reading skills (SQ3R method), Primary and Secondary source analysis skills, Inference skills, Paraphrasing skills

Writing Skills

Five Paragraph Essay, Open Response/Paragraph Writing

Research Skills

Manage and organize a long term research assignment, Develop effective research questions, Use of varied and valid sources, Proper research note taking, Construct an annotated bibliography

Geography Skills

Reinforcement of map skills learned in the 6th and 7th grades

Content Outline:

Fall of Rome/Byzantine Empire

- Division of Roman Empire into east and west
- Diocletian and Constantine
- Spread of Christianity
- Reason for the downfall of Western Roman Empire (at least three)
- Constantinople
- Importance of Justinian's Rule—Justinian Code, Theodora, Hagia Sophia, Nika Revolt
- Christian schism of 1054

Foundations and Legacy of Islam

- Identify where Islam began and trace its expansion to 1500
- Pre-Islamic Arabian Peninsula
- Muhammad's life and teachings
- Five pillars/basic practices
- Islam's connections to Judaism and Christianity
- Koran and Sunnah
- Rightly Guided Caliphs
- Sunni/Shiite Split
- Abbasid Empire/ "Golden Age" of Islamic Civilization
- Medieval Europe versus Muslim Spain

Life in the Middle Ages

- Vikings, Magyars, and Muslim Invasions
- Charlemagne
- Feudalism and Manorialism
- Daily life for the different social groups of medieval Europe
- Importance of the Catholic Church
- Religious practices of medieval Christians

High Middle Ages and Changes in Europe

- Crusades
- Rise of towns and trade
- Black Death
- Hundred Years War and Joan of Arc
- Rise of Nations
- Magna Carta and Parliament

Sub-Saharan African History and Culture

- Traditional Sub-Saharan African Culture
- Examples of Sub-Saharan African civilizations
- The development of the trans-Atlantic slave trade

Indian History and Culture

- Religious Belief Systems--Hinduism, Buddhism
- Medieval Indian Empires

Chinese History and Culture

- Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism
- Mandate of Heaven
- Qin Dynasty—Emperor Qin Shi-Huang Di
- Tang and Song Dynasties—Civil Service Exam, Terraced Farming, Important Inventions, Golden Age of Chinese Culture
- Yuan Dynasty/Mongol Empire—Reasons for the Mongol Empire's Success, Genghis Khan, Marco Polo, Kublai Khan

Japanese History and Culture

- Japanese feudalism
- Comparison to European feudalism

The Rebirth of Europe

- Origins/Reasons for the Renaissance
- Humanism
- Famous Writers—Petrarch, Castiglione, Machiavelli, Shakespeare
- New Art Techniques
- Famous Artists—Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Brunelleschi, Albrecht Durer
- Gutenberg and the Printing Press

The Protestant Reformation

- Martin Luther's Protest
- 95 Theses and Indulgences
- Lutheranism
- Henry VIII and Anglicanism
- John Calvin
- Counter Reformation and Saint Ignatius of Loyola
- Spanish Inquisition
- Peace of Westphalia in 1648

The Age of Exploration

- Motivations to Explore
- Christopher Columbus
- Columbian Exchange
- Mayan Empire
- Aztec and Incan Empire

Resources Used:

Textbook (World History: Medieval and Early Modern Times), Numerous Supplemental Worksheets, Supplemental Documentaries, *Current Events* and *Junior Scholastic Magazine*, United Streaming Videos