



Mequon-Thiensville School District

Middle School Social Studies Scope & Sequence

Description of Subject Area:		
Social studies is the integrated study of economics, geography, history, political science, and the behavioral sciences of psychology, sociology, and anthropology to promote civic competence. This area of study provides an important foundation to prepare students to become engaged, informed participants committed to the ideas and values of our democratic republic, able to apply the skills of inquiry, collaboration, decision making, and problem solving (adapted from the National Council for the Social Studies definition). Students will become civically-engaged problem-solvers who critically examine their roles in local, regional, state, national, and global communities. Through the study and application of the individual disciplines of social studies (behavioral sciences, economics, geography, history, and political science), students become lifelong learners able to collaborate and thrive in our interdependent world.		
<table border="1"><tr><td>Grade Levels:</td><td>K-12</td></tr></table>	Grade Levels:	K-12
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<table border="1"><tr><td>Courses:</td><td>6th Grade - World History 7th Grade - U.S. History 8th Grade - World Cultures and Geography</td></tr></table>	Courses:	6th Grade - World History 7th Grade - U.S. History 8th Grade - World Cultures and Geography
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Course Name: Grade 6 Social Studies	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 6	Duration: All year
Resource: National Geographic Learning. (2016). <i>World History: Great Civilizations</i> . CENGAGE.	

Course Overview: Sixth grade social studies introduces world history, culture, and geography. Students explore the methods and techniques geographers, archaeologists, historians, and other scholars use to analyze and learn about the past. The various units of study provide a chronological overview of the major ancient civilizations in world history from early hunter-gatherer societies to the Renaissance. Current events are also a component of the sixth grade social studies curriculum.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
Unit 1: Origins of Cultures and Civilizations	3.5 Weeks
Unit 2: Early Civilizations	6.5 Weeks
Unit 3: Greek Civilization	3 Weeks
Unit 4: The World of the Romans	2.5 Weeks
Unit 5: Byzantine and Islamic Civilizations	1 Week
Unit 6: African Civilizations	2 Weeks
Unit 7: American Civilizations	3 Weeks
Unit 8: Empires of Asia	3 Weeks
Unit 9: Medieval and Renaissance Europe	3 Weeks
Unit 10: Revolutions and Empires	1 Week
Unit 11: The Modern World	4 Weeks



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Course Name: Grade 7 Social Studies	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 7	Duration: All year
Resource: National Geographic Learning. (2019). <i>U.S. History: American Stories</i> . CENGAGE.	

Course Overview: U.S. History is the primary emphasis for seventh grade. Seventh grade utilizes a thematic approach to the teaching of social studies. The seventh grade social studies themes include, “What Does It Mean to Be an American,” “Westward Expansion,” “Americans and Equality,” and “Why [Civil] War?” Political science and citizenship, economics and the behavioral sciences are taught within the context of U.S. History, which includes the Constitution to the present with an emphasis on the years 1787-1877. Geography is taught within the context of the history of the United States. Current events are also a part of the seventh grade social studies curriculum.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. What Does it Mean to be an American? Part A: Students will study the historical events that led to the Revolutionary War.	6 weeks
2. What Does it Mean to be an American? Part B: Students will study and examine the documents that form the framework of the U.S. government.	6 weeks
3. How did US expansion and growth transform the nation? Part A: Students will examine how the U.S. acquired large tracts of western lands and reasons behind migrations west.	5 weeks
4. How did US expansion and growth transform the nation? Part B: Students will examine the industrial, immigration, and labor growth of the U.S. during the 18th and 19th centuries.	5 weeks
5. How do Americans Strive for Equality? Part A- Native Americans: Students will explore the history of Native American inequality within the U.S.	2 weeks
6. How do Americans Strive for Equality? Part B-Women: Students will examine the struggle for women’s equality and their changing roles in society.	2 weeks
7. How do Americans Strive for Equality? Part C-African Americans: Students will study and examine the history of slavery and the struggle for African American civil rights.	3 weeks
8. Why did America go to war against itself?: Students will study and examine the causes, events, and impacts of the American Civil War.	5 weeks



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Course Name: Grade 8 Social Studies	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 8	Duration: All year
Resource: National Geographic Learning. (2017). <i>World Cultures and Geography</i> . CENGAGE.	

Course Overview: The major theme for social studies is world geography. Content of the course addresses physical geography and cultural, economic, social and political developments in the major regions of the world: Europe, Asia, Africa, and Eurasia. Students also integrate knowledge of specific historical eras into their study of regions of the world. Students are expected to monitor current event magazine, specific Internet sites, newspapers and other media to develop an understanding of current issues affecting these areas. Map skills and geographic literacy are incorporated throughout the year. Research skills utilizing technology and nonfiction text is also an integral part of the curriculum.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. Topics in Economic and Human Geography: The disparity among developed, developing and newly industrialized nations is widening. Students will grapple with the disparities that exist in our world and begin to understand the theories as to why this is occurring. Students will analyze disparity through economic indicators such as GDP, literacy, life expectancy, etc (Human Development Index). Current data will be accessed through credible online sources.	5 weeks
2. Physical Geography: Geographic characteristics define regions.	4 weeks
3. East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia: The region of East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia encompasses towering mountains, low fertile river plains, dense varied populations, diverse religions, and globalized economies. Students will explore this highly changing and influential region of the world. Furthermore, students will begin to better understand the historical implications of isolationism, colonialism, and trade practices as each plays a role in current issues.	5 weeks
4. North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia: This unit focuses on a study of the changes that occur in the use and importance of natural resources. Students will also study the physical environment and the complex relationship people have with their environment. Students will analyze the historic and current issues related to cooperation and conflict among people in this region of the world.	5 weeks
5. Africa South of the Sahara: Africa South of the Sahara is a land of challenges - ethnic divisions, an AIDS epidemic, developing nations that struggle to establish order and economic growth, and traditional values and practices that run up against a modern world. Yet, Africa is also rich in beautiful landscapes, diverse resources, and interesting cultures full of music, art, and story-telling. Additionally, an African history timeline that travels from the great nations of the Bantu or Zulu to the consequences/influences of colonization will be studied. Students will further analyze how these historical topics impact Africa's struggle with current issues, and in	5 weeks



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the end, help to explain why TIA- "This is Africa".	
6. Europe and Northern Eurasia: Throughout the unit, students will study culture, religion, politics, history including people and influences from the Renaissance and Reformation, and contemporary issues of this region.	5 weeks
7. Middle and South America: A regional study of Middle and South America includes a study of the significance of land features and climate regions and the role they play in how people adapt to their environment. A study of Latin American cultures including the Maya, Inca, and Aztec civilizations provides an historical perspective. Students will also consider the economic relationship between the United States and Middle and South America and the economic structure of ingrained economic systems in the Americas. Contemporary issues will be explored such as the cutting down of the rainforest or population and pollution impact in major cities in this region.	5 weeks
8. Online Class Study of Malaria, Migration, & Global Water Issues: Students access an online class with activities that focus on global contemporary issues. These activities may be incorporated at any point or embedded in any other regional unit for which they are appropriate. These activities are considered to be part of the time allotment for the other units. Typically, students work on these activities outside of class time. Teachers can select activities from the online class offerings that are appropriate for the needs of their students. The activities are both for enrichment and extension of the course content.	Ongoing
9. International History Timeline: Major historical events, inventions, discoveries, etc. will be compiled on a multi-regional timeline to foster an international perspective of world history. Students will review the regions studied during the year to analyze historical events, inventions, discoveries, etc. and select the most significant ones to include in the timeline. To do this, students will establish criteria and will be able to justify why their selections were included.	2 weeks