

7th Grade Social Studies Curriculum Syllabus

2009-2010

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Language Arts and Social Studies will be taught with interdisciplinary lesson plans.

Here are some of the essential questions we will be answering this year in class to connect the two subjects:

1. Why is the history of the United States important to me?
2. What does it mean to be an informed citizen of the United States?
3. How does reading and writing for a purpose empower me?
4. How does being part of a democracy impact my life?
5. How can I use multiple sources and perspectives to give a more accurate account of history?
6. What is the best way to analyze and investigate events that occurred throughout the history of the United States?

Overview of Language Arts and Social Studies: The focus of this course is to have students acquire the grade level skills that are necessary for them to continue on a successful educational journey. Throughout the year students will demonstrate understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, turning points, and cause and effect relationships in United States History. In addition, students will strengthen their critical thinking and writing skills. During the year students will also reach these **performance goals** which are in accordance with the **Essential Academic Learning Requirements and GLE's (Grade Level Equivalents)**:

- understand and use different skills and strategies to read
- use word recognition and word meaning skills to read and comprehend text
- build vocabulary through reading
- understand elements of literature
- read different materials for a variety of purposes
- write properly structured paragraphs and essays for a variety of purposes
- analyze characters and stories
- compare and contrast information between and within texts
- analyze author's purpose
- make inferences or predictions based on the reading
- understand theme or message and supporting details
- summarize with evidence from the reading
- distinguish between fact and opinion

Methods of Instruction:

- skills will be taught in a variety of ways for the purpose of reaching all learning styles
- information will be clear and organized
- historical events will be taught from a variety of perspectives to give a more accurate account of each event
- primary sources will be used to supplement text book information
- guest speakers will be invited to share their experiences with the students
- literacy thinking maps will be taught to help students organize their thoughts
- academic journals will aid students in organizing their ideas and writing

Text Books: *The American Nation*

Social Studies Content:

- 1st Quarter- Geography of the Americas
 The First Americans
 Europeans Reach the Americas
 The 13 English Colonies
- 2nd Quarter- The Road to Revolution
 The American Revolution
 Creating a Republic
 The New Government Begins
- 3rd Quarter- The Jefferson Era
 Years of Growth and Expansion
 The Jackson Era
 From Sea to Shining Sea
- 4th Quarter- The Worlds of North and South
 A Reforming Age
 The Road to Civil War
 Torn By War
 Rebuilding the Nation

Grading Policy (In percentages)

100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, Below 60=E

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------|-----------|-----|
| Tests & quizzes: | 20% | Projects: | 20% |
| Class assignments: | 30% | Homework: | 20% |
| Drills and Participation | 10% | | |
| Total Grade: | 100% | | |

Citizenship Grade:

- Demonstration of respect to self, peers, and teachers
- Demonstration of cooperation towards peers and teachers

Late and Make-up Work:

- Late work will be accepted in the event of an excused absence
- All other late work will receive a reduction in credit and a parent, note, phone call or email will needed to be attached)

Homework:

- Homework will be assigned several times a week
- Vocabulary words are handed out throughout the week and the test is on Friday
- For projects students will need to complete research on their own time (trips to the public library may be necessary)

Materials needed for class everyday:

- **Historian's Notebook**
- Blue or black ink pen
- Pencils (regular and colored)
- Three ring binder
- Class dividers
- Pencil sharpener

I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year. Together we can give your child a remarkable education that will help them reach their goals. Please feel free to call and/or email me anytime: 252-7782, giwickstead@seattleschools.org

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature